

78 Mo-tsou Road, Nanking, 7, China
June 30, 1948

Dear Clara:

I'm trying to figure out if I missed a boat on my letters. I guess it doesn't matter if I did as this boat goes only 5 days later than the other and that went via Manila and would take longer. However this is futile speculation.

Inflation is proceeding at a dizzy rate. The exchange rate went up 60 per cent in twenty-four hours. All prices tag along with it. That means that any money you have on hand loses value in the same proportion. Some people speculate as to whether things are approaching a serious crisis and the present government topple, whatever that would mean.

I have been helping make choir robes today. The church raised the money to buy the cloth and they are going to make them themselves. Mrs. Sone and I are working out a pattern. They think if we get the pattern worked out that there will be no difficulty in getting them made.

We have had such a lot of rain this year that things look very well. I planted a row of poplar trees along my wall by sticking the twigs into the ground and every one of them seems to be growing. I have some asterisks this year, but they are only a couple of inches high so it is too soon to tell what they will amount to. Otherwise I am going in for zinnias as usual and cosmos. I think zinnias possibly need more sunshine than they are getting this year.

We had an old-fashioned last-day-of-school yesterday afternoon for the half day school, invited in their parents and friends. The students did the whole thing, one presided, others made speeches, etc. They gave a couple little plays. They dramatized the hymn "There were ninety and nine" in a way which brought down the house. However in general it was quite good. The girls came crawling out on hands and knees covered with sheets to represent the sheep. You can imagine the effect was quite amusing. We also had an exhibit to show their handwork, writing, etc. They are big girls, over 16, who have not gotten a primary school education, that is it is really an adult education project. Everyone considers these schools one of the best projects the church is carrying on. This school is an especially good one. We have a number of students who have been in it more than two years. The difficulty is to keep students, as they lose interest and drop out. Some get married, or get jobs or move away. We lost about one fourth during the term which meant we were doing quite well. Some schools end up with a fourth. Some are poor but most are not.

This is the season when the summer exodus is starting. Two of our families left this week. I have difficulty not acquiring a lot of extra jobs which are left behind. I am undecided as to what I shall do. I don't think this is a very propitious time to be travelling around. I have a feeling that something very drastic may happen and suddenly. However I may go to Kuling, (a mountain resort) for part of August. If I do, I'll send some baggage up by someone earlier and go by plane.

When one lives in an unstable situation like this, you tend to simply disregard it because if one is to do anything at all, there is nothing

there is nothing else to do, otherwise you spend a l your time and energy thinking about the horrible possibilities. Therefore we go on as if we expected no change, even though we know the present situation cannot continue indefinitely.

Ruth, do you remember Dr. Clara Nutting? She is here in Nanking this summer and spoke of you. She is working on public health work in connection with a rural service center. She is really appointed to North China but could not carry on there because of conditions. Dear Clara: I'm trying to figure out if I missed a post on my letters. I guess it doesn't matter if I did as this post goes only 5 days later than the other and that went via Manila and would take longer. However this is little speculation.

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