UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Plant Exploration and Introduction

Hailar, Manchuria September 17, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D. C.

Dear Knowles:

The season has come to a close in Hailar, and we are leaving tomorrow. What I think of the success of the work is of no concern at this time. We are carrying away nearly a trunk full of seed, some of which should be useful. The grasses long since ceased their work. Some other shrubs and plants of other natures have kept us busy the last two weeks. There has been no frost, but the leaves are falling fast, and snow over in Siberia has got into the air.

Last Sunday, September 9, I started a package on its way to you, containing grasses. There was no one to take it to Harbin, and it finally fell into the hands of a Chinaman whom nobody knew, travelling third class. It was not delivered at the Consulate on Monday, as I intended it to be, but on Tuesday morning. However, it may have made the ship at Yokohama, and will reach you in a little over a week. As a safety measure we have prepared a box with grasses freshly taken from the plains, and puddled them into it. The box would travel to the United States, if there was someone to carry it. I may cable you for an opinion on the last shipment, and judge from your reply how to handle the box. We will carry it along.

Our films have been returned from the Army, and there is only to present myself at the several offices and tell the personnel what a help it has all been. That will require all day tomorrow, and the train gets off in the evening. There may be some mail from you soon, as I had told the Consulate to hold everything for some days past. Mail came in today, but no more will be sent to Hailar I am sure.

Washington will be improving day by day now, and the fun can begin to organize for the winter.

Sincerely yours,

Mac
H. G. MacMillan.

Glen Dale , Md. April 23, 1934.

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

Dear Knowles,

Please excuse me for delaying to write you sooner and giving you the names and addresses of the two Russians in Harbin, Manchuria which I thought Mr. Macmillan would be interested in meeting and who perhaps, if still there may be in a position to assist him in connection with his agricultural exploration work.

Mr. B.W. Skyortzow

#76 Potshtovaya St.

Harbin, Manchurue.

Mr. V.V. Golubzoff, #1Putevaya St.

Harbin, Manchurka .

The first gentleman is the best botanist I met in Manchuria and is well posted on the region and in regard to the agricultural crops as well as the wild flora to be found there.

Mr. Golubzoff is a highly educated gentlemen who speaks French fluently. On a number of occasions he acted as interpreter for us, both in Harbin and in the field.

I will appreciate the kindness, in case Mr. Macmillan meets these genthmen if we will give them my warmest personal regards. I wish the espedition good luck and every possible success.

Very sincorely,

Howard

Dr. H.G. MacMillan,

1725 5th Avenue, los Angeles, California.

Dear Mac:

Dorsett has just sent in the addresses of the men in Manchuria, and I am sand-

inclosing a copy of his letter containing them.

Things are moving along fast here in some directions. I have moved up my Puerto Rican trip so as to be back here before you sail. I plan to be back on the evening of the 14th, though it might be a day later. Morrison will meet me in Miami and we plan to go over Chapman field together before you get away, so that if there are any last minute things you may desire, we shall be on the job.

I have not heard from the radio people yet, so I am going to follow up today

to see what has happened.

I spent last Saturday in New York, and saw George Roerich and told him as I told the Secretary, that in case of any differences of opinions which would involve your neck and Stephens'- that after all they are the only necks you have- you would be free to do what your own judgment dictated. I reiterated again that the expedition should confine itself to Manchoukuo proper. Dr. Roerich pointed out that Jehol was a considerable part of Manchoukuo proper. I told him that that may be from a Japanese point of view but not from a Chinese point of view, but we wish to stay in what was formerly Manchuria, and in the northern part. I also told him that we has written Dr. N akai for any botanical assistance you may wish for the expedition. Dr. Roerich was very positive in his statements about there being no difficulty or we even differences of opinions.

I was unable to make delivery of the two revolvers because there is a police regulation which does not permit Piala to sell or deliver in New York without a permit, so they are being sent here and we shall forward them along with your other equipment. I shall have Joe find out from the Embassy just what papers you will need for the entry of these firearms. They would be the types of permits that the Roerichs had in New York and which they obtained at the Japanese Consulate. You could probably get them from the Consulate in los Angeles or San Francisco, but if

you can get them here it will save you that much.

I have not seen Joe the last two or three days to see how the supplies are coming along. He brought his wife back from the hospital yesterday. She is recover-

ing rapidly and we are all very much relieved.

I shall have additional things to be writing you the next few days before I get away. I am looking forward to hearing from you by the end of the week, but I imagine you are busy getting some of the field matters out of the way before you leave.

Very sincerely, K.A. Ryerson Chief of Bureau.

Air mail-special delivery 4/25 Copy to Mr. Merrison.

Dr. H.G. NacMillan, Nay 5, 1934. 1725 5th Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mac:

Dr. Fairchild's youngest daughter, Nancy B.Fairchild, is sailing for the the Orient the second of June on the Empress of Ganada leaving from Vancouver, and will be arriving in Yokohama on the 18th, some time after you will have gone to Harbin, as she is going to spend some time with her cousin, one of the Grosven or girls who married a son of Dr. Coville, who is now the Consul at Harbin.

I told her that you and Mr. Stevens, and the Recrichs as well, would be glad to help her in any way possible during her stay, if the occasion arises. She had rather hoped that you would not be leaving Tokyo so soon as she is going with friends as far as Tokyo, and has no provisions for going from Tokyo to Harbin. She will probably land in Harbin before you take to the field so that you and Stevens can meet her and become acquainted. By that time you will have met Coville and his wife; of course they know a good many department people. I den't recall whether I mentioned to you that he is Consul there, as a matter of fact, I thought he had been moved and was no longer located up in that area.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely,

K.A. Ryerson

Chief of Bureau.

United States Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Plant Industry

Washington.

Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction

Tokyo, Japan. June 3,1934

Dr. George de Roerich, care of the American Consul, Harbin, Manchuria.

Dear Doctor de Roerich:

Your note of May 23 was handed to me at Yokohama on my arrival June 1. I was very sorry to learn of your departure. The reasons for my late arrival were time required to assemble the field equipment and make final arrangements in the Department; all of which caused me to miss the May 4 sailing.

The transfer of the baggage through Japan has caused no difficulty, as that matter was handled most satisfactorily my the American Consul at Yokohama. I have not yet had time to make the contacts and arrangements you suggest, so I cannot report on the outcome.

I do not know at the moment the date of my departure from Kobe. I wish tossee some people here at the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and make a few additional inquiries aboutseeds. On Tuesday business will be suspended because of the funeral of Admiral Togo.

I shall reach Manchukuo by way of Dairen, where I expect to remain for two or three days. I do not believe it is important that you make any hotel reservations for me at this early date, and will either write or wire you from Dairen of my later plans.

With kindest regards to yourself and Professor de Roerich, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

HG. MacMillan

Dr George Roerich c/o American Consul Tokyo, Japan

Macmillan Stephens arrive Yokohama June first President Hoover

Ryerson Plant Industry

Cablegram

COPY

Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction

Tokyo, Japan June 5, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson Washington, D.C.

Dear Knowles

I am enclosing two copies each of two issues of the Japan Advertiser, one of the english language newspapers of the town. The articles which I have marked are well worth reading, and prohably no comment that I would make would add anything to your apprecation of them. I trust you will take pains to see that these are preserved for future reference. I do not wish to carry them with me, and asyou will be interested, I am disposing of them in this way.

I am sending some maps of Manchuria which I have found, and which zfe the most recent editions covering the territory where we will travec I have found no satisfactory way to ship them yet, but I am sure they will reach you about the time this letter does.

My first letter of any consequence is yet to be written, and I hope you are not impatient. Each day brings some new thing to marvel over: the antics of nature, or the mysteries of the human mind.

Sincerely yours,
(a) Mac
H.G. MacMillan

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AFRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction

Tokyo, Japan June 9,1934

Mr. Knowkes A. Myerson Washington, D.C.

Dear Knowles,

I have just sent you a cable relative to Dr. Nakai. This was doen through the State Department both to facilitate the passage of the message, and to insure a little better rendering of the message and possible to indulge in in a little economy. You will recall that I was never given any information about Dr. Nakai, and the only reference to him iscontained in your letter of April 2, sent to me at Los Angeles. It may be assumed that I knew more about him than I did. I rather expected further advice from you about the man, as your closing paragraph in that suggested something of the sort. I have spent some time in trying to locate him. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry know nothing about him and the Consulate have been able to trace down no one who can fill the bill/ Mr. Burrell at the Yokohama entomological laboratory does not have him among his acquaintances. The name Nakai is more or less a Smith or Jones designation as fir as the telephone directory goes; so the only sensible thing to do seemed to cable for more specific instructions.

I have really been here but a week though it seems much longer. Things began to happy about as soon as I arrived and while I have been on the point of writing you nearly every day, it seemed that the next morning or this afternoon would clear up some point or other, and I could make a more dompehensive report. I have applied for tickets to leave here on Tuesday sailing from Kohe Wednesday the 13th, and arriving in Dairan on the 16th. Beyong that point I have no schedule or plans at the moment. This trip promises to be wholly an opportunist affair. I game of chess isimple in comparison for there you have the opportunity to see what the other fellows moves are apt to be. Bit perhaps I am getting ahead of an introduction to the sequence of events.

On arrival in Yokohama I was met by Mr. Benninghoff, the Consul there. He managed matters through the Customs easily enough and without much delay The equipment baggage was put in bond without inspection in charge of the Yokohama Express Company. The personal baggage was passed witho only small argument about the excess tobacco which Stepehens carried. Mr. Benninghoff handed me a letter from Mr. G. Roerich which I did not have time to read carefully at that time. We left Yokohama shortly in the Hotel bus, and came up to Tokyo arriving in the middle of the morning.

In the morning I went to the Consulate where I met Mr. Garrels, the Consul General, with Mr. Sturgeon, the Consul. Most of my business dealings have been with Mr. Garrels, and he has carried on most of the details of the subsequent series of events. I explained to them at once the entire purpose of our mission, the places we hoped to visit and the several items of business which it was desired to conclude in Tokyo. Immediately the mattee of the Roerich's came up, in which he was very much interested.

I had expected of course to find the Roerich here. That was my plan as outlined before we left Washington or lat least that was my understanding of it. They had expected us on the previous boat. I do not know exactly when they had arrived in Tokyo, but their stay here was a brilliant progression from triumph to triumph, and they left on May 24. In the note to me they sqid they were going to Harbin, and for me to wire them immediately the date I would arrive there, that they could arrange hotel accommodation.

Mr. Garrels had never seen them nor had they ever called at the American Con-Sulate. They had made such a name for themselves, however, that he remembered them from reports in the press. That they were now empooyed by our government was unknown to him, or to anyone in the Embassy or Consudate. I tookthe opportunity to look up the press reports, confining myself to the apanese Advertiser the morning english newspaper.

the morning English newspaper. There were three general items, one some remark made at a Rotary meeting, another a special interview given in the Advertiser and another a specialiser expectation of the papers which I am sending you through the pouch and which will not have reached you prior to this letter. The text and sense of these reports showed enough bad judgement under any circumstances but when it was revealed that these men were in the employ of our government the Consulate took an unexpected interest in the matter.

In the meantime I had time to read and digest the note from Mr. Roerich handed me by Mr. Benninghoff, on my arrival at Yokohama. I will try to make a copy of it to enclose with this letter. On showing this letter to Mr. Tarrels which I did as a matter of course, and because of the Manchukuo relation ship, I could detect a growing anger at what he later mildly termed the presumpion (Ornamental phrases omitted) of these people. But let me interpose another item.

Officially we do not speak of Manchoukuo. We are going to Machuria, which is the geographical region we are all acquainted with , consisting of the three eastern Chinese provinces, at times in the nads of the Russians, the Chinese, or the Japanese. The new state of Manchuluo is the political name applied to the region and operated under the government set up at the new Capitol called Hsingching. We do not recognize this government, ask for no vises and have no official contacts with them. That fact myst be kept in mind throughout.

