

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FAR EASTERN REPUBLIC

April 17, 1921.

ARTICLE I.

General Provisions.

1. The Far Eastern Republic is established as a dem-Republic.

2. The Far Eastern Republic shall be governed in accordance with the laws enacted under this Constitution are binding, without exception, upon all institutions, of and citizens of the Republic and also upon citizens of countries residing in the territory of the Republic.

3. The laws of the Republic shall be abrogated or only in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.

4. Ignorance of the laws of the Republic shall not be a reason for their non-observance nor shall it exempt from alties for such non-observance.

5. The laws of the Republic shall not violate the prov of this Constitution.

6. The process of promulgation and enforcement of the of the Republic shall be determined by a special law.

ARTICLE II.

The Territory of the Republic.

7. The whole of the territory of the former Russian E. east of the River Selenga and of Lake Baikal to the Pacific C including the provinces of Pri-Baikal, Za-Baikal, Amur Primorsk, Pri-Amur and the northern part of Saghal declared to be the independent Far Eastern Republic.

The Far Eastern Republic inherits all the rights and gations of Russia with regard to the above territories and regard to the treaties and agreements concluded with fo

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countries by the fully empowered Russian Government relating to the territory and waters of China and other countries conterminous with the frontiers of the Republic.

8. The boundaries between the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic and the Far Eastern Republic are by mutual agreement declared as follows : the River Selenga from its exit from Mongolia to the administrative border of the former Seleginsk, Burgusinsk and Verkhne-Udinsk counties, the border of these counties to Lake Baikal, the middle of Lake Baikal, the former border between the Yakutsk, Za-Baikal and Amur districts to the watershed between the rivers Kiran and Pessmun and the watershed of the said rivers to the Okhotsk Sea at Cape Medjelind, including all the islands to the south of the latitude of the said Cape.

ARTICLE III.

Citizens and Their Rights.

SECTION I.

Citizenship.

9. The following are recognized as citizens of the Far Eastern Republic :

(1) All Russian citizens born in the territory of the Republic within the boundaries prescribed by Article II of the present Constitution.

(2) All Russian citizens who were living in the territory at the date of the declaration of independence (April 6, 1920).

(3) All Russian citizens who have entered the country since the declaration of independence or who shall enter after the publication of the present Constitution and are not registered as citizens of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic.

(4) All Russian citizens residing in the territory of the Chinese Eastern Railway who within six months after the promulgation of this Constitution have not acquired the citizenship of any other country nor presented documentary evidence of their foreign citizenship.

(5) All foreigners naturalized under the laws of the Far Eastern Republic.

10. From citizenship of the Republic are excluded all natives of the former Russian Empire who within six months after the publication of this Constitution shall have made a written

statement and presented documentary evidence of their citizenship in the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic or in any other independent State formed in the territory of the former Russian Empire.

SECTION II.

The Rights of Citizens.

11. It is hereby declared that all citizens regardless of sex, occupation, race, faith and political creed are equal before the law. The division of citizens into classes, all class privileges and distinctions, and civil and military titles are abolished.

12. No citizen shall be liable for any criminal act committed by him except in accordance with the law of the Republic.

13. Liberty of conscience is guaranteed to all citizens of the Republic. Citizens shall enjoy their civil and political rights regardless of their religious faith and no person in the territory of the Republic shall be prosecuted by any authority or shall have his rights abridged on account of his religious convictions.

14. The Church is separated from the State. Every citizen shall have the right to profess any faith or none.

15. Only those civil acts shall be legally valid which are executed by the proper civil authorities in the prescribed legal manner.

16. Documents issued to citizens by Government institutions and officials shall make no reference to the religious profession or non-profession of the citizens.

17. Citizens are guaranteed complete freedom of assembly, of speech and of publication.

Criminal publication or speech shall be punishable only in accordance with the law.

Citizens shall not be prosecuted for the free expression of their opinions.

18. The right to organize and maintain unions or societies (including religious societies) is hereby declared, provided such unions and societies do not pursue aims punishable by the laws of the Republic.

NOTE 1. The acquirement of juridical rights by unions and societies (including religious communities and parishes) is provided for by the civil law.

NOTE 2. The suppression of unions and societies shall be effected by judicial procedure.

19. The right of workers to strike is hereby declared, and such right shall in no wise be restricted by the State.

20. The personal liberty, the dwellings and the correspondence of all citizens are declared to be inviolable.

21. No citizen shall be punished except in accordance with the law. No citizen shall be arrested or imprisoned, nor shall a search be effected either of his person or of his home, nor shall there be any other restriction of the liberty of the citizens except as provided by law and only on presentation of a warrant duly issued by a court.

