

RISE IN CUSTOMS GRANTED TO CHINA

Powers Accede in Part to Nation's Request.

TROOPS ALSO OPOSED

Conferences of Ambassadors at Peking Are Ordered to Take Care of Problems.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—(By the Associated Press.)—The powers acceded in part today to China's request that foreign restrictions on her tariff system be removed and that steps be taken toward withdrawing foreign troops from her soil.

Under an agreement adopted in the far eastern committee of the arms conference an increase estimated at \$16,000,000 in Chinese customs receipts will be granted immediately through modification of existing treaties and machinery will be set in motion for further increases when they are warranted by reform in Chinese tariff administration.

By another resolution adopted foreign ambassadors are ordered to confer with Chinese officials whenever China so requests, relative to execution of the declared purpose of the powers to withdraw troops in each case where conditions make it practicable.

Chinese Are Disappointed. Regarding the troops declaration, the Chinese delegation expressed themselves as disappointed that the tariff settlement had not fixed a definite date on which foreign supervision of the Chinese customs would be withdrawn altogether.

The meeting of the committee, the first since December 14, was devoted to consideration of the tariff and foreign-troop proposals. The Chinese finding no prospect of success in their request that the "11 demands" controversy be brought into the conference for review.

As a supplement to the tariff resolution, the special sub-committee, headed by Senator Underwood, recommended adoption of a declaration advising China to take "immediate and effective steps" to reduce her military forces.

Maintenance of "excessive" land armament, the sub-committee held, had seriously impaired Chinese domestic economic life and become a difficult barrier to the nation's restoration to financial stability.

Suggestion to Be Revised. The suggestion was referred to a draft committee for revision, but indications tonight seemed to point to its adoption later.

In presenting the tariff revision plan, under which China immediately would have a "effective" tariff of 10 per cent in force, Senator Underwood declared that the new arrangement not only would greatly benefit China but would be a long step toward promotion of general trade and international peace in the far east.

Dr. Koo, replying for the Chinese, conceded that the agreement was "valuable," but added that China could only regard any continuation of the present foreign control of her tariff as "an infringement of her sovereignty."

Handicap Is Alleged. He argued also that maintenance of the foreign tariff control system meant a continued handicap to the opening of China to foreign trade, contributed to low social and moral standards among the Chinese and worked many injustices through placing the interests of the great powers above those of the Chinese republic. It was added that in according to the present plan, China especially reserved the right to continue her effort for complete tariff autonomy.

Senator Underwood then informed the Chinese that until they had cleaned house any further restoration of the tariff powers they had surrendered in formal treaties would, in the view of the other nations, be China's detriment and to the injury of the world.

When China had established a parliamentary government, the United States had dispensed with the military control that now exists. In many parts of the republic, he declared, she might be ready to renounce ideas of sovereignty to which she is aspiring.

Agreement Is Adopted. The agreement, as reported by the subcommittee and adopted by the far eastern committee, follows: "Powers attending this conference agree: "1. That immediate steps be taken through a special conference representing China and the powers which accept this agreement to prepare the way for the speedy abolition of Likin and the fulfillment of the other conditions laid down in article eight of the Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty of September 5, 1902, and the corresponding articles of the United States and Japanese treaties, with a view to levying the surtaxes as provided in those articles.

"2. That the present tariff on importation of raw silk be reduced and raised to a basis of 5 per cent effective.

"Revision to Be Made at Once. "That the revision shall be carried out forthwith by a revision commission at Shanghai under the general lines of the last revision. The revision shall proceed as rapidly as possible with a view to its completion within four months and the revised tariff shall become effective two months after publication.

"3. That the interim provisions, to be applied until the articles referred to in paragraph one come into operation, be considered by the aforesaid special conference which shall authorize the levying of a surtax on dutiable imports as from such date, for such purposes, and subject to such conditions as they may determine. The surtax shall be at a uniform rate of 2 1/2 per cent ad valorem except in the case of certain articles of luxury which, in the opinion of the conference, can bear a greater increase without unduly impeding trade, and upon which the total surtax shall not exceed 5 per cent.

