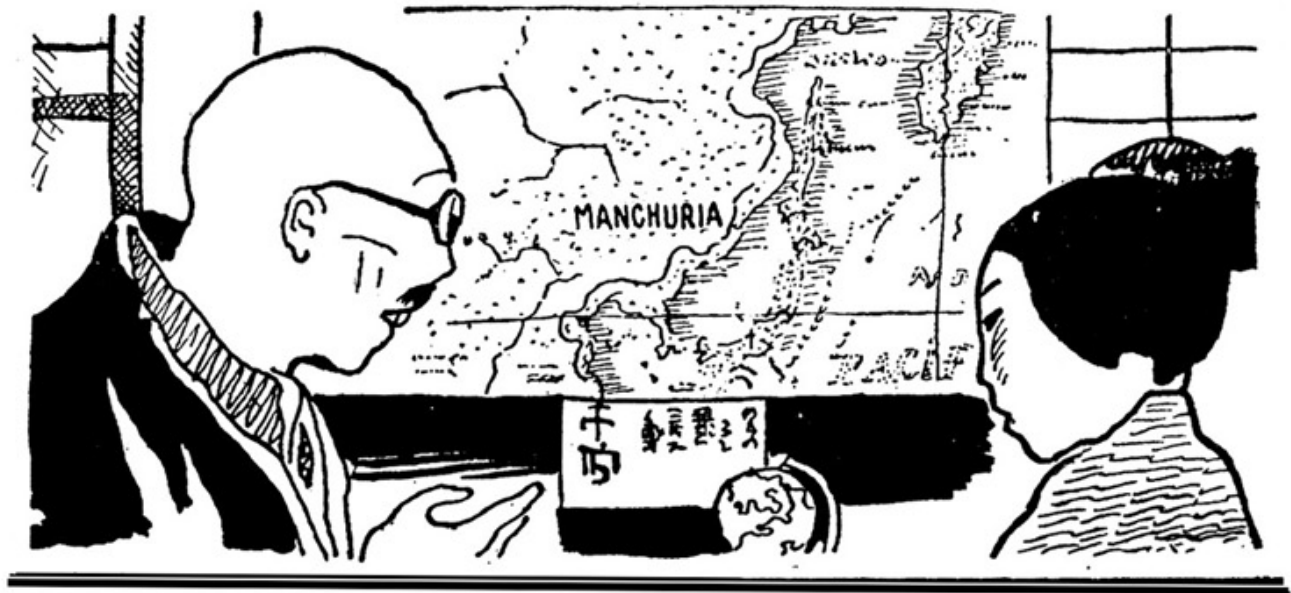


The Chino-Japanese Truce of Tangku



A Bright Japanese Pupil

Teacher: What are the boundaries of Japan?

Schoolgirl: I don't know. I haven't read this morning's paper yet.

—Krokodil (Moscow).

“**T**O THE LAST MAN and the last bullet.”

That for months was the rallying cry of Chinese government agencies to keep indomitable the spirit of the Chinese nation against Japanese aggression.

It brought enormous contributions from the Chinese people at home as well as abroad. But all the efforts of the civilian population, and all the stout-heartedness of China's soldiers would seem to have been wasted, some think, when the Chinese-Japanese truce of Tangku was signed on May 31. Tangku is the port of Trinidad, thirty miles east of that city, on the Po Gulf.

Thus ends the five months' sanguinary offensive in North China which threatened to result in Japanese military occupation of Tientsin and Peiping.

Looking backward even farther a Tientsin Associated Press correspondent recalls that the armistice comes after nearly two years of intermittent warfare in Manchuria, the Chinese Province of Jehol, and in North China, during which, it is estimated, China lost more than 50,000 men and the Japanese 10,000.

As summarized in Shanghai press cables the terms of the truce provide that the Chinese troops shall withdraw behind a line 130 miles long which runs parallel to and from twenty-five to thirty-five miles east of the Tientsin-Peiping Railway.

The Japanese Army is permitted to insure that the Chinese troop withdrawal is carried out, by airplane reconnaissance or other means.

The Chinese military are to give full facilities for the protection of the Japanese observers.

When the withdrawal of the Chinese troops is completed the Japanese agree that their own troops will retire to the Great Wall, which the Japanese claim is the boundary of the State of Manchukuo.

CABLES TO THE LITERARY DIGEST from the Chinese and the Japanese press show that some Chinese editors strongly object to what they consider “impositions” in the truce agreement. Thus the independent Shanghai *Shun Pao* remarks:

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withdraw unwatched—a fact which is objectionable in principle and likely to cause complications.”

The old complaint about “a defenseless China” is voiced by the Shanghai *Sin Wan Pao*, which declares bitterly:

“Had China heeded the lessons of the Chino-Japanese war of '95 she would not now be compelled to suffer this new humilia-

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tion. It is high time the Government act to improve the Army, build the Navy and to centralize authority.”

Sin Wan Pao also expresses apprehension over the possible results the truce may have on China's domestic situation. But a pro-Government newspaper, the *Shanghai China Press* speaks in a different strain:

“From many view-points the Government should be congratulated on ending a situation well-nigh unendurable. Doubtless the troops were prepared to continue the unequal strife, but no lasting advantage could have been won by their self-sacrifice. The wise course was to face realities.”

CABLES TO THE LITERARY DIGEST from the Japanese press show how glad the Japanese are to stop fighting, even tho they have been winning all along the line. The independent and rather sensational *Asahi Shimbun* declares:

“The great success was the speedy signature. The Japanese have no other ambition than to preserve peace along the borders of Manchukuo and the peace of the Far East.

“The Chinese challenge against Japan and Manchukuo led to the Japanese advancement beyond the Great Wall.

“We must recognize Chinese sincerity in proposing the truce and in their endeavors to settle unpleasant affairs. We hope that the Chinese will strictly observe the agreement and extend their sincerity to the realization of a political settlement of all pending questions.”