

going on by private communications with the reactionaries.

When Yuan retired from the audience he started for the railway station, where he waited for a friend, with whom he proceeded to Tientsin. On his arrival in Tientsin that evening he called on Jung Lu, who said to him:—"You have come for my head. You had better confess all, because a man (Yang Chung-i, whose son married the daughter of Lord Li Ching-fang), who was here just now before you came, has told me everything." Yuan answered:—"What you have heard is but the plot of a few political schemers. His Majesty the Emperor said nothing to me about such a plan and he is innocent of such a measure." When they got as far as that part of the conversation the late Admiral Yeh was announced, and later on Ta Yu-wen arrived. They stayed till 11 p.m., and Yuan, seeing no chance of renewing the conversation, returned to his lodging. Next morning, September 21, Jung Lu called on Yuan, and said:—"Lately friends from Peking have repeatedly informed me of the reformers' minutest movements. Their daring is astounding. We must rescue the Emperor from their clutches."

When Jung Lu returned to his yamen he summoned Ta Yu-wen for consultation, and sent for Yuan in the evening. Yang Chung-i was present, and produced an edict sent by wire, informing Jung Lu that the reformers' plot had been exposed in Peking, that the Emperor was in durance, and that the Empress-Dowager had resumed the Regency. On dismissing Yuan from his presence Jung Lu pointed to the tea-cup, and said:—"You can drink—there is no poison in your tea." Four days afterwards, on September 25, Jung Lu was called to Peking, and on the 28th he was transferred to the Grand Council and given the rank and power of generalissimo.

THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION.

The following is a translation by the 'Central-China Post' of the Articles of Confederation for the Provincial Government of the Chinese Republic as drawn up by representatives of eight of the revolutionary provinces, with proxies from three other provinces, at Wuchang:—

Article I. The Provisional President.

Section 1. The Provisional President shall be elected by the Delegates appointed by the Governors-General of those provinces which have declared their independence. A two-thirds vote shall be necessary for his election. Each province shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 2. The Provisional president shall be vested with full power to administer the affairs of the Republic of China.

Section 3. The Provisional President shall be Commander-in-chief of

the army and navy of the Republic of China.

Section 4. The Provisional President shall have power, with the concurrence of the Assembly, to declare war and peace and to make treaties.

Section 5. The Provisional President shall have power, with the concurrence of the Assembly, to appoint the Ministers of the Executive Boards of the Provisional Government and special diplomatic officials.

Section 6. The Provisional President shall have power, with the concurrence of the Assembly, to establish a system of national courts of justice.

Articles II. The Assembly

Section 1. The Assembly shall be composed of Representatives appointed by the provisional governments.

Section 2. Each Province shall be limited to three representatives in the Assembly, the method of appointing such Representatives to be determined by the Government of the Province from which they come.

Section 3. Each Representative shall be entitled to one vote in the Assembly.

Section 4. The duties and powers of the assembly shall be as follows:—

(a) To determine the matters referred to in Article 1, Sections 4 and 6.

(b) To approve the action of the Provisional President in matters referred to in Article 1, Section 5.

(c) To determine the budget of the Provisional Government.

(d) To supervise the accounts of the Provisional Government.

(e) To determine all matters concerning the taxation, currency and public debt of the Republic.

(f) To make laws for the Republic during the Provisional Government.

(g) To determine all matters referred to the assembly by the Provisional President.

(h) To answer questions put to the assembly by the Provisional President.

Section 5. No measure shall be passed without the concurrence of a majority of the Representatives present in the assembly.

Matters referred to in Article 1, Section 4 must have the concurrence of two-thirds of the Representatives present in the Assembly.

Section 6. Every measure which shall have passed the Assembly shall, before it becomes a law, be presented by the speaker of the Assembly to the Provisional President for confirmation. If he approves he shall sign and seal it, and instruct the executive officers concerned to act accordingly.

Section 7. If the Provisional President disapproves any measure, he shall return it to the Assembly, with his objections, for reconsideration by them, within ten days from the time it was first presented to him. If the Assembly after reconsideration shall, by a two thirds vote, agree to pass the measure, it shall become a law and be put in force according to the preceding section.

Section 8. The Assembly shall elect its Speaker from among its own members by ballot, and a majority vote shall determine the election.

Section 9. The Assembly shall determine its own rules of procedure.

Section 10. Before the Assembly is organized the Delegates appointed by the various Provincial Governments shall temporarily perform the duties of the Assembly, but the Delegates from each Province shall cast only one vote for that Province.

Article III. The Executive Boards.

Section 1. The Executive Boards shall be as follows:—

- (a) Board of Foreign Affairs
- (b) Board of Civil Affairs
- (c) Board of Finance
- (d) Board of War
- (e) Board of Communications

Section 2. There shall be a Minister for each Board who shall have charge of the affairs of that Board.

Section 3. Rules governing and defining the powers and duties of the officers of each Board shall be drawn up by the Minister of that Board and be approved by the Provisional President before being put in force.

Article IV. Bye-laws.

Section 1. Within six months after the establishment of the Provisional Government the Provisional President shall call a Convention of the People. The Assembly shall draw up rules to govern the calling of this Convention.

Section 2. The Articles of Confederation for the Provisional Government of the Republic of China shall become void from the day when the Constitution of the Republic of China comes into full force.

The above Articles of Confederation were drawn up and passed by the Delegates in session on the 13th day, 10th moon, 4609th year of Huang Ti (December 3rd, 1911). Delegates from the following provinces were present:—

Anhui	represented by	3	Delegates
Chekiang	"	4	"
Fukien	"	1	"
Hunan	"	2	"
Hupeh	"	4	"
Kiangsu	"	4	"
Kuangsi	"	1	"
Shantung	"	"	"

The following provinces were represented by proxy:—Kiangsi, Kuangtung and Kweichow.

Chihli and Honan each sent one delegate, but as these two provinces have not yet declared independence, their delegates were given the privilege to speak, but without the power to vote.

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