

December 15, 1934.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Elections of delegates to the Congress of the Soviets to be held on January 25th have been in progress this week. Articles, meetings and other forms of exhortation have been the order of the day for the past month, explaining the importance of the elections and encouraging the workers to search out the best persons in their groups for consideration. Now the election days are here; I say days because the election meetings are spread over a week and more. The method of conducting elections is so different from that in the United States that it may be interesting to you to compare them. Over here, elections are not held on a single day at polling booths distributed in a geographical manner, each geographical district composing a specified unit of population. Voting is done by trades, so that teachers vote at one place, engineers at another, and so on. The members of the trade do not file through a voting booth depositing a ballot, but they meet in a large hall, presenting numbered tickets for admission which have been provided them by the administrative bureau of their trade. Their representative in the last congress who has since the last elections (1930) represented his group reads a report of what has been accomplished during his term in office, with special reference to the benefits and improvements accorded his particular group. Following this a steering committee proposes candidates for the new term. While the former representative may be reelected, there is apparently usually a swing to a new candidate. The candidates are called forward, their biographies read out, and after all have been reviewed, there follows the election by a show of hands. After the selection of a candidate follows the discussion of the "nakaz", which is very much like a party platform at home. It comprises the instructions to be given the delegate as to what he must ask for in the Congress and thereafter when he continues his efforts in a less formal way. The nakaz is often very detailed, specifying small things. Delegates are apportioned to trades according to the number of their members. The number of persons to each delegate is much larger in the cities than in the country and villages. But often in Siberia, the number of teachers in any one community may be so small that they would be entitled to only a fraction of a delegate. Then the groups in each village choose a representative, who travels to the nearest center and meets with representatives of other similar small groups until representation of the required number of persons is present, and this representative group proceeds to choose a delegate to the Congress in Moscow. In this manner delegates from all corners of the Union will be chosen to go to Moscow in January. While they are here, they will be placed in good hotels and entertained royally. For those delegates coming from nomadic groups or groups not trained in the use of hotel fixtures and conveniences, there will be special instruction in how to live in 20th century quarters. A huge new hotel will soon be completed, built especially to house delegates to the Moscow Congress. In intervening periods, the

Moscow Soviet, which will be the owner--The Soviet is about equivalent to a Board of Alderman, although of course representing a different class of people--will rent out rooms to other agencies, possibly Intourist, or other Government Bureaus which will have meetings from time to time. Undoubtedly all this material has long been at your command. I write it only because the dry facts as appearing in books on the organization of the State have lacked the human side of the picture which I am now seeing for the first time.

The Ballet School held a performance in commemoration of the 125th anniversary of its founding. A friend of mine was able to get two tickets, which had been allotted to artists and their families, and were practically entirely kept out of other hands. A rare treat it was. My knowledge of the ballet is limited to the information I once acquired by reading a book on the various conventional movements. At this performance in the Bolshoi Theater, we were first treated to views of the first class doing their exercises beside the bar, to the accompaniment of a piano. They were young boys at the age of six or seven. Then came other groups from the second, third, etc. classes up to the sixth. By that time they were doing more advanced work. Then followed some solo dances by the most promising students of the highest classes. These solo dances were grouped in different classes, being in some cases, dramatic acting, rhythmical dances, and interpretive dances. After this first act came a second act, this time with orchestra, showing the children, now dressed in costumes, doing group dances, such as Mazyrkas, and waltzes. The third act brought the graduates of the school, who now comprise the ballet corps of the Theater. They presented the best dances of the great ballets, and a rare treat it was. There are about six outstanding ballerinas, each of whom had a separate scene, with the accompanying cast of corps, and men. The audience itself was unusual, being made up of parents and families of the dancers, and many of the old artistic element of the town, having the time of their old lives. There are persons who come here who omit the ballet from their study because it represents the old régime and is not a part of the new. To be sure if one's time is limited, and one already knows the old ballet, there is no reason to follow it now. But for those persons who live here, it provides a very real relaxation from the press of the busy life of the day, and as such it deserves a small place in a balanced program. Criticism has been heaped upon some of the young Americans for spending so much time in studying the ballet. It is hard to tell just where the line should be drawn in balancing the artistic with the heavy study and work. I for one would hesitate to criticize severely the interests of the artistic type of person who must have a certain amount of play. Others may not be such horses as are law students.

Professor Korovin gave me another evening during the week. We discussed the recent pact, sponsored by the Soviet Union defining "aggression". It is a pretty technical problem which gave us a very good evening. He has specialized in legal problems arising in acts of war, and particularly acts of chemical and aerial war. The substance of the discussion goes into notes and

would hardly prove interesting here.

By chance I happened to meet the wife of the British Consul in Leningrad who had been with us on that memorable cruise in the Baltic in September. She is a most cordial and gracious English lady, and it was a real pleasure to be able to drop in at the British Consulate here, in which she was staying for a few days. Once inside the door with a glowing grate and English tea, one could not believe oneself outside of England. The Consul himself is a very interesting youngish man with all of the stamp of a British diplomat about him. The building was formerly the property of a wealthy merchant who pannelled the rooms much in English style, and under the present management the whole place has taken on a definitely English air. She was on her way back to England with her daughter. Apparently Leningrad is not too appealing to the English. Then, too, she says that the English are not too welcome in groups of local residents, and as a result their life is so much restricted to the very small foreign colony that there is little of interest. Leningrad is apparently not as accustomed to foreigners as is Moscow, and apparently the result is a feeling that foreigners should be left alone and not invited to mingle in groups of natives. This feeling may very well be limited only to the English officials and their families. That I cannot tell.

A Russian-American singer, a friend of Professor Harper's, gave a concert together with his wife the other night. He has just completed a tour of entertainment for the Red Army and has been all the way to the Pacific. A friend of mine had been given tickets and I was glad to go to the first concert of the year by a New York artist. While a cold somewhat hampered him, he gave a creditable performance, and was received with great enthusiasm. Foreign artists are as popular here as they are in America. This is a musical town, for never is there a vacant seat in the large hall of the conservatory. Of course seats are at low prices, being at the most the price of a dozen apples, and at the least the price of three apples.

An American engineer and his wife who have been here some ten years invited me to dinner the other evening together with some other young men of the town. An evening spent in talking would be nearly an impossibility in the States, but we lasted until midnight without even noticing the passage of time. An interesting couple they are with a pretty intimate knowledge of goings on during the past decade. Their General Electric ice box is a museum piece here, and when I described it in this household, I found that they could not even conceive of what it could be like and are hoping for a chance to see it. Needless to say a leg of lamb and trimmings for supper did look pretty tasty.

The Russian papers have been carrying much news about the discord between Japan and the U.S.A. at the London Conference. It gives me good practice in Russian, for my daily reading of the Russian papers is now an established part of the routine. But what

a large number of new words keep popping up. I feel as if I know every page of my dictionary now better than any book I have ever read before. Grammar is fitted in between the lessons based on a vocabulary sufficient to understand the newspapers. Next will come a vocabulary training for the law, but I wanted to understand every-day life first. It is a slow process, this learning of Russian, but it goes on. One evening I spent at my teachers in a social way. Her husband plays the cello and we hope to work up some trios, for which he has given me the music. The entire time was spent talking Russian, and I came away a bit cheered up in having been able to stagger along in it. But then other times I just wonder how many years the real linguists took to get proficient. The men at the Embassy, who are language students, took three years, and I am out to beat their record if I can.