An exception to this law shall be allowed when an arrest is effected *in flagrante delicto*. Such an arrest shall be legal without the writ of a court, but the arrested person shall be informed within twenty-four hours of the charge brought against him.

22. The arrested person or any citizen shall have the right to demand that a charge be brought against the arrested person immediately or that he be released.

23. Without the consent of the householder no person shall enter any dwelling except in response to an appeal for help and in order to give that help, or in case of accident, or in execution of the orders of a court. An exception to this rule shall be allowed only when an arrest is effected *in flagrante delicto*.

24. Censorship of mails, and of telegraphic and telephonic correspondence is forbidden.

25. Every citizen shall have the right to choose freely his profession, to change his place of residence and to move freely within or without the territory of the Republic except when otherwise provided by law.

26. Corporal and capital punishment are henceforth and for ever entirely abolished.

27. Prohibition to own and dispose of property, undertakings, enterprises and their products or the restrictions of the right to ownership thereof shall be effective only in accordance with the law and only in the interests of the common weal.

28. Small nationalities and national minorities within the territory of the Republic shall enjoy the right of the widest autonomy within limits which shall be prescribed by law.

29. Each citizen in communicating with Government institutions and officials and also in official correspondence and in his commercial books shall have the right to use his native language. A special law shall provide for the forms and regulations under

which these languages shall be used in local municipalities in courts and in official communications.

30. Foreigners residing in the territory of the Far Republic shall enjoy all the rights of the citizens of the Republic except as definitely restricted by law.

ARTICLE IV.

The Government.

SECTION I.

The Central Government.

SUB-SECTION I.

General Provisions.

31. The sovereignty of the Far Eastern Republic is in the people of the Republic, and in them only.

32. The people exercise their sovereignty through the National Assembly and through the Government elected by the Assembly.

SUB-SECTION II.

The National Assembly.

33. The National Assembly is elected by universal, equal and secret ballot on the system of proportional representation for a term of two years, the number of the members being determined on the ratio of one member for each thousand of the population of the Republic.

34. The legislative power is vested in the National Assembly.

35. All sane citizens of the Republic without distinction of sex, faith or nationality who have reached the age of twenty years and whose rights are not restricted by law shall have the right of voting for or being elected to the National Assembly.

36. Citizens in military service shall have the right of voting for the National Assembly equally with other citizens and shall vote at the elections in common with the whole population. An exception to the common vote shall be made only to those citizens at the front or during military movements.

37. Citizens in military service or engaged in any Government work when elected to the National Assembly shall be released from their duties for the entire period of their membership of the National Assembly.

38. The National Assembly shall meet on the first of February

and the first of November of each year. The length of its session shall be within the discretion of the Assembly, but the session shall discontinue during the harvest season. Extra sessions of the National Assembly can be initiated by the Government or at the request of a half the total members of the Assembly.

39. Each National Assembly ceases to have authority when a new National Assembly meets.

40. The newly elected National Assembly shall be opened by the President of the outgoing Assembly and immediately after the opening new presiding officers shall be elected by secret ballot.

41. No member of the National Assembly shall be arrested or subjected to criminal prosecution except by order of the Assembly itself, unless in the case of an arrest made *in flagrante delicto*, in which case the President of the National Assembly shall be notified within twenty-four hours of the arrest. The President is empowered to release the arrested member by his own authority, but he shall report the matter to the next session of the National Assembly for decision.

42. The functions of the National Assembly shall be :

(1) The consideration and enactment of the laws governing State and social life.

(2) The consideration, approval or disapproval of all international (commercial or other) treaties between the Government of the Far Eastern Republic and foreign Governments.

(3) The determination of the national budget and the examination of the financial reports ; the appropriation of extraordinary expenditures, the levying of taxes, customs and duties, the investigation and approval of loans, the sanction of note issues ; and the approval of concession agreements, except such as are under the exclusive control of the Government and the Council of Ministers.

(4) The establishment and modification of the currency, and monetary system and of the system of weights and measures.

(5) The organization of the armed forces of the Republic.

(6) The supreme control over the administration of the Republic.

(7) The granting of amnesty.

(8) The declaration of war and the conclusion of peace, and

(9) The determination of other questions at its own discretion.

