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Mongolia General

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(FOLIO 165)

BRIT. EMBASSY
SHANGHAI/PEKING

132/1938

SURRENDER OF MONGOL LANDS AND FEUDAL RIGHTS :

ACTION

P. 14
132
1938

BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL,
MUKDEN.

No. 168.

October 21st, 1938.

Copies to :-

Foreign Office
in P.L.138,
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11/11/38

1 NOV REC'D

Sir :-

I have the honour to report that on October 18th the former Mongol princes and banner chiefs of Manchoukuo formally offered the surrender of their lands and feudal rights to the government. The following day His Majesty the Emperor received them in audience and accepted the offer. This historic ceremony marks the completion, so far as Manchuria is concerned, of the peaceful absorption of territory which fifty years ago belonged to Mongolia.

2. At that time the frontier reached points a little short of Tsitsihar in the north and the present Harbin, Hsinking and Ssupingkai in the east. But in the peaceful arts the Mongol is no match for the Chinese merchant and settler who have steadily advanced westward to the present frontier leaving the Mongol overlords, who remained, in isolated patches of territory which they continued to administer under Chinese suzerainty.

3. Since 1932 the government has used every effort to conciliate these lordlings allowing them to continue to collect certain long-established taxes and guaranteeing them protection. But their influence was bound to decline and their revenues with it. Nor have they the energy, the skill or the experience to manage and develop their so-called /

His Excellency,

Sir Archibald Kerr Clark Kerr, K.C.M.G.,

etc., etc., etc.,

British Embassy,

SHANGHAI.

called open lands. Their continued rights were an anachronism.

4. The government has simultaneously issued bonds to the amount of six million yuan which are to be held in trust and the interest of 240,000 yuan is to be paid annually to the former princes and nobles. This gift takes the form, not of payment for their lands and rights, but of a reward for distinguished services to the new state and was announced earlier on October 12th. A sum of 3,000,000 yuan is to be dispensed annually for the uplift of the Mongols. Finally a sum of 500,000 yuan is to be distributed among the banners to be used in undertakings to commemorate the occasion.

5. The area of land affected is not stated nor the nature of the measures to be taken to convert the Mongol population into useful members of the state. The bulk of the land is in the Hsingan Provinces. Thirteen years ago when the railway running from Ssupingkai to Tsitsihar was completed great stretches looked desert land to the inexperienced eye but that it was suitable for cultivation was proved by the swarms of immigrants then arriving.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

Oswald White

Consul-General.