Everything goes well with me. In spite of the fact that half the population seem to have bad colds, and nearly all of the foreigners have been sick with intestinal flu, I am still working at full speed. I keep out of the trolleys as much as possible and try to keep regular hours, although it is pretty hard in the family when lunch varies as much as an hour either side of three o'clock.

With greetings to all the staff and best wishes for a Happy New Year, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

December 22, 1934.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Distribution of food and marketing have long interested me, and I grasped the opportunity the landlady gave me during the past week to go with her to the open market. You of course know that the distribution system is composed roughly of four different types of outlets (1) Torgsin stores where purchases may be made in foreign currency or with credits established by the sale of gold, jewels, linen, furniture, paintings, in fact anything which has value. The amount of foreign currency among the population is not so very large, so that the great majority of Torgsin shops are kept running by purchasers having saleable articles. (2) Cooperative stores in which persons holding cards may alone purchase and then only to the extent allowed by the card. The price is very low, and if possible all purchases are made in the cooperative store. It is this card system which the new decree hopes to do away with, although the start is to be made only with a few items of which bread is the chief one. (3) The open stores run by the government; the profit from which goes to the government. These are open to all who have the price, which is somewhat higher than the Cooperative stores. Purchases are seldom made in these stores except when some special thing is desired such as fancy cheese, cakes, preserves, etc. (4) the open market. This latter class is under government regulation which means that all products put on sale in the market must be examined and approved. A stamp goes on every piece of meat. Milk is examined for water which is the usual trick of the cheater. Long sheds with counters are supplied by the government, and behind the counters stand rows of peasants, as close together as students at a boarding school dining table, each with his little stock which may be only two dozen eggs or ten chops. Products are classified, so that milk has one counter, meat another etc. Bargaining is carried on quite as it is in China. The seller raises his price, the buyer quotes about half, and there is a compromise. The close proximity of the sellers does not seem to have the effect of wholesale price wars. There must be some secret agreement to keep to a certain norm, or perhaps the peasants just feel how much will be sold that day, and know that if they hold out for a high price, they will eventually get it. Wise housewives do not go to market on excessively cold days for then few peasants arrive, and the prices are unusually high. On a good day, the price may drop to very advantageous levels. Peasants come from miles around, getting up at one in the morning, walking in some cases two hours to the railroad station with a heavy load on their shoulders, taking the train to the city and arriving in time for the opening of the market at eight. Proceeds for the day on a can of milk will run around sixty roubles. Railroad fare is some one or two roubles, so that there is a chance for profit. With this late opening a real contrast is provided with Les Halles in Paris which reach their peak at three and four o'clock in the morning. Besides the food, one finds booths with merchandise. Without exception these booths are run as out-units of the various government department stores in the city. The similarity between

this market and those I have seen in Burma, China and Japan was striking.

Some idea of the peasant problem may be gained by an experience I had with the little servant girl in the house. She is some twenty five years old, coming from a town seven hundred miles west of Moscow. She was surprised to find that I did not speak Russian quite like a Russian, and on being questioned I found that she did not know that there were people who did not speak Russian. In fact she thought the whole world spoke Russian, with perhaps a variation in dialect as in the Ukraine and Georgia. This naturally led to the question whether she thought that Russia comprised the world, or whether the whole world was just more of the Russia she knew. She was not clear as to which of these theses might be the correct one and refused to commit herself. Then on being questioned about America she admitted that she had never known there was such a place, nor had she heard of France or England. The people of her village did not know with whom the Great War was being fought and only thought the men were going off as usual to join the army. She is a bright girl, having taught herself to read and write at home, and really she would qualify anywhere as an able student. This only gives a little glimpse into the problem the government faces in modernizing the peasant, and when critics realize the difficulties faced, they usually withdraw their criticism and marvel at what has been done so far.

Professor Korovin gave me another evening this week in which we discussed the trade agreement signed by Great Britain and the Union during the past year. It is particularly interesting to me, not only because some day America will have to make such an agreement, but also because the subject of State operation of trade was part of the problem considered in my thesis last spring. Those who wrote that treaty knew well every problem to be faced and America will do well to copy their example. He told me an interesting anecdote about a contact he had with the leader of the Catholic Relief group in the great famine, a Jesuit, Mr. Walsh. At that time the Professor was a commander of the Red Cross. Mr. Walsh could speak no French or Russian, and the Professor no English, but both men had had excellent training in Latin, apparently of a nature far more thorough than that supplied in the States. I was not surprised to hear that the Jesuit knew it, but I had not known that in the earlier days it was such an important subject here. The result was that they did all their talking in Latin, which would appear to me to be probably the first instance of the use of that language in a crisis for some hundreds of years.

Skating is now the pastime of the day. I have been over to the great rink at the Park of Culture and Rest twice with different groups. It is said to be the largest rink in the world, and I can well believe it, for they flood the garden terraces, with runways between them, and a long ice promenade leading to a large lake some mile below. Never have I seen such crowds of excellent skaters. Many

of the girls wear bright colored skating skirts with fur trimmings around the bottoms. A loud speaker blares forth American jazz records, and the English choruses make one feel right at home. Skates may be rented, although the Russians use what amounts to a low shoe. Weak American ankles have difficulty, but then we do seem to get along, and I rejoice in having found a way to get a bit of exercise, for that has been the one thing I have missed during these first three months.

I made my party call on the Wyleys the other afternoon. It was a delightfully informal cocktail hour and as it happened I was the only guest outside the Embassy group. We had a pleasant chat in their very attractively furnished mammoth apartment. The walls are hung with ikons and immense ceremonial crosses, and large divans practically surround the visitor. Mr. Wyley is quiet but impressive and one feels all the time as if he were searching your soul to see whether you were a playboy or could produce the goods. It was a very pleasant contact and I hope that he has approved.

I have noticed in rereading some of my letters to you that there have been woeful mistakes in spelling. I have looked at such a mass of Russian, that my eye does not catch errors in English now as quickly as it once did, and the result has been chaotic. I hope the errors do not jar you too much and I shall make every effort to eliminate them in the future. Russian uses so many international words with a slightly different spelling that ones head gets in a whirl.