Referring again to the Roerich letter, he directs me to call on Mr. Teiji Tsubokami. This man is the propaganda officer for the State of Manchukuo and the Cultural Work Bureau is constructed for that purpose. Regardless of the propaganda there is no reason for calling on the man or the Bureau, for our passage through apan has not been hindered in any way, not could be obviously do anything to facilitate it. The matter of sending the equipment through Japan in bond has already been arranged for before his information on the subject became considered. The order given to call on Mr. Ma at the Manchukuo Legation for the vise was exactly what should not have been done and which I did not do not the advise of consul. What further steps they could have taken with the comprehension. In a word, to have followed this letter in any of its provisions, to the neglect of our own regular facilities, would ave been nonsense in its own right; but considering the frank suspicious with which the Japanese regard affairs of this nature would have been nothing less than fool hardy

It took a little time for these several matters to reveal themselves and the conseq uences to be come apparent. In the meantime the Roerichs had gone on, as I said, a out may 24. About Thursday they turned up again. The consulate received a communication from the Japanese Foreign office, containing copies of not know whether I can secure a copy of it or not. If so, I will enclose it. But at Mukden they had gotten to the point of showing the officials that they were agents of the United States and were about to condust an expedition into the unknown for certain pumposes. They showed a letter from Sec. Wallace under date of March 16, a short paragraph in which he thanked them for their decision to "lead and protect" an expedition for dought-resistant plans into the Gobi Desert. I cannot, of course, get a copy of the Secretary's letter. The Memorandum listed the several members who would appear, the rofessor as Chief, Mr. George Roerich as assistant Chief, myself as botanist, Stephens as assistant boranist and a Japanese secretary and interpreter to be selected.

All of this was news to the Japanese. Their inquiry at the Consulate was to confirm these representations and to point but the fact that the Roerich's papers were not in order that the memorandum was a little fantastic in its claims and that they had no American passports. What did the Consulate know about them. The consulate answer was that they knew nothing; that they had never called or presented any credentials. And that point the matter stands so far as I know. The Roerich are stranded in Mukden until the Japanese make a some arrangement about their going further. The Consul's comment was that while making a pilgrimage to the Meiji Shrine, and giving interviews on Peace and would be dropped like the well-known hot potato.

I the meantime there was a growing irritation at the Embassy about this matter. The Ambassador knew about them because he was in India at the time they had a little fracas with the authories there but he had had no information about their business here. The incident of the requenst for Information akauaxaxaxaxaxaxax from Mukden took on the aspect of so much embrassament that they have catled the whole matter to the State Department in the tune of a \$70 cable and about which I have heard of no answer to the present time. In the meantime I have the assurances of the Consul General that the matter of our vises are to be taken care of on arrival at Dairen, where the consul has provision for this sort of thing.

The Consulate has pointed out to me that of all the people in the world to travel with in this part of the world, the last ones to choose are Russians.

The last word which I have had from Joe concerning the passports was that the Russian vises could not be put on because word had not been received at the Russian Embassy there prior to our departure. I did not wish to go to Harbin without them, even though I would not be in Russian territory. The Consulate offered to wire the State Department asking for information about them, which came back with the information that they had been granted and that the Russian Embassy here had been advised to issue the vise. Our passport were sent over and the entries very promptly made.

As I continued to read the papers it seemed to me that there was more than met the eye in this bandit business around Harbin, No trains run at night from Mukden north, and the day trains are preceded by an armed train. Japanese officials were kidnapped recently by bandits, raids have been made in Harbin and there have been other incidents. The streets of Harbin are barricaded to prevent very rapid entry or exit from the town, an there are no other precations or so it is reported. Curiously enough there seems to be no attacks on Red Russians, and I am informed of some traders who have conducted their business throughout the recent period with no serious difficulty that I can find outabout. It is true that it may be maximum here oversight or coincidence that no Red Russians maximum kinds have encountered the bandits or it may down be misinformation on my part. I have suggested to the Consul that as I was unable to callat the Russian Consulate to get my vise, that I might go over tomo rrow and thank him for it, and if posible get a note of introduction to the Russian Consul at Harbin. This seemed to be in the nature of a polite gesture, and the vice-consul Mr. Alison will take me over in the morning

While my education was progressing in diplomatic affairsm more less by fits and starts as the week drew on, another matter was causing a little glow just beneath the skin in another part of the anatomy. On my arrival at the Imperial Hotel I found a letter directing me to telephone a certain number as there was a Japanese awaiting who had very important business with me. After telling everyone "Mo" around the place and getting the least bit settled I call the number and encountered one Masao Yoshikawa, who ammounced forthwith that he was hired for the expedition and would come down and take charge immediately. I told him to come down anyway and as long as they be on a per diem not to spare the horses.

He came in a little while and turned out to be the usual type with cane, and a squint that seemed to be familiar but which I could not place in the initial confusion. As everything was practically arranged he would be glad to show us the sights around Tokyo or the adjacent country or introduce us where ever it seemed desirable to us, either as expediency demanded or according to our wishes. As soon as I could politely do so, I suggested that he might go back over what must be a tedious detail and sketch the incidents leading up to our good fortune. He was very glad to do so; and the facts are as follows:

In our conversations with Dr. Morse before we left, he said kkak he would give us a list of names from Dr. Morse and thoughts no more about the note to Mr. Suyetake As it happened Mr. Suyetake had taken employment with the Bureau of Intomology of fice in Yokohama and was about to start for Chosen to gather the

In our conversations with Dr. Morse before we left, he said he would give us a list of names of acqu intances here in Japan and Manchuria, and would write a note to Mr. Suyetaka at Tokyo telling him of our coming. We got the list of names from Dr. Morse and thought no more about the note to Mr. Suyetake. As it happened Mr. Suyetake had taken employment with the Bureau of Entomology office in Yokohama and was about to start for Chosen to gather the parasites

of the Oriental Peaxh moth when Dr. Morse letter arrived. As he was to be in Chosen until later in the summer and could do nothing for us, he talegraphed a friend of his in Miyakonojo, on the island of Kyushu, the lower one of the main group to come up and take his place in the dawning organization. As we were expecting to reach Japan on the boat leaving Los Angeles May 4, and arriving here May 21, he came at once, and Mr. Suyetake left for Chosen about the same time. We did not arrive on the date we were expected, so there was nothing to do except wait for the next one; during which time some of the minor details of the expedition could be arranged. On June 1 when we did arrive he had gone to the pier at Yokohama, but missed us at the ship, and had rushed back to the hotel only to find that we had not arrived. By leaving his telephone number he found us.

It appears that Dr. Morse must have written Mr. Suyetake that we were coming and made the usual remark that "whatver he could do to help us would be appreciated" or words to that effect, and Suyetake had assumed that he would have been hired for the eppedition had he been available. Not being available was not handicap as he secured his friend to take charge of us and went away feeling that things were well arranged. On questioning Mr. Yoshikawa it turned out that xxxxx he went to school at "arylans at one time and knew Dr. Woods a but did not know Dr. Auchter or any others whom I mentioned. He worked for the Bureau for about seven years for Dr. Swingle; which cleared away at once the matter if the aquint. He had one or two other jobs from time to time, the details of which I do not remember. I did not dispose of the matter at once, as I wanted totalk with Dr. Makau, and see what other people knew about the man, so I put him off with the plea that things were in considerable confusion at the moment and I could make no decisions. He was back each day for additional onferences, so I told him that Mr. Suyetake had been laboring under a misapprehensionk of some sort and that I was not yet at liberty to hire him for money until I had made further decisions. By this time it had begun to come out that the purposes of the expedition had been not revealed at the start and that his idea was that we would visit only the larger cities, and visit the fringes of the town by taxicab and do our collecting in that way. This enthusiasm shrunk still further when it was indicated that we carried tents and expected to camp out in the desert and not come back until fall. He said then that we really should take him as far as Makden, as the Japanese over there did not speak Inglish well, add we would nee him and he would be satisfied with a visit in lower Manchuria, after which he would be glad to return. So while I have not told him I wouldnt hire him, he is beginning to lose interest in the thing for his own resons, and after one mo

The one thing which caused me a little concern at first was the expense he had gone to to come to Tokyo and take care of us. There was over 50 yen carfare up here, and over two weeks subsistence, in addition to carfare in the premises I didnt want to feel that we were responsible for his running up such a bill due to anything that Dr, Morse might have indicated to Mr. Suyetake. I tried to find if he had a copy of the letter Morse had written but had hot even seen the letter, I went to Yokohama to see Mr. Burrell of the Bureau of Entomology and find out what he might know. He knew nothing about the matter, but he did say that Mr. Yoshikawa when he had been employed there at some time or other had worked as long as he pleased and then quit, but at no time did he ever seem p pushed for money It was his opinion that he could afford the trip to Tokyo and whatever it cost him. On that basis I was satisfied to do nothing more in the matter except that I have yet to have a final parting with Mr. Yoshikawa.

That brings me back to the place at which I started the letter, the search for Dr. Nakai from whom we were able to get the names and advice about any we might consider for the trip. I had the force at the Consumate ransack the town for such a person. They could find no one. Then it was proposed that I must be mis taken, that the name was not Nakai but Sakai. There had been a Saka in the Department of Agriculture in a fairly high position who had resigned and gone with some Bank in an advisory capacity. So we went and called on Sr. Sakai w o was very polite, but admitted that he knew nothing about anything that we were interest in. So I am waiting the results of the cable which should be answered in the morning as you should have had it Saturdya morning if the State Department undertook to decode it with any promptness. Womorrow looks like a busy day, considering that I am expecting to leave on Tuesday and will have the Russians.to see. Dr. Nakai to find as well as take care othe unexpected which will surely turn up.

June 10

I have sent you eight copies of a map of Manchukuo made up in 1933 and which app are to be as recent as anything I can find covering that region. I suggest that a couple of them be presented to the map of fice of the State Departments in the your compliments a sufficient go to the Exploration office and the remainder, if any be disposed of as you see fit. I have not looked for maps for other sections or for any of Japan, as we were not yet interested in these parts. I tried to send it by the regular post but the package was refused because it was too long. So I took it to the Consulate to go in the regular pouch, which will not leave for another week.

During the pas week one day was lost because of the State Funeral of Admiral Togo. All business was suspended and the official functions of the town were devoted to this one purpose.

One morning I borrowed an interpreted from the Consulate and made a business of calling on the Department of Agriculture and the Experiment Station officials The visits were more of less perfunctory and nothing or any consequence came of it. However, they were called on, our purpose explained the destinations which we have had in mind elucidated and every effort made to give an account of ourselves.

You may recall that Dr L.N.Jones was here about three years ago. I wrote to him during April asking for any names he might give me of people who had any interests in common with our work in plant pathology, or otherwise. He delayed answering for some time, until as he told me, he had an opportunity to see you. So I suppose you know about that phase of it. He gave me a letter to Dr. Hishida who when he was in Manchuria was Secretary of the South Manchuriam Railway. Dr. Hishida has since resigned from that position, and is engaged on his own affiars. He came over I presented my letter and we had lunch and talked about this and that, and he offered to prepare a couple of letters to perons in Manchuria. These are to the Manager of the S?M.Railway in Dairen and the Chief of the Experimental work in Hsinching. These two will be sufficient to get us along with the experimenters in that region, especially as I have the names given he by Dorsett and Morse.

