

# THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

## China Charges Japs with 'Autonomy' Move

### Will 5 States Be Next Under Wing of Nippon?

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**T**WENTY-FIVE counties of the province of Hopei, in North China, on November 25 declared themselves divorced from the central Chinese government at Nanking, and set up an autonomous, or independent, government under the leadership of Yin Ju-keng, commissioner of the demilitarized zone. The 25 counties aggregate approximately 8,600 square miles and are inhabited by 5,000,000 people.

The Yin Ju-keng government, it is believed, will prove to be the first effective culmination of an "autonomy" movement that may gather under its wing the five provinces of North China, namely Hopei, Chahar, Suiyan, Shansi and Shantung. Such autonomy for these provinces would mean the complete failure of the Chiang Kai-shek dictatorship north of the Yellow river.

More than that, it would probably mean the spread of the rapidly expanding Japanese empire farther into the Asiatic continent until Japanese control on the continent would be extended over an area approximating China itself in size. North China would become little more than another Manchukuo.

To the average observer and certainly to the Nanking government the "autonomy" movement is purely a Japanese project. Yin Ju-keng is famed for his willingness to "co-operate" with Japanese military leaders. His wife is a Japanese.

Japanese army officials have been reported to have been fostering the autonomy movement secretly for many months. Only in the past few weeks Maj. Gen. Kenji Doihara, of the Japanese army intelligence corps, and famed as the "empire builder" of the "land of the rising sun," has arrived on the scene and has openly worked for the secession and autonomy of the five provinces. It is certain that he will not be satisfied with a victory only in a few counties of one province. And the Japanese army has backed him up to the extent of warning Gen. Chiang Kai-shek not to interfere.

#### Quirks of Japanese Politics.

It is, of course, true that Tokyo has hinted that Doihara is overstepping his authority, and that Japanese troops have been mobilized lately in these provinces only to protect communications and maintain order in the face of any civil outbreaks or communistic uprisings. However, it is customary for the military faction in Japanese politics to assume the aggressive, with the rather mild objection of the civilian government as something of a bluff to appease the injury felt by foreign nations who have interests in areas where the Japanese empire is expanding.

It is known that in Peiping and Tientsin autonomy demonstrations have been instigated by the Japanese. One of the most spectacular demonstrations was in the latter city, and was staged by 300 members of the famed Chinese "Dare-to-Die" army, many of them wearing new uniforms closely resembling those of the Japanese army. They left their uniforms in their head-

quarters in a lecture hall afterwards—for the Japanese soldiers to collect. On occasions handbills exhorting the populace to revolt in favor of an autonomous government have floated to earth under the roar of airplanes—which could only have been Japanese. Japanese soldiers have constantly moved inland, even through the Great Wall of China, to make sure that no railroad cars will be allowed to pass to the south where they might be loaded with troops of the Nanking government and returned. Nipponese army officials have confiscated Chinese school books and removed from them passages which might be construed as anti-Japanese. And these same officials have repeatedly been accused of hiring professional

cordingly, at a nod from Japanese officials in Tientsin or Peiping, Chinese officials comply. Two outstanding examples of this were the recent retirement of the mayor of Peiping, known to oppose the autonomy movement, and the return of Chinese Minister of War Ho Ying-chin from Peiping to Nanking, both at the suggestion of the Japanese officials.

Nanking's protests to Tokyo are ignored because of Japan's insistence that the autonomy movement is strictly of Chinese origin. Yet it is known that in all of these autonomous governments planned, the administrations will have to be decidedly pro-Japanese.

That the government of Yin Ju-keng in Hopei is to be the model

provinces to form an autonomous state.

#### What Japan Wants.

What does all this "autonomy" business mean for Japan, for North China and the rest of the world? For Japan it means political economic and industrial control of another great slice of territory that once belonged to China. There is much cotton in Hopei and opportunity for planting more, to take the place of cotton that Japan must now import from the United States and from India. There is iron ore and coal, vastly important in building the naval parity which Japan is demanding from Great Britain and the United States, although not enough iron and coal, according to

research scientists, to warrant the ton conference in 1922, was formed as the organic international law to apply to all future controversies in the Far East. All of the signatories are bound to respect not only the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, but the administrative integrity as well. Secretary Hull claims that this provision is directly involved at the present time, because "an effort is being made to bring about a substantial change in the political status and condition of several of China's northern provinces."

Other provisions of the treaty bind the signatories not to support any agreements designed to create "spheres of influence" for their nationals. And still another requires them not to seek "any arrangement which might purport to establish in favor of their interests any general superiority of rights with respect to commercial or economic development of any designated region of China."