With greetings for the New Year, I am,

Sincerely yours,

JNH

You must love the hell out of me to say that

December 29, 1934.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

No one let me forget Christmas, for the three boats which came on three successive days brought me a host of letters and packages; and cables including yours came on the day before the holiday. I call it a holiday only because it was such for me. Of course the Russians never even noticed the day except for a cartoon in Izvestia showing a fat capitalist carrying a heavy sack of cannon, labeled Christmas presents for European Children. It is so good that I am enclosing it. You will recall that the December number of Vanity Fair had a cover design showing European children, including a Redarmyman (They cannot be called soldiers as such are only those who fight in armies for capitalist countries) dancing about a Christmas tree decorated with armaments. Cartoonists are the same the world around. With the vacation my teacher gave me, I had quite a celebration. The evening before we had a little theater party, including the young economist of whom I have written you, a young girl here with her family of very liberal tendencies (her sister is a member of the party in the USA), and a girl over here studying the drama. This latter girl is a friend of Professor Harper's. She is a graduate of Vassar, having later taught the Drama at the University of Montana, from which she received a national fellowship awarded by the Kappa Sigma (Phi ?) Sororety to come here for nine months and study. She is generally considered a most serious worker and has had some very unusual contacts in this field, which is now attracting more students than any other. We chose for our evening the most talked of and best liked play on the stage. It has already run for several years, being given about once a week by the First Art Theater, which as you know has quite a repertoire which they rotate nightly as stock. When first given, the play was questioned because for the first time it presented the "whites" in a sympathetic light, being as it is the story of a "white" family living in the south of old Russia during the Civil Wars. All the male members of the family are officers in the White Army, and the one woman is the wife of the General. It is typical family life, and is so exactly like the family life of the emigrés in Paris today, with its patriotic fervor, mixed with the carefree love of a good time, that it catches the imagination of the audience during the early moments of the first act. You will enjoy reading a translation of it, "Days of the Turbini", in a collection recently published called "Six Soviet Plays." I am told that every night the house is sold out for days in advance and certainly on the night we went judging from the number of offers at the door to buy our tickets, people are still willing to give a good deal to see it. Soviet drama is generally accepted as about the best to be seen anywhere. Consequently I was a bit surprised to read Halsted Welles (Director Yale School of Drama) article, "Red Theaters and the Green Bay Tree" in the Winter, 1935 number of the Yale Review. He finds little of merit except the acting at a very limited number of theaters. I have seen so few and make no pretense of being a critic, either of plays, or of production, but I had thought that they did things pretty well here. I have noticed some very simple types of scenery, but then

one does not look for a production by Max Reinhardt, particularly in this country. Perhaps Mr. Welles feels called upon to play the part of the cynical critic which seems to have become the correct role for the first class dramatic critic.

After the Theater we stopped in at the Metropole for the evening dancing. The idea is much the same as the evening dance at the Copley Plaza in Boston, but the execution is quite a long way from the Boston type. The night before the free-day the place is crowded with people wearing very presentable clothes, of course not evening dresses, but neat pretty afternoon servicable dresses. The men wear business suits. An excellent Checko-Slovak orchestra has been here for some time to provide music. Their twelve pieces make a fine showing. Russians order caviar, raw smoked salmon, cheese, vodka, and make a gay night of it. Dancing starts at eleven, and goes until after four. Professor Harper told me that every evening the crowd was different, and that a family would save up for a spree months in advance. That system alone would account for their being there, for the cost is not low, although of course considerably less than the cost at an American night club. A fountain in the middle of the dance floor, which is itself surrounded by attractively decorated tables makes the place look quite like a dance floor in any other capital. Of course it is not Russia, but then it is not as foreign to all that now is the Union as it might have been some two or three years ago. I have not been there but once before, and welcomed the opportunity to have as a Christmas celebration something which would be otherwise than plain and smelling of utilitarian progress.

Christmas dinner was an event for me, for the gentleman who shared my cabin on the Euppa invited me to share the dinner with his wife and seventeen-year old son. A big turkey, bought in Torgsin, was the center of the meal, and a type of berry much like cranberries added the Christmas touch. They brought some canned vegetable from America, and these rounded out a meal, capped off with ice cream made in the Frigid Air of another engineer who lived two houses down the street. Imagine in America asking a friend if you could use his ice box for the day to make ice cream for your party, and then just before the party running down the street in sub-zero weather to carry up the trays of desert--but this is not America and every one involved understood. The informality and "share the possessions" idea make life very pleasant, and often very amusing. The engineer had just come back from two weeks in the South to choose a site for the new indigo plant he is helping to build. He stopped in a section of the country entirely given over to huge chemical plants of all kinds. While he found that often inefficiency in distribution of supplies hindered the work, for the most part everything was progressing, and he feels confident that given time, and money and men, which apparently are available without trouble, this plan of chemical expansion will surpass even that of Germany and the United States. Most of the machinery is German, he tells me, and is giving good service. He was struck by the workers' clubs which alone provide the recreation in these colonies far from the big cities. Walls were covered with charts of production and charts showing where the products are later used. He tells me that in American plants the laboring men go home in the evening with never

a thought to what part in the whole scheme: the production of their plant plays, while many of them have no desire to know.

You have been reading of the discovery of much of the equipment of the former Embassy in Leningrad. Apparently the story is more romantic than newspaper accounts make it. One of the Consuls who has a fluent knowledge of Russian went to Leningrad, got in touch with the local office of the Foreign Office (there is a local office in every town where there are foreign consulates) and two men were assigned to assist in the search. The old building was examined. It is now used as an office building. The Consul had an inventory of the furniture etc. in the old Embassy, but the procedure was to give the benefit of every doubt to the Soviet Government. Thus items described as stuffed chairs and oak tables just could not be accurately identified, and the upshot of it was that no furniture was found. There was found a bust of Washington and another of Franklin which could not be confused with Marx and Lenin, and then the Library was found. The story goes that a wealthy English speaking Russian had lived in the house after the Mission left, and so every book which could not be positively identified as having belonged to the Embassy or its staff was supposed to be his even though in English. Some 15,000 volumes lined the shelves, under seals of the Foreign office, which had frequently been renewed. Books were in complete disorder, but the Consul and his assistant looked at the fly leaves of the entire 15,000 volumes, and selected 1,000 which without any doubt belonged to the USA. Many contained treaties and historical files, and some were novels bearing bookplates of former members of the staff. Many books on the bottom shelves had moulded away during the past seventeen years, and when touched crumbled to dust. The books will be delivered here and put in this library. The assistance given by the Foreign Office representatives was especially praised, and apparently everything went well.

Thank you for your No. 3.. I am glad that you have supplied my family with copies of the letters. It simplifies writing. These letters give me a lot of pleasure, and as a matter of fact take very little time. Should you find them unnecessarily long, please tell me, or better yet skip the long parts--I have included them to provide me material in the files should I want it later. I have with me the book Mr. Moe mentioned. Thank him for remembering me.

I shall keep an eye on the young man in the School of Economics. I like him more every time I see him. Your plans for Mr. Antonius seem to be taking great shape. Should his lectures be printed, please be sure and send me a copy. Thank you for the information on the accounting. I shall continue to live within my budget, and save any excess for travel and emergencies.

News Week of Dec 15, 1934 on pp 25 mentions the American World, a paper published for foreigners in English, having a vocabulary of only 900 words. My teacher is anxious to see a copy. Would you have Ben try and find one (it is reported as published in New York), and send it to me, together with rates per month on 5 or 10 copies to be delivered here. It might assist the class at the Institute studying English.

With greetings to you all,

Sincerely-- JNH.