43. During the recesses of the National Assembly the Government shall have the right to issue provisional laws, dealing matters that do not admit of delay until the re-assembly of the National Assembly. These laws must neither modify nor suspend this Constitution either in whole or in part. A law shall be submitted for the consideration and approval of the National Assembly immediately on the resumption of its sessions. The National Assembly shall have the right to suspend the application of such laws pending discussion.

SUB-SECTION III.

The Government.

44. The Government of the Far Eastern Republic shall consist of seven members and shall be elected by the National Assembly for two years.

45. The election of the Government shall take place at a session of the National Assembly by a secret vote, the election shall only be held when two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly are present at the session. In order to be duly elected to the Government the candidates must have received more than half of the votes of the Assembly present.

46. There shall be no re-election of the Government at the expiry of its term of office except in the event of the retirement of four of its members.

47. Members of the Government shall be citizens of the Far Eastern Republic holding electoral rights for the National Assembly.

48. The functions of the Government shall be :

(1) The appointment and dismissal of the President of the Council of Ministers, the Comptroller-General, the Ministers and their assistants on the recommendation of the President and all other officers whose appointment and dismissal is in the Government.

(2) The appointment of representatives of the Republic for intercourse with foreign countries.

(3) The convocation of special sessions of the National Assembly.

(4) The granting of amnesty.

(5) The publication of laws passed by the National Assembly.

(6) The promulgation of provisional laws during the

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of the National Assembly in accordance with paragraph 43 of this Constitution.

(7) The suspension and annulment of all orders of the Council of Ministers which in the opinion of the Government are in conflict with the laws or the spirit of this Constitution.

49. The Government and the Council of Ministers together shall constitute the supreme executive power within the territory of the Republic, and the functions of this supreme executive power shall be :

(1) The general administration of the country and the direction of its domestic and foreign policies.

(2) The organization of the military forces of the Republic.

(3) The preliminary consideration of terms of peace and the defence of the territorial integrity of the Republic.

(4) The conclusion of loans, and of customs, commercial and other treaties and financial agreements, and the granting of concessions, by and with the advice and consent of the National Assembly.

(5) The drafting of a preliminary financial budget.

50. The Government has the right to veto any law passed by the National Assembly if in the opinion of the Government such law is in conflict with the Constitution. Laws thus vetoed shall be returned to the National Assembly for reconsideration and if after reconsideration two-thirds of the members of the National Assembly present shall again pass the Bill, the law shall be valid and shall not be subject to the veto of the Government.

51. All Acts of the Government and all provisional laws, issued in accordance with paragraph 43, in order to become effective must be countersigned by the Council of Ministers or by one of them, the Council of Ministers as a body being responsible to the National Assembly for such signature.

52. On a charge of high treason being preferred, members of the Government shall be prosecuted by special resolution of the National Assembly.

SUB-SECTION IV.

53. The Council of Ministers shall consist of all Ministers. The number of the Ministers shall be specified by special statutes governing their organization.

54. The President of the Council of Ministers may hold a portfolio or remain Minister without portfolio.

55. The Comptroller-General shall be present at all the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Government in a consultative capacity.

56. Ministers shall be citizens of the Far Eastern Republic entitled to electoral rights for the National Assembly.

57. A Minister shall not simultaneously be a member of the Government, but he may at the same time be a member of the National Assembly.

58. All Ministers shall have the right to appear before the National Assembly on questions relating to their respective departments.

59. The Ministers as a body and individually shall be responsible before the National Assembly for the actions, orders and resolutions of the Council, and also of each Minister and likewise for the ministerial counter-signature of all Government Acts. In addition to their political responsibility, Ministers shall be liable to prosecution by the National Assembly for offences committed in the performance of their respective duties.

60. In case the National Assembly passes a vote of no confidence in the Council of Ministers, the latter shall resign.

61. The Ministers shall answer all questions and interpellations from the National Assembly.

SUB-SECTION V.

Initiation of Legislation.

62. The right of initiating legislation is vested in all citizens of the Far Eastern Republic holding electoral rights for the National Assembly. This right shall be subject to conditions stated in the next paragraph.

63. A declaration in favour of enacting a law or resolution shall be signed by a thousand citizens. The draft of the proposed law or resolution shall be added to the declaration.

64. The right of initiating legislation is vested in the Council of Ministers as a body. This right is also vested in the Government of the Far Eastern Republic.

65. The right of initiating legislation is vested in all the members of the National Assembly. A declaration in favour of enacting a law or resolution shall be signed by not less than five members of the National Assembly and the draft of the proposed law or resolution shall be added to the declaration.

