Dear folks,

Things are never so bad but what they could be worse, but I sometimes wonder how it could be possible for China to be in a worse condition than she is right now. Draught, famine, war, universal student strikes and mobs, anti-foreign trouble, anti-Christian movements, and bandits. This is all in a country without a semblance of a workable government.

In this part of the country we have had a few rains recently which has relieved the situation for a little while.

The student trouble seems to have started in Peking about the time of the death of Dr. Sun Yat Sen. They objected to the Christian funeral held from the F.U.M.C. chapel at that time. They were prevent from any great demonstrations at that time. They also have tried to oust University presidents with out success and have quarreled with the head of the Department of Education at Peking and mobed his home. The Russian Bolsheviks have used the student movement for accomplishing their private ends in China and for settling scores with the so-called capitalistic powers. They have tried to turn the student movement into an attack on Christianity and modern education as brought to China for purposes of pure altruism. They have tried to turn the students against their own best interests by destroying all education by driving the leading Chinese educators out of the schools and substituting radicals of their own political faith. They have turned the student movement into a domestic and international danger—and the innocent student-tools pay the penalty.

You have long before this heard of the mob of students in Shanghai which rushed the foreign police in the Foreign Settlement trying to take the arms away from these police and crying, "Kill the foreigner", and how the police had to fire at the mob in order to drive it back from the police station which was about to be torn to pieces, and killed fourteen of the students and injured others. The flame of anti-foreignism resulting from this is now burning up all of China. All schools are out on patriotic strikes. Our Boys School here in Luchowfu struck last Friday and the students have now turned the premises into a camp of radicalism. You might say, "Why not make them leave?" That is impossible, for there is no government with any power to do anything here. The Magistrate said there is nothing to do. Let them stay and they will get tired of it soon. Now the faces of the students are sullen and threatening when the foreigner passes, the teachers in the mission schools are being followed and called "Foreign Slaves" by every group of students. Our amah was called a foreign slave yesterday when she was taking the baby over to Bro's place.

These conditions are especially true in Shanghai. This strange situation when one considers that only a few short months ago, thousands of Chinese gladly went to the foreign settlements to escape the wrath of their own imperialistic and despotic warlords. The Powers took strong action at that time to protect the
lives and interests of residents of these settlements against
encroachment from without and when it was all over the Chinese
organizations of their own accord thanked the foreign authorities
for their efforts in protecting the city.

Apparently this has all changed and in place of this
friendliness of the Chinese, there is now distrust and suspicion.
Such letters as the following appear in the papers, written
by students:

"Nine were killed, many wounded, not by the cannibal
tuchuns (the provincial warlords), not by bloodthirsty soldiers, but
by foreigners—imperialistic agents in Shanghai. Innocent Chinese
students were killed in the interest of foreign imperialism."

Another:

"Seven Chinese university students were brutally killed
by foreign police. Who could have believed that such an atrocity
could have happened in the civilized? The police blunder can never
be justified without denying justice or law. -- The Hankow Road
episode is another national disgrace to China and likewise adds another
dirty page to the history of the foreign nations which are unfortu-
ately represented by a horde of strong-headed officials."

Another:

"The students as far as I can judge, intended no violence
and injury on any unfortunate day. They may have done something
to violate the laws of the Shanghai Municipality; but up to the
very last moment, they had consistently refrained from really
violent measures. If they tried to snatch away revolvers from the
hands of foreign policemen, it was because the latter were using these
weapons to threaten them. God forbid anybody should be so foolish
as to think that the students too were intending to kill the
policemen. The cries of 'kill the foreigners' were indeed heard
from all sides; but these were never seriously meant for execution,
the lives of these policemen were not at all in serious danger; it
could not be said to be a case of killing for self-defense, the only
excuse the policemen can give is discipline; but I say there is a
higher law than discipline which is humanity. Discipline should be
observed, but not observed in such a way as to perpetuate such
reckless damage to humanity."