American Consulate
Moscow, U.S.S.R.
January 5, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

The New Year brought with it the first day of operation without the card system, formerly used to assure a pro-rata and adequate distribution of bread at costs within reach. Days before the big event the papers were filled with photographs of piles of bread being turned out of the hundred-odd new bakeries built for the new unrestricted system of distribution, and on New Year's morning I saw in bread shop windows great displays of all kinds of bread, not only the familiar white, graham, and black loaves, but also tasty sugar coated buns and finger rolls. As the foreign correspondents were later quoted as having reported, there were no lines and there was enough for all. The whole story does not lie on the surface, for with the new system the price of bread has been raised quite a bit. Whereas the raise is not large in the class of the black breads which are the most popular, the raise is double and even triple the old price for the white breads. This has been compensated for in part by a raise in salaries. It is understood that the raise has been the largest in the lower salaried groups and quite compensated the laborer for the added cost of his black bread. But in the upper brackets the raise has not been as great, and in the foreign specialist class, which prefers white bread, the new cost of bread is running around 300 roubles a month, or 20% of the average specialist's rouble salary. Of course the foreign specialist is not a very important element, and probably even in his case there will be a further readjustment to care for the unexpected increase. Each day of the new year the papers have reported the progress of the new system, but their enthusiasm has not prevented some people from laying in a goodly supply before the year turned and while they were still able to purchase at the old lower price on their bread cards. Nor has anything been perfected to stop the speculators who have bought out some of the shops, with the reported intention of going to the villages, where bread is not yet supplied on the open market and selling at a profit. This speculating element is everywhere condemned, but it is apparently hard to trace them and do anything when they are caught. Psychologically this new law permitting sales over the counter, without cards has been a tremendous force in assuring the people of what they had already felt, that the economic system was now on the road to complete success, which will bring with it the success of the Union as a whole.

New Year's Day is no holiday, but it does not prevent the people from having great family celebrations, similar to those preceding the "October". Happy groups met in many homes, and judging from the appearance in the early hours on the tramways, many must have celebrated the recent drop in the price of vodka. Some little light is thrown on the relaxed spirit of the day by comparing the production figured for Dec. 31st with those of Jan. 1st. Whereas on Dec. 31st the production of pig-iron was 99.2% of the plan, on the following day, the production fell to 90.6% of the plan. Similarly the production of steel fell from 91.5% of the plan to 87.3%. To be sure in each case the plan level had been raised with

the turn of the year, but the total production figures show a slump. The Americans had their own little New Year's Eve party, for one of the colony gave an informal high tea and egg-nog party with informal dancing. The entire colony turned out, including most of the Consulate, the Correspondents, the students, and the specialists, as well as the hangers on, who just seem to be "around" with nothing to do. It was a good opportunity to see and meet most of the people I had previously missed, and I feel that in defense of the much maligned colony ~~I feel that~~ I should add that I have never seen as orderly a party anywhere in America on New Year's, nor do the majority of its members look like the n'er-do-wells they are reported at home as being. All shades of political coloring were represented, and some very good arguments flared up at times. Whereas I seldom go about with the Americans, I cannot feel that one should maintain the attitude that they are a "bad lot" and to be avoided. This attitude only results in hard feeling, which may make itself shown later when we all work in the States. After all there is in the making here the group which will be the best informed, most active, and most enterprising moulders of public opinion at home about this country. We are going to be thrown together again and again, and nothing would seem to be gained by a cold aloofness.

The Reuter's Correspondent invited me to dinner to meet the son of Frank Simonds, noted Washington news man, and probably one of your friends. The boy is a graduate of Harvard, being of the tall intellectual type, but so interesting that we talked most of the night. Having taken Russian with Professor Cross, he came here with a good reading knowledge, prepared to attend the University for a term in the Department of History. He is having some very unusual contacts, and our observations and life have so paralleled each other that we had much in common. Students are increasing here in every field, and I rather hope that some day we can pool our experiences and findings and really prove a worthwhile nucleus for distributing information on the Union. The Correspondent himself is a young American who has had five years here. Although many consider him too gay, his bark is not half as bad as his bite, and his critics would do well to accompany the Princeton or Yale Glee Clubs on tour some Christmas. He is apparently very well thought of, as is shown by the number of his despatches which are retranslated into Russian and sent back from London by TASS. That privilege is not enjoyed by our Times, which since the first of December has not come through the mails. You can tell better than I what they have been printing, but apparently it is looked upon with disfavor.

Twenty-seven below zero at high noon and still going down! That is today's record. The zero I quote is our familiar fahrenheit zero, so that you can picture the day. The redeeming feature is that the Russians curse about it just as much as the foreigners, and that is always cheering. Alexander Woolcott said of Moscow weather in his last book of letters that any one used to Up*State New York could stand it easily. Perhaps his effective layers of fat preserved him. Those of us who look a bit more like

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walking skeletons don our warmest clothes and still shiver. When out on the streets the body is kept warm by these great coats, but nothing has been invented to save the nose and toes. I have to put my rubbers on before climbing into my great sheep-skin lined leather coat, for bending over is impossible after I am in. In spite of it all, we thrive, and it is rather fun to think of living successfully in polar weather.

One hundred and seventy million people rode the trolleys in Moscow during last May--over five million a day, or twice the population of the city. Although the month of May was the largest month, the figures for the year went well into the billion and a half. No wonder the cars seem crowded, and I might add that they do present the worst feature of travel about town. Not only are they packed to the ceiling, but if there is a break or accident on the line they may wander all about town, without conductor or anyone knowing where we are going. Last night the car had a real excursion, and when at last it passed a point remote from its usual route, I recognized a stop where another car which goes to my station also stops. The change seemed advisable as no one knew where the wandering car would end up, and so I eventually arrived home after a three quarters of an hour side trip. They are equipped with one clever device, in that every route has its own distinctive pair of lights, so that from a goodly distance one can tell whether his car is coming or not. This feature is particularly valuable for the near-sighted people, and all Russians seem to be that.

You will enjoy reading Carnegie Endowment's Pamphlet No. 305 in their Series entitled International Conciliation (405 W. 117th Street). Copies are 5 cents, and subscriptions \$1.00 for five years. Will you subscribe for me, please. I recommend not only Stalin's excellent speech in the pamphlet but the serious little study following it in the same pamphlet. There is a great deal of food for thought in there, which I shall enjoy discussing the next time we meet.

I wrote last week about the American World, the paper published with a vocabulary of only 900 English words. My teacher not only wants a sample of the paper, but some information as to the system used; whether it is like "basic English" or not. If Ben can persuade the director to supply that information, or at least the 900 word vocabulary, it will be very welcome here. The director (I believe a woman) may wish to guard her secret, but I hope Ben can pry something loose.

With greetings to the Staff, and sincere hopes that you are not suffering from sub-zero weather, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH.

January 10, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

We have pushed the problem of my taking the oath for admission to the bar to the Court of Appeals, and now I am informed that the Statute allows an oath abroad, only in the case of soldiers and sailors. They inform me that no other exceptions can be allowed. It seems that I must appear personally before the full bench of five judges, sitting in special session to administer the oath. No single judge is capable to do this, nor may it be done after term time, or by any other district than the one in which the applicant resides. The last special session for administering oaths is apparently in April or May, but one of the Judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, before which I must appear, has been kind enough to offer to intercede in my behalf, and try and arrange for the Court to administer the oath to me on the last day on which they sit before the summer recess, i.e. June 26th. They then recess until September 19th. I must, however, be on hand some days before the actual date for administering the oath in Rochester to see the character committee in Syracuse and attend to filing countless papers which the Statute requires be filed within a few days of the administration of the oath. The last boat making this possible is either the Bremen or the Normandie, sailing on June 15th, and arriving in New York June 20th, to give me five days before having to appear.

