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The Chino-Japanese Death Grapple at the Great Wall

When All Was Quiet Along the Great Wall

Lord Lytton (left), Chairman of the League of Nations Manchurian Commission of Inquiry, and Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, as they met months ago in the region where the Marshal's Chinese troops are now in a life and death struggle over Jehol Province which the Japanese claim as part of Manchukuo.

IS THERE ANY LIMITATION on the present policy of Japan?

This is the question said to be asked by friends of both China and Japan.

It becomes more pressing as Peiping Associated Press dispatches tell of a major battle between Japanese and Chinese armies for possession of Chiumenkow Pass in the Great Wall of China. The Pass is one of the most important gateways leading into the rich province of Jehol which, it is reported, Japan purposes to cut off from China and add to Manchukuo.

This collision forms the second chapter in the Shanhaikwan dispute—and it comes quickly.

A British offer to mediate for a settlement with China was rejected by Japanese authorities, who suggested direct negotiations on terms which the Chinese consider impossible.

In the first place, Japanese officials, according to Peiping United Press dispatches, refuse to entertain a third party in the wrangle. Also they propose that direct negotiations begin with the Chinese on the basis of apologies for the Shanhaikwan incident from Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang and from Gen. Ho Chu Kuo, commander of the Shanhaikwan garrison, and withdrawal of the Chinese west to Shihho and the Japanese east to the Great Wall.

Chinese infantry, wearing Tommy helmets, arrive at their destination

But the Japanese insist, we are told also, that they maintain control of Shanhaikwan without establishing a neutral area.

How resolute and daring the Japanese feeling is may be gathered from editorials cabled to THE LITERARY DIGEST from the Tokyo press. Perhaps the most revealing statement is that of the independent and somewhat sensational *Miyako Shimbun*, which declares:

"Japan's action to prevent the Chinese from entering Jehol and violating the territory of Manchukuo is an unavoidable measure of self-defense. While at present it is unlikely that any serious developments in Jehol will take place, a clash may be inevitable if the Chinese refuse to reconsider their policy. Future developments depend entirely upon the Chinese.

"The Shanhaikwan incident is proving suicidal to Chang Hsueh-liang, regardless of whether it was due to his personal intrigues or to decisions of the recent plenum at Nanking. He seems unaware that opposing war-lords are knocking at the gates of Peiping while his troops are wandering into Jehol. If he is defeated in Jehol by the Japanese, he will have no place to go."

No worry seems to be felt by the Japanese as far as the League of Nations is concerned. For instance, the leading commercial newspaper of Japan, *Chugai Shogyo Shimpo*, assures its readers that China is "the cause of it all," and it argues:

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the Great Wall

"It is possible that the League will attempt to intervene in the Shanhaikwan affair because of Chinese propaganda. However, we are not worried, because the world eventually will learn that China was responsible because of her preparations for hostilities in Jehol."

What some Chinese editors think of the League of Nations is no more flattering than the foregoing. In a cabled editorial to THE LITERARY DIGEST the Shanghai *China Times*, a Kuomintang (Nationalist party) organ, remarks cynically:

A Japanese Sentry Stands at his post.

"The Shanhaikwan seizure was not surprizing. China should now awaken from its illusions regarding the League of Nations, which is dominated entirely by France and Great Britain. We should not concern ourselves further with the League, but our sole concern should be the defense of what remains of our national territory."

ANOTHER Kuomintang newspaper, the Shanghai *China Press*, is bitter against the "mendacious diplomats" of the Japanese, and cries out angrily:

"The destruction of the Kuomintang Government, and any other Chinese Government which stands for national interests, is to-day the avowed object of the Japanese. They are now inside the wall while a pretense of conciliation is maintained by their mendacious diplomats."

The Shanghai *Sin Wan Pao* attributes the capture of Shanhaikwan to the smallness and inadequacy of the Chinese garrison, and it avers:

"Japan's purpose is to isolate Jehol, then bring pressure on Tientsin and Peiping and demand settlement on her own terms."

