

MANCHOUKUO TODAY

HISTORY OF MANCHOUKUO

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MANCHOUKUO TODAY

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HISTORY OF MANCHOUKUO

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HISTORY OF MANCHOUKUO

I. HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

Manchuria has seen the rise and fall of various races and dynasties since the land was first inhabited by the Suchen tribe of the Manchu race as early as 3,000 years ago. Of the various aboriginal races which appear in the history of Manchuria, the two dominant races are the Manchus, whose representative dynasty is the Ching dynasty, and the Mongols, who ruled over Manchuria during their Yuan dynasty. These two leading aboriginal races of Manchuria, both warlike and fearless, and traditionally possessed of strong racial characteristics, have since the earliest days of history preserved Manchuria as a domain of their own, independent of China Proper. The Manchus may be classified into two groups of tribes, according to lineage:

The Suchen — Ilow — Wuchi — Moho — Pohai —
Nuchen — Ching group,

The Huimo—Fuyu—Kaokouli—Shihwei group.

The Mongols consisted of the following tribes:

The Tunghsu, the Siempis, the Khitans and the
Mongols.

The Mongols belong to the Buryats and other such intermixed races, but the Manchus like the Japanese, belong to the Tungus family of races. Both the Manchus and the Mongols are entirely different from the Han or Chinese race. From the earliest days of the Suchen tribe to the rise of the Ching dynasty down through the history of thirty centuries during which aboriginal

races set up such independent kingdoms as Kaokouli, Pohai, Liao and Kin, followed by the rise of the Yuan dynasty and its subsequent overthrow by the Ming dynasty of the Chinese, Manchuria has never been completely conquered or ruled even once by the Han race. On the contrary such conquering aboriginal tribes of Manchuria as the Khitans and the Nuchens extended their power to China Proper, and set up the great kingdoms of Liao and Kin, respectively. Both of these tribes brought the northern half of China under their sway.

The zenith of Manchu expansion was reached under the Ching dynasty when the whole of China was conquered by the Manchus, and an empire of unprecedented magnitude and power was established over Manchuria and China Proper. The Manchus and Mongols have not only been conquerors of the Han race, but have exerted far-reaching influence upon its customs and manners. The pig-tail is a custom forced upon the Chinese by the Manchus as a mark of servility. Consequently from historical point of view, the founding of the independent State of Manchoukuo in the homeland of the Manchus and Mongols by the will of its 30,000,000 people and the accession to its Throne of His Excellency, Chief Executive Pu Yi are most natural developments.

Suchens — The first tribe of people known to have been the inhabitants of Manchuria were the Suchens. Approximately 3,000 years ago during the era of Chou Chin in China, the Suchens, together with the Weimos occupied a vast stretch of territory including the districts now known as Kirin, Pinkiang, and Lungkiang Provinces. The Suchens held the eastern part of this territory, and the Weimos, the western portion. For about ten centuries these two tribes existed side by side. They are considered to be the true ancestors of the

Manchus. Later in history the Ilows, descendants of the Suchen and Weimo tribes, took up their abode in the northeastern part of North Manchuria, while the Fuyus inhabited the greater part of what is now Manchuria. The Fuyus possessed some sort of civilization.

Kaokouli — A powerful, independent kingdom was established by the Kaokouli about 2,000 years ago. During the height of their power, the Kaokouli were in possession of the northern half of Korea and most of Manchuria. The Kaokouli Kingdom continued for 750 years through the reign of twenty-eight kings.

Pohai — The Kingdom of Pohai, another great State, made its advent in 713 A.D. and lasted for well-nigh 250 years, until 926 A.D. This kingdom was chiefly built around the present provinces of Fengtien, Kirin, Pinkiang, Chientao and Sankiang, and extended as far as the maritime provinces of Russia and the northern section of Korea. Pohai boasted of a flourishing civilization largely imported from China of the Tang dynasty. It, moreover, was the first kingdom in the history of Manchuria to send envoys to Japan and maintain relations with that island Empire.

Liao (Khitans) — During the Tang dynasty of China, the Khitans, descendants of the Tunhus and belonging to the Tungus race, gradually gathered power and finally founded the Liao Kingdom, in northeastern Manchuria. Towards the end of the Tang era, the Khitans, raising a powerful army, conquered Shihwei in the north, annexed the basin of the Amur River, and extended their rule as far west as Chinghai from the east of Tienshan. They even invaded China Proper to the south, and established the Kingdom of Khitan. In 926 A.D. the Khitans annexed the Kingdom of Pohai. Under the Emperor, Tai Tsung, the son and heir of the Emperor, Tai Tsu, known as the great welder of the eight branches of the Khitan

tribe, the Khitans reached the height of their power. They expanded their kingdom by one conquest after another, until in time they came to control a huge stretch of territory extending from the Sea of Japan in the east to the Tienshan Mountains in the west, to Hopei and Shansi in the south, and to the central part of Mongolia in the north. More than sixty States paid tribute to the Khitan Emperor. For 210 years the Khitans ruled with absolute sway over the huge empire, but in 1113 they were finally overthrown by the Kin Kingdom which rose in North Manchuria.

Kin — The Nuchens, a powerful tribe scattered extensively over the northeastern districts of Manchuria, chiefly in the vicinity of the Amur River, rose in revolt against the Khitans, and within ten odd years succeeded in overthrowing the Liao Kingdom. The Kin Kingdom, which they founded ultimately grew into an empire of unprecedented magnitude. In 1126 the Kin army invaded China Proper, and captured what is now the city of Kaifeng, which was at that time the capital of the Sung Empire of China. The boundaries of the Kin Kingdom were thus extended south of the Yellow River. This huge empire of the Nuchens, embracing not only Manchuria, but also Mongolia and China Proper north and south of the Yellow River, however, lasted only 120 years, through ten rulers. In the 6th year of Tai Tsung, of the Yuan dynasty the Kingdom of Kin finally fell before the onslaught of the Mongols. Though the Kingdom of the Nuchens was comparatively short-lived, the Nuchens were the first Manchu tribe to conquer China.