As to the necessity of taking the oath at this time--I have considered putting it off, but as next year will be a very important one in which I should have the full term in the Institute, which starts September 1st, I cannot feel it advisable to wait until the September 19th date, which would delay my arrival here until some time in October. My authoritative value when I start writing depends to a large extent on being a member of the New York Bar. Before I have taken the oath, I have no status, except that of having qualified the first test, that is passing the examinations. There remains the character or oral examination. Putting off the date to another ^{year} will be only more inconvenient each time; for as I become more involved in the work, which extends over both the earliest and latest dates the Court sits, it will be impossible to get away from here. There is the added difficulty that in putting it off, the whole procedural system of New York which is now being revised may have been pushed through, and it is not inconceivable that the character committee will decide that a person who has not been trained in that new system should take the procedural (or adjective Section) of the examinations over again, which would involve the spending of a month in New York taking the new course and a great waste of time. With a feeling that you would wish me to take the oath at this time, I am writing the Appellate Division to ask permission to take the oath on their last day in Session. Should I have guessed wrong on your wishes, I shall, of course, always stand ready to be corrected. I regret having raised the issue

so early , but I am informed that I must start the machinery rolling early and what experience I have had with the law only confirms that advice.

Should I leave here on June 10th to catch the boat--a date quite convenient at this end, as the winter is over, and schools closed as the tourist influx begins, I have a tentative plan for using the summer to the best advantage. While in America I shall want to do some work at Harvard in looking up the American Law on a good many problems which have come up over here, and on which I may be able to make a contribution if I can get at some good law digests. This work will form the basis for some articles next year. I should also like if possible to run out to Chicago for a week-end to see Professor Harper and check up on my progress, and then of course I shall want some days where I can be accessible for discussions with you. After about a month in the States, I suggest either of two plans depending on how far my language has progressed. If it is still backward, I thought of a walking trip in the Caucasus to get some language work and practice in August. But if I feel that I can handle the lectures at the Institute well enough during the coming year, I should like to attend the August session of the Institute of International Law at the Hague, which is, as you know, the outstanding school of International Law. World Court Judges are their professors, and their certificate is of immense value in documenting one's authoritative value. Prof. Hudson always praised the great Judge Anzilotti, who teaches at that Institute. But this problem need not now be decided--in fact I should prefer waiting to see how language is at that time. These are only suggestions ,and of course are subject to change for anything more profitable which you may propose.

My regular news letter will follow in due order, but as that goes to the family, I thought it better to write this personal matter separately. Herman Habicht has just returned, and I shall be anxious to hear from him whether you sent any suggestions over.

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

January 13, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Christmas Eve on the old Church calendar fell on January 6th, and fortunately I was able to crowd in a Christmas Eve service at the Cathedral. To my astonishment I found the huge building crowded to the doors with some two thousand people, of all ages, not only old people but many of my own age. From their appearances I should judge they came from all walks of life, and from their familiarity with the service one would judge that it was not a sight-seeing excursion for them. The Cathedral itself ^{was} a huge gilt affair, the walls being lined with large icons before which burned the familiar icon lamps. Two choirs chanted the antiphonal parts of the service, and as the great doors leading into the apse were opened we could see the tall candles on the richly decorated altar wreathed in incense smoke. Priests walked about in cloth of gold robes and silver jewelled crowns, and one came through the congregation swinging an incense censer before each of the many icons lining the walls. The music in the Greek Orthodox Church has always appealed to me, and the choirs in this Cathedral ~~were~~ no disappointment, for their unaccompanied singing filled the great nave like organ music, and the famous litany in which the congregation joined to drown out even the voices of the candle hawkers would have carried even ~~the~~ the unsympathetic listener off his feet.

Having seen this demonstration of the Church in action, I was prompted to ask questions about the situation today. Apparently soon after the Revolution a group in Leningrad led by one of the younger and more progressive priests decided that there was nothing to be gained in fighting against the new order, and much to be gained in using the time as an opportunity to break away from the conservative element which was represented in the old Church. A new Church was organized which spread rapidly and received governmental favor of an unofficial kind. The new Church although claiming no connection with the past, used much of the ritual and former rules, departing from the strict requirements of celibacy of the clergy. In point of number of buildings the new church soon outdistanced the old, but a reversal of sentiment began, largely caused by the fact that the older people preferred the Church in which they had been reared. The new Church having cast off tradition, which in the eyes of the old Churchmen was one of the greatest heritages of the Church, was left to recruit its congregations from ~~among~~ the youth. But right there the difficulty appeared, for the youth refused to take interest. I should suppose that that phenomenon was not limited to Russia alone, for I recall that when I was in Turkey we were told that in a few years there would hardly be a Mosque, since no new men were going into the training schools, and few young people were attending the services. This is the same problem among the Jews, for when I showed surprise that the Jews who had stood through centuries of persecution should now at last here be giving up their religion quite as easily as the Christians, I was told that among the youth of America support had

so dwindled that it has become one of the great problems of the Sinagogue--and this from young American Jews who live here. As the new Church could find supporters neither among the aged or the youth, it began to lose favor, and the old Church was recognized as the stronger element:

The Government 's attitude is one of toleration, being the view that in accordance with Marx, since religion is the opiate of the people, it is an evil which should be avoided, but which like liquor and drugs is used by people the world around, and probably always will be in spite of all that can be done to prevent it. Since the Church would probably go on, just as the smuggling of dope goes on, the chief concern of the new government was to withdraw all State support, and not permit the education of youth to "use religion"--just as a government may itself supply dope in government hospitals to old dope addicts, but fights against the education of the youth to use dope. With this background, one cannot understand such quotations as that made by Peter V. Masterson, Head of the Dep't of History and Gov't in Georgetwon University, writing in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science for July 1934 who says "...since the Bolsheviks have bent everything else to their purpose, I cannot understand why they have so scornfully ignored religion." (p.164) . The answer to that would appear to be that the use of dope and liquor might bring people into line and make of them ardent supporters, yet no government has proposed to gain supporters for its program by making of the population dope addicts which must thereafter look to the government for the means to satisfy their craving. Is Mr. Masterson asking the Soviet Government to take this step, or is this a case of a Churchman in a Catholic University ranting against the Soviet Union only because of its attitude on religion.