The further I go on this expedition the moreI have taken to comptemplting several factors that have gone into the character of 11. Whatever we have may have tought of this thing when I was there, each one started off in good fai fai th and with nothing but conviction to make it a success. We are now a month of our way and not yet joined as a partym add with still more time to elapse before that can be brught abutt. So far as the State Department officials are concerned in this section the Roerichs are in bad favor. I know vicant will be informed in Dairen and the Minister in China will be told. Those people should know. What the Janese will decide as far as the Roerich status is comerned I do not know but when you think of the decidedly nervous state they are in, the normal suspicion with whi h they regard even the innocent not to say the bland; it should susprise no one if they suddenly decide to be through with all and sundry that have any connection with them, no matter now remote. True I have not come into the scene in any obvious way, except in the Momorandum which they prepared in Makden fof the Japanese and as I had already entered the country there was no easy way to question me about the matter. That the situation amy change now that I am crossing borders, and I am sure that the re will be no illustance as to who I am associated with. The statement in my passposet declaration contained all the information to the start. Had they been informed about the others they gould have connected us at once Ido not know, of course, what the others they gould have connected us at once Ido not know, of course, what the the orion said in their statements but anything that happened in Tokyo that came to the public attention shuld indicate they had taken pains to connect their business and associations. That was a mitake. What the outcome will be may depend on what the Secretary of State cables back for I am sure there will be an answer. To have them ignore the Consulate throughout and then to have to take them up isn't

Inb Harbin, the situation may be different than I suspect it to be. There are over 70,000 white russians in the town and a considerable group of reds. The whole section is in the nebulous area where trouble begins to concentrate It seems to me that it is like another Balkans. It will always be the breeding place for wars, though on a smaller scale. Under the best of circumstances there is no security there, whatever the element of safety may be. I am not in th least bit nervous about the part of it but I am concerned to know that with

with the present set-up we can do any work of the kind we propose to do.
To put in time does not mean acc mplishment. In evolving the apparent circumstances in vogue around Harbin, it has seemed to me that I might be able to arrange some mort of agreement where by I might go into the field in a certain section and collect as much as I pleased. Bit that method will require that I mm not encumbered with help As You see, we are not getting to the first as promptly as was first contemplated, but I mm sure the season will not have advanced so far as to injure our propects at all. As I remarked before, this affair is decided an opportunist matrer, and what decisions are made s mm to arise out of the immediate circumstances.

The newspapers here which I am able to read carry a lot of stale news. It is a little undertain at times to decide if something in this morning's paper is new, or copied out os some month old sheet that turned up in the editorial office. The majority of the news is American and for that reason I suppose what appears here has already massed before you in the Star of the New York Times. There are a couple of clippings which I will enclose and without comment.

The external features of the trip so far have been agreeable enough. The ocean on the way over was as calm as oceans ever get and not an incident intruded on the monotony of the scene or disturbed the complacency of the tourists. At Honolulu Stephens went in a tour while I went to the sugar station. There were a obtailed of attempts at rain in Tokyo and I suspected the rainy season had broken a trifle ahead of schedule but it cleared about last Tuesday and has been gradually growing warmer and more sultry ever since. I would have left here today but could not get berths on the ship from Kobe to Dairen, and as the Nakai matter was still pending was glad to wait for the Vednesday boat, I will go to Tuesday.

That leaves the matter of a Japanese assistant still up in the air. I am reluctant to take any one not knowing at the moment how matters will turn out about the balance of the expedition. Since I have been here I have had no growing respect for the abilities of any of the men I have met tyat might be of the type who could go. It seems that I might well pick up someone in Manchuria; if nothing else, get semmone detailed from the experimental group of the South Manchurian Railway. The circumstances between here and there are greater than between similar distances in the States and I am not sure that I would be satisfied with someone with only local experience. It will be decided tomorrow so far as that goes, but I am inclined at the moment to favor delay until there is some better proppects in sight for the success of the party than the moment holds forth.

Tokyo looks like an interesting place, and I am sorry not to be able to get around a little. I am taking the day train to Kobe in hopes of seeing a little of the country, which may be as mych as I can expect.

My next address after this reaches you should be in Harbin unless there is some word to you by cable or otherwise in the interval.

I trust you are finding your job as entertaining and exhausting as when I left. Please give my regards to all concerned and believe me,

Sincerely yours,

H.G. Mac Millan

Enc. clippings
Apendix 1, Roerich Letter
Appendix 2, Roerich Memorandum, filed Mukden .(?)

June 11,1934

P.S. Your cable turned up promptly this morning and we found Dr. Nakai, and arranged for a meeting this afternoon which occupied a considerable share of if.

In trying to reconstruct the reasons why we did not get in contact with him so oner I can say that while the Botanic Garden was included he was not reached in the early searches. I found today that everything is being moved from the garden, the equipment and staff having new quarters at the Imperial University and it may well be that the disturbance of moving accounts for our missing him. Everything was in terrible confusion.

The discussion about a Japanese assistant was to the point that he could recommend no one whom he thought sould be useful to us in the region His students were able to speak English only very imperfectly and did not have enogh training for the work at hand. He would recommend no oxix one else in town. His advice was to secure someone through the instrumentality of the Sam South Manchurian Railway, as conditions were very difficult in that section. I have surmised that it was due to this condition that made him reluctant to propose anyone.

He was in Jehol last summer. He said that conditions were very bad, that all strangers were under suspicion as Russian spies that the military police were very disagreeable, and that one could maxe not move without an escort. The accomodations were what he termed as therible and the costs of everything excessively high. He did not think it would be possible to do much under these conditions, as would pass out of civil control and under military control.

The season would be delayed somewhat by the rainy season which would set in soon and last ubtil the middle of August, after which the grasses would develop weed in a period of about two weeks. The forwsts would come auddenly in September and the season end very rapidly.

His suggestion was to work wholly with the Douth Manchurian Railway in the details of this affair as they are in a position to know all the circumstances and men who are useful or can be obtained, He did not think there would be much growth of grass for a while yet and we are in ample time or so I understood,

I called at the Russian Consulate, and obtained a card to the Consulat Harbin.

H.G. MacMillan

Appendix No.1 A copy

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Division of Plant Exploration and Entroduction

Imperial Hotel Tokyo, May 23, 1934

Dear Mr. MacMillan.

It was our hope to hear from you before leaving Tokyo for Manchukuo. So far, we received no notification from the Department about the date of your sailing from S. Francisco. We are therefore leaving this letter c/O the U.S. Embassy, Tokyo.

The Japanese Foreign Office has been informed of your passage through Japan. Please call on your arrival to Tokyo on Mr. Teiji Tsubokami, whom Professor de Roerich requested to assist you and Mr. Stevens.

It is advisable to send all firearms and ammunition in bonds transit through Lapan.

With regards to visas for Manhukuo please call on Mr. Ma at the Mcn chukuo Legation, Tokyo.

Had we known the name of your boat and date of sailing, we could have taken further steps with the Cusom Authorities in Yokomama.

The Japanese Tourist Bureau at the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo, will advise you on the route to Harbin. Please inform Mr. Tsubokami as to your route to Harbin In case of heavy baggage. I would advise the sea route via Dairen.

our Telegraphic address in Harbin: ROERICH TSCHURIN HARBIN

In Harbin it is best to stop at the Japanese Hotel or at the Hot el Moderne. Pl ase wire date of arrival to Tokyo and departure for Manchukuo. On receipts of your wire shall make hotel reservations in Harbin.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours, (Signed) G. de Roerich

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction

MEMORANIUM

Staff of Expedition:-

Professor Nicholas de Roerich, Chief of the Expedition.

Georged de Roerich, Assistant to the Chief of the Expedition and in

charge of medicinal research

Dr. MacMillan, botanist
Mr. Stevens, assistant botanist
A Japanese secretary and interpreter.

The Expedition is organized by the bepartment of Agriculture, U.S.A.

Purpose of Expedition:The programme of the Expedition is to visit during the summer months the
Jehol region with the purpose of collecting and conducting botanical studies.
The winter months will be devoted to the study of the material gathered
either in Manchukuo or Tokyo.

Prof. de Roerich accompanied by M. Georges De Roerich and the apanese secretary of the Expedition, will proceed to Manchukuo, leaving Tokyo about the 24th of May and Shimonoseki about the 27th or 28th inst.

The authorities are requested kyxxxxxxxxx kindby to grant a laissez-passer permit through the Manchukuo Customs at Antung for their personal baggage consisting of 23 pieces containing personal effects, two typewriters, and scientific books, one Mannlicher hunting rifle No. 33535, bore 8 m/m with 20 rounds ammunition and one shotgun, No. 292150, made by Dauer & Sons, German (12 bore.)

Dr. MacMillan and Mr. Stevens are scheduled to reach Tokyo during the firest week of June bringing with them the Expedition's equipment (botanical equipment, photographic supplies, tents, fire-arms and ammunition, etc.) The authorities are respectfully requested to extend them assistance during their passage through Japan to Manchukuo, as well as a laissez passer permit for their baggage at Mokohama and Sntung.

1. Introduction to the Manhukuo authorities.

2. Custom facilities for the Expedition's equipment, fire srms, ammunition,

3. Visas for Manhukuo

4. Bacilities for the botanist of the Expedition Dr. MacMillan and his assistant, Mr. Stevens, arriving in Tokyo with the Expedition's equipment in the first week of June.

June 22, 1934.

Dr. H. G. Macmillan, c/o American Consulate, Tokyo, Japan.

Dear Mac:

I had hoped that a letter might come through from Tokyo before I left, but I realize that the time is too short, so I am having arrangements made so that copies of any letters that come in while I am on my western trip will be forwarded to me. You doubtless saw the cable sent by the American Embassy in Tokyo, relative to the citizenship status of the Roerichs, and the reply of the State Department to it. In view of the necessity of avoiding risks that might cause later trouble, we don't want to ask for armed escorts anyway. I talked the matter over with the Secretary, as well as State Department officials, and we wish to take no chances whatsoever and, of course, haven't planned for work outside of Manchukuo proper, which seems to be in the minds of the State Department officials as one of the things which we might attempt. We assured them that that was out of the picture, and had been, and said that we wanted no work done in any territory outside of what used to be Manchuria, and that we would keep out of the disputed Chinese provinces, and also that we were going to do our work as far north as possible, especially in the fringes of the Hingan mountains.

I am looking forward with much interest to your first letters telling how you are coming along and what arrangements you were finally able to make, and whether someone suggested by Dr. Nakai has gone with you in connection with the botanical work.

I am leaving Sunday, for the Midwest, the Northwest and the Pacific Coast, with Dr. Tugwell and others. Lee Strong will join us for a part of the way and Silcox also, if he can. We are going into the drought area, and I am going to visit our cereal work and our dry land stations - part of them with Dr. Tugwell, and then we go over into Montana to see the white pine blister rust work, visit the stations in Washington and Oregon, and then come down to California and touch some of those that we did not visit last year. My stay in California will be short. We expect to visit the subsistence homestead project and then go down to Torrey Pines and take the night train to San Diego over to Phoenix. Dr. Tugwell and his assistants will fly east from there and I shall probably back-track to California and wait for the Congressional Committee, if they decide to come out; if not, I will return here, and after two or three weeks, I hope to go up to Labrador for two weeks. This remains to be seen, however, as we have plenty on our hands here.

I wish you were going to be out on the Coast so you could go around with us and visit some of these places.

The Secretary is much interested in your working out plans to join Westover and Enlow on your return trip back so you will have first-hand information from them and their work. They have been delayed in Moscow, getting their visas for Turkestan and exchange troubles have also caused them plenty of concern. A cable just came through two days ago, indicating that Westover, Enlow and the representative from the Russian Institute of Plant Industry had been robbed in their compartments on the night train. Enlow's passport and letter of credit were taken, as were his watch, and the representative from the Institute lost his watch and 2000 rubles, so they are starting in early to have their various experiences.

Archer leaves today for South America, on insecticidal plants. I must skip along and get breakfast. I have been down here since half past five, and I am to meet Morley at Carnegie for breakfast. We are having an Outlander's Round-up to hear his latest Mayan work tonight. I wish you and Stephens could be present.

With best wishes to you all, and remember me to the Roerichs.

Copy to Mr. Morrison 7/21/34

Cordially yours.

K. A. Ryerson, P.S. The President does know about this expedition and is interested in it. KAR

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Division of Plant Exploration and Introduction

Dairen, Manchuria, June 24, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D. C.

Dear Knowles:

Little by little our summer creeps along, and nothing seems to be accomplished. It is true that a week ago seems like ancient times, and we are getting along as quickly as the circumstances permit. Our trip from Tokyo via Kobe to Dairen was wholly uneventful, and with the continual annoyance that the military zones prevented the taking of any pictures. The Japanese boats are good enough, and there was nothing to complain about. Dairen is an open port, so that the customs were not insistent, and the passport examination very nominal. From here on it is another story.