Yuan — The Mongols, led by their great military genius, Jenghis Khan, overthrew the Kin Kingdom, and conquered the territory of the Southern Sung in 1279, thereby gaining control of the whole of China. These Mongols were an alien race known among the Hans by

the various names of Tunghus, Siempis and Khitans. With China under his sway Jenghis Khan turned his attention westward. A series of amazing victories followed. A great host of Mongol horsemen of exceptional fighting ability, disciplined and consolidated by Jenghis Khan, swept across Central Asia and captured the capital of the Kharmismian Empire of Turkestan, Persia and North India. Nothing held back the all-conquering Mongol horde. From Persia Jenghis Khan's army of 100,000 horsemen turned northward, and invaded Russia. In a series of battles Russian armies were defeated, and the Mongols finally stormed other European countries. Forty States lay prostrate before the irresistible advance of the Mongols. Jenghis Khan's successors founded the great Yuan Empire in China, but it finally decayed and was overthrown by the Ming dynasty of China during the rule of its 11th emperor. The Yuan dynasty lasted from 1280 to 1368.

Ming — Though the Yuan Empire of the Mongols was destroyed by the Ming dynasty, the Mongols retained their virtual independence in Manchuria and Mongolia whither they retreated after their defeat by the Mings. The authority of the Ming dynasty in Manchuria was limited to a very small area in the lower reaches of the Liao River, and the boundaries of the Ming Empire were frequently menaced by the Mongols. Manchuria under the Mings remained independent of China Proper.

Ching — As the power of the Ming dynasty declined, the Nuchens, who since the fall of the Kin Kingdom, had lacked a central leader, again rose to power under the inspired leadership of a great hero, Nurhachih. From a regional lord over the Hsingking district, Nurhachih rose to heights comparable to those attained by the greatest emperors in the history of Manchuria or China. Establishing his headquarters in Hsingking-fu,

Nurhachih gradually extended his sphere of control, overcoming all opposition and finally raising a powerful army to challenge the Ming dynasty. In 1616 this Manchu warrior proclaimed himself emperor of a new kingdom which he named Kin. Nurhachih's ambition was to restore the glories of the old Kin empire of the mediæval ages. His forces dealt a crushing defeat to a mighty army dispatched against him by the Ming emperor, in a battle near Fushun. This battle obliterated whatever vestiges of influence the declining Ming dynasty retained over Manchuria, and signalled the reascendancy of the Manchu race. The capital of the rising Kin dynasty was moved to what is now known as Mukden, and the Kin empire was renamed Ching. And instead of the word Kin, the home of the Manchus was for the first time called "Manchou" (Manchuria). The word Manchou is said to have been derived from "Man-shushiri", a Buddhist word.

With China torn by internal dissension and unrest, Peking fell before an attack by a Manchu army. The third ruler of the Ching dynasty, Shun Chih, moved his capital to the captured city in 1644, and for the next 250 years the Manchu dynasty of the Chings dominated China. Though Manchuria and China Proper were thus overruled by one dynasty, the Ching emperors loved the land of their forefathers and preserved it as a base upon which they could fall back in the event their rule over China should come to an end. For this purpose they at first strictly banned the immigration of Hans into Manchuria. The Manchu army of eight banners, on the other hand, were stationed at various parts of China. With the removal of the capital to Peking numerous Manchu bannermen also followed the Government to that city of culture and refinement. This exodus and the prohibition of Chinese immigration into Manchuria, however, in time gave rise to the decay of Manchuria.

Grieved over this situation, the Ching dynasty during the era of Emperor Shun Chih issued an order opening Manchuria to immigration again, and encouraged the Hans to migrate to that country. Peasants from Shantung and Hopei flocked to Manchuria in huge numbers, and merchants from Shansi also hastened to the new land of promise. Within a few years the Han population of Manchuria increased more than ten-fold.

About this time Russia, driven by a hunger for a sea outlet in the Far East, steadily pursued her policy of southward expansion, and before long gained virtual control of Manchuria through the conclusion of the Aigun and Peking treaties with the Ching dynasty. Finding Russian Imperialism a threat not only to the peace of the Far East, but also to her own national security, the island empire of Japan in 1904 finally declared war on Russia. The outcome of that life and death struggle for Japan is well known. Manchuria was freed from Russian domination though at the sacrifice of 100,000 precious lives and billions of yen, and by virtue of the Portsmouth Peace Treaty Russian interests in South Manchuria were taken over by Japan. Nipponese capital and enterprise since have played an important role in the development of Manchuria.

Manchuria under the Republic — In 1912 the Ching dynasty gave way to the Republican Government of China after 297 years of uninterrupted rule over Manchuria and China Proper. Manchuria about this time was witnessing the rise of the local warlord, Chang Tso-lin. In 1916 this native son of Manchuria was appointed by the Central Government of China as military governor of Fengtien Province, and simultaneously as civil governor of the same province. Two years later he became Governor-General of the Three Eastern Provinces. The whole of Manchuria thus came under his control, with both civil and military powers in his hands.

In 1922 he waged the first of a series of wars with the Chinese armies south of the Great Wall. Although his forces were forced to withdraw from the Province of Chihli as a result of that civil war, in May of the same year Chang Tso-lin proclaimed the independence of the Three Eastern Provinces. In 1924 the second Mukden-Chihli war took place. The revolt of Kuo-Sung-ling precipitated a crisis in his military career, but he managed to crush the rebellion in a battle near Hsinmintun, thus restoring his complete sway over Manchuria. Thereafter Chang Tso-lin thrice invaded China. His third invasion was so successful that the Kuominchun evacuated Tientsin and Peking in April 1926. Chang Tso-lin thereupon moved his headquarters to Peking, and assumed the leadership of all the anti-southern armies in North China. On June 18, 1927, ostensibly at the request of military leaders under his control, he was installed as Grand Marshal of the Military Government of the Republic of China, and proclaimed himself ruler of the vast territory north of the Yangtze. As the Nationalists, however, gained in power, he found it increasingly difficult to maintain his position, and on June 2, 1928 left Peking for Mukden, in a special train. A serious explosion occurred on June 4 as his train was passing under a bridge near Mukden, and he was so severely wounded that he died within a few hours.

Upon his death, his eldest son, Chang Hsueh-liang, became ruler of the Three Eastern Provinces. Abandoning the traditional policy of the Manchus to uphold the independence of Manchuria, the young Mukden warlord towards the end of 1928 pledged formal submission to the Nanking Government. The Kuomintang flag thus replaced the Chinese Republican flag in Manchuria. Though Manchuria nominally came under the control of the Central Government, it, in fact, remained

virtually independent. During the Civil War of 1930 Chang Hsueh-liang for several months remained strictly neutral, but in October he finally dispatched a huge army across the Great Wall. His forces occupied all of Chihli and the northern sections of the Kin-Han and Tsin-Pu railways, and the Chihli and Honan provinces were placed under his control when he accepted the post of Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the National Forces. The several armed expeditions into China Proper, since the days of Chang Tso-lin imposed a crushing burden upon the masses of the land, and drained Manchuria of its wealth. In order to pay for its vast military expenditures, the Chang dictatorship resorted to high taxation and various means of extortion, which incurred the enmity of the populace. The Chang regime, moreover, pursued a strong anti-Japanese policy, which aimed at the expulsion of all Japanese rights and interests from Manchuria. This finally led to the outbreak of the Manchurian Incident of September 18, 1931, as a result of which the Chang regime collapsed overnight.