JUST what Japan's aims are is a question in the mind of the Shanghai *North China Daily News*, a British-owned newspaper, which asserts:

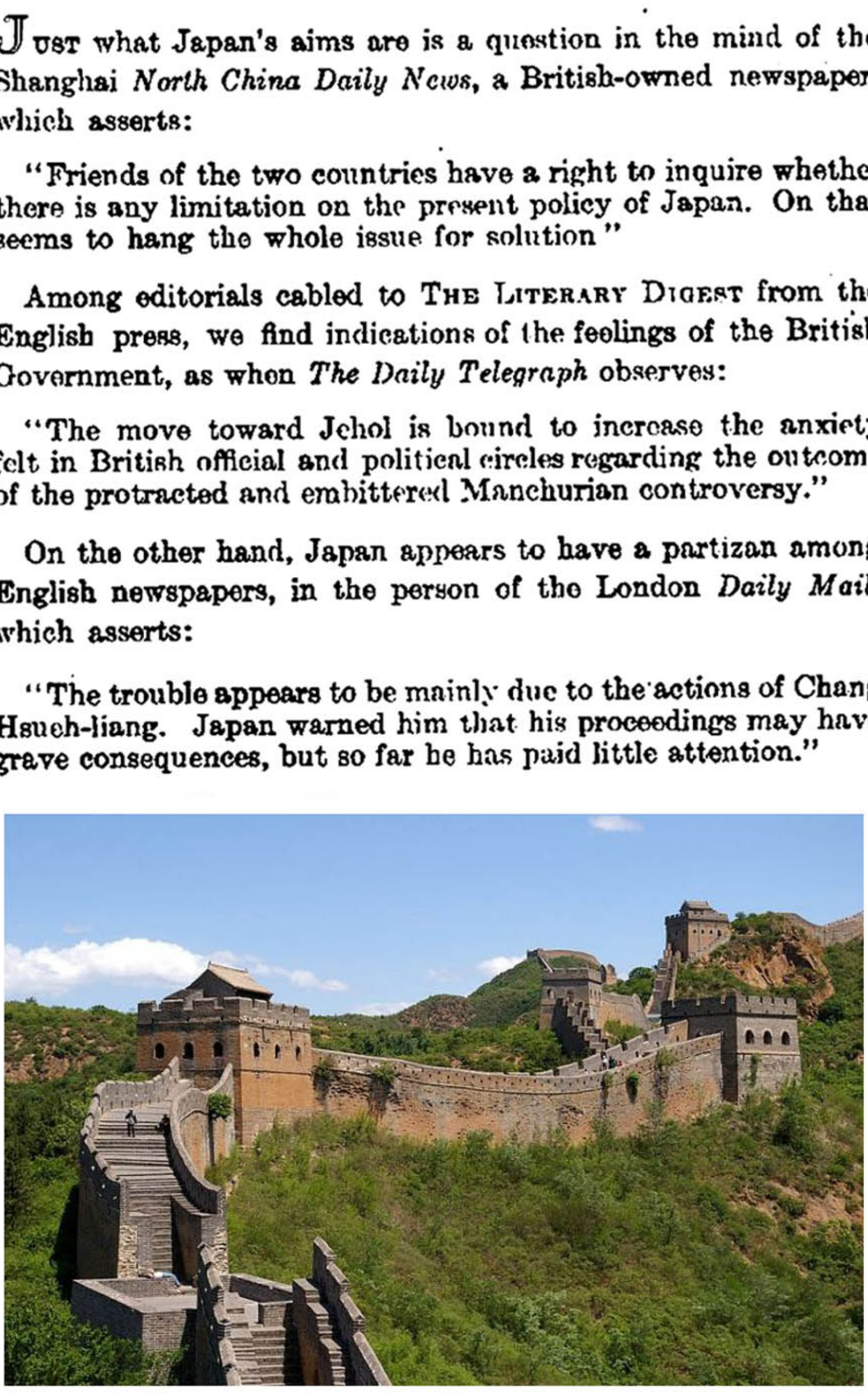
"Friends of the two countries have a right to inquire whether there is any limitation on the present policy of Japan. On that seems to hang the whole issue for solution"

Among editorials cabled to THE LITERARY DIGEST from the English press, we find indications of the feelings of the British Government, as when *The Daily Telegraph* observes:

"The move toward Jehol is bound to increase the anxiety felt in British official and political circles regarding the outcome of the protracted and embittered Manchurian controversy."

On the other hand, Japan appears to have a partizan among English newspapers, in the person of the London *Daily Mail*, which asserts:

"The trouble appears to be mainly due to the actions of Chang Hsueh-liang. Japan warned him that his proceedings may have grave consequences, but so far he has paid little attention."



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