The first three days of our arrival, excluding last Sunday, was spent with the police and the Commissionery of Customs. To begin with, the police are taking no chances with anyone, and their own people the most respectful of any. When I mentioned the presence of pistols and ammunition, everyone was practically paralysed with fear of the police and what they would do. The people at the Consulate would have absolutely nothing to do with the affair, but directed me where to go and have the matter discussed. I took the Japanese clerk from the Consulate along to talk for us, and he seemed about ready to run at any minute. So long as there was nothing to do but handle the matter for myself, I went to the police and asked for the top man. They finally found some lesser one who would do, and to whom the matter was explained. They offered no objections, made no demands, or acting in any way more than nominally interested in the matter. So that was that. The next affair concerned itself with the Commissioner of Customs to whom I needed to go to get passage for the baggage into Manchoukue. Again everything was fully explained. The matter of the guns and ammunition was of more concern here. According to the Manchoukue law, which has been taken over from the law in effect in China, any authorized foreigner may take into the country for his own protection, one revolver, one pistol, and 500 rounds of ammunition. We had one pistol and one revolver each under this scheme, and too much ammunition.

There was, as you recall, 800 rounds of ammunition for the Roerichs rifles, but I had no rifle so obviously I did not need the ammunition. The 1000 rounds for the pistels was just what we had brought for ourselves, and would have been admitted with no trouble, but to have taken that only and none for the revolvers would have made the revolvers useless, so that they would have been left behind. I compromised by agreeing to take the pistels and 600 rounds, and the revolvers and 400 rounds. That resulted in an excess of ammunition which had to be disposed of. The Commissioner said he could not store it; the Consulate said I could store it there, but had to obtain permission from the police myself to do so. So on applying to the police permission was given to store the stuff at a licensed gun store, where it now is, and a receipt taken for it. That meant also, that the boses had to be opened and repacked, and the delivery made, all of which took time. It has all been done, and practically everyone has gotten back to a normal state of relaxation.

Had the Roerichs brought their own stuff, which they might as well have done, they could have entered it with no trouble to themselves, and our own supply would have been admitted with no difficulty. I have written them, as you will see by the enclosed copy, and if they get permission to move the stuff, it is left so that it can be shipped with no very great difficulty.

Just before we move into Manchuckuo, I will have to bring a detailed list of the supplies which we have for deposit with the Commissioner, and he will issue a permit for passage of the entire lot duty free, and to pass unopened. On arrival in Harbin, I will again apply to the police for permit to carry the gun, for which I anticipate no difficulty.

With these preliminary matters out of the way, I undertook to do something about the rest of our program. There were several preliminary discussions about what was possible and what was not; what the authorities would permit and the parts that might be visited; who might be got to go with us in any useful capacity. Obviously the bandit business is a serious affair, and something that has to be contended with in every section. The reports of the worst banditry are from the eastern parts of the southern provinces, but they are bad too in the directions west of Harbin and the Khinghan mountains.

I have secured a letter in Tokyo to the General Manager of the South Manchurian Railway, Count Ishimoto, and as he was about at the top of the scheme, or as near as I could get, thought it was a good place to start. The SMR has a contact man, an American by the name of Kinney. He arranged the meeting, and we took along the Japanese head of the English Division. I explained our purpose and wishes, and the uses it was hoped to make of the collected material and seeds. Ixhimoto was interested, obviously, though he could not comment to me on the details. I told them I was anxious to get someone to go as an associate in the botanical work, and who could speak English; who was agreeable to them, and who would have the confidence of the military authorities. I specified Mr. Sato of Port Arthur as the most suitable person, but would be glad to hear of any others. There was a considerable discussion over this which I did not get, of course, which ended by Ishimoto calling Sato and having some discussion with him.

The gist of their answer to me was that they would like to have some work done in that region; and would very much like to have Sato go, providing it could be arranged. They seemed to want to know if I wanted an associate or a servant. Obviously it couldn't be both, so I told them I wanted an associate. That all took place on Thursday, and arrangements were made to go to Port Arthur to visit Sato on Saturday. From that meeting I went to meet one of the Agricultural men in the crop production section, where there was more talk, and directions about visiting their field stations at one or two points along the railroad. In the meantime, Mr. Kinney said he would get me letters to influential people in Mukden and Hsinking, as it would be necessary to make further arrangements. These are concerned with the military authorities.

On Saturday the head of the English Division came along and we went by automobile to Port Arthur. Port Arthur is the seat of the Kwantung Government, which means that it is the government of Manchuria. There is nothing else there except the essentials of government and the remains of the battle fields. The old Russian palaces and buildings are used for the government offices. We arrived about ten oclock and were shown into a room, and met the head of the Bureau of Information or Propaganda, which ever you think it may be, and Dr. Sato. Mr. Takawa, the Information man, is a Stanford graduate and speaks English well. Sato understands English to some extent, but seemed hesitant about speaking. The purposes, places, methods, etc., were all gone into again and explained in detail. It was agreed that Sato could and would go, and the details would be worked out without much delay. Therewas also some talk of a second person to go along in the capacity of a servant, who could speak Chinese, for the bulk of the people with whom we will come in contact in the country speak only Chinese. It is desirable, too, that this latter person speak English so that all in all, there can be no inability to make our way.

A word of explanation is due about Mr. Sato. He has published a good deal about the flora of Manchuria, and has identified a great many of the plants. He is the botanist that seems to have the full confidence of the SMR which is no small thing. His regular job is to teach in the college of Port Arthur, but the semester is about over, and he can go. He is some official in the army, so that his contact there is well worth while, and he would go with the full consent and cooperation of the Japanese government. He has been over the region which we wish to get into, has collected there, and knows the places where the sort of material is that we want. He did MäK know some of the bandit chiefs in that section, but as these chiefs resign or disappear for

unstated reamons, he do es not now know who he may meet; which is no great matter so long ashe has the required experience. In every way, It seems to me to be the best sort or arrangement for the summer; one of the best botani ts in Manchuria, who has been over the ground knows the plants and where to get them, and has the official sanction and good will of the government.

The matter of compensation has not been arranged. I put the question to them and to him, but Sato was embarrased to discuss the matter, espec ally as his salary goes on with the government. So the other people are going to discuss it and will propose a salary, which they intimated would be nominal.

The matter of the bandits cannot be ignored. There was a proposal that we might go from camp to camp or garrison of the arm that is stationed in the field, and which are scattered in many places over the area. The idea that we are going to manage our own protection seemed to be rather remote in our minds. Sato d idea was that a little money would get us the local protection we might need, and he seems to know how to manage that sort of thing. But we will be unable to do other than to follow the instructio s of the army in the areas they designate. The bandit season seems to come to an abrubt end alont in September when the koaling getsfrosted down, and the quick place in which to hide is no longer available. That is no promise, however, that enough of them could not assemble on short notice on the arrival of a prospect.

We went to Satos house and looked at several of his herbarium sheets and speciments. These were collected in different years, bit the grasses would indicate a harvest season darly in September, which he says is about right. There should be time enough to get to the field and get established there in the north section well in Adv nee of the flowering season. You can see that it is going to be imposs ble to cover any large area and really acquire anything.

I have asked ato to draw up a detailed plan of places and dates for the rest of the season, or the duration of the trip. He wants to take some time for this, so it will not be fortherming for a little while yet, and I am unable to suggest here what it will be.

In all of the scheme there has been no opportunity to take account of the Roerichs. I wrote them from Tokyo and I have written them from here but have had no answer. I enclose papers which show something of their movements and duties and I know the Japanese papers have had additional articles. However, whether they have abandoned our part of the expedition I do not know, nor can I see where they are doing anything to assist it on its way; yet I cannot foregot the opportunity to build up the organization as we go along, and get the means available for the job we have to do; They did not enter through Dairer, but the people we need most of all are here. I am chigged to make these arrangements with Sato, because he is the best man I can find who is able to help us, and probably the best man in Manchuria, considering that we are dealing with the matter-of-fact Japanese. I am hiring him, and another assistant probably, and we are making our plans for the field work both as to time and place. How this will fit in with the Roerichs lwadership in the expedition I do not know, but it is either a matter of doingit now or not at all. So far as the matter of protection which the Roerichs will afford foes, I know that the decimatter of protection which the Roerichs will afford foes, I know that the decimatter of about the matter, they have failed to say anything axas to me, but the anything about the matter, they have failed to say anything axas to me, but the any radical injections or refusals into the scheme may defeat the whole summer is work. It may be that they assume that I have left every decision in their hands, and am doing nothing escept be a long time in getting to Harbin. I can see from the papers they have had a busy time of it, and they may have had to neglect so mething, but will take up the minor details as the cropseason draws on.

I hope to leave here during the present week sometime, and will to to Mukden, to Hsingking and to Harbin. It is likely that Sato will join us at Harbin, and we qill immediately get to the desert, I hope to have a word at Harbin as I have had none yet except the cable, and can suggest no other address for some time

Before you get this new fin cal year will have started and the various people scattered for the summer. The American news has practically disappeared from the papers, but I trust everyting is going along in eccellent fashion Wuth best regards, Sincerely,

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D. C.

Dear Knowles:

A long week has passed, and while there ought to be much to tell you, actually there is very little to report. I am informed from different sources, some of which I regard as reliable, that it is a common practice to open the mail, so that there may be reluctance to express some sentiments, which after all may just as well remain unsaid. However, as the gist of my remarks this week are fairly common property I feel no hesitation in going ahead.

I wrote you last week that matters seemed to be getting on to the point where we were about to start off on the expedition. Last Monday there was a hitch in the operations, and everything was suspended until further word could be had from Tokyo. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Garrels, the Consul General at Tokyo. He had been furnished with full information about our business when I was there, and has followed it with some interest, so I felt it quite due him to explain in detail the incidents leading up to the last call on his position and resources. Also, it would serve to guide him and the Ambassador in any additional steps which they might wish to undertake. The information will serve also for your use.

There is a little more to add to that. By a devious route the information got to me that the Japanese considers that there are three alternatives which are possible. One, to let us go on where we wish to go, with no further concern on their part. Two, not to let us go. Three, to permit a partial attempt to secure some of the things we want while accompanied by an armed escort which it will be their duty and privilege to furnish. Concerning number one, that is more or less out of the question, for in case something might happen to us there would have to lengthy explanations which would be unfortunate and satisfy nobody, and be a reflection upon them for permitting us to go on in that manner, and upon ourselves for going. Number two is really the course they wish to pursue, as that neatly solves the whole affair without further expense in this direction to all concerned, and is the safest policy to pursue. But they do not wish to do that, as there are some other points to be considered in such a course. There is, as you know, the ammouncements that Manchoukuo is now a peaceful country, that one may travel in safety throughout the length and breadth of the land, that the bandits are subdued, etc., and it would not be strictly logical to go back on that pronouncement. The third alternative is perhaps the only solution, and what will come of it remains to be seen.

In the event that an armed escort goes along I can feel no greater security than if I had gone alone, and the reasons are obvious. Since I have been in Dairen I have been noting on a map as well as I could, the points at which bandits raids have taken place, the numbers involved, and the circumstances of the attack. There seems to be no reluctance on the part of the bandits to set on soldiers, and usually there have been soldiers in every party that has been held up. Instances of attack on persons or small towns have not been so common. The reports are that the bandits make their attack, and then ride away to the top of some hill. The soldiers spread out below in an effort to hem them in, and as they are too few to make a ring around the place, the bandits can see from their point above which is the proper and safe way of escape. I have not seen any reports recently of the capture of any of these men. I am told that along the railway north the fields aremarked on each side of the right of way with red flags beyond which no kaoling or other tall crops may be planted. The bandits get in the kaoling, which grows eight to ten feet tall, fire on the trains, and then disappear into the growth. The grains north of Hsinking run only in the day time, and are then preceded by an armed train, etc. There are reports almost every day of the transhipment of sock and wounded soldiers from the north through Dairen to Japan.

In the north-west area the reports of fighting have not been so numerous. The best information which I can get is that the area along the western section of the Chinese Eastern Railway, which takes in the section I have wished to visit, is regarded as a military zone, and in which preparations are evidently going on in view of Russian Activities. The extent of the truth of that idea I cannot tell, but there is one very significant fact. There is no news from there. There are no bandit raids reported, no accidents on the railroad, and nothing of an unsettled nature. The remark which you will find referred

- 2 -

to in Mr. Garrel's letter about grasses and seeds being war materials, which forethought puts them in a special class, and immediately nonavallable to us, may have been developed to forestall our going there when the time comes to go. Another point bearing on this matter will come along in a moment.