The Greek Orthodox Churches do not alone remain, for I have attended services in the French Catholic and Polish Catholic Churches. The Polish one is by far the more vigorous of the two, being crowded not only with the members of the large Polish colony, but by those of the population who are Roman Catholics. Polish can be understood partly if you have a smattering of Russian, as I have found out, and any way since the Roman service is in Latin, I suppose it is immaterial what is the native tongue of the Priests. The French Church receives the support of the Diplomatic Corps, and each Sunday it is a sight to see the line of official cars drawn up in the yard, each flying the national flag. British, French, Italian, and so forth are present, although I noticed that the American flag was conspicuous in its absence. It only emphasizes the humorous elements in the elaborate comments on the right of Americans to have their own Priests which appeared in the exchange of Notes between the President and Litvinov. I think that by now I know a very large number of the American colony, and in that group there are not more than perhaps five who would ever think of wanting a Church here, and the rest are quite typical of a large sector of of Americans at home, who, although they may personally have some religious beliefs do not feel the need of attending a Church. There is attached to the French Church an American French-speaking Priest who provides a small link with the American Catholics, but other than that there is absolutely no attention paid to American

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religious needs, if such do exist..

The great music inspired by the Church is not, however, neglected, for I had the pleasure of hearing the Jubilee performance of Bach's B Minor Mass, given by a group comprising the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, the Choir from the State Academy in Leningrad, and soloists from the Leningrad Opera. I had previously heard the work done by the Oratorio Society in New York, and in Boston last year when Matzenaur and Richard Crooks joined with the Boston Symphony and Harvard and Radcliff Glee Clubs to give what the Press heralded as the all-time high of Bach performances. This concert was given during one sitting, and thus provided a real contrast to all American performances which divide the Mass in the middle for Supper. I rather prefer to hear it all together, for the picture is then more complete. The Choir here comprised some thirty-two small boys and girls to carry the highest parts. Whereas ~~there~~ their voices had the rather metallic quality peculiar to boy choirs, they were perfectly trained and went right along in a very professional manner with the older members of the choir who surrounded them. The Mass was done in its original Latin, and one ~~got~~ ^{felt} no small surprise in hearing the Holy Story sung by a State organization. Whereas the American performances have been perhaps more polished, they have not had more spirit, nor been more artistic. The Conservatory's Great Hall was packed as usual, and the whole concert received a very enthusiastic reception.

This letter has seemed to turn into a letter only about religion. I suppose that problem interests Americans far more than one realizes from this distance. Since I have not yet attended the German Lutheran Church, I have not included anything about the one Protestant center, but that group rounds out the picture I have drawn. For lovers of music the Church here still presents the best opportunity to hear good choirs, and as such I recommend it to the casual visitor.

Professor Korovine gave me another evening, and we had a lively discussion of Air Law based on the International Convention Regulating Transport by Air, a convention which has just been published in the Official Government Bulletin. The Soviet Gov't has added a new idea to International Law when they advocate the use of the Airplane to periodically visit and control islands in the polar area discovered and claimed by the Soviet Union. Heretofore discovery was not enough to establish a claim to land..there must also be occupation and control. Here is a new definition of control, which has already been put into practice. Coupled with the idea that the polar area belongs to the littoral states, the use of airoplanes to control practically makes of the major part of the polar area a Soviet Territory.

Herman Habicht brings me news of you, for which I am grateful. You must have been given a rather complete picture of my life here. He seems rather more delighted to be back than he was to leave.

With all good wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH

You may think the items on religion interesting for some on the list.

WSR..JNH.. 5

January 15, 1935

Dear Hazard:

First to acknowledge your letters up to No. 18. They continue to be very interesting. You do very well in keeping distinct your accounts of what you actually observe, of what you hear about, and of what you read about. Personally I should like it if you would gradually move over toward giving more of your thoughts and your ideas, especially in regard to your language study, to your efforts to get hold of the basic premises underlying Soviet activities, and to any legal principles you may be considering. By doing this the record you are building up will contain accounts of the discovery of new ideas and of the evolution of your thought.

I had expected a long talk with Professor Harper over the week-end, for I had invited him to be present at a meeting of the trustees of the Institute that was held last Saturday. However, he could not come, so I will probably go to Chicago. When he arrived here from Europe he was very tired after an extremely uncomfortable voyage. He gave good and encouraging news about you, and then departed for Washington and Chicago.

I went to Washington ten days ago but failed to see Ambassador Bullitt, as chance would have it he was away for a few days. I will do my best to see him before he leaves. He and Young had a long talk in Peiping but I do not know the substance of it.

Our trustees meeting was devoted mainly to a discussion of the problems that have confronted Simpson and Young, who had recently been visited by Parkin and Clark respectively. Prior to the meeting I amused myself by putting a few vagrant ideas on paper. I send you herewith a copy for your delectation.

Some of the recipients of your letters acknowledge them and some don't. Yesterday's mail brought a letter from Professor Spykman in which he said:

I have read them (your letters) with great interest and I hope that it will be possible to continue to receive these communications. Mr. Hazard, as you probably know, was a former student of mine, and I am very happy that he has found this interesting work in international relations.

Cordial greetings,

WSR/FC
encls.

January 20, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

An eventful week this has been for me, for with the start of the second term at the Institute of Soviet Law I began attendance at two of the lectures. Conferences with the Director and Assistant Director resulted in permission to attend, and the suggestions of Professor Korovine and his colleagues were useful in formulating a plan of study. It was realized that my chief problem at the moment is the study of the language, and with that in mind the Professor and Director suggested that I limit myself to only two courses, so as to allow myself plenty of time to continue my language studies. In this way the lecture period will merely augment my regular language work by giving me the much needed opportunity to hear spoken Russian. I will take Professor Korovine's course in the History of the State, and the course in Criminal Law. Both courses are recommended not only because they deal with basic subjects, but because the Professors in both instances are excellent linguists. The course on the History of the State has the added advantage of dealing with material with which I am not wholly unfamiliar. Then, too, I shall have an opportunity to discuss the material at my regular bi-monthly conferences with Prof. Korovine. The course will develop the Marxian theory of the State drawing from history the material necessary to prove the theory and interpreting these periods of history in the orthodox Marxian manner. Criminal Law as a basic course in which there are more translations than in any other field offered a chance to get good training with the chance of supplementing what I hear with the work in English which will assure a complete understanding.

It was not without a slight feeling of awe that I approached the building for the first lecture. I had been advised that the lecture would start at one o'clock in the large auditorium and continue two hours. The Institute occupies a comparatively imposing looking building built right up to the street. The ground floor contains a vestibule in which is a check room, in which one is required to check all coats, rubbers, etc. (Harvard would do well to copy this feature). After checking these articles the student passes through a small gate, guarded by an attendant, to the offices of the Staff and Faculty. Above these on the second floor may be found the large auditorium, seating some four hundred persons, seven large seminar rooms seating about 35, and a reading room. On the third floor is the library. Contrary to the American custom, hours of classes do not remain the same throughout the year. Each month a list of lecture hours is posted, and these lists vary considerably from month to month. Nor are the lectures always at the same hour, nor at regular intervals. Today the lecture may be at 1.00; tomorrow at 9.00 and three days later at 11.00. Nor are they spaced at regular intervals, for they may come in quick daily succession for a few days, and then will follow a gap of three or four days. Knowing that it might be hard to find my way around the first time, I arrived about ten minutes before the hour. When the electric bell rang at one, and the preceding class dashed out of the auditorium, no one was around to go in for the next lecture.

