

mhs

March 28, 1934.

Mr. James L. Stephens,
Coastal Plain Experiment Station,
Tifton, Georgia.

Dear Mr. Stephens,

I expect, within the next few days, to wire you that final plans for the Oriental Expedition have been made and that you are included among these to go. Certain of the diplomatic details are yet to be worked out, but the plan is now to have you and MacMillan go and possibly one other, leaving this country not later than the 15th of May, and possibly earlier. I am hoping that Dr. MacMillan can return to Washington by the middle or end of next week to go actively to work on plans here. We will want you to come to Washington as soon as possible to work with him. This is just a warning in advance so you can be getting your own plans in shape and can come up here, but of course, you are close enough so you could return to Georgia in the meantime to complete your personal arrangements. I would like to have you up here to start with Dr. MacMillan so that certain other things could get under way, then with these started you could return home to complete your personal affairs.

I am sorry that we haven't been able to give a more definite word sooner, but it has been and still is a ticklish project to handle. I am looking forward to seeing you here.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely,

Knowles A. Ryerson

Chief of Bureau

Copies to:

Mr. Morrison
Dr. Pieters

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. Skvortzow
#76 Potshtovaya St.
Harbin, Manchuria.

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

Harbin, Manchuria .

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 gentleman 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 gentlemen if he will give them my warmest personal regards. I wish the expedition good luck and every possible success.

Very sincerely,

Howard

mhs

42999

Dr. H.G. MacMillan,
1725 5th Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

April 25, 1934.

Dear Mac:

Dorsett has just sent in the addresses of the men in Manchuria, and I am ~~and~~ 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 Reerich 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. Reerich 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. H akai for any botanical assistance you may wish for the expedition. Dr. Reerich was very positive in his statements about there being no difficulty or ~~no~~ even differences of opinions.

I was unable to make delivery of the two revolvers because there is a police regulation which does not permit Fiela 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 Reerichs 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 recovering 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. Morrison.

Informal

mhs

43084
May 5, 1934.

Mr. Cabot Coville
Consul, American Consulate,
Harbin, Manchuria.

Dear Mr. Coville,

You have doubtless heard through State Department channels, that we are sending botanists into Japan and Manchoukuo, to work especially on grasses from the drier and more northern regions toward the Hingan mountains, and also on plants that might be useful for insecticidal purposes. We have two big projects on now, one in connection with erosion control and improvement of our western ranges, two inseparable problems, and the other, the securing of substitutes for lead arsenate in the spray used on fruits and vegetables. We received an increase in our ~~fungus~~ exploration funds for the former project, and a Public Works allotment for the latter, so that we are embarking on studies, and the collecting of plants useful for these purposes abroad is part of our program.

Dr. H.G. MacMillan and Mr. J.L. Stephens are sailing on May 18th, for Tokyo, for this work. They are regular plant workers of this Bureau. They will join there, Mr. Nicholas de Roerich and Dr. George de Roerich, of New York, who will also be on this work because of their familiarity with the Mogol dialect. Dr. George de Roerich will be working on drug plants especially, translating references manuscripts where references to such plants may be found. Dr. MacMillan will return to Washington during the fall and winter. We are planning to leave Mr. Stephens over for another season and shall probably send another botanist out to replace Dr. MacMillan.

Any assistance or courtesies you may be able to extend to our people to make their stay as effective as possible, will be greatly appreciated by all of us here.

Very sincerely,

K.A. Ryerson
Chief of Bureau.

Copies to:

Mr. Morrison
Dr. Pieters (for Mr. Stephens)

mhs
Enformal

43084
May 5, 1934.

6
Consul General,
Tokyo, Japan.
Dear Sir:

You have doubtless heard through regular channels, that we are planning to send botanists into Japan and Manchoukuo, for the purpose of studying grasses and other plants useful for soil erosion as well as range improvement work, and also their possible value for insecticidal purposes.

Dr. H.G. MacMillan and Mr. J.L. Stephens are sailing on the S.S. President Hoover from San Francisco on May 18th, for Tokyo, and will get in touch with you on arrival. They will join there Mr. Nicholas de Roerich and Dr. George de Roerich, who have already left for Tokyo, and who are accompanying Dr. MacMillan and Mr. Stephens because of their familiarity with Mongol dialect and their experience in traveling in that part of the world. Dr. George de Roerich is studying drug plants and translating various Mongolian manuscripts to get leads on plants that might be useful to supply insecticidal material. This problem is particularly acute at this time because of the drive against lead arsenate as a spray on fruits and vegetables.