II. FOUNDING OF MANCHOUKUO

Independence of Northeastern Provinces — The so-called Manchurian Incident was precipitated on the night of September 18, 1931, when a detachment of Chang Hsueh-liang's regular troops dynamited a section of the South Manchuria Railways, but thanks to the amazing speed with which the Japanese troops carried out their operations, the politico-businessmen, who had been leading a parasitic life at the expense of the masses, were hastily driven out of Manchuria. The occasion served to arouse among the inhabitants of the Northeastern Provinces, who had long been oppressed and exploited by the long tyrannical rule of the Chang warlords, a strong desire to organize a new independent government with the people as its foundation by severing all relations with the former regime, and to transform Manchuria into an idealistic earthly paradise, with government conducted in the interest of the people. This strong desire gained momentum rapidly.

The businessmen of Liaoning Province (present day Fengtien Province), cooperating with the former civil administrative faction, on September 24 organized the Committee for Local Peace Preservation under the chairmanship of Yuan Chin-kai. This Committee at first devoted itself chiefly to financial stabilization and the maintenance of peace and order, but before long its object became the establishment of a self-governing, self-protective popular government. In consequence, it was reorganized into the Peace Preservation Committee of Fengtien Province on September 27, and concrete plans and policies were decided upon. The revised committee was amalgamated with the Liaoning Ssumin Peace Preservation Commission, and it announced its

intention of establishing an independent government of Fengtien Province.

On September 28, Hsi Chia, who was then at Kirin City, declared the independence of Kirin Province. On the 30th he issued a declaration concerning the organization of the Provisional Government of Kirin Province which was established in Kirin City, with himself as Governor. Under the leadership of Hsi Chia, the new government set out to cope with the confused situation, guided by the four principles: (1) respect for popular will, (2) enforcement of law and order, (3) freedom of speech and press, and (4) execution of benevolent government.

In the Tungsheng Special District (North Manchuria Special District) headed by Governor Chang Ching-hui, a general meeting was held at Harbin, with the result that the Tungsheng Special District Peace Preservation Commission was organized to maintain peace and order after the Incident. Chang Ching-hui was elected to the chairmanship of the Commission.

On November 7, the Peace Preservation Committee of Fengtien Province assumed official power and began conducting administrative affairs in behalf of the Fengtien Provincial Government, while on the 16th of the same month, it modified the taxation system. This revision abolished six taxes, reduced four taxes by 50 per cent, entrusted eight others to hsien governments, and suspended a number of others deemed unfair, and as a result, the provincial regime took the form of an actually independent government. On November 24, the name Liaoning Province used under the former regime, was changed to Fengtien Province.

The independence government with Mukden as its centre gradually became intensified and expanded in area, but in the meantime, self-governing, self-protective local peace preservation and autonomous committees

sprang up in various districts. For the purpose of supervising these innumerable independent organizations and of bringing them together, the Autonomy Guidance Headquarters was established at Mukden, and on November 10, Yu Chung-han became director of the Headquarters.

On November 24, the Mukden Peace Preservation Committee adopted the principles under which the new nation was to be established by the federation of autonomous provinces, and for this purpose, it was decided that representatives of four provinces (Fengtien, Kirin, Heilungkiang and Jehol) should meet in a conference, and a public statement to this effect was issued.

On December 15, the Mukden Peace Preservation Commission was dissolved at a meeting of representatives of Fengtien Province which was held within the walled town of Mukden, and the Fengtien Provincial Government was organized. Tsang Shih-i, who was elected governor of the province, formally assumed office the following day, while Chao Chin-po became mayor of Mukden at the same time.

Heilungkiang and Jehol provinces followed suit, and Yu Chih-shan and Chang Hai-peng issued declarations at Shanchengtzu and Taonan, respectively, announcing the independence of these two provinces. Manchuria was thus completely freed from the grip of the Nationalist Government of China.

Progress of Independence Movement — Thanks to the unselfish and earnest activities of the members of the Autonomy Guidance Headquarters, and the benevolent government in Fengtien Province, the movement for establishing an independent state progressed rapidly, and the popular cry for the creation of a new nation echoed throughout Manchuria.

On February 16, a conference attended by Tsang Shih-i, Hsi Chia, Ma Chan-shan and Chao Chin-po,

who represented the people of their respective districts, was held at the private residence of Chang Ching-hui in Mukden, at which discussions on the foundation of a new state were conducted. The conference adopted the following resolutions:

(1) To establish a new state.

(2) As a preliminary step, to establish a new regime combining the four Northeastern Provinces or more precisely, to organize the Supreme Political Committee.

(3) The Supreme Political Committee shall look after all preparations necessary for, and relating to, the foundation of the new state.

Furthermore, the state foundation conference was resumed at the residence of Chao Chin-po at 6 p.m., of the same day where it conducted discussions on such concrete matters as the structure and name of the new state, and the national flag. The meeting adjourned at 4 a.m. the following morning after unanimous agreement had been reached among those present.

In accordance with the decision reached by the conference, the Administrative Committee of the Northeastern Provinces was organized on February 17, with Chang Ching-hui as chairman, and Tsang Shih-i, Hsi Chia, Ma Chan-shan, Tang Yu-lin, Chi Wang, and Ling Sheng as committee members. On this day, the committee discussed and approved matters relating to the national polity, administrative structure, and the head of the new state, as well as the draft of its declaration. At 11:30 a.m. on the 18th, the formal declaration of independence was issued under the signatures of the chairman and committeemen. The declaration stated that "the purpose of independence lies in the conduct of good government under Wangtao, and to the fulfillment of three great missions." The three great missions are explained in the declaration as follows:

Firstly, the administrative system will be reformed in accordance with the spirit of independence. Under the maladministration of the militarists formerly in control, the people were exposed to fire and plunged into deep waters by tyranny and exactions, having no security whatsoever of even their own lives. The tears shed through such bitter experiences in their own homeland are still undried, and the poison from the vicious fangs of these beasts is not yet entirely removed. It is, therefore, imperative that these undesirable elements be speedily and completely eliminated. The ancient classics teach us that persons are hailed as kings and queens when they rule with love and kindness and give peace and justice to the people.