But by this time, having become acquainted with life here, I went right in, feeling sure of my hour and place. Soon another Professor came in and opened his notes at the huge reading desk. I thought I had surely made a mistake, but sat on. Then a few students sauntered in. One in full uniform went up to the piano, back of the reading desk on the platform and began to play some popular tunes from the latest talking picture. Two girls went up on the stage to join him and began singing. This concert was really quite pleasant and I thoroughly enjoyed the contrast with the austerity of our classrooms. At twenty past the hour the Professor who had been there was suddenly notified that his class had been moved to another room. He rushed out, and our Professor came in, unfolded his notes, and started lecturing in a casual way. The noise gradually subsided, but not before we had lost about three minutes of the start. It never really did entirely die down throughout the whole period, and was particularly the fault of the girls who had to talk to each other, much to the annoyance of some of the men. We started with Feudalism, which brought back shades of Property I at Harvard. Knowing as I did somewhat about the subject I could without great difficulty keep track of what was going on. Of course I missed a very great deal, but at least I knew what country was being discussed and what features of the old problem were being exposed. At the hour, when the bell rang, the class dashed out for a ten minute recess, and then returned for the second session. Throughout the session written questions were passed up, and fifteen minutes before the end, the Professor answered them. Some told him that he was wrong when he said this and that. Others asked whether there had been feudalism in America. He had a great way of laughing off the queer ones and explaining that his critics had not understood what he had said.

Had this been my only lecture I should have received a very different idea of law school than I have, for on my second visit, the class started promptly, and there was almost no horse play. The Magna Carta was explained, and feudalism in Japan, with its odd dual nature being divided as it was between the Mikado, and the Shogun. I can see that I am going to really enjoy every minute of those lectures, and the practice in the language is already helping me. My regular language class goes on as before, and when night comes round my head whirls with Russian. There is now little time left for going down town, and life reminds me more and more of law school at home.

The Saar has been the center of interest for the past few weeks. The day following the plebiscite, I happened to be getting my mail. One of the Vice Consuls was rushing up to his room to hear the short-wave broadcast from London ~~as to~~ the results. His radio picked up the news, and with Mr. Wylie, and others of the staff we heard the account of the quietness and orderliness of the whole affair. For weeks the papers have talked of the terror, of the preparation of concentration camps for voters of the "United Front", of the scattering of tacks in the road to prevent cars from bringing such voters to the polls, of night raids and beatings, and now since the results are known, of the request of 40,000 people to be granted French citizenship. I hardly can believe that the League Committee would have permitted all this to go on, but the struggle between Communists and Nazis is so intense that I can understand the ardor with which the Press has portrayed the terror. The cartoon I enclose from Pravda will give an idea of the typical tenor of the articles, being as it is the German Nazi, placing the walls of a prison over the Saar. The one little bit of news coming over the radio in that English

broadcast leads me to hope that things are not as bad out there as they seem. The news broadcasts are daily picked up at the Embassy, for a magazine published in England gives the short wave programs for every short wave station in the world, and the boys at the Embassy amuse themselves on their powerful sets in picking up nearly everything. Oddly enough New York and America seem to be in a pocket from here. In out of town places they get it, but no one seems to be able to reach home from here. In our family the little radio only picks up the three Moscow Stations, which about cover the local field. Concerts, opera, and lectures are always broadcast, and one can tell that 7.30 P.M. has come around by hearing the opening strains of the opera at the Bolshoi every evening. I listen now and then to speeches to get some practice. Fortunately they are becoming more intelligible, although there is enough missed to spur me on the ever greater efforts with my teacher.

Thank you for Prof. Corwin's "Twilight of the Supreme Court." I have read half, and when I finish will give my comments. I can say now that it would have been a great help last year with Professor Thomas Reed Powell, although it would probably have simplified the material too much for him. There is much to be said for the Harvard system of puzzling the student and making him find his own solution. I find that one never thereafter forgets as one does in covering already digested material.

My good wishes to the Staff, and greetings to you,

Very sincerely yours,

JNH.

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January 23, 1935

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FULLY CONCUR YOUR NUMBER TWENTY GREETINGS

ROGERS

THE QUICKEST, SUREST AND SAFEST WAY TO SEND MONEY IS BY TELEGRAPH OR CABLE

January 27, 1935.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Your Number 5 reached me yesterday, and you may be sure I was interested in your comments on what you preferred in letters. I have been writing rather blindly on whatever came to mind, because I felt that my ideas in an uncrystallized form had better not be put on paper, not only because of their lack of form, but also because I feared that they might give the wrong impression of what my attitude was. Too often an idea, not fully expressed is worse than none at all, and particularly so to a person reading my letters who has a small knowledge of English and may jump to conclusions. The unseen public must of course always be taken into consideration in any letters going out, and I do not wish to confuse them unduly. Hence I have confined myself to relating what I see and hear, and I leave the conclusions for the reader to draw himself, based as they would be on his background and prejudices. Your comments as to Mr. Young's troubles as a heretic need not be limited to his field alone. An effort to avoid a similar situation prompts the continuation in part of the program of letter writing I have so far followed. I shall do my best to work in a few ideas where they seem to fit.

You ask about the progress of my language study. This week marks the completion of the fourth month, and as usual there will be a two hour examination on the thirty-first covering the work of the month. These examinations have been very helpful in keeping me keyed up to exacting work, for otherwise days just seem to push along, and it is too easy to let one slide now and then. For that reason we instituted the examination system, and it has worked wonders in my humble opinion. As you know in the early stages I had an hour every day except the free day. This procedure was followed for the first two and a half months. Then on the suggestion of Professor Harper that two hour sessions might be better we changed to such every other day, and we have found this a much better system. I think an hour every day essential at first before the pronunciation becomes crystallized in the mind, for otherwise it is too easy to slip into faulty habits which are later so hard to eradicate. But after that early stage is over and the good habits are formed, more is accomplished by longer periods in which the tongue and ears become accustomed to the language better than when the hour is so soon over, and also with a day in between there is the opportunity for more complete preparation. We have followed a system, whereby the first month was given over to going through the Reader used in the night schools to train illiterate adults. Grammar is extremely simple, type is big, permitting one to see the letters, (which are almost indistinguishable in smaller type, but which one learns to understand merely because it has to be the letter it is in that position) the subject material involved every-day life, thus permitting a familiarity with every-day vocabulary which is the most important at the start for one living here, and finally I felt that I was following the course used by thousands of the people as they begin to learn to read and write, and in that way I could the better understand some of the influences under which they come. As we worked through that book, we

