

RE MR. GEST AND THE GEST CHINESE LIBRARY.

June 20th, 1930.

Had an interview today with Mr. G. M. Gest, who was accompanied by Dr. Reese.

Mr. Gest told me that the number of volumes now in the Library was 101,000 with seven cases still to be opened, which would bring the number up to 109,000. There are no duplications. In the Congressional Library at Washington there are 115,000 volumes, of which 10% are duplications and there are 12,000 Japanese volumes. So that both in quantity and in quality we excel any Library on this Continent or any other Chinese Library outside China.

He was very pleased with the appointment of Dr. Kiang pointing out that he had heard nothing but the best reports regarding his scholarship, though he drew my attention to the fact that Dr. Kiang was at one time very prominent in support of the Kuomintang party, that he had been to Moscow to investigate Bolshevism, and at one time he was thought to be slightly Communistic. I informed Mr. Gest that I had discussed this matter with Dr. Kiang, who told me that when the revolution in China came all Chinese became interested in all revolutions; that there was a great deal of Communistic propaganda in China and that he went to Moscow to study Communism for himself; that he came away with the opinion that it would not do for China.

I asked Mr. Gest if he had any objection to Dr. Kiang being known as the Gest Professor of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, provided Dr. Kiang turned out well.

The young Chinese student, Miss Liang, is giving up her work in the Library tomorrow and I have authorized Dr. Reese to take on Mr. Quong for the summer months at \$90 a month. I told Mr. Gest that I would prefer to engage in that capacity someone whom I could look forward to having with us for a certain number of years. He told me that Mr. Gillis wished to recommend a man, a Chinese scholar, who spoke English sufficiently well to hold a conversation and who is now employed with Mr. Gillis making notes on the Library in China at a salary of \$20 a month. He is willing to come to Canada but there is the question of his transportation, head tax and the salary he would receive here, to be considered.

(consult Bovey regarding his admission without payment of head tax and Mr. Beatty regarding his transportation)

Mr. Gest is to wire to Mr. Gillis to find out what salary he would expect.