In a nation which for generations has drawn upon its
student class for its official class there has grown up a state
of mind which has excluded the student class from almost all
law authority. It is impossible for we Westerners to understand
such a thing; if our students go on a strike and destroy property
they are dealt with just the same as other folks. So this
affair in Shanghai is causing much more disturbance than it
would have had it been any other class of people mobing the police
station. The tragedy of the present situation is that it is not
easy to say where it will all stop.

We hope for the best, and that this trouble will be
cleared up without more bloodshed.
A foreigner finds it hard to see why the Chinese can't see that discipline is worth something, and that a policeman at times has no recourse but to shoot, if only into the air, in order to preserve this discipline. It is a fundamental difference in the way Western and Eastern children are raised from infancy up, as well as a difference in governmental discipline.

If a Chinese child cries it is picked up; if it cries for this or that food it is given it whether it is good for it or not; it is not whipped; peace is obtained in the home by the rule of the youngster. This is a national characteristic not a sporadic one as in the West. Every day parents fail to insist upon their children taking treatment at the hospital clinic even when they know it will result in death,—"he doesn't want to." So when the howling mob of mad students who had been obstructed in their mob demonstration against Japanese mill owners, tried to take revolvers away from the police at the same time crying, "Kill the foreigners," and the police (foreign police in the foreign settlement) did what any other police would do—shot, the nation was set on fire. A most unfortunate disaster.

June 15th.

Things are assuming a more sober attitude; that is they are quieting down a bit. The anti-Christian part of it has been switched over to a patriotic movement, and an increasing hatred for Japanese and British; in Luchowfu at any rate. Right now you know the situation in other parts of China better than we do because you get Shanghai news about two days before we do with our slow, uncertain, riverboat mail service.

At present there is no danger for Americans here.

Douglas.
June 21st, 1925.

Dear folks,

"Where do we go from here"? We don't know. We don't know whether we will be going soon, or at all. It is a very interesting situation to say the least. Here we are in an out of the way place, where the people have known only missionaries and none of the overbearing often insulting type of foreigner which occasionally is found among the business people here; so they have no personal grievances against us and all is peaceful here. But all is not peaceful in other places, as you have known long before you get this letter. We get reports in a Shanghai newspaper of all foreigners being removed from Juling, the foreign summer resort most popular in this part of China, by British gunboats. We know of the foreigners all leaving Hankow; Chinkiang (where I got the pearl inlaid, black, lacquered tray that I sent to Bernice last year), and many other places. We have received a letter from the American Consul at Hankow telling us that more trouble may be expected, and to seek a place of safety if we see any immediate danger, even without awaiting an answer from his office. Our school boys have gone home peacefully, all demonstrations have ceased and we feel about as safe in Luchowfu as we would any place else in China. The only drawback is that we are so far from the Yangtze River that in a time of real danger it might be a little inconvenient in getting to the river to the gunboats that would take us out of the trouble.

Grace and Phyllis Ann had planned on leaving with the Goulters for the seashore on the 23rd, but they are postponing the trip until further developments. Mr. Goulter, the sent out from America after receiving his college education there, is an Australian and therefore a British subject. The Shanghai police that shot the students in the mob at Shanghai were English, so all of the talk is against the British and the Japanese, who are despised by the Chinese all of the time. In contrast to the threatening things said and done against the British and Japanese are the praises of the Americans. But in most places a foreigner is a foreigner to the lower classes of people. So one of the reasons I wouldn't let Grace go with the Goulters is because I thought my American passport and nationality would be of more protection in traveling than Goulter's British passport.

The Sikes had planned on leaving for Juling last Friday but the paper announcing the removal of all foreigners from that place came just a day before their departure so they are still with us. I don't know whether we will try to go to the place we had planned on or not. I will first have to find out from the Consulate if it is safe or not.

So you see why I said, "Where do we go from here?"

We don't know whether to stay or go; where to go if we do go; whether we will be ordered out by the Consulate or not; or whether all foreigners will have to leave China eventually or not. The latter will probably not be the case altho the radical element is calling for that. So we are just going on
quietly with our work of healing the sick which come daily to our clinic in the usual numbers. If I was in America I probably would get weak-kneed at being told that I would be put in such a position soon; but it's strange how one gets so accustomed to having to trust to the Lord for guidance and protection out here that something like this doesn't disturb our routine of work, play, or sleep much.