There seems to be this settled policy regarding news. So long as there are discussions of war and war preparations in the papers nothing is likely to happen. When the news fades out and nothing refers to it for some weeks there is considerable danger that something may be about to break. I am not certain that something of the sort is not now going on involving the region which we wish to get into.

Following the suspension of the plans for the expedition I began to make plans for some alternative action. After talking it over with Mr. Vincent, the local Consul, I had the representative of the Chinese Eastern Railways visit me at the American Consulate. The railroad is in the hands of the Russians, though for how long or by what actual arrangement I do not know. The representative, Mr. Vickman, is a Russian, and speaks English well. I explained to him gather fully the situation I was in, and what I wished to do, and proposed that in case the Japanese refused me permission to go into the Hailar region, that I might wish to go to Russia and work in the region beyond the border beyond Manchuoli. He assured me that the same topographical situation existed beyond Manchouli as there was on this side, and that as far as he knew the same grasses and general types of vegetation would be found there as in the section we are aiming at. I asked about the difficulty of bandit raids, etc., and he seemed to think there would be none of that. However, in case I wanted to go to Russia I would need to enter through Khavarovsk, which is the center of the Russian activity and intelligence for Eastern Siberia. I broached the question of renting a car on the railroad to live in in case we were able to remain in Manchoukuo territory, which he seemed to think was feasible and no doubt would be made available for our use at a reduced figure. Following this, he suggested that I meet the Russian Consul in Dairen and explain the situation to him, and get his reaction to the matter. He would arrange the meeting and act as interpreter, as the Consul spoke neither Japanese or English. The meeting was called for the next day, and I went to the Russian Consulate for it.

At this meeting there were three of us, the Consul, Mr. Vickman, and myself. The situation was briefly rehearsed for the Consul's benefit. Inbrief, he assured me that it was the policy of Russia to make every effort to assist scientists in any possible way, and that we would be entirely welcome in Russia and to go and come as we pleased. Ingetting to details about the region beyond Manchouli, which they referred to as the Braga district, he seemed to think that there might be a little difficulty there on account of its being in a military zone, but that even that might be arranged. When I was ready to go into that region, he wanted to be advised that he might inform his people there of our coming, and pave the way for any facilities they might be able to offer. Also, he wanted to know when I would be going to Harbin in order that he might advise the Consul there concerning our work and presence in that region. As an alternative to the Japanese proposition this seemed to be the only solution in case we persist in wishing to get into the region in question. If the same grasses are growing on both sides of the border, and we can get to one side or the other of it, something may be accomplished. On leaving the meeting I told them that I felt compelled to wait for the Japanese answer and settle the question in that direction before embarking on any other plan. You will note the reference to military activity in relation to the previous suggestion on that point.

The answer has not come back from Mr. Garrels this morning, and if none is received in the afternoon mail, a wire will be sent him to expedite the matter as much as possible. You are aware perhaps, that on my writing Mr. Garrels he has to discuss the matter with the Embassy, after which a cable will be sent to the State Department requesting the Ambassador to receive permission to call on the Japanese Foreign Office, which permission may mr may not be cabled back, and if agreeable, he will call there, acquaint them with the facts they already know, following which some indecisive answer will be sent to the Kwantung Government; and I will be advised that the process has been completed, and an answer may be expected via the Japanese representative here. All of that takes time, what with Sundays and other delays entering into it.

Another matter which interests me, and which I have begun to suspect is that the Japanese may be trying to delay me here until it is too late to do very much this summer, and the work may have to be ahandoned because advance of the season. I asked Dr. Sato to draw up a plan of work, or route through which the expedition might be conducted keeping in mind the details which had been explained about the work, the kind of grasses which are desired, and the area from which it was wished to obtain them. The Memorandum which he prepared came to me thru the SMR, and was evidently delayed both in his preparation and in the transit. We worked over a set of the Flora of Mongolia and Eastern Manchuria, which is mostly in Japanese, and picked out a number of species in which we are interested, and drew up a reply to the Sato Memorandum. In enclose a copy of it. We were unable to make out the places where

the several species had been collected and not mych help was to be had from any Japanese translation. Like most botanical descriptions, the locations are delightfully vague, but many of them semmed to be alojg the railroad right-of-way, which had been dittoed from the previous location, to the point where there was little or no telling anything about it. However, with this Memo. received, I can now make a detailed answer and this may serve to acquaint him and the Kwantung Goernment with the precise wishes we have. and bring the matter to a decisive turn. I have not made a copy of his Memo. for you, but it consisted of the linerary for a grip startinf from Dairen stopping at four places to clect, and going as far as Manchouli and returning to Dairen all within the space of seventeen days. A second trip would be undertaken following the same route to collect the seed of any species that might be found useful. The plan had no merit from our point of view; the species which he listed as available at the several stops were different species of Astragalus, something of no outstanding value for our work

In the interim the weather has been doing things. I am told that there has been agreat excess of rain up north, that in Harbin there was only one day in June without rain, and that there was danger that the river would rise further and flood the town, as it did a year or two ago, There are reports also of the excessive tain causing crop failures, that cottoj has all rotted out, and other crops, grain especially, are going to be vert short, and that failure is certain for a great deal of the farm lands. In Dairen there was perfect weather until the early part of last week, since shich time there has been continual rains, and some quite severe. By the last of June the rains are supposed to be at an end, and July begins with fine weather. This is a vacation place for the people from the interior north of here and also from the Chira cities, especially Shanghai, Tientsin, and Peiping. The hotel is filling up, and we have had to vacate our room and taken another because of a previous contract for the season. Reports are all to the effect that the season has been late and planting was late that growth has been delayed and small in amount due to early drought and that now excessive rains had rotted the seed, washed out fields, and was causing a crop failure in the northern sections. That does not mean that something will not be reclaimed for the season's work, however. Just whar it means as far as our work goes I do not know, but under conditions which have persisted here for the past week no field work would be possible.

You may be questioning what course I have taken as far as the Roerich are concerned in this matter. I have told the Japanese that these men are in Harbin expecting to go with us and that I expect them to be part of the party when I reach that point. They have had nothing to say of the subject one way or the other, and Iam unable to make no answer to that attitude. There has been sufficient in the paper about them, the Japanese papers especially, so that there is no mystery about their presence here. What they have said regarding this work I do not know, but it has been suggested that possibly the presence of the Roerichs is one thing that is holding up matters; that while they appear to be received with some acclaim, which is more or less of their own making, the facts are that it is the easiest way to pass them off. The value or worth of a suggestion or intimation is something hard to estimate. The idea came to me through the Consulate as being given there from a semi-official source/

I would welcome the opportunity to sit down and have a talk with you, but that seems to be out of the question at the moment. In considering th contents of this letter I think I will have to arrange to have it go through the Consulate mail via Tokyo. I may be cabling you in a few days about the Russian matter which this may explain in part eventually. I cannot allow less than four weeks for a letter in transit, during which time it becomes ancient history.

Sincerely yours, (Mac.)

(Usual head)

Harbin, July 20m1934

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Dear Knowles,

At last we have reached Harbin, though I have some doubts about the present advantage of it. I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Mr. Garrels, Vonsul General at Tokyo, which will give you a great many of the details and save me the trouble of rewriting a large part of his letter. I could add more of it, but of the same tenor. The reason I have written to him, as I have, is that he seems to be greatly concerned to know these things, and the State Department is watching t is thing anxiously. I tried to get some help from them the first of the month as faras the Kwantung government was concerned but it was like so much poison to them. However, we have got on, as far as I know, practically on our own efforts, though the Consula here and there have said a word in our behalf. The rest has consisted in wearing them down, land I think if nothing more is said, the trip may start off from here and get to Hailar. I think it is obvious that the Roerichs do not wat us along, and will be willing to abandon us at anypoint where we show the least inclination to remain. But I know that had we been on our own, we could have been in the field weeks ago.

In Hsinking I arranged with the Department of Agriculture to have sent to Washington a quantity of seeds. These are native grasses, but most of them are short-lived, and need to be planted at once. I will cable to you in a day or two to be prepared to receive and plant them and hope they arrive in good condition. I am going to ask that the State Department send them through the pouch, as it will be small shipment, about four ounces eahe of thirty kinds, and avoid any risk with the inspection at point of entry. Most of the samples are from grasses with which they are experimenting and are from Manchuria, but I know no thing about their specifications, and suggest that they be handled in the quarantine house until they are ex mined in growth.

The river between here and Hsinking has washed out the railroad. Trains run to one end, the passenger are ferried around in small launches about six xxxxx at a time, and proceed from the other side. As Passengers are going both ways at the same time, the crossing takes about nine or ten hours. That means that no baggage is being carried across, and very little or no mail. The road may be fixed n a day or two, or it may be longer. Here at Harbin it was still rising yesterday, and little by little was seeping into the Chinese quarter. The cholera is not expected to break out until the river overflows. Or failing that cholera is not expected to break out until the river overflows. Or failing that tater in the summer. However, as soon as our equipment comes, and I can get Dr. Sato up from Port Arthur, and probably Mr. Takata, who will act for a while as interpreter, and of course as official spy, we will be able to get on our way. In the mean time I have to arrange for the shipment of seeds, which will have to be handled by mail, both from the Experiment Station to Dairen and from there to Tokyo. However, anything will be a relief from the past six weeks.

I do not know hwt the arrangements will be about out of Hailar or in either. It is taking a month for letters to reach me from Washington, or at least it has for the two or three received from Joe. I was thining that I might receive some further instructions from you here, but while the time has seemed intermination. able to me, I realize that it has not been for you, and that there is little you can say,

Toether with the Garrels letter, I am enclosing a copy of the Roerich hand-bill. As I said, this is a copy made for me by the Manchukuo Government, and ought to be authentic. To have these thrown into every door might not be considered presumption on the part of a circus or chain grocery store; but it has not helped our case any. I feel that the English language is but a fumbling medium for what the Professor wanted to say; and I am sorry that I was not on hand to support a world or two out of some special vocabularies. suggest a word or two out of some special vocabularies.

I trust you are having a cool summer, no that Congress has adjourned, and that the prospects for better times are still ahead. As I am unable to write to

1000

NICHOLAS ROERICH

Nicholas Roerich, one of the greatest leaders of world culture, in whose honor the Roerich Museum in New York has been built, has won international renown as artist, author, archaeologist, and philosopher.

Of a family, dating on one side to the Eighth Century, to the Vikings of the North, and on the other to the most ancient Slavic tradition, Roerich was born in St. Petersburg, October 10, 1874. From his earliest years Roerich demonstrated his passion for knowledge and beauty, and his great archaeological achievements may be traced from his boyhood excavations which laid the foundations for his remarkable Stone Age collections and his present authority as one of the great archaeologists of his time.

Equal genius was demonstrated in his art, both under Kuindjy in the Academy in Russia and later under Puvis de Chevennes and Cormon in France. In deference to the wishes of his father--one of Russia's greatest attorneys--he also went to the University graduating from both with honors. Roerich's pre-eminence in the educational and art life of his native land was demonstrated as the Director of the School for the Encouragement of Arts; as First President of the Mir Isskustva; in his brilliant work with the Moscow Art Theatre and the Diaghileff Ballet; and as leader in innumerable cultural movements of that brilliant period.

Roerich's masterpieces are in the leading museums throughout the world, such as the Louvre, Luxembourgh, Victoria and Albert, National Museum in Rome, etc., and more than 1000 of his works are in the permanent collections of the Roerich Museum in New York. There are also Branches of the Roerich Museum, dedicated to Roerich's art, in Benares, Allahabed, Riga, Paris, Bruges, Belgrade, Zagreb, Buenos Aires, and other countries.

Roerich was in London in 1919 when the Chicago Art Institute invited him to come to America for exhibitions of his works throughout the United States, under its auspices. Shortly after his arrival he also founded the Institution which now bears his name—The Roerich Museum—with its twenty—four story building in New York and comprising wide-spread cultural endeavors in New York as well as in its 72 branches in 24 countries of the world. Roerich's last ten years have in great part been spent in Asia, where he completed his historical Central Asiatic Expedition with its vast accomplishments of 500 paintings of Asia, and obtained other unprecented scientific material, as a result of this Expedition Roerich also founded the Himalayan Research Institute of Roerich Museum in Kulu, India, where a far-reaching program of scientific research work is carried on.