Secondly, it has been noted that of late years the good people have been subjected to autocratic rule by those who satisfied their own greed, and that the morality of society has been gradually declining. It should be noted in this connection that society is the foundation of a State, and morality the fountain head of good government. According to the ancient classics, even the wild tribes of the north and south may be governed by loyalty, faith, sincerity and respect. The policy of this Committee is not to follow an anti-foreign program, but to strive for the termination of international strifes and adopt the principle of the open door and equal opportunity and thus cooperate with the other peoples of the world for the realization of the idea of co-prosperity and co-existence.

Thirdly, it is the sincere wish of this Committee to promote peace within the realm and harmonious relations with foreign countries, to develop industry, agriculture and commerce, and thereby bring prosperity to the inhabitants. When

the benefits of good society are equally distributed, class struggle will cease; there will be no intrusion of the Red menace, and the healthy development of the people will be assured.

In order to attain these objectives, the undersigned hereby cause this Committee to be established to ensure the welfare of the people of these Northeastern Provinces and Special Districts, which, in turn, should bring about general happiness for all the races of the Far East. The Heavenly sun is above us. Adhering to this proclamation, come all people and lend us your aid for the execution of this noble cause.

Thus, on the 19th, the Administrative Committee of the Northeastern Provinces adopted the general principles of administration, and on the 24th a satisfactory settlement of all questions was reached. On the 25th of February, a statement relating to the general principles of organization and to the foundation of the new state was released at home and abroad.

Prior to this event, the strong popular demand for a new government grew stronger and stronger until it covered the whole country, while in the meantime, mass meetings were held everywhere.

Then on February 28, representatives of each hsien in Fengtien Province and of the masses assembled at Mukden where a provincial convention was held, and adopted a resolution and declaration voicing the popular request for the establishment of a new state. On the following day or the 29th, a national convention for the acceleration of the foundation of the new State was held at Mukden. This conference was attended by approximately 700 delegates composed of representatives of each province and of each hsien in Fengtien Province, Mongol delegates, representatives of various organizations, of the Manchuria-Mongolia Young

Men's Federation, of Korean residents in both Kirin Province and the Harbin Special District. This convention also adopted a resolution and a declaration, and unanimously passed a proposal to have Mr. Pu Yi installed as the head of the state. Thus ended the great national convention which added much color to the establishment of Manchoukuo.

Establishment of Manchoukuo — After a number of deliberations were held by the Administrative Committee of the Northeastern Provinces, the principles of State organization were definitely adopted on February 24, and were announced to the nation as well as abroad the following day. A similar notice was simultaneously sent to the Fengtien Provincial Government, the Governor's Office of Kirin Province, the Heilungkiang Provincial Office, Harbin, the Governor's Office of the Tungsheng Special Administrative District, the Hulunbair Municipal Office, the Office of Chief of the Chelimu League, the Chaowuta Office and the Chosotu Office.

The main points of the notice were:

1. The new state shall be known as Manchoukuo.
2. The Chief Executive shall be the head of the state.
3. The emblem of Manchoukuo shall be called the new Five-colored Flag.
4. The era shall be called Tatung.
5. Government of the new state shall be conducted according to democratic principles.
6. The capital shall be established at Changchun.

On the 29th, the Organic Law of Manchoukuo and the Law Guaranteeing Civil Rights were adopted, and the foundations of the new state were thus laid. The Organic Law of the Government defined its organizations and powers of the Chief Executive, the Privy

Council, the Legislative Council, the State Council, the Courts and the Supervisory Council. This law was composed of six chapters and a total of thirty-six articles. The Law Guaranteeing Civil Rights, which is composed of twelve articles, guaranteed the liberty and rights of the people living in Manchoukuo, and prescribed their duties.

Furthermore, on March 1, 1932, Chang Ching-hui, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the Northeastern Provinces issued the Proclamation of the Establishment of Manchoukuo in the name of the Manchoukuo Government. In consequence, the new state of Manchoukuo, a nation based on Wangtaoism and on the ideal of racial harmony and mutual existence, was established in East Asia.

Installation of the Chief Executive — Based on the decisions of the Administrative Committee of the Northeastern Provinces and of the National Convention for the Acceleration of the Foundation of the new State, Mr. Pu Yi (former Emperor Hsuan Tung) was chosen Chief Executive, and on February 29, representative of all social classes, expressing the will of the 30,000,000 inhabitants of the country, beseeched Mr. Pu Yi to accept the supreme office, but the request was refused. On March 4, a second mission made renewed efforts to obtain Mr. Pu Yi's consent, and this time, it was successful. The Chief Executive left Port Arthur and arrived at the capital, Changchun, on the 8th. The inaugural ceremony was solemnly held on March 9, 1932, at the Changchun Municipal Office (former official building of the State Council), while midst a jubilant and festive atmosphere, a mass meeting in celebration of the event was held by the citizens of the new capital. Then on March 10, the Government appointed Cheng Hsiao-hsu as Prime Minister, in addition to other high officials, including seven board or bureau chiefs, two

council presidents, and three provincial governors.

Moreover, the new Government by a decree of the Chief Executive under date of March 9, promulgated the Organic Law of Manchoukuo and the Law Guaranteeing Civil Rights which were to form the basis of the new State, as well as the Ordinance Regarding the Provisional Adoption of Former Laws, the Organization Law of the Privy Council, the Organization Law of the State Council, the Organization Law of the Departments of the State Council, the Law Governing the Supervisory Council, the Organization Law of the Bureau of Legislation, the Organization Law of the Division of Statistics, the Organization Law of the General Administrative Office of Hsingan Province, the Ordinance Regarding the Division of Hsingan Province into Three Sub-Provinces, and the Organization Law of the Provincial Governments. Then on the 11th a Rescript was issued by the Chief Executive granting amnesty to prisoners, and relief to stricken people.

In this manner, Manchoukuo, which took its first step forward as an independent state, announced the principles underlying its foundation to the nation and to foreign states, clarified its foreign policy, and for the purpose of obtaining recognition by the community of nations, a communication signed by Foreign Minister Hsieh Chieh-shih, was dispatched to the foreign ministers of seventeen states, under date of March 12, 1932.