began a study of grammar. The process was very different from that used by any other American here, for the teacher dictated to me from the regular Russian grammar used in the grade schools. All the rules were therefore in Russian, the names of tenses, cases, and parts of speech were Russian, and the approach was Russian. This not only enlarged my vocabulary but made possible a discussion with the family of principles of grammar. Classification of declensions is entirely different in the English grammars I have with me from those used in Russia. Thus a noun in the first declension in the Russian grammar is a feminine noun, whereas the first declension in the English-language Russian grammars is a masculine noun. It can readily be seen that one must know the Russian classification to place a new noun if one meets it in conversation with a Russian. Likewise to ask for a case, few Russians will understand if you ask them whether a certain preposition takes the accusative or ablative, you have to say "vinitelnie" or "tvoritelnie" to make any sense. In this way I filled two large notebooks with the declensions and conjugations. Then we started reading the newspapers to develop a good every-day vocabulary and at the same time give me the opportunity to keep in touch with daily life. A terrible chore it was at first, one which I thought almost impossible, but I am happy to say that now I can make pretty good headway, although I must rely heavily on my dictionary, and too often I forget the same fifteen letter word too many times. So many look so much alike, and hundreds end in the same unidentifying "enniye". I can do the foreign cables now with considerable ease, and am working hard on the editorials and feature articles, which use much larger vocabularies and a much freer style. To get a familiarity with the written language I prepare theses covering the material I read in the papers, and hundreds of questions on this material, which gives me practice in the peculiar question form used in Russian. These are then corrected, and written into a copy book, together with the copy of the article from which they come. This provides a complete set of the lessons of the month, and then follows a week's review of this material, followed by the examination, which is oral & written covering questions, short theses, and some original work on the month's work. To prepare myself for understanding spoken Russian, the teacher starts with a half hour conversation about the intervening day's life, and then reads an article from the paper which I must retell to show how much I have understood. To this we have added attendance at some of the lectures at the Institute as I wrote last time. The first one was pretty hard to get, but I find that I at least hear enough to grasp the idea, and as Professor Korovine said "You seem to get more than you miss." All is not quite so cheering as this may sound, for the language is really a terror. The usage of words is so often confusing, for a word, which in the dictionary has an English equivalent may not really have an equivalent usage. For example--The Russian word prazdnik is defined as holiday in English. Webster defines holiday as a day free from work. But when one uses prazdnik to describe the anniversary of Lenin's Death Day which occurred on January 22nd, and on which there was no work, the Russian looks up in horror, for prazdnik has the connotation only of "day free from work and full of joy". Thus Lenin's anniversary is ~~only~~ a "grief day", and not a prazdnik. The examples are numberless, and provide one of the great problems. As to the complete and incomplete forms of the verbs--a language student at the Embassy told me that he believed that one knew those only when a feeling for them was acquired by years of practice. The simple little explanation found in most grammars comes nowhere near serving as a test in all cases. I have found them particularly hard, and as the Russians tell me, it is the worst sort of an error to

use the wrong one.

To return to the anniversary of Lenin's Death Day--I started wondering why that day is celebrated and not his birthday. Is it because he died as a result of an earlier wound from the hand of an assassin, and was therefore seized prematurely from the Russian people, thus leaving the death day the more significant day, or is it just because the Slav loves to celebrate sad things? In America we prefer to celebrate birthdays of great men, to suppose the reason is that we think of their birthday as the beginning of a life which in turn was used to bring forth a new and greater America. Nor do we limit this type of celebration only to persons who died a natural death, for it is Lincoln's birthday we celebrate and not his death day. But I really think there is a certain stinging thrill which the Slav feels in sad things. No other explanation is forthcoming for the thousands who line up to see every great man who lies in state, and although sometimes other reasons are apparent, there are many cases where no political importance could possibly be attached to being seen at the bier. Even in private funerals the mourners rush down to the crematory to see the body burned through the glass cover to the oven. Papers carry huge pictures of the deceased as he lies in bed after death, as they did yesterday when Kwibisheff died. It is quite a contrast to the laws in some papers which prevent the showing of pictures of corpses either in the press or on the screen. One has only to attend the moving picture "Kirov" to see how grief can be revered. In reality it is a glorified News Reel, but the pictures are so beautifully synchronized with suitable music, and the story of the millions filing by is so moving that even the foreigner feels a lump in the throat--now does it last for only a few minutes as it would at home, but it is a full hour and a half performance. I have seen few more telling pictures which really catch the spirit of the Slav. It is just this catching of the spirit of the Slav which I realize is my chief task. No where are human emotions so close to the legislative force as here. Other places the slow process of turning out legislation and decrees tempers emotions with time. But here an hour after the happening of an event a decree may be forthcoming. Realizing this base for the law, I have tried to get just as near as possible, to ask questions which will lead me to it, and live the life of the people. I do not argue; such is of little merit. When I express an opinion on some subject to which there is a hot reply, I try only to find out the emotional or reasoning process which leads to the Russian viewpoint.

Your comments to the Trustees are of great interest to me. I note particularly the comments on foreign observers. Certainly that is true of newsmen. Mr. Joseph Baird, UP correspondent, to whom both Mr. Baillie and Mr. Simms sent me invited me to supper the other evening. We chatted about the problems of the correspondent. They really have to live a life apart, for Russians do not care to associate with them. As a result they know almost nothing of daily life and reactions. How glad I am that I have nothing required of me in the correspondent line, for I should have missed all of this thrilling family life which has made Russia a second home for me. (To be sure under any system whereby residence hangs on the thread of orthodoxy, one does not ramble in print. I have tried only therefore to give word pictures of what I see, and I rather think that is the best way to continue under the circumstances. Your comments as to exchange students are all too true. I recall that the Italians at the school in Geneva were officially chosen because they were orthodox, and I presume that is a common phenomenon. As to the fields of study, I am rather of the conclusion that one should use work in a field which is useful in America, for as you say findings will

elsewhere
 not be put to work. As to the inaccessibility of material--I can imagine that such might be a real problem in some fields. In mine most is accessible, if you know the language, for the Russians are extremely frank in self criticism, not only in print but in conversations. But of course I suppose as time goes on there will be doors hard to open. At present there has been nothing ever denied to me. Hence my program has all along been to develop a comprehension of Soviet Law and the Soviet attitude on International Law which will be of use in America. So far my efforts along that road have not been without some measure of success, for I have had a rather unique opportunity to study the Soviet attitude on International Law, and now is beginning a study in the Institute of Soviet Law. The lectures on Criminal Law have dealt with a comparison of the theories back of Bourgeois and Marxian Criminal Law. There is a tendency to pick out only the theory known as the punishment theory in Bourgeois Criminal Law, and to stress the Protective and Corrective theories in Marxian law, as if they were unknown in Bourgeois law, but that is entirely understandable.

You will be interested in reading The Legal Status of Foreigners in the U.S.S.R. by Prof. M.A. Plotkin, and translated by Mr. Biske, the Russian attorney now advising our Embassy. Although not very adequately documented it is noteworthy as the first work on the subject in English and provides a handy starting place in tracing down any problem. It can be purchased from Amkniga for 75 cents I am told. It ought to go far in clearing up some of the questions set forth in the Discussion at the Annual meeting of the American Society of International Law, and published in their Proceedings for 1934. You may also be interested in reading that copy (700 Jackson Pl., Wash. \$1.50)

Your cable re. my number 20 arrived. I shall plan accordingly. Thank you very much for such a prompt answer to my questions. The books Ben sent have all come. Thank him for attending to it, please.

Do write again if you think of more comments on the letters, or other things which interest me. I enjoy keeping in touch with how things are going in the Institute as a whole, and shall be anxious to hear about Mr. Antonius's lectures.

Greetings to you all,

JNH.