This veritable epic has brought Roerich to the latest aspect of his work—that of world cultural leader. His latest creation, one which places him in the vanguard of cultural forces of our day, is his plan for the Roerich Pact with Banner of Peace, for which the third International Convention was held in Washington, D. C., in November, 1933. This Pact, devoted to the Preservation and Protection of the world's cultural treasures and the agreement among the nations of the earth, of their inviolability, has already been unanimously endorsed by King Albert of Belgium, Pope Pius, Einstein, Tagore, President Masaryk, Maeterlinck, the International Red Cross at Geneva, and numerous other official and cultural bodies and individuals. Three International Conventions have been held for the Roerich Pact, the first two in the City of Bruges, 1931, 1932, when Dr. Adatci, President of the International Court at The Hague, was Protector. The Third International Convention for the Roerich Pact was held in Washington, in November 1933, under the Protectorate of The Hon. Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, when the Roerich Pact was unanimously recommended for adoption by the Governments of the World. The Seventh Pan American Congress, held in Montevideo in 1933, has also recommended it unanimously for adoption by the American Governments.

In his writings and addresses, Professor Roerich has constantly expressed his admiration for Japanese art and culture. He has also constantly voiced his conviction of the splendid destiny of Japan in its advance towards cultural ascondancy founded on its great tradition and its receptivity to the most modern achievements.

Through his wide fields of creation, Nicholas Roerich has thus arrived at his great cultural leadership, confirming the words of the Hon George Gordon Battle, one of America's outstanding statesmen, has written: "Nicholas Roerich is unquestionably one of the greatest leaders of history. Combined with his extraordinary breadth of mind, there is a sublime sympathy with the opinions of, and tolerance for the prejudices of others. He has a marvelous equipment to be the leader of an international movement. He has power not only to plan but to act. He can translate his dreams into action."

169

P.S. The night paper just camein and gave a brief dispatch concerning a washout on the western RR line between here and Manchuoli where at some 12 kilometers of rock are washed away.

Harbin, Manchuria July 28,1934

Mr. Knowles A.Ryerson, Washington, D.C.

Dear Knowles

As the mails waits until the bag getts full I will add a further note. We are still in the same place and for the same reason. There have been more telegrams and inquiries about the baggage, but nothing can be found out, and no satisfactory answer obtained from anyone. There are little incidents from day to day, but nothing of any consequence. The plans are going forward just the same. I have done some local shopping, bought some saddle a which will do at a price no greater than the cost of bringing them from America, and which can be disposed of when we are through with them I have engaged a boy to go along and do the odds and ends of work, and will look after the equipment while we are in the field during the day, etc. I feel that we are going to lose prestige when we do not appear with a chorus of Cossakk soldiers and retainers of various sorts; but we did not have that many friends out of work over here. I have made attangements through a local bank which has a branch in Hailar to make the needed contacts there, and I feel that is a particularly good arrangement. I am sure that once we get at our work there will be very little to bother us.

Mr. Takata came to-day. He is the official of the Kwantung Government, and will go for a short time. He seems to be interested and helpful, and I am convinced that on his part he will do everything he can. His acquaintance extends to all the apanese Consuls and to the Army, and it will be well worth the cost to have him pave the way in the several directions he is capable of doing. Sato is on the way and should be here tomorrow, but Takata says of him that he is very irresponsible; the intelligent scientist who oversleeps and loes his train, loses his baggage out of his hand and generally gets misplaced. However, he will be a help with the flora, and I suspect with some of the newer things which both he and we may find. I am hoping the stuff(baggage) is found by tomorrow so that we can be off on Sunday but there is no suggestion tonight that such is the case.

The Roerich did not leave to-day though that was the last understanding I had about them. They have been here several weeks, as you know, and have everything but what we are to turn over to them. The last agreement was that they would go to day whether we went or not, as they are anxious to get on. But it is impossible to communicate with the j. He will give me no address where he is living, but I have a telephone number, which is a Department Store, and business has to be conducted through a clerk there. I tried all day yesterday, at three different hours in the afternoon especially, a when I was told each call before that he would be there. Finally I wrote him a letter and sent it by messenger with a receipt; saying that he, messenger, was to deliver the letter only to him, Roerich; but he could not get any access. Woday Roerich came back to the hotel with a letter, and though I was here, he made no attempt to see me or phone me, according to the clerk at the desk. The letter made no mention of the fact that he was not leaving as per schedule, or when he would leave. I do not know what the racket is, but it may come out in tame. Unfortunately the local paper; is the most miserable kind of a sheet run by a book store owner who is British, and the local news is motly what books and papers he has to seel. Otherwise there might be more interviews of the Roerich and details of their actions. The rest of the news concerns the house guests of the King of England and similar items, all of much interest locally.

I am going to write you at some length about later plans for this portion of the expedition. I do not know what you have since thought about it, or where you want me to go. I have my own suggestions which I will communicate to you; but in the meantime you might be revolving the matter in your mind. The only thing which I can suggest at the moment is that any and all plans must be subject to change, even radical change, and what our wishes are may never fit in with the possibilities. There is a suggestion that the Japanese are scheming for something in 1935. There are always references to it as part of



their program. Obviously the Russians are busy on their side of the line. Mo lumber comes through any more, as all of it as required for military purposes in Russia. There is the a concentration of men and machines on the otherside. In the 1904 War the Japanese struck before te Russiains could complete what thet were doing at Port Arthut. It may e the plan again for it is plain that the better the Russians are prepared the worse it will be here From a military point of view the Japanese seem to be particularly vulnerable They are at the center of a circle. One picks up sentiment right along from all kinds of people, and it is always the same story. If anything does break here it will affect the whole region, and I doubt very much if our work could be carried on to any profit. There may be some parts of China that would be workable, but they are not in the north. You are at the center to which all information comes, and you can base decision on other data than our own. So pl ase be prepared with some answers along about Oct. 1 The two months interval from waation to answer is very awkward.

Sincerely yours,

Dear Knowles,

At last we start. The tickets are bought, the baggage is found and is again at the station. We leave in the morning for allar. Two full months of efforts to bring to bring us to this point. But the time has not been wasted. I think our position is now as good as it could be. I have takata with me, who is an official of the Kwantung government, and who can and will open the remaining doors. Also Sato, the botanist, who I find knows the flora and can name them as they come. Thewe two will cost plenty of yen, but they will not stay for the duration of our stay; probably ten days or two weeks at the most. I have everything arranged apparently, at "ailar, and I foresee no great difficulties to come at this time. Things have a way of happening , however.

From Takata I am learning the inside story of the Japanese attitude, in our case in the past max several weeks. We may have done better than we know to have got this far. With ho assistance from the State Department in Tokyo; with the gendarmarie, the ater police, the Kwantung army and government in the Leasdd Territory to win over; the government of Manchoukuo, who have never had this sort of thing problem to face before, and which ours is the first instance; the outright suspicion of strangers; the entry into what is virtually a war zone; and finally the growing suspicion of any and all associated with the name Roerich — has developed the tedious situation we have been through. But if I continue I may slip and tell the truth about something. It look as though I would finally see Papa Roerikh tomorrow, and see what yarns he has to tell, after the lies that have gone before. Papa R. rates a Cossack guard at his door at all hours, armed. It makes a great show what wink Tripe:

Saw in the C.S. Monitor your interview on plant hunters. It came to hand very opportunely. I can see we will be later coming out of the desert than I first estimated on account of the late start. We will try to do in two months what we should have done in four. So a little more paitence on your part, and we may come throuth with something yet. We re headed for the last round-up.

Sincerely,

Hailar, Manchuria August 11, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D.C.

Dear Knowles,

I am a long way behind in my writing to you and I see no way of bringing it up to date , Each day brings along something to be done and the less conspicucous job get put on the shelf. I sent you a note last from Harbin. Since then the expedition matter has come to a show-down, and we are still in the business But before I begin on that I should report on the trip from Harbin/

The krip leaves "arbin at 8.30 AM and crosses the river on the north side befor before turning in the general worthwest direction which the railroad follows to Hailar. The river was still rising, and the famous flood had spread out very far on the north side of the river. Large sections of suburbs were under water and the properties abandoned. On any little height of ground or substantial roof, people were trying to live down the flood. A good section of Harbin was then under the water level and would be dovered if the dyke was broken. The danger was from seepage water and not the dyke, as the ghound was beginning to soften in places, and sewers would soon back up. From these on the country showed every evidence of too much rain. Water stood every where. The row crops all looked as if they were then being irrigated. Many had rotted down, though the soybeans seemed to show less damage than any other. On the rising ground the grass was very thick and tall with nothing in sight to make use of it. Toward the mountains the streams were funning full, though it could be seen that they had been higher. The rain fall for several hours, sometimes very hard, and that had evidently been the condition for several days past.

The train leaves so as to pass through the flat country in the day time. That gives a better opportunity to deal with the bandits, if any. The trains swarm with soldiers, each platfor, has some each station has a guard of several men and each bridge is guarded of fourse. In the mountains there are no bandits so they are passed in the night. As hight came on we were getting to the foot hills, the streams were running a little faster, but no real mountains could be seen. Of the plains beyond the alls there is no trouble of that sort. We reached Hailar at 3.20 in the mountains.

Im my occasional talks with G. Roerich I had always said that we were going only to Hailar. After the baggare arrived I gave him everything I had brought for him, and took a receipt for the inventorial articles. He kept putting off his departure for no apparent reason, and finally on the day he came for his stuff he volunteered the information that they could not go on the Friday and Sunday preceding as the trains did not run on account of the flood. In calling the Station later about another matter I learned that the trains departed and arrived on time on those two days. In all of our conversations there had never been any ment on of the rofessor. In riting at first I had sent my regards and made some gesture of being friendly but at no time was there any word returned, or mention of him except in the third person. In Harbin no mention of him was made to me and so I made no mention on my part. I could never find out where they lived, and the telephone number given was a separtment Store which always gave a great deal of trouble, as there was no one to answer who could give any information. There was never a suggestion that the rofessor cared to see us; we were completely ignored.

When we arrived at the train on August 1, there was the usual confusion about passports, finding the car, getting tickets, baggage checks, and other matters straightened out. Apparently the Roerich party were already there, for there was a crowd of Russian congregated towards the front end of our car. We were busy in our compartment there were the two Japanese, Mr. Lillestrom of the Consulate was down to see us off, and other matters occupies our attention. As the day work on we were in and out of the compartment, but never saw anyone until is to in the afternoon G. Roerich was glimpsed looking out of the window on the passage side. All day a guard sat in front of the rofessors door and non none of them ever stirred from the place, so far as I know. Their meals were brought from the d ning car by the Russian servants, and no one else seemd to interest them/

On a rriving in Hailar we were met by a young man from the local bank who had been advised of our coming and had made arrangements for us at the apanese Hotel: There was meome delay in setting the quantity of hand bases the the train; making a parter to the

the hand stuff on a cart, for there were four of us and start for the hotel. The Roerich group were scattered around the front end of the train, as I passed G. Roerich I said, "Good morning", to which he returned no answer. It was too near morning to go to bed. so we sat at the hotel and talked until breakfast was ready.

When a suitable time of day arrived we started out to make official calls, going first to the Army headquarters. The officer was not easy to find and after going to the barracks, his house, and office, finally found him at the latter place. Y u may recall that I had with me Dr. Sato, the botanist from Port Arthur, and Mr. Takata of the Kwantung Government who is the official interpreter and a man of some importance in his Bureau. Stephens and I only filled in the vanant places.

Our visit with Commander Saito was not long. We explained our business, the plans we had, and the work we wished to do. I had brought a card from the commanding officer in Harbin, who was the ranking officer over the staff here. Everything was very satisfactory, but there were soje restructions to be observed, and we would see him again. It was too late in the morning to call on the other police official so we returned to the hotel. It was raining by this time, which it continued to do for most of the afternoon.

I said that my authority did not come from Professor Roerich, that I was ordered by my Department to do certain work such as I had outlined and showed my Letter of Introduction. That it was true that Roerich had some commission from the Secretary to do some work, and that the only purpose he had so far as I was concerned was to protect the prty. Moreover, I had never seen the rofessor, he had never said a word to me and had never sent me a message, or in any way revealed any interest in my affairs at any time. That I had made all my contacts and negotiations without help from him or any other agency except the Consuls in Dairen and Tarbin/ Also I did not recognized any power on his part to give me forders or direct my work, or claim that he had ordered me to remain in Hailar.

