

The following letter was the last received from Mr. Meyer; and since it is so characteristic and contains so much information on the agricultural situation, it was felt that our cooperators would be interested:

"At last I have been able to break through the lines around Ichang and walked to Kingman, got the stored seeds and baggage there and settled the payments for the pear seeds; then we marched down to Shasi and took a steamer from there and arrived here on the 15th. We were held up a few times and some unpleasanties were indulged in, but on the whole we could have fared far worse. Of course we passed through villages that had been looted and burned and food was hard to obtain, but to an old hand out here, like myself, these things have so often been encountered that one is used to them.

"I did not write you from Ichang of late, because I was not sure that I really could make the trip. The whole country is so fearfully upset that travel has become a perfect gamble. Sometimes travelers get through, but often they have been held up for days and weeks. From Ichang westward all traffic is stopped and products from Szechuan do not come through any longer for months and months. The losses the people at large suffer must be gigantic; right now tung-oil does not reach Hankow any longer, neither do hides, drugs, silks, etc.

"Well, personally I am awfully glad that I got away from Ichang; the situation began to depress me. One cannot live for months in an atmosphere of suspension without feeling the effects. And as I had cheerless, uncomfortable quarters and lack of substantial food at times, one had both mental and physical discomforts.

"Well, I just received your very sympathetic letter of February 26. Uncontrollable forces seem to be at work among humanity, and final results, or possibly purposes, are not being revealed as yet, that is, for so far as I can look into this whole titanic cataclysm.

"Now concerning my own plans, of which you want an outline by about the first of July - well, I can say this, that my ideas are to leave here within a day or two, visit Kiukiang for tung-oil plantations which have been set out nearby, then go down to Nanking possibly, and from there to Shanghai, where I may stay