The studies will be limited to Manchoukuo, and especially the northern portion, as we are anxious to get plants from as far north as possible, especially grasses that may be useful on the high plateaus of the southwest and inter-mountain areas where it is dry and hot in summer and cold in winter.

Dr. MacMillan will be returning to Washington in the fall or winter, and plans for the remainder of the party will be determined by the results of this season's work. We shall probably send out another botanist to take the place of Dr. MacMillan.

Any courtesies you may be able to extend to our men to make their studies as effective as possible, will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely,

K.A. Ryerson
Chief of Bureau

Copies to:

Mr. Morrison
Dr. Pieters (For Mr. Stephens)

mhs

Dr. H.G. MacMillan, May 5, 1934.
1725 5th Avenue , Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mac:

Dr. Fairchild's youngest daughter, Nancy B. Fairchild, is sailing for the Orient the second of June on the Empress of Canada 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 Grosvenor 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 Reerichs 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 don'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.

mhs

43084
May 5, 1934.

129/7

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ALLANSON.

Dear Mr. Allanson:

If it hasn't already been started, please have the regular letter sent to the State Department asking that they notify the American Embassy in Tokyo that MacMillan and Stephens will sail on May 18th, on the S.S. President Hoover, and give the date of their arrival at Yokohama, also asking that the customary courtesies be extended to facilitate their passage through customs. Please ask that the consul at Yokohama also be notified so that he may be on the lookout for them. This should probably be cabled to insure its arrival in ample time.

Very sincerely,

K.A. Ryerson,
Chief of Bureau.

To American Embassy, Tokyo June 1, 1934.

1. Reerich is leader, not a citizen, not previously known.
2. Consulates at Kobe, Dairen, Mukden and Harbin- Reerich not a citizen, and in view of this, diplomatic and consular offices not expected to do anything for him that would embarrass them or government. Authorizes offices to extend appropriate and practicable assistance to citizen members at their request.
3. Not ~~desired~~^{sir} that consular and diplomatic officials request Japanese or Manchukuo Governments for armed guard~~s~~ outside Japanese empire (or in Manchukuo itself, or territory under sovereignty of China or Russia).

from Acting Secretary Phillips.

Department of State

In reply refer to FE 102.7 302
MacMillan and Stephens.

June 30, 1934.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

I have received your Department's letter of June 9, 1934, advising that Messrs. Howard G. MacMillan and James L. Stephens, now in Tokyo, Japan as members of an expedition charged with conducting botanical studies on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, plan to visit that part of Turkestan situated in the Soviet Union and if conditions permit, to cross over in Chinese Turkestan. Appreciation was expressed for such assistance as this Department might be able to render in this connection. It is noted, however, that according to your letter of June 28, 1934, only Mr. MacMillan now plans to make that trip.

This Department has informed the American Embassy at Moscow by telegraph of the desire of Mr. MacMillan to visit Soviet Turkestan and has requested that the Embassy extend all appropriate assistance. In addition, the Department has instructed the American Legation at Peiping by telegraph to request the Chinese Government to communicate to the Sinkiang authorities authorization for Mr. MacMillan's entry at the border and for the facilitation of his travels after entry. The Legation was also requested to take steps to inform Mr. MacMillan in regard to the Chinese visa requirements for entry into Chinese territory.

Referring to your call on June 22, and to your letter of June 28, 1934, in regard to Messrs. Nicholas and George Reerich, the Department is supplementing its previous instructions to diplomatic and consular officers in Japan and China by a further telegraphic instruction to the effect that the non-American members of the expedition, as members of an official American expedition, are of course entitled to appropriate assistance.

Sincerely yours,
William Phillips

129/10
July 7, 1934 A.M. 11 23

Knowles Ryerson,

Care Stephen N Wyckoff

Spokane Washington

Have conferred with Phillips and through him with Hornbeck and find they have no more objections or fears as to travelling Ray Hole than any other part of Manchuria Stop Have inspected Erlansons Rainfall and Temperature maps and am convinced of botanical desirability of Georges suggestion Stop Therefore request you cable George Quote Suggestion your airmail concurred in Unquote Sign my name if you wish

H.A. Wallace

Copy to Morrison.