The statement was translated by Takata, though I think the Commander understood enough English to follow me. Also Takata had the Christian Science Monitor, of June 25, in which was your interview about plant explorers and while it could not be regarded as any official spokesman the facts as states were clear enough for the Commander to read, which he did. After one or two more questions I askedwhat paper of authority Roerich had shown to prove his statement hhat he was in charge of all of us. This caused great amusement. For when Roerich had been asked to show some evidence of authority he said that he had forgotten it and left it behind in Harbin or elsewhere. Takata and I were excused soon after that, with the suggestion that we do not start field work until the matter was settled.

On Friday morning the four of us went again to the Commander's place for further discussion. By this time Takata was getting warmed up to the subject for the night before the Japanese Secretary had come to the hotel and had talked for several hourse trying to get us to come twen and make some dmissions. Also they had found a copy of their official paper, which they did not know they had, and which they were anxious to show to the Commander. It was a copy of the Secretary's jett letter to Prdf. Roerich, apparently and the same one that was used in Toky9. There was a long discussion about the genuineness of the letter, as nothing about it seemed to compare with anything else we had, and there was in it a word or two two two periods of the Trofessor As to the letter, I had nothing to say, for it was not my letter or mentioned me, and was not an original in the first place. As the discussion betweemnthe apanese took place in another room from mine, I dow not know what was said or done. Kitagawa, the Secretary, wanted to get hold of my letter but that did not succeed.

So at the Commander's office we were in a separaterbom as the custom is here and the Commander and the Manchukuo police were present. On the davenport so meane had spread out two newspapers on which to dry some phogoraphic prints. They were Harbin papers, in Russian, and at the ope of each were articles by Roerich together with his poitrue. Takata also called the Commanders attention to that. By this time the sentiment of the authorities was that Roerich and his party was a fake and a nuisance and they wanted some scheme to keep them from going farther. It appears that the Hsingking matter and newspaper nonsense in Harbin had caught up with him and this other matter was too much. The Commander asked me what action I wanted to take in the case. I said that I wished to take no action that Roerich was afriend of the Secretary, and should go on as far as I was concerned but that I merely wished to be left along on my part.

Takata xaid later that if I had wishes it the Commander would have prevented Roerich going any farther, and that it was only my attitude in the matter that permitted it at all.

Anyway, the Commander was going to tell Roerich that the official papers from Tokyo said that only he, the son and apanese secretary were going to travel in these regions and that could go on, but that the six Russians whom they had along ould not go. There was a long session over that, with a good deal of pleading on the part of the Japanese secretary, and they finally got permission to go. Among other complaints to the Commander about me were lack of gratitude for the many favors he had done me much less my denial of his authority.

on Saturday the party left. They had a big automobile for the pinciple members of the party, and a truck for the equipment and musical comedy army. All were in Cossack uniform, which seems about asked taste as anything under the cirrumstances, but I presume it gives some flavor of the old days, even if the U.S. must pay the bill; and besides if someone is to command another must obey, and make the proper background. But as this is not a letter of opinion I will stick more to the facts.

I did not see the rofessor at any time; nor have I had any word from him. We are strangers still. Under the circumstances, i will be impossible to have any more contact with them, though I know there are going to be loud reports quout lack of cooperation. I anticipate any amount of trouble when I get back over this affair, and of course they have the inside track in the matter. If I get fired it will be nothing more than I expect.

With the Roerich party on their way by motor cor to enjoy a few days at the hot spring, we got down to business with the plants. With Takata to make contacts we quickoy got our visits over at the Gendarmary, the Consulate, the Manchuokuo poice, and Border police, and have yet to call on the Railway pakka Zone police. ARRIVARIAN With Sato's help we got into the plants quickly enogh for the plains begin just outside of the town. There has been a great deal of rain here, and the grassabl over is very luxuriant. There is no way of judging how drought resistant a plant may be xcept by location for everything has grown. The first business has been to collect herbarium naterial, which is a slow joj and some sees as ready. The seed of two or three grasses hasalready fallen and some other are sterile so something elses will be planned about them. The heavy seed gathering will come in about ten days.

There have been one or two shott excursions out on the plains, and the appearance is of considerable uniformity. The grasses seem to be much the same in any location, and as the time is short, and the seed is not far away we will fet most of them from near Hailar. There are several very good looking grasses and apparently not now in the United States; and I think some of them will be useful. We are going to attempt a shipment of roots in about a month, as some of the grasses have lost their seed. We are figuring on the fastest time, for itm does not seem that they will stand too much long delay en route. Perhaps you will be ready to receive them when they come, and get them handled promptly.

It does not seem now and from information gathered from others that there would be an advantage in running around to more distant parts. There is everything we can do here for the duration of the goowing season and we will have a good representation of the eastern fringe of the Gobi. Already signs of fall are in the air. The nights are cool. The first came are in yesterday so I am told.

We have a found a dry land willow, which is very queer and figuring on sending

87

and are figuring on sending cuttings when the wood hashardened a little. I am also making arrangements to get seed of the native Haingan Mountain pine, which will not be ready until late September as I believe the tree would be very useful somewhere in the states. It is really a farix and I think Dorsett knows all about it, but did not have a chance to get seed. There may be others. It will not be expedient to go to the mountains however, as it will be too late in the fall and the negotiations which will have to be resumed would take too much time.

Incidentally it was told through the agency of the local SMR Office that a party of Americans with three Japanese amounting to 14 ib all were going to the "singan Mountains in just a few days. It turns out that it is the Roerich Expedition, and that Roerich has promised that all of us are going with him when he returns to "ailar, probably about tomorrow or for the "esnesday train. That was news to us, so naturally we are all anxious to know what means are being taker to insure our going.

From here we will return to Harbin where I will want to look at herbarium specimens, and collect the seed I have asked to be gathered for us there. That should not ake a very long time. After that I will have to go to Hsinking, to Kingchuling to visit the experiment station and finally to Dairen and Port Arthur to spend a little time with Sato finishing the decision about the plants, and any other matters that may come up.

am hoping to hear from you some suggestion about plans after we leave Manchuria. I realize that it may be difficult for you to make many decisions in this regard in what weems to be far in advance of their need. You were going to write me about your arrangement with Rock, but I have not heard of it yeat; and there are the plans for the work next year. Also, there must be some decision made about Stephens work this winter. I cannot see at the present time where he would gain anything by remaining in Harbin for the winter, and I do not know that anything in Tokyo would be of paramount interest. We have been so absorbed with the troubles of this expedition so far that it has not been possible to give any attention to these future matters, and the answer to a letter requires at least two months from the time I ask a question. It may be desirable for me to return to Tokyo to finish up the matter of ontacts with the Japanese officials for I think that now we have started we should not neglect them. We may want to return.

This whole business has been watched with more oncern than you may realize. It is the first time in the history of Manchoukuo that an incident of this kind has come up, and our methods and treatment has been making precedents for thos who come later. That will explain some of the delays. Snother thing is, that of all the country of Manchoukuo we choose to come to dailar, which is the only fortified military zone in emprie. For some meason Americans are particularly suspect, and while we seem to have the sympathy of Commander daito, and will not be molested, we will be urged to leave as soon as convenient. Not to cause comment among the other branches of the official circle, we have detailed to us a young Gendarme, who goes along with us to the field, but who so far has been very agreeable. Any pictures which we take I have given my word to show to Commander Saito, and he is satisfied with that. We take no pictures to the north, nor do we cross the railways right of way, for that is where the fortifications are. We have the Kwantung Governments with us, and they rule the country, and without return we may do so.

There may be other details which I have overlooked but I think the abo r is a fair statement if the events leading up to and our official introduction in Hailra. I am not worried that the other side of the story will be neglected.

I trust you had an agreeable vacation with Dr. Grenfell and that the summer has been a pleasant one.

Sincerely yours,

H.G. MacMallan

and Enlow may be back here before you leave the Orient, but that should not make any of difference in your plans for returning via Russia and visiting the herbariums there and talking ever the potato work with Vaviloff and his workers. Exchange is terrific, however so you wont want to spend too much time there I imagine, that is one of the complicating factors in the present expedition. They will probably come back and go ever to Persia and Turkey or some other region early next spring. Archer is in South America on the insecticide plant work. I hope still to send Rock on his trip this winter if possible.

We are moving over to the Westchester this coming month. Amma is still in California and I will get poved over before she comes back. I called your wife from Pasadena, didn't get a chance to try out the new dyt. Ford. Will do that next time. Have not looked through my telescope but once so far, will have a better place next time you come and Itll start you on your astronomical way.

There are a lot of things I want your help on back here when you return wish you were here now in many ways for I could keep you busy, well the menths fly by and winter is not so far off at that. Hearings before the budget director start the 17th

of next menth.

I am still hoping to get down to Labrador for a short stay and am hoping to get Ben to ge along, he is away this week, but that isn't enough, he has had a tough time of it, for I certainly gave him some tough problems to crack and it has been a very trying summer. We will be gone two weeks, catching a boat down the St. Lawrence from Quebec after seeing the potate work at Presque Isle.

Must ring off now for the time and run along home see you soon via letters.

Bhowles

P.S. (By hand) That meme of the Recricks re the organization of the expedition is their own idea.

Are they definitely expecting to go on to India as sums of the Press notices seemed to indicate?

On the face of things now when do you figure that the work this season will close in Manchoukue? When will you plan to drop down to Nankink and Shanghai? Rock will be leaving in November if we send him.

Will write again soon

Hastily,

Knowles.

Dear Mac.

I have been back here a week tomorrow after a dizzy six weeks out in the mid and far west and I had expected to get a letter off to youlong since. They copied some of the letters that you had sent in and I received them in Pasadena when I get there. I certainly am sorry that you had to do so much of the detail of the job yourselfabut I am not surprised. The rest of the party should have stayed in T okyo until you and Stephens arrived and have helped and worked on the details along with you and cleared the

path -- if they could.

I have received but one communication from George Recrich and that telling that arrangements were about complete to go into Jehol, I took the matter up with the Secretary as in our previous conversations we had decided we did not want to get into this area nor did the State Department seem to want us near there. The Secreatary took it up with the State Department and this time they had no objection to our having men in Jehol more than anywhere else in Manchoukuo, but I suspect a double meaning there. However, you are a long ways off and by the time you get this you may be in and out of Jehol. I received your cable about being able to handle the weak seeds later this month. I do hope you have some luck in getting some collections after all the hard work and disappintments you have had in getting started. We'll get you decorated with the First

Order yet !!

The trip west was interesting but stremuous, and much of the time it was over 100 a report came in from our Hays Kansas Station this week stating they had 16 days in July in which the Temperature was 105 or more, and it is still going along that way out there right now. Corn prices are up around 85 and still elimbing, the crap is down to one third its normal and may go still lower. The drouth is a national calemity of the first magnitude. I didn't get into Los Angeles at all, was home but overnight, the first Saturday we got South, then went on to Arizona and Utah with Tugwell and party, then came back and had a Sunday and Monday the latter spent conferring with Thackery and Herbert in Pasadena, going on to Riverside the next day and then east. I spent last Sunday with Richey at Columbus, he is still out and won't be back until next Saturday or Sunday. I have been down here at the office attl day today working on a reprt on emergency activities the Secretary wants tomorrow, we got the request Friday afternoon, suspect that the President wants some dope on how things are going now that he has come back. On top of that I have been working on budget estimates mest of 'em went inwhile I was away but they left some of 'em for me to round out so it has been a busy but quiet Sunday, no interruptions. It has been hot and sticky but a young cloudburst is just overhead and has cooled things off a lot. I'll head home and write a letter or two there and spend the evening reading for a change get a little mental ventilation before temorrow.

The Secretary asked me to tell you he is very anxious that you work very closely and cooperate with the Roerichs in every way, I told him you left with every intention of doing so. I haven't seen any letters that may have come to the Secretary and den't know what may have been written but I assured the Secretary that you would play the game to the limit but that you had to go ahead on your own on a lot of these matters for the Roerichs had not remained to meet you as was planned, and that the only way to ge get things done was to do them as you went along and assure yourself that your plans could go shead. I have been amazed at the press comments. Time carried an account of the investiture of the Emperor. You are certainly having a diplomatic row to hoe. I will be interested in hearing things from you first hand when you return this winter. Westever

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

> Hailar, Manchuria August 17, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D. C.