The strikes in Shanghai which are aimed at the British and Japanese firms and organizations are affecting us here in this way: The banks are closed in Shanghai because of the Strike and we do all of our banking here. So we can't cash our checks at the shop on the street that usually did this because no money can be sent up from the banks. It is hitting the Chinese in our mission work harder than it is the foreigners, for we have no money here to pay salaries, and this week is the week of the Chinese Fifth Moonth Festival, which is one of the important times of the year for paying debts, and time when debtors are hounded for money. All Chinese live on such narrow margins that they must borrow and at this time ask for two months pay to pay these. The hospital is getting money daily from fees so is not so hard pressed. We foreigners can't feel as sorry for our local workers as we should in regard to their not getting their salaries, because they have just staged a big patriotic fund raising campaign for the aiding the strikers in Shanghai, and now they are themselves suffering from the strike.

The people have been so overridden by their grafting officials that they are rising up in a patriotic outburst to free themselves of that oppression. But the killing of the students by foreign police in Shanghai has turned their attention from the real causes of their oppression and their patriotism is aimed at the foreigners. The whole nation is involved in the demonstration. The end of the affair can not be seen.

We are well, happy in our work, and hope nothing will happen that will force us to leave it in its present state of good health. Don't worry too much over us, for all seems to be well with Americans.

Love to all,

Douglas
June 23, 1925.

Dear Florence Anne, just got your practice description of your bread contest, Junior reception etc. I hope you have a fine position by this time and that you strike a plan where the juniors are capable of running their own banquet. What a shame in the grass your proof must have been - you notice I consider him a has been. I await your next letter with great interest. I hope you get a good place - funny about the salary slump. My day must have been sort of phenomenal.
Dear my pater, arrived—I guess I told you
that I was going to make a dress for the Es.
This is done now and I like it.

Miss is done now too and I like it.

The tailor had to partly remade
it this. I had not realized I was getting so
fat and the original pattern drew up
in a big wrinkle when I sat down so that my
knees struck out below. But he made gowns
and added some to the length so that
now it's just perfect, and everyone says
it looks as if it came straight from America.

Funny. What a difference a pattern makes.

I made another with long sleeves. Too hot in
this climate for long ones.

The stock box at last found us and I have
a small one (I hope) about six weeks on the way.

I am starting as early to put on fat, you
know how I looked at first. I am almost
that well padded all ready. I suppose folks
say I am half way along. But that seems
to be the best method for me. Eat while I can
and put on fat, for the last four months
I can only eat a very little at a time and then
I use up all my reserve supply of fat. Then
just enough nausea now to threaten me
if my stomach gets empty. It's more
comfortable with a glass of milk at it so
I even eat big dinners. No wonder I gained.

But I feel fine, so we are all happy. My! Hope
I shirk the nausea I had last time. I think
he will come about my birthday. Won’t that be a nice present?