Spokane, Washington.
July, 7, 1934.

Mr. B.Y. Morrison,

In charge of Plant Exploration and Introduction,

Bureau of Plant Industry,

Washington D.C.

Dear Ben,

I am enclosing herewith a letter just received, forwarded from our apartment, and coming from Reerich. The letter was very disturbing as it was the distinct understanding that the expedition was to keep out of the Jehol provinces, as this is one of the disputed provinces outside of what was old Manchuria. I discussed it again with the State Department a short while ago when the cable came through from Tokyo. I called up Secretary Wallace this morning and he suggested that we should cable to hold the expedition to the original plan. I have received a telegram from Secretary Wallace, with which you are probably familiar, stating that he had conferred with Phillips of the State Department, and through him with Hornbeck, and that they have no more objections or fears as to traveling in the Jehol provinces, or any other part of Manchuria. A copy of the Secretary's wire is enclosed.

I evidently did not make myself clear over the phone that Reerich was not asking permission or requesting confirmation, consequently I have not cabled as the Secretary suggested, but will write him in a few days and send you a copy, as the party may be on its way. A confirming cable would hardly seem necessary.

If you receive any letters from MacMillan, kindly forward me copies air mail.

Sincerely,

Knowles A. Ryerson,

Chief, Bureau of Plant Industry.

kar/k
En.
AirMail

129/12

Sunday August 11, 1934.

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 you long since. They copied some of the letters that you had sent in and I received them in Pasadena when I got there. I certainly am sorry that you had to do so much of the detail of the job yourself but I am not surprised. The rest of the party should have stayed in Tokyo 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 Reerich 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 Secretary 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 disappointments you have had in getting started. We'll get you decorated with the First Order yet !!

The trip west was interesting but strenuous, 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 climbing, the crop is down to one third its normal and may go still lower. The drought is a national calamity 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 all day today working on a report 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 most of 'em went in while 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 tomorrow.

The Secretary asked me to tell you he is very anxious that you work very closely and cooperate with the Reerichs 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 don'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 Reerichs had not remained to meet you as was planned, and that the only way to get things done was to do them as you went along and assure yourself that your plans could go ahead. 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. Westover

129/13

and Enlow may be back here before you leave the Orient, but that should not make any difference in your plans for returning via Russia and visiting the herbariums there and talking over 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 over 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. Emma is still in California and I will get moved over before she comes back. I called your wife from Pasadena, didn't get a chance to try out the new dpt. 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 I'll 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 months fly by and winter is not so far off at that. Hearings before the budget director start the 17th of next month.

I am still hoping to get down to Labrador for a short stay and am hoping to get Ben to go 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 potato work at Presque Isle.

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

Knowles

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

Are they definitely expecting to go on to India as some 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.

Sat Dec 1

Min Grant

129/14

I remember promising
to send you these press
releases - but not doing it.

Too bad you aren't in
town this week end - to act
as a Silent watcher at
the Quaker wedding we are
having tomorrow at our house
for Justin and his young lady -

FXB

C O P Y

129/15

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. Sato 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 added 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 our list. All of them seem to be grazed where animals have a chance to eat.

129/16

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, No. 2

August 29, 1934

It is time to make some definite plans about the coming winter, and to think about the spring and summer to come. As you know, I will return to Harbin 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 get, 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 drought resistant as the plants here, may have something useful among them. From there I will return to Hsinking to meet the officials again, stop at the SMR Experiment Station en route, and return to Dairen. There it will be necessary to make the rounds of the Kwantung Government 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 definite 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 Pangkiang, 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 another 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 next 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

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, No. 3

August 29, 1934

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 ahead 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 anything. 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 grass problem. But except as a witness he has not been much help on the other arrangements. The plan to settle down at some monastery and translate some treatise on botany or agriculture has more merit than sense to it. These languages 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 China 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 are being sent over; propagate some 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 far 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,

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, No. 4

August 29, 1934

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. MacMillan

P. S.

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, No. 5

August 30, 1934

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 Himalaya 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.

Mac

INFORMAL

September 17, 1934.

Mr. Cabot Coville,
American Consul,
Harbin, Manchuria.

