

clamation, with governmental powers. In every instance so far, if the testimony of the foreign press can be trusted the Chinese authorities have handled the critical situation to the best of their ability, and so far have relieved the communities in the railway area of anxiety and of apprehension. The Chinese Government in accordance with the terms of the original contract with the Russian Government, has been providing protection for the railway and for the persons in its service to the very best of its ability, and if it has been found, in the opinion of some of the Powers, that the protection has not been adequate, the inadequacy really has been due more to the difficulties which are consequence upon the political disorganization in Russia, than to any lack of determination of the part of China fully to discharge her obligation. In fact, thanks to the protection thus given, the Chinese Eastern Railway is still in operation while some of the other railways in the Trans-Siberian system are in very unsatisfactory condition. Therefore, I desire to express the hope that the Committee in considering this second resolution, be good enough to bear in mind the observations which I was permitted to make at this time.

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