SECTION II.

Local Authorities.

SUB-SECTION I.

General Provisions.

66. The Local Government shall consist of self-government bodies elected by all the people of a district by universal, equal, direct and secret ballot on the basis of proportional representation.

67. The Governments of the provinces, counties, urban districts, rural districts, and villages shall control within their respective jurisdiction all local administrative and public affairs and shall enforce within their respective jurisdictions all laws and resolutions of the Central Government.

68. Local Government bodies shall independently control local administrative and public affairs; subordinating themselves to the laws enacted, by the Government of the Republic, and to the established legal control of their activities, the Local Government bodies shall have the right to issue, provided they do not violate this Constitution and other State laws, by-laws which shall be binding equally with the national laws and regulations, on all persons and institutions. Duly issued compulsory by-laws may be suspended and abrogated by the Government of the Republic when in conflict with the interests of the Republic.

69. Within the limits of their respective jurisdictions, the Local Government bodies when carrying out the laws, regulations, and instructions of the Central Government shall act in accordance with the directions of the Central Government and be liable to legal proceedings in case of non-compliance with such regulations and instructions.

70. For the execution of State tasks requiring rigid centralization (military schemes, railway control, etc.) and also for the administration of lands, enterprises, public works and other properties under the control of the Central Government, the Central Government shall establish in a manner defined by law its own local offices. The possible bases and methods upon which the Local Governments participate in the accomplishment of the aforementioned State tasks shall be defined by law,

SUB-SECTION II.

*Provincial Governments.**The Provincial Assembly.*

71. The Provincial Assembly of Delegates elected people of the province for two years by universal equal and secret ballot on the basis of proportional representation shall be the highest provincial authority.

72. The election to the Provincial Assembly shall be in conformity with the laws of election to the National Assembly, the number of members of the Assembly being in the ratio of one member to each two thousand five hundred citizens.

73. A general election of a new Provincial Assembly shall take place at the expiration of the term of the sitting Provincial Assembly or on the order of the State legislative authority or on the order of the Provincial Assembly or on the demand of one-third of the provincial electors. An election of Delegates for a given electoral district before the expiry of a term, shall be held only on the demand of two-thirds of the electors of the district.

74. The Provincial Assembly shall meet at its own discretion but not less than twice yearly. Special sessions of the Assembly shall be called when deemed necessary by the provincial administration and on the initiative thereof or on the demand of not less than one-third of the members of the Provincial Assembly.

75. The functions of the Provincial Assembly shall be:

a. The election of the provincial administration.

b. The control of all the administrative organizations in the province.

c. The settlement of all local administrative matters and public affairs.

d. The enforcement of all laws, instructions and regulations of the Central Government; and

e. The settlement of all such questions as by special law come within the competence of the Provincial Assembly and all questions pertaining to the province that the Provincial Assembly, without violating the Constitution and laws of the Republic, may desire to discuss.

76. For the execution of tasks assigned to the Provincial Assembly, the Assembly shall have the right:

a. To issue regulations upon all matters, within the competence of the Provincial Assembly.

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b. To levy local taxes and duties in accordance with the State legislation.

c. To discuss and approve the provincial budget.

d. To provide for the enforcement of the laws, regulations and instructions of the Central Government.

e. To approve the plans of the provincial administration and to discuss and approve the reports of its work; and

f. To adopt measures for the effective solution of all administrative problems in the province.

The Provincial Administration.

77. The provincial administration shall be elected by the Provincial Assembly for two years.

78. The Provincial Assembly shall have the power to decide upon the election of a new provincial administration before the expiration of any current term also to prosecute the members of the administration for criminal offences. The Government shall have the right to prosecute the members of the provincial administration and shall also have the right to initiate a new election of the administration, and for this purpose it shall have the right to call for a special session of the Provincial Assembly.

79. The provincial administration shall organize the following departments: executive, labour, justice, social welfare, education, finance, agriculture, food supplies, commerce, industry, public health and others.

80. The provincial departments shall be subordinated (paragraph 69) to the corresponding Ministries through the provincial administration, which shall be responsible for the work of all the provincial departments.

81. The functions of the provincial administration shall be:

a. The enforcement of all the laws, regulations and instructions of the Central Government.

b. The execution of all resolutions and regulations of the Provincial Assembly,

c. The organization, direction and supervision of the work of all authorities subordinate to the provincial administration.

d. The adoption of measures for the prevention of crime.

e. The drafting of a preliminary provincial budget.

f. The convocation of