Dear Mr. Coville:

As MacMillan and Stephens will have informed you, when their part of the field work in Manchukuo is completed, we plan to have MacMillan return to this country and Stephens to remain for further field work with Rock, if he is able to carry out the plans for the trip that we hoped he could make this coming season. We have written MacMillan to be sure, before he and Stephens leave, that everything has been done, so that whatever material in the way of seeds, herbarium specimens, photographs and reports that may be sent in by the Roerich section of the expedition will get into the right channels and be forwarded through the Consul, in order that there may be no possible loss through misunderstanding or using the wrong channels. I shall appreciate it very much if you and your staff will also look after these matters after MacMillan and Stephens leave and assist in the way of packing and labeling, if desired, and also in the making out of accounts and of handling government forms, so that there will be a minimum of difficulty in their operating under government conditions and regulations.

I do not know what the final plans will be for the Roerich section of the expedition. As soon as they have been settled, I will advise you.

We greatly appreciate the assistance and cooperation you have extended our various representatives who have been working in Manchukuo. Please extend our thanks to your staff as well and, if in return we can be of any assistance to you at any time, kindly let us know.

Very sincerely yours,

K. A. Ryerson,
Chief of Bureau.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D. C.

RELEASE FOR PUBLICATION
OCTOBER 21, 1934 (SUNDAY)PRESIDENT APPOINTS SECRETARY WALLACE
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO SIGN ROERICH PACT

President Roosevelt has appointed Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace, as United States plenipotentiary to sign the Inter-American Treaty on the Roerich Pact, for the protection of artistic, scientific, historical and cultural monuments. This Treaty has been drawn up by the Pan American Union in accordance with the unanimous resolution of the Pan American Conference at Montevideo recommending that all the American governments adopt the Roerich Pact for the protection of culture.

In regard to this appointment, Secretary Wallace issued the following statement: "I am deeply gratified to have been named by President Roosevelt to sign for the United States this important document in which I have been interested for many years and which I regard as an inevitable step in international relations.

"The Roerich Pact, which forms this Treaty, provides that all museums, cathedrals, universities, schools, libraries and other cultural sites be registered by the nations and marked by a Banner -- known as the Banner of Peace -- which designates them as neutral territory respected by all signatory nations. This pact owes its conception to the versatile genius of Nicholas Roerich, one of the greatest figures and true leaders of contemporary culture.

- 2 -

"In many ways the history of the Roerich Pact is analagous to that of the Red Cross which was accepted only after sixteen years of effort. But, as Roerich has written, 'where the Red Cross cared for the sick and physically wounded, the Roerich Pact protects the values of human genius, thus preserving the spiritual health of the nations.'

"The Roerich Pact represents thirty years of tireless effort on the part of Nicholas Roerich. In 1904 after several archaeological expeditions he first presented his project for the preservation from destruction of the irreplaceable historical and cultural sites of the nations. In 1929 after his return to America from his Central Asiatic Expeditions, he formulated his project into the Roerich Pact. Three conventions have been held for its promulgation -- two in Belgium and the third last November in Washington, when 35 nations officially participated. Following this, the Pan American Conference in Montevideo unanimously recommended the Roerich Pact for adoption by the American Governments and on this basis the present Treaty has been drawn up for signature by the Pan American Union.

"At no time has such an ideal been more needed. While the individual nations are working out their separate economic and national problems, it is also necessary that they recognize their responsibility as part of the community of nations. I am not one to urge visionary substitutes in the place of effective action in a world of hard economic facts. Yet I do say that it is high time for the idealists who make the reality of tomorrow to rally around such a symbol of international cultural unity. It is time that we appeal to that appreciation of beauty, science and education, which runs across all national boundaries to strengthen all that we hold dear in our particular governments and customs.

- 3 -

"It is for this reason that I regard the ratification of the Roerich Pact as so significant a step. Its acceptance signifies the approach of a time when those who truly love their own nation will appreciate in addition the unique contribution of other nations and also do reverence to that common spiritual enterprise which draws together in one fellowship, all artists, scientists, educators and the truly religious of whatever faith.

"I feel that this age owes a great debt to Nicholas Roerich in the creation of this ideal--for such ideals alone afford reality to our efforts for creating material wealth and working out improved social machinery for its distribution. While we work out these myriad individual problems, we must have a unifying principle to which all our hearts can give supreme allegiance. In this way we can work with faith and anticipation towards those spiritual and cultural realities of which the Roerich Pact is a symbol."

- CP -

129/24

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300.

L. X. 129

LH d

Miss Frances Grant
Boerich Museum
310 Riverside Drive
New York City, New York