Dear Knowles:

During the past week there has been some activity in the collection of herbarium specimens and some seed. A few of the seed have fallen, but the rainy season, which persists with some tenacity, has delayed the ripening somewhat. It looks as if next week would begin the heavy harvesting, and that it might be fairly well completed within two weeks or so. That does not mean, however, that our work here will be completed, as we will attempt to ship some grasses wrapped in wet materials so as to reach you with the minimum of delay. I am quite anxious to have the grasses reach you, as they seem to be well worth while, and no other way exists this year of caliming them. After that I am concerned about the dry land willow. Also, I am trying to locate some of the native elm species to be tried there for resistence to the Dutch Elm Disease. I have not worked that method out, but I think that I may be able to gather them near Dairen. If they have been hardened off by frost, I believe they will do to carry to Shanghai, and possibly out in cool storage on some round—the—world liner to be delivered in New York. I hesitate to make any promises about things like that, for I cannot predict what will happen between now and sailing time.

The Hailar soil is wholly sand. The lower sands have a dark color and contain some humus. The upper sands are a light tan, and are more often wind blown. In the plains are frequent wide depressions, which in my opinion have been made by the wind blowing away the sand. These sands seem to be fertile, and need only water to sustain a considerable grass cover. The surprising thing this year has been the large amount of rain. I have been able to gather no reliable rain measurements, but it must be large. Since we have been here there have been several days with heavy rains, and the promise is for more. The river is still running bank full, shows no signs of lowering, and is to be compared with last year when it was dry. As I said before, the rains have how made everything grow, and there is no way of telling what grasses resist the drouth and which do not. At least the seed of all of them must be very hardy, or they would not appear under favorable conditions. The quantity of seed we will get will not be large.

I think the Roerich matter has come to a temporary close so gar as my immediate participation is concerned. They returned yesterday from their trip to the south during the day yesterday. I did not see them, nor did they make any attempt to see me, so far as I know. Through my private secret service I was given an outline of their itinerary. The left August 4, going to Canzusumu to the Mongolian Monastery, where they stopped the fifth and sixth. They left there on the seventh going to Handagaya, where their truck broke down. They remained there the next three days, leaving on the 11th for Chan-noru and remained the next day. On the 13th they left for a spot on the Ga River, where they camped as they did the previous two times leaving there on hhe 16th to arrive in Hailar. Their collection amounted to 190 species and a total of 260xxpexiexx 150 species and a total of 900 specimens. They had with them as you may already know, a Russian botanist, Taras P. Gordfeff (Gordeev). While these figures may be subject to some correction, they are essentially correct.

The Wednesday train was a day late going east, so that they were able to take it last night Their destination out of here is Hingan, a resort on the eastern slope of the Great Hingan mountains.

I anticipate the usual uproar concerning non-cooperation and probably will have go answer a good many questions when I get back about the reasons for doing what I did. I think I can answer all questions on any apont. As each development came about naturally from the time we landed in Yokohama, I believe anyone can trace the steps by which we got to Hailar, and determine the reasons for making each move. If at any time this matter becomes embassing to you, I will be glad to furnish you with additional information on any point that seems not clear. As you are always a month behind me on these matters, it may have seemed necessary to you to wait for the next development. But you will recall I too have been without the benefit of any guidance in this affair, so that on my part I am a month behind your advice. At best, it has been an awkward matter, and I am glad to have it reach this point.

I am interested to know if you had any hand in N.F. Hansen's trip to Eastern Siberia to collect grasses. If he goes to the Smur region, as the information, it will be just north and perhaps east of here. I do not consider it particularly dry land, however, though I may be mistaken in that point. His arrival there ould not have been much ahead of ours here. I f so, he should get something.

Sincerely yours,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Plant Industry Washington

Plant Exploration and Introduction

Hailar, Manchuria August 29, 1934

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Washington, D. C.

Dear Knowles:

The month in Hailar is coming to an end, and before long it will be necessary to think about other plans. After the preliminary shake down things went along fairly well here. The Japanese I brought along were most useful, and I can think of no one who would have done us more good. Whatever the Russian botanists know about the Manchurian plants, they know little more than Dr. Sate at best. He left some days ago, but not before we had located and named everything we will be able to gather. After leaving Hailar Sato went to Manchouli for a few days. On his return he said that there was nothing new at Manchouli, and not such satisfactory collecting as here. From the trips we have had out on the plains I am satisfied that we will have secured practically everything the country affords in the type of plant we want. There is an edded advantage here, I think, in that some of the ravines that lead down to the river plain is quite rich in vegetation, and there is much to be found in a short distance. I have put it down to the sheltering effect from the wind. The seeds are not blown away as they ripen. Of course the seeds that blow from the plains must lodge somewhere, but either the lodging is very scant, or the winds wither and destroy the seedlings. The ravines are the same soil as the plains, a fairly fine sand; and they do not seem to show any signs of excess moisture. None of them are any deeper than what you can throw your hat out of, but the wind subsides there and gives the seeds a foothold. Among the seeds we will gather are some which I think are new to us, and some which should be very useful. You will be disappointed at the quantity; I am myself; yet I think they can be multiplied at home with less expense and trouble than we can go to a further search. Looking over the plains shows only the few we have found here, and I am satisfied to have settled in this one spot and made a more thorough job of it. It may well be that the spring or early season would produce something we have not seen, but for persistence the latter ones may be more useful. The hay that comes into town to be sold around the horse market has many of the grasses and vetches on cur list. All of them seem to be grazed where animals have a chance to eat.

It is time to make some definate plans about the coming winter, and to think about the spring and summer to come. As you know, I will return to Marbin from here, and my estimate is that it will be about the middle of September when we get away. There are some willow and apple cuttings which I want to got, and hope to have them harden off by that time. Frost is not far away, and when it comes I am sure it will be very positive. Winter sets in with little delay after the summer has gone. In harbin I am expecting to get some seed from the Russian botanist that I asked to put his boys to work. and while they may not be as drouth resistant as the plants here, may have something useful among them. From there I will return to Mainking to meet the officials again, stop at the SMR Experiment Station on route, and return to Dairon. There it will be necessary to make the rounds of the Kwantung Covernment and the SMR, for it is entirely due to their help that we got any where at all. I can see no point now in returning to Tokyo, and unless I have word from you to do so, will not go back there. From Dairen I expect to push off for Shanghai. My guess on schedule is that I should get to Shanghai during the first week in October, certainly before the tenth of the month.

What your program is for me in China I do not know. The plans we made last spring may have changed. Nor was there any very definate plan to it. You were going to send me the correspondence with Rock, but I have never received it. He may have made suggestions that have altered your entire outlook. The whole thing, as I see it, will have to be taken up afresh, and considered on the merits of the moment. You wanted me to see Larson, and I think it can still be done this fall, either at his place at Pangkieng, or in Peiping in case he is down or about to come down for any reason at all. Where Rock is, and what he can suggest is enother very vital matter. He may have started for Yunnan, and it may be necessary to chase after him. The plan is, I presume, to make arrangements for work in Chinese territory mext summer. and that may be more of a job than you realize. In all of these matters I need something to go on. As the center of information, and focal point for it, you can make more good suggestions than anyone else, and you can see that I need whatever you can pass on.

There is something you may not know. I believe all of these arrangements have become much more difficult to make than has ever been the case before. China is in a very disturbed state, and there is so much intrigue of all kinds going on, that one has to work quite a while to be understood and their motives appreciated. I do not think the State Department gave us very much or very useful information in Washington. That may have been because we did not know what to ask for, or because we were not more specific in our plans. Since being in the field I have put it down to another reason. I think there is a lot they do not know. It is true they felt they could give me no help, or at best, a minimum on account of the Roerich entry into the picture, but on other things I have not felt they were too well informed. They may keep track of the larger movements, may know what shifts there have been in the bean population, the number of carpet tacks and automobile tires the other exporting nations are trying to slip in shead of us. Their diplomacy may be perfect. Nor do I mean to say that they will not do what they can when it is possible to do enything. What I mean is that we have to root out a lot of the facts, the men in the local government departments, and discover the ways to get what we require. All of that takes time. I can see very well that I can spend some time in China getting lined up for work next spring, getting the required information together, and making the acquaintance of the people who can and will help us.

Another problem is what to do with Mr. Stephens, He was a good choice for the grass work, seems to know the grass habits, and has displayed a good deal of energy and intelligent interest in the whole gress problem. But except as a witness he has not been much help on the other arrangements. The plan to settle down at some menastery and translate some treatise on botany or agriculture has more merit than sense to it. These lenguages are not easy. I have yet to see any of the local peoples who understood each other very well. The Japanese certainly do not understand each other with any real assurance. There is always doubt as to what one means when he speaks, as you would see by observing them for a while. Unless there is going to be a continued studious effort on Stephens part to go in for Chinese, the initial effort would not be worth while. To sit around Chine for six months will add nothing to the program either. He has nothing to offer toward a solution. So far as economy goes it would be just as well to have him come home and work on the seed that ere being sent over; propagate seme of them, and learn a few of the facts that might be useful in the field. I do not think than can be done over here. In addition, there might be a helpful morale element so for as he is concerned in having him come home. Certainly it would be no more expensive than having him remain over here until the season starts up again. However, you may have already made some suggestion about it which will turn up in the mail one of these days.

I do not know what the upshot of the Roerich affair may be, and it is as likely as anything that I am coming home too,

as soon as I can get pulled out of here. Nothing about that affair would surprise me. No doubt they and their patron will agree that I handed them pretty drastic treatment, and will feel obliged to do something about it.

I wish you would write me at Shanghai as fully as you can what you want me to do further. I will remain there until I hear from you, as I think there will be plenty of occupy me for some time after I reach there. The mails will reach there more quickly than here, and any reasonable attention to the matter should provide an answer by the time I need it. I think there is a U.S. Navy radio station there, and that messages can be sent by applying to the proper persons in Washington. However, I do not recommend cables for any general remarks, unless you use the State Department code, and even then it runs into an uncomfortable expense.

There will be other matters I will have wished brought to your attention, I know, but this will be sufficient to give you a clue to my present needs.

With best regards from us to all concerned,

Sincerely yours,

H. G. MacMillen

P. S.

P. S.

I have made no reference to seeing Westover and Enlow in Russia. The little that has drifted in from various sources indicates that they had a difficult time getting under way. All the professions of friendship that the Russians make seem to come to an uncomfortable end. I will depend entirely on you, of course, to decide what shall be done about my seeing them. In case I go across Siberia it might be well enough to start from Vladivostok and go around the Amur country, just to get a conception of it. I know now what to expect between Harbin and Borzya. It will depend somewhat where they are to be found, and whether the railroad is functioning as it should by that time of year.

If it is proposed to work over toward Tibet next year you will depend on Rock for the plan of work, I presume. In this connection there is a very good summary of the political situation in Tibet in a new monthly published in China called "Oriental Affairs", I think in the August number. It has seemed to me that there might be a chance of getting something good from the Himaleya country, going into the higher regions north of India. The elevation would add some hardy element to the local grasses, and the southern exposure would not be too much for our needy regions. To do that I presume one might get on the best by making contact with the British out of India, for they have some concessions of a sort.

As a general round-up of stuff in this region, the winter might offer something in Australia. I think the last I could find was that the chances there were not so good, but I do not know what could be suggested by people who are better acquainted there.

My feeling is that we lack a great deal of intimate information about any of these places, not so much from the
scientific aspects as from the personnel, the method of
approach, and the politics involved. The world is no longer
as it once was, and I think we encounter that fact less at
home than anywhere else. I think too, that it might profit
a good deal by knowing who can do things for us in various
parts of the world, and keep well enough in touch with them
so that their local travels can be used to our advantage. A
little stuff coming in from time to time would not be so very
expensive, and often it is the accidental or opportune collector
who runs on something which is most worth while. But unless
you think I am getting too expansive, it might be better to
wait and talk about such things.