Further Revision Ordered. "4.—1. That there shall be a further revision of the tariff to take effect at the expiration of four years following the completion of the immediate revision herein authorized in order to insure that the rates shall correspond to the ad valorem rates fixed.

"2. That following this revision there shall be periodical revisions of the tariff every seven years for the same purpose.

"3. That to prevent delay such periodical revisions shall be effected in accordance with rules to be set by the special conference provided in paragraph 1.

"4.—That in all matters relating to customs duties there shall be effected equality of treatment and of opportunity for all nations parties to this agreement.

"5.—That the principle of uniformity in the rates of customs duties levied on all the frontiers, land and maritime, of China be recognized and that it be referred to the special conference mentioned in paragraph 1 to make arrangements to give effect to this principle.

"6.—That the powers which have power to authorize any adjustments which may appear equitable in cases in which the customs privilege be abolished or granted in return for some local economic favor.

Uniform Rate Provided. "In the meantime any increase in the rates of customs duties or surtax imposed in pursuance of this agreement, shall be levied with a uniform rate ad valorem on all frontiers, land and maritime.

"7.—That the charges for transit valorem shall be at 1/2 per cent ad valorem except when the arrangements contemplated in paragraph 1 are in force.

"8.—That the treaty powers not here represented shall be invited to accept the agreement.

"9.—That this agreement shall provide for the payment of the balance between China and the powers which accept it which are inconsistent with its terms.

The delegation for China submitted the following communication which was unanimously agreed should form a part of the agreement.

Troops Resolution Adopted. "The powers, with respect to withdrawal of foreign troops from China, follow: "Whereas, the powers have from time to time demanded the withdrawal of their troops from China, including police and railway guards in China, to protect their lives and property of foreigners lawfully in China.

"And whereas it appears that certain of these armed forces are maintained in China without the authority of any treaty or agreement; "And whereas, the powers have declared their intention to withdraw their armed forces from China without the authority of any treaty or agreement, whenever China shall assure the protection of the lives and property of foreigners in China.

"And whereas, China has declared her intention and capacity to assure the protection of the lives and property of foreigners in China.

"Now, to the end that there may be clear understanding of the intentions upon which in each case the official execution of those intentions must depend, "It is resolved: "That the diplomatic representatives in Peking of the powers now in conference at Washington, to-wit: the United States of America, Belgium, the British empire, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Portugal, will be instructed by their respective governments, whenever China shall so request, to associate themselves with the representatives of the Chinese government to conduct, collectively, a full and impartial inquiry into the issues raised by the foregoing declarations of intention made by the powers and by China and shall thereafter prepare a full and comprehensive report setting out without reservation their findings of fact and their opinions with regard to the matter hereby referred for inquiry, and shall furnish a copy of said report to each of the powers concerned, which shall severally make public the report with such comment as each may deem appropriate. "That the representatives of any powers may make or join in minority reports stating their differences, if any, from the majority report.

"That each of the powers above named shall be free to accept or reject any special concession, favor, benefit or immunity, whether political or economic."

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This the Chinese said they were unable to do, but agreed to make three payments over the nine months period, the last to be made at the actual turning over of the road.

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About 25,000,000 gallons remain, and the time required for it to disappear will be longer, for the loose granting of permits has been checked. In the course of a few years, therefore, this whisky will either disappear or be so reduced in amount as to be more easily controlled. When that has happened the only sources of illicit supply will be moonshining and smuggling. Neither of these is so troublesome as the existing supply in bonded warehouses has been, and when the work of the prohibition officials can be devoted wholly to these two methods of law-breaking, prohibition enforcement will not be so lax as it is now.

Law Change Not in Prospect. There is no sign on the part of the government of any disposition other than a more and more complete tightening of the law. As far as any change in the law by congress is concerned, there isn't the faintest prospect of any such development in a very few districts candidates will run for congress on some sort of modified wet platform. In one state, New Jersey, a congressman "wet" is expected to try for the senate.

But as a whole the congress that will exist after the coming election will be no less dry than the present one. Every evidence points to the likelihood of much more effective enforcement. More solidified public sentiment in its favor, and the ultimate disappearance of the whisky now in existence. Whisky is the big factor in the whisky business, the amount of liquor now legally in existence is negligible.

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