III. ADOPTION OF IMPERIAL RULE

Through heavenly help, the sincerity of the people, and the kindly cooperation of the friendly state, Japan, the State's foundations were consolidated within two years after the birth of Manchoukuo. National prosperity was enhanced, peace and order were restored in distant regions, administration progressed in all its phases, and popular life became stabilized, enabling all to engage in and enjoy their daily occupations. Deeply moved by the rapidity with which the evils and corruption of the former regime were eradicated, and by the epochal political, economic, and cultural advancement of the new State, the establishment of Wangtao rule, and the remarkable social changes which enabled them to live in peace and happiness, which they felt were due to the benevolent rule of the Chief Executive, people in increasing numbers began to petition the Chief Executive to ascend the throne as their emperor.

With the time becoming ripe for this historical event, the Government on January 20, 1934 issued a public statement in the name of Prime Minister Cheng Hsiao-hsu, announcing the adoption of Imperial rule. The text of the statement is as follows:

Upon entering the third year of Manchoukuo's independence, it is a matter of great rejoicing to witness that remarkable progress has been made in its national development.

Internally, the peace and order of the country have been secured, while externally, relations between this nation and its friendly neighbour, the Empire of Japan, have become more intimate. Cultural advancement has also been made, and the educational enterprises are now fairly under way.

The foundations of its national finance have been consolidated and the burdens of the people are being lightened; the efficacy of the wise stewardship by the authorities of various industries has enhanced the economic life and welfare of the nation.

Moreover, when blessed with an unprecedentedly abundant harvest last autumn, appropriate measures were instituted and proper guidance given by the Government to the rural populace, who thereupon deeply appreciated the fruition of the principles of "Wangtao" in such a concrete form. These blessings are due to the grace of Heaven, which in turn is attributable, on the one hand, to the fact that the founding of Manchoukuo was in conformity with the will of Heaven and, on the other, to the lofty virtues of His Excellency the Chief Executive, who has labouriously and unremittingly devoted himself to the affairs of the State since he assumed the heavy responsibilities two years ago.

The principle of "Shuntien-Anmin," or obedience to the Heavenly will and happiness of the people, forms the basic ideals on which this nation was founded. The people, observing with their own eyes ample testimonials of Heavenly protection and in praise of the benevolent rule of "Wangtao," are now earnestly and respectfully petitioning that the Chief Executive may ascend the throne in compliance with the will of Heaven.

In these circumstances, realizing that the accession to the throne by the Chief Executive according to the ideals of "Shuntien-Anmin" would not only conform to Heavenly will but would also constitute the natural course of the development of this nation, the Government hereby solemnly declares

that it has submitted to His Excellency the heartfelt petitions and memorials of the officials and people throughout the domain, and that, at the same time, it has enthusiastically commenced preparations for the inauguration of a monarchical regime in this country.

It should be pointed out that the establishment of the new regime under contemplation is only a natural result attending the development of Manchoukuo and its aim lies in the maintenance of lasting peace in the Orient by upholding higher the ideals and mission of the nation as outlined at the time of its founding and by placing the State on a more solid basis. The Government, which has faithfully lived up to these ideals and mission, desires to add in this connection that it will by no means support the idea which confuses the proposed enthronement with the restoration of the Ching dynasty.

Thus, the Chief Executive, highly learned and versed in civil and military arts, performed the enthronement ceremonies as the first Emperor of the State of Manchoukuo at the national capital, Hsinking, on March 1, 1934, according to the will of Heaven and at the earnest entreaty of the people, and granted a gracious Imperial Rescript to his subjects, and assumed the rule over the 30,000,000 inhabitants of the country.

The enthronement ceremonies, based upon simplicity and solemnity, were performed in the following order:

Chiao-chi Ceremony — The classical Chiao-chi Ceremony was held on March 1, 1934, on the dais constructed for the occasion in Shuntien Circle at Hsinhuatsun in the suburbs of Hsinking, the Capital, which was then wrapped in the beautiful green of early spring.

The new monarch who had completed three days of purification, arrived at the ceremonial grounds at 8 a.m.

midst the immense crowds which lined the boulevard leading to the grounds. Greeted by a hundred or more civil and military officials headed by the Prime Minister, and by Ambassador General Takashi Hishikari and a host of foreign dignitaries, and new Emperor, attired in ancient Manchu dress, took his seat on the platform facing the south. At this time, the *Fantsaiyensheng* Ceremony (greeting the God) was performed. The Emperor proceeded to the sacred altar, offered sacred jewels, returned to his place and bowed in reverence. Then he proceeded to the altar again, offered a tripod wine-cup and a congratulatory script, returned to his seat, bowed again in reverence, offered another script, returned to his proper place and bowed again. Next the *Chenghsi* Ceremony (ceremony of the imperial seal) was held, after which the *Sungsheng* and *Sungliao* Ceremonies (sending off the God) followed. With this, the day's ceremonies were completed and the Emperor returned to his palace.

Tungchi Rite — The *Tungchi* Rite (enthronement ceremony) was solemnly held from mid-day in the Chin-min Hall of the Imperial Palace. The Emperor in his military dress uniform upon arrival at the ceremonial hall, greeted by various officials and dignitaries, ascended the throne, affixed the seal on the Imperial Rescript, granted upon His Majesty's accession to the throne, and read the Rescript in a clear voice. Prime Minister Cheng Hsiao-hsu then advanced toward the throne, and presented his felicitations after which cheers of wansui were given by all for the Emperor. Receiving the Imperial Rescript with reverence, the Premier returned to his proper place, and with this the *Tungchi* or Enthronement Ceremony was completed.

On the 2nd and 3rd, the *Hsiangyen* Ceremony (ceremony of granting of the Feast) was held, while the *Ssuyen* Ceremony (ceremony of receiving the Feast) was

held throughout the country. On the day of the *Tungchi* Rite, *Tungchi* celebrations were held in various parts of the country. Wangtao was thoroughly diffused, and all hailed the prosperity of the new Emperor and prayed for His Majesty's longevity.

On March 5, Minister of National Defence Chang Ching-hui was summoned before His Majesty and was granted a military rescript and a rescript of condolence for those who sacrificed themselves for the sake of founding the new State.

The Grand Enthronement Review was held on May 10 at the Hsinking Airport where His Majesty reviewed the pick of his troops. The first military review ever held in Manchoukuo was thus ended with impressive pomp and ceremony.