Are you having nice flowers? Mine are most of them late and this hot sun just eat things up. The seeding dahlias your mother sent are just about ready to open. I have them under the shade of a tree and it seems to suit them fine. They are big and sturdy with fat buds—bigger than some ones that came up from bulbs. Isn’t that unusual? I have a big pink gladioli almost out. I do hope I can stay here for a few days yet. I would so like to see them. I suppose you haven’t been reading in the paper about the present state of...
affairs.- The students in a burst of patriotism started mobs + riots in Shanghai and the English police in order to protect themselves piled round of the mob & thus dispersed it. Well it raised an almighty furor. Student organizations all over China sent out tracts, pamphlets and handbills and the patriotic fervor spread like wildfire, and of course it took an Anti-Christian, anti-foreign turn. Within a week almost all schools in China were on a strike and the boys were out in parades and have raised big sums of money to keep the strike agitators in Shanghai. Many places of business have been closed.
for day, factories, banks, shops, etc. Our local source of money has been stopped so that we can't cash as many checks as usual, and of course the papers are full of war talk. I don't see that China could possibly fight England this. She has no battle ships, her army is in exile. There's students that are doing so much talking they would not think of going in the army. It would be too much against their dignity. It will most likely all blow over but we can't tell. Some of our men up here of a pessimistic turn did a meaning in it of a real uprising such as the Boxer. I know many missionaries from the interior are getting out and heading for treaty ports, ruling the mountains resort where at least half the missionaries go is an ominous situation. The cookies are in a strike, report carry passengers' food. The agitators are resolved to attain all the six hundred agitators foreigners who are up on the top of the mountain. I don't know how true the reports are. We are of course very much isolated up here and news is a little slow. When it gets to us. Of course such a strike can only last a little while, there wouldn't be money enough to pay the cookies many days. Many of the cookies are also hard to cuttie because of strikes among the cookies who carry baggage, the richest man. We are going on next week with our original plans. If going on to Hwachou I expect we'll eat a good bit of bitterness on the way. We are taking two servants along so that ought to help.
But I woke up in the night amidst great dreams of pig-tailed coons running off with Phyllis Ann. A Chinese mob is a mighty unpleasant thing to handle. I don't harbor to be in the midst of none.

I don't know what our official post office address will be any how by the time you could get a letter back here to me. I would be about back home again. So just keep on writing to our present address.

I mailed you a green bag yesterday. It's the only thing I have made up. It ought to be worth about thirty dollars. I am going through Newark next week. I'll try to get you some more cash.

I love you. Gram
June 30th, 1925.

Dearest Mother,

I was surprised to learn in your last letter that you had so soon returned to Yakima. I thought both you and papa would be in the East for some time. Bros are on their way to America and will pass thru Yakima. I told them that they couldn't see you on their way thru because both you and papa would be in the East. I hope they will try to call up from the station anyway. Bro is in charge of the Boy's School here and Mrs. Bro is the daughter of Pres. Harmon of Cotner (I think it is).

You folks are altogether too generous with us. The idea of your sending a typewriter to me for a birthday present. We have everything we need except a visit from you, and a lot of things we could very comfortably get along without. The typewriter has not yet arrived, but should be here within a week now. The machine I am now using belongs to the hospital and because all others are away I have appropriated it for a little while. The one I had on the trip to Hanking was borrowed from Miss Blakenbiller for the occasion. I hope you will not be sorry that you have sent it for I'll try to write more now. I have a machine in the house all of the time to use. I am giving Grace typewriting lessons. She has been assigned the first lesson.

In the pictures you sent of the representative members of the Douglas Beef Trust I missed Aunt Ida. Did she take the picture? Who was the woman sitting down? I tried in every way to make her aunt Ida, but could not. To think one mother could be the mother of that much live stock!

Grace and Phyllis Ann left day before yesterday for Haichow. The cottage we will share with the Coulter's is at Hai Shan, about 50 li from Haichow on the ocean. They will probably have some trouble getting there for they go from here to Chong Mao by sail boat, Chong Mao to Wuha by launch, Wuha to Hanking by steamer if there is one not tied up by the strike, from Hanking to Suchowfu on the Blue Express train (arriving at night with no place to go probably because the missionaries are away on vacation), Suchowfu to the point where the new railroad crosses the Grand Canal by passenger train, from the Grand Canal to Haichow in a freight car because regular service is not yet fully established on the new line, and from Haichow in a small river junk down the river and out onto the open sea to Hai Shan. The trip itself will be a full sized vacation for me when I go in two weeks, but I don't know how Grace and the baby will stand it. They had to remain here so long on account of the impossibility for foreigners to get about during the Shanghai trouble that hot weather overtook them and Phyllis had a little intestinal upset (as did the Coulter children) and with Grace starting to make Billy the heat and the morning nausea hit her pretty hard.

We have five doctors and families in our hospital. One has just had a baby and all of the others will have one some time next winter. That's quite a record for an institution.

Last night I had dinner at the Girl's School with Miss Wilkinson, Miss Collins, and Miss Blakenbiller. We are the only foreigners left.