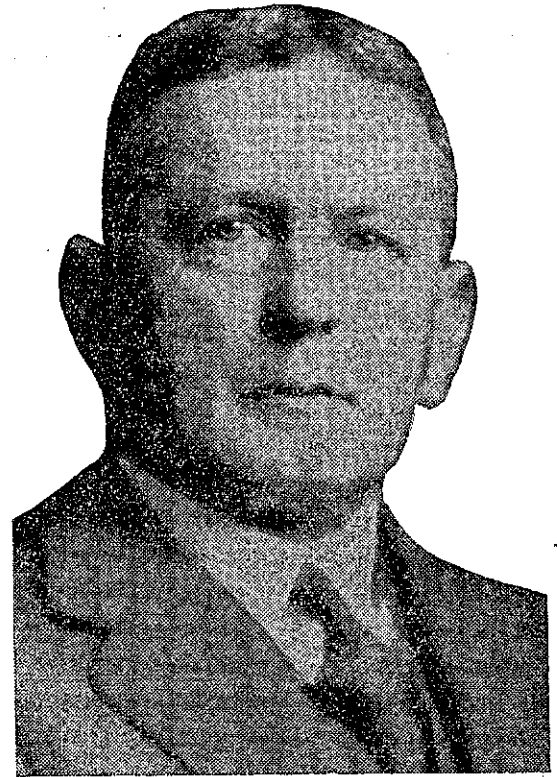


Japan WILL stay in Manchuria

In the following article, delivered recently from 2YA as a talk by Dr. Guy H. Scholefield, is given an illuminating recital of hard economic facts which portend a permanent Eastern change. In view of the latest development of serious hostilities between Japan and China, this article will be of especial topical interest.



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authoritative works on national affairs. Every
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THE position in Manchuria to-day seems very much as it has been for the past three months. The main difference is that Japan has taken firmer hold of the control of the country and has made it clear to the League of Nations that she does not intend to relinquish it. She asserts that the position is not changed, except for the better, and that she has no intention of usurping the sovereignty of the country.

The Chinese troops are quite incapable of resisting the Japanese. Many of them have been ordered to withdraw so as to avoid a collision, while others are held checkmated by the Japanese.

Japan claims that her energy just now is absorbed in combating the bandits in Manchuria. And no doubt they are. You must remember that not long ago Manchuria was a wilderness, with a very sparse population, mostly of nomads—a happy hunting ground for bandits. In fact, the outer provinces of a country like China are normally infested by robbers. (It is not so very long since Australia and even New Zealand had their lawless characters in the back-blocks). They were eliminated by the construction of railways and roads into the interior. In Manchuria there are vast tracts which are still uprooted, and there are herds of men who have not settled down, and find it easier to make a living by robbery than by work. It is alleged that the Japanese, even if they have not "rigged" this bandit menace, have been only too glad to be able to point to it as a reason for their operations in Manchuria, but it is wise to be careful of accepting suggestions of this sort from either side. Times of great excitement do not tend

to produce reliable news.

Observers all seem to agree that the Chinese themselves are quite incapable of keeping order in Manchuria, just as their soldiers are incapable of resisting those of Japan. The Chinese are not a martial people. It is pathetic to see them put into a position when they must either fight or suffer a great loss of territory and of self-respect.

Mr. O. D. Rasmussen, in the December "Fortnightly Review" gives an interesting description of the Chinese soldier of the present day.

They have no military traditions at all. As fighting men they are rarely effective in attack. For this reason a most successful Chinese general, Chang tso Lin, used Russians and Japanese as shock troops in the recent faction wars. The Chinese have many old-fashioned notions about war. During the revolution in 1912 the fighting at Hankow started at sunrise each day, and stopped punctually at 11 o'clock for lunch. When Hankow was in danger twelve months ago the rebels estimated carefully the time it ought to take for the Government troops to reach the town, and made their arrangements for resistance accordingly. When the troops arrived by forced marches a few days earlier and took the



Japanese soldiers on duty at a city street barricade in Shanghai—a scene typical of the military operations in the affected area.

(Concluded on page 24.)