IV. REFORMS IN ADMINISTRATION

With the enthronement of His Excellency, Chief Executive Pu Yi, as His Majesty Emperor Kangte on the second anniversary of the founding of Manchoukuo, the new State was proclaimed the Empire of Manchou and the name of the era was changed from Tatung to Kangte.

The adoption of Imperial rule was accelerated by the satisfactory solution of the most serious obstacle confronted by Manchoukuo at the time of its creation. This was the establishment of internal peace and order which situation following the Incident turned distinctly for the worse. In addition to the 55,000 habitual bandits operating in Manchuria prior to the Incident, one-third of the remnants of Chang Hsueh-liang's Army of 300,000 became pseudo-patriotic bandits, professing themselves as "patriotic volunteers" after having been disbanded by the Japanese troops or by the force of the provincial Governments which had declared their independence of the former regime. The conducts of these armed hordes were in many cases more cruel than those of the regular bandits who were chiefly interested in their spoils. It was only through the timely collaboration of the Japanese troops that the more obstinate elements were either eliminated or driven out of the country.

Besides the establishment of peace and order, the disorganized administration was gradually improved and the deranged financial condition was adjusted. Also, decisive improvements in communication, commerce and livelihood of the people were realized and the initial enterprises toward the industrial development of the country were commenced.

Thus, on the second anniversary of its founding, the new State was able to bring peace and hope to the 30,000,000 inhabitants of the country which was formerly called the "tinder box" of the Far East. And it was with the sincerest aims that the new Empire of Manchou took its place among the nations of the world.

The outstanding development parallel with the materialization of Imperial rule was the adoption of the new Organic Law which centralized all powers in the throne. Under the new Law, the Emperor represents the State; supervises the sovereign rights and exercises them in accordance with the Organic Law; issues or causes to be issued ordinances for the maintenance of public peace and order and for the execution of laws; possesses the power to declare war, to make peace and to conclude treaties; enjoys the supreme command of the army, navy and air forces; and has the power to grant amnesty, special pardon, commutation of punishments and restoration of civil rights. The Privy Council advises the Emperor of His various functions, while the legislative, judicial, administrative and supervisory authorities execute their respective functions under His general supervision. The people are guaranteed the freedom and rights of their life and property, which guarantees were completely lacking before the establishment of Manchoukuo. The basic philosophy of the new State is the "Wangtao" or the "Way of Benevolent Rule".

The progress of centralization was further improved by either abolishing or reforming all vestiges of the former regime and by incorporating new constitutional principles. Most noticeable in this respect was the introduction of the State Council, the Legislative Council, the Court of Justice and Supervisory Council as chief organs of the central administration. This system of four independent branches of administration is

peculiar to Manchoukuo as the administrative organization in most modern states is that of three independent branches, namely, the executive, the legislative and the judiciary, while that in China is divided into five branches, namely, the executive, the legislative, the judiciary, the supervisory and the examination. Under the Manchoukuo system, the Prime Minister heads the State Council and controls the six departments, namely, Industry, Finance and Commerce, Communication, Peace and Order Judicial and People's Welfare. From the very first day of the founding of the new State, Hon. Cheng Hsiao-hsu, a venerable statesman and a talented man of letters, served as the Prime Minister and after three years of most sacrificial service, retired from the public life in May, 1935. He was succeeded in that responsible office by General Chang Ching-hui, the former Minister of Defence and one of the founders of the new State.

In line with the same spirit of reform, reorganization of local administration was effected on December 1, 1934, when the former "Four North-Eastern Provinces" were replaced by fourteen provinces. Four more provinces were subsequently added by the creation of Tung-hua and Mutankiang Provinces in July, 1938 and Peian and Tungan Provinces in June 1939. Under the new system, province became a mere administrative organ of the Central Government, while the Provincial governor was placed under the charge and supervision of the Prime Minister and the Department Ministers.

Another change effected in the local administration in December, 1934 was the creation of the Department of Mongolian Affairs and the incorporation of the administration of the newly created four Hsingan Provinces under its jurisdiction. This step was taken to protect and to promote the welfare of the Mongolian inhabitants residing in these districts.

With the basic structure having been completed before the end of 1934, the year in which Imperial rule was adopted, further perfection and substantiation for the consummation of a system of a smooth and coordinated execution of administrative affairs were carried out in the subsequent years.

V. PROGRESSIVE DOMESTIC POLICIES

Parallel with the successful renovation of its administrative system Manchoukuo's internal activities became greatly intensified. A general view of Manchoukuo's progressive domestic policies and their activities may be discerned from the following paragraphs:

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION—On March 1, 1933, the Manchoukuo Government proclaimed the "General Outline of the Economic Construction Programme" and boldly enunciated its national economic policy of control. In the brief span of five years, although not without difficulty, the youthful State has succeeded through the great efforts of the Government and people and the wholehearted support of Japan in expanding the nation's productive capacity and in laying a solid foundation for its future development. It was in itself a remarkable achievement in evolving order out of chaos and in setting the stage for sound and positive activity along all phases of national endeavor.

With such a background and with the approaching end of the first five years of construction programme, the Manchoukuo Government in collaboration with the Japanese Government prepared to draw up its second-period construction programme for the ensuing five years. The new programme was ready by the end of 1936 and the Government announced the outline of a new five year construction programme in January, 1937. The second construction programme, requiring a huge expenditure of two and a half billion yuan is designed to meet the need of Japan-Manchoukuo economic bloc and to enable Manchoukuo to develop resources necessary for the eventual establishment of self-sufficiency of goods for consumption within

the country. The object of this programme is the Five Year Industrial Development Plan which aims to establish and expedite important industries and to promote national economy. The smooth execution of this Plan was retarded during the first year of its operation by the sudden outbreak of the China Incident in July 1937. On the other hand because of the outbreak of this Incident, the expansion of the productive capacity in Manchoukuo became increasingly important from the point of view of Japan-Manchoukuo economic bloc to meet the new situation in the Far East. Moreover the new situation demanded the emphasis of expansion in the mining and industrial fields more urgently than in the other departments. The result was the revision of the Five Year Industrial Development Plan. This was effected during the closing months of 1937 and the beginning of 1938.

FINANCIAL REHABILITATION—During the first five years of its statehood from 1932 to 1937, the Manchoukuo Government exerted every effort in laying the basis of a sound fiscal administration by introducing a national budget system; readjusting taxation system; revising government monopoly system; improving tax collecting organs; readjusting government and public enterprises as well as government and public properties and establishing a completely unified currency system through the Central Bank of Manchou. In spite of the deranged conditions of the state finance under the former regime, the Government was able to put these ideals into practice during the first five years. And having thus succeeded in completing the groundwork of a sound national finance by inspiring reliance upon the new State and establishing confidence among the people, the authorities adopted a more constructive fiscal policy after 1938, turning from a conservative policy of internal readjustment to a positive policy of national con-

struction. The period from 1936 to 1938 bridges these two stages in the stabilization of the Manchoukuo fiscal administration. The most noteworthy trends of the period have been the adoption of positive national budgets, the solidification of the customs administration and the expansion of government monopolies.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES—Construction continues to be the synonym of Manchoukuo today. Nowhere else in the world is going on such an extensive range of construction and building activities as in Manchoukuo. Up to and through 1931, the construction activities in Manchuria were nominal. But the establishment of Manchoukuo and its steady growth ever since gave a new lease of life in Manchuria, while the new order of things required above all else, a tremendous amount of construction and building activities after 1932.

The construction activities prior to the Incident in Manchuria were most active in 1918 and 1919, with an annual building of approximately 20,000,000 yuan. They then gradually declined until the amount was reduced in 1931, according to the figures compiled by the Manchuria Building and Engineering Association to 10,853,000 yuan. After the Incident the volume of activities then steadily grew to 28,867,000 yuan in 1932, 104,078,000 yuan in 1933, 154,633,000 yuan in 1934 and 145,449,000 yuan in 1935. Although the activities slightly dropped to 135,674,000 yuan in 1936, they again rose to 161,982,000 yuan in 1937 and 292,829,000 yuan, an all-time record in 1938. The 1938 record is closely linked up with the Five Year Industrial Development Plan and also shows the advance in price of building materials and coolie labour, the rise in the building cost as whole being estimated at 25 to 30 per cent over the previous year.

It was through the execution of the programmes of

these construction activities that Manchoukuo saw the expansion of railway and transportation facilities and the growth of cities all over the country. Not only have old cities grown with leaps and bounds, but new cities have sprung up, especially at the railway junctions in North Manchuria. The outstanding example of these phenomenal construction activities has been the growth of Hsinking as the new capital of Manchoukuo.

Hsinking in 1932 covered an area of 21 square kilometers with a population of 130,000. But in that year, a modern city planning, designed to transform the city into a great metropolis was launched by the Capital Construction Bureau. This first five year programme of capital construction was successfully completed at a total expenditure of 38,667,000 yuan and on September 16, 1937, an impressive ceremony in its celebration was held in the presence of His Majesty the Emperor by the 350,000 inhabitants of the growing Capital. Then, on Jan. 1, 1938, the second three-year project of the capital construction was launched. The rapidity and the efficiency with which Hsinking, the new metropolis of the Far East, has grown overshadow the growth of Canberra, the new capital of Australia, whose speed and extent of project caught the imagination of the world. A remarkable progress is being witnessed in the construction activities at Mutankiang, the new industrial center in Eastern Manchoukuo, and also at Mukden, the center of the Tiehsi industrial district.

An unprecedented expansion has also been effected in the construction of railways which importance cannot be over-emphasized from the standpoint of development of the natural resources. The total railway mileage, of approximately 1,400 kilometers under the South Manchuria Railway management at the time of the founding of Manchoukuo, has within the short duration of seven years topped the unbelievable mark of 10,000

kilometers.

Then, again, the Government has exerted every effort to expand and renovate the educational facilities. Concerning the reorganization of the educational system, far reaching plans were adopted soon after the founding of the State and investigations and studies were made to improve the course of studies and to raise the standard of education. Initial revision was effected in December, 1936, while by virtue of an Imperial Ordinance promulgated in May, 1937, general rules of education and school regulations were made public, thus bringing about a new stage in the history of education in Manchoukuo. According to the new system, education in Manchoukuo is composed of three types of schools, namely elementary, middle and higher schools, and two divisions, normal training and vocational training. Another change was effected in July following, when as the result of the government revision, the Department of Education was abolished and all administration of educational affairs was transferred to the newly organized Department of People's Welfare within which the Bureau of Education, Bureau of Social Affairs and the Bureau of Public Health were established.

In order to execute the programmes of the new educational system, more schools were established from year to year in addition to providing other educational facilities. Also increasing number of social and cultural facilities have been provided so that the people may enjoy the benefits of civilization which the new State has brought within their reach.

As further evidence of the growth of Manchoukuo, the population of the country, which totalled 30,000,000 inhabitants at the time of its founding, has topped the mark of 40,000,000 today.

VI. GROWING RADIUS OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

As Manchoukuo came to enjoy the real benefit of statehood with the restoration of peace and order and with the adjustment of political, economic, industrial and general administrative systems, the international position of the new nation was considerably enhanced.

On March 3, 1934, two days after the new State became an Empire, the Republic of El Salvador accorded Manchoukuo formal recognition and notes of friendship were exchanged between the Prime Ministers of the two countries. In April of the same year, the Holy See dispatched a special representative and gave notification of the recognition of Manchoukuo as an independent mission field and the appointment of a Vatican representative to the Empire of Manchou. The Holy See's move favorably affected the position of Catholic missionaries in Manchoukuo and greatly enhanced the prestige of Manchoukuo in the eyes of the Catholic nations of the world. Then on October 26 following, the Prime Minister of the Dominican Republic forwarded a friendly message to Manchoukuo.

The year 1935 was one of epoch-making period for Manchoukuo for it saw the transfer of the Soviet interest in the Chinese Eastern Railway to Manchoukuo. This meant the official exit of the Soviet Union from North Manchuria and the passing of the last vestige in Manchuria of the Russian imperialism for a Far Eastern Empire. The negotiations for this transfer were conducted in Tokyo by the Hirota-Youreneff conversations and the final agreement which was acceptable both to Moscow and Hsinking was signed at Tokyo with a gala ceremony on March 23, 1935. The conclusion of this

agreement signified under the international law, Soviet's de facto recognition of the Government of Manchoukuo. It also ushered in a new era of railway transportation in Manchoukuo by opening the way to a through-train service between Dairen and Harbin.

Another outstanding event which occurred in 1935 was the visit of His Majesty, the Emperor of Manchoukuo, to Japan. The impressive meetings of the Emperors of Japan and Manchoukuo took place on April 6 amidst the great rejoicings of the people of both nations and eternally cemented the friendly ties between them.

The object of the visit of His Majesty to Japan was, first of all, to return the courtesy of the dispatch of H. I. H. Prince Chichibu as an Imperial envoy to Hsinking in 1934 by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on the occasion of the establishment of Imperial regime in Manchoukuo. In the second place, the visit was a personal expression of gratitude by His Majesty to the Japanese nation for the great and constant assistance extended to Manchoukuo since its creation. In the third place, His Majesty personally exemplified the ideal of Nippon-Manchou friendship which His Majesty has constantly at heart.

Upon returning from this historic visit to Japan, His Majesty the Emperor promulgated an Imperial Rescript on May 2, 1935 in which he proclaimed that the spirit of the Oriental morality and the principle of oneness in virtue and spirit should govern the relations between the two countries.

In October of the same year, a delegation of British industrialists under the leadership of Lord Barnby visited Manchoukuo on an inspection tour to examine economic conditions in the new State. Upon its return home, the party made public a report on its visit and observations, which included among others certain points that rectified the errors made in the Lytton

Report to the League of Nations.

Germany, not to be outdone by others, despatched an economic inspection party to observe economic conditions in this country and to exchange views for the promotion of trade relations between the two countries. As a sequel to this tour, Germany in April of the following year signed the Manchoukuo-German Trade Agreement, by virtue of which Manchoukuo was accorded de facto recognition. Furthermore, Manchoukuo-German relations were greatly improved by the conclusion of the Japan-Manchoukuo-German Anti-Comintern Pact in November of the same year. An exchange of trade representatives was effected subsequently between Manchoukuo and Germany and in August, 1938, formal diplomatic relations were commenced between the two countries through the exchange of ministers, while in September of the following year, the second Manchoukuo-German Trade Agreement was concluded.

The Italian Government, on November 20, 1936, officially informed the Manchoukuo Government of its desire to open a consulate-general at Mukden. This request was met on December 1, 1936, and the Italian Consulate-General was established at Mukden soon afterward. Almost a year later, on November 6, 1937, Italy joined the Japanese-German Anti-Comintern Pact and on November 29, 1937, the Italian Government announced its recognition of Manchoukuo. Diplomatic relations were opened between the two countries when Italy appointed its first minister to Hsinking in January of the following year and Manchoukuo its first to Italy in February of the same year. The usual Treaty of Amity, Commerce and Navigation was concluded on July 5, 1938. Then during 1938, the Italian goodwill mission and the Italian economic mission visited Manchoukuo, while the latter sent its goodwill mission to Italy and to the anti-Comintern nations, Germany and Spain for the

purpose of strengthening their common ties and friendly relations.

During 1937, Manchoukuo took steps to recognize the Franco Government as the rightful Government of Spain and official notes providing for the exchange of recognitions were exchanged at Tokyo on December 2, 1937. This move as the notes indicated was another step forward towards the furtherance of an international united front against the destructive policies of the Third International.

The Hungarian recognition of Manchoukuo was officially communicated to Hsinking on January 10, 1939, by Foreign Minister Csaky of Hungary. Premier Chang Ching-hui immediately replied and extended official recognition of Hungary by the Manchoukuo Government.

As the international position of Manchoukuo was considerably enhanced by these developments, third Powers which vigorously opposed the establishment of Manchoukuo within and without the League of Nations began to realize the necessity of re-examining the true and actual conditions in Manchoukuo and a tremendous increase in the number of visitors to the new State composed of statesmen, industrialists, educators, newspapermen, etc., was seen as time went on. Furthermore, prompted by the economic potentialities of the new country, an increasing number of influential industrialists and businessmen of foreign countries have displayed a desire to invest in Manchoukuo.

The phenomenal progress of Manchoukuo in the international field was made possible through the untiring assistance of Japan which led the way to the recognition of the new State. The Japanese recognition took the form of the Japan-Manchoukuo Protocol which was signed on September 15, 1932. Under this Protocol, the contracting Parties bound themselves to take

measures of joint defence against aggression with the understanding that a menace to either party's territorial integrity and domestic security would be deemed as such to those of the other.

In line with its policy of assisting Manchoukuo to attain the status of a full-fledged sovereign state, Japan concluded with the new State the Japan-Manchoukuo Postal Treaty on December 26, 1935, whereby the latter took over the Japanese postal administrative rights in the South Manchuria Railway Zone.

As a further evidence of this unselfish policy, Japan agreed in 1935 to negotiate with Manchoukuo for the abolition of extraterritoriality in Manchoukuo and the transfer of administrative rights over the South Manchuria Railway Zone as the new State began to display its ability and efficiency as an independent state. After almost three years of studies, deliberations and negotiations, the final agreements were signed on November 5, 1937, at the State Council Hall in Hsinking by General Kenkichi Uyeda, the Japanese Ambassador to Manchoukuo and Marshal Chang-Ching-hui, the Prime Minister of Manchoukuo.

By this Treaty, which went into force on December 1, 1937, the Japanese Government officially relinquished its extraterritorial rights in Manchoukuo and transferred to the latter country its administrative rights over the South Manchuria Railway Zone. The Treaty then affirmed that, subject to the stipulations of the Supplementary Agreements, Japanese subjects shall be governed within Manchoukuo territories by the provisions of Manchoukuo laws and ordinances but that "Japanese subjects shall not, under any circumstances, be accorded less favorable treatment than that which is or may be accorded to the nationals of Manchoukuo," the same principles being applicable to juristic persons as well as individuals.

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The materialization of this epochal event helped to point out once more to the world that Manchoukuo is an independent State and that she had introduced within her borders the principle of racial equality and harmony by eliminating extraterritoriality. Viewing from the standpoint of the native inhabitants of the country, the effect of this event was far reaching. It meant to them the abolition of a humiliating system, which the people had beared for almost a century since 1844 and gave to them further impetus to strive for the development of their new State. Moreover, the fact that such an epochal transition of first magnitude was consummated with an amazing smoothness is to the credit of all parties concerned. And the satisfactory result of the procedure has strongly underwritten Japan's noble aims and trust placed upon Manchoukuo, as well as a phenomenal progress made in all phases of Manchoukuo's statehood.

Thus, Manchoukuo, in the brief span of nine years since its establishment, has made phenomenal progress, disproving the pessimistic observation made by Lytton Commission to the effect that "that there is no indication that this Government will in fact be able to carry out many of its reforms." Not only has Manchoukuo achieved today complete domestic stabilization, but has also attained a definite place among the nations of the world. With its unlimited fertile agricultural lands and inexhaustive supply of natural resources and a rapidly growing industry and population, the new State only awaits further perfection and advancement to realize the noble aims for which it was founded.

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