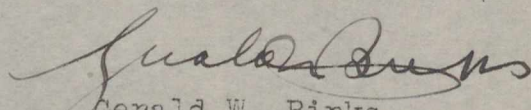


Two interesting sidelights, and then I close. In Sendai, government and educational center of Northern Japan, we found the work being carried on by a young ex-soldier. He had been converted by a Y secretary while serving in Siberia and since that time has been giving his life to the work. With no Western training, and with practically no equipment, he has carried on the work and among other things has gathered around him one of the choicest Boards of Directors I have ever met, which includes among others the President of the local Imperial University. Of course what they are working and praying for is a building - and I for one should covet the chance to see what this consecrated and enthusiastic group could do with the help of adequate equipment.

In Nagoya I spent a fascinating evening in the home of a prominent Buddhist who had called together a group for the purpose of promoting the erection of a branch of the Association in his neighborhood as part of the ambitious ten-unit building program of the Nagoya Y.M.C.A. Just one or two of the group were Christians. Yet these leading citizens of Nagoya, which unlike Sendai is a commercial town of considerable wealth, were eager to do the job alone, without outside assistance. I am afraid this fresh proof of the vitality of Christianity, even among non-Christians, must have angered some old Japanese god, for that night we were treated to the nicest little earthquake which Japan has experienced in some years!

Yours sincerely,



Gerald W. Birks  
Representing the Foreign Committee  
in the Far East

*With belated Christmas greetings*