#### Claim Treaty Was Misnomer.

Japan's claim is that such a thing as the territorial and administrative integrity of China never existed.

Political economists believe that the best any central Chinese government ever will do is administer a part of China. Much of what is known as China is poorer than even the heavily populated cities, even though its population is comparatively sparse. In five of the northwestern provinces, which make up 29 per cent of the total area, there is only 5 per cent of the population, and because of the poor quality of the land this population is difficult to support.

Also, much of China is too backward to be governed well. For instance, there is the province of Szechuen; it has 50,000,000 inhabitants and not a single mile of railroad!

The Communist threat is always present, the Communist army in China having been estimated at 100,000. But the Communists have virtually passed as a political party to be reckoned with as they were before the downfall of their leader, Borodin, in 1927, when Gen. Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang party became the ruling power.

Since Baron Pompeo Aloisi of Italy pointed out to the League of Nations council at Geneva the inconsistency of applying sanctions to Italy in the Ethiopian incident and not applying them to Japan in the North China and indeed the Manchurian incidents, many a parallel has been drawn between the two. There are technical differences that destroy the parallel, however.

#### Nippon Is Subtle.

For one thing Japan has been a much more subtle aggressor against China than Italy has against Ethiopia. Japan has effected the submission of Chinese army leaders before invading, not after.

Another difference is that China has not appealed to the league yet, whereas Haile Selassie's appeals were loud, long and unmistakable.

Meanwhile the conquest of the Japanese empire becomes clearer and clearer. Pescadores and Formosa in 1895; Port Arthur in 1904; Karafuto in 1905; Korea in 1910; mandates over the Pacific islands north of the equator in 1920; the puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932; Jehol added to it in 1933.—Are the next to be the puppet states of Hopei, Chahar, Suiyan, Shansi and Shantung?



This scene at Tientsin in 1932 is being re-enacted as Japanese troops are being massed in North China, where it is expected they will be used to enforce the declaration of "autonomous" governments in five provinces. Armored trains, such as the one shown at left above, have carried the troops inland. In the insets are Gen. Ho Ying-chin (left), forced to vacate Peiping, and Gen. Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese dictator.

Chinese agitators (at 40 to 60 cents a day) to stir up trouble.

The Japanese claim is that the autonomous movement is a natural one entirely founded and furthered by the Chinese in the provinces involved. They point out that the Nanking rule drains these already poverty-stricken people by excessive taxes, and at the same time gives them little or no benefit. But the Chinese people in the territory literally do not know what it is all about. They are confused, bewildered. Like Chinese everywhere, they have no interest in politics. That, indeed, has been the chief stumbling block in the path of Gen. Chiang-Kai-shek's attempt to unify China under one government. To the educated Chinese, an "autonomy" movement is a joke.

#### Chinese Do Nippon's Bidding.

Yet Nanking's hands are tied. While there are not enough Japanese troops in North China today to enforce the rule of Japan's army chiefs, Nanking knows that troops could—and would—be speedily dispatched from Korea or Japan itself to meet any emergencies. Ac-

for other pro-Japanese autonomies to come is apparent from his declaration:

"From today the demilitarized zone will be separated from the central government and will institute and carry out an autonomous regime as the first voice of a federation of provinces with a view toward maintaining peace in eastern Asia."

"We, the undersigned, hope that the people, the public organs and the military and political leaders of the various provinces will rise up with us to suppress the criminals and arch-enemies of the nation, to draft a constitution, and choose wise and able men for the administration of the country."

This is directly in line with the program desired for the five North China provinces by Doihara, the "empire builder." And only a few days after the proclamation, Gen. Sun Cheh-yuan, commissioner of the Chinese garrison at Peiping-Tientsin, upon whom Doihara is known to have exerted extreme pressure, circulated a telegram proclaiming the intention of Hopei and Chahar

expense and the responsibility of complete Japanese conquest and government of North China.

Such a complete subjection would undoubtedly be ruinous to Japan, already financially burdened as she is. Much better to allow these North China provinces to govern themselves, under the "protecting" wing of the Japanese army of occupation, with free trade privileges for Tokyo.

Great Britain, the United States and other powers would be far more seriously hurt commercially by the establishment of a "Manchukuo of North China" than they were by the establishment of the present Manchukuan rule itself, for their commercial interests in North China are much greater. As a result, Secretary of State Hull and Sir Samuel Hoare, British minister of foreign affairs, simultaneously demanded Japanese explanation of apparent violations of the Nine-Power treaty which guarantees the territorial integrity of China. This treaty, signed by the nine leading powers of the world, with the exception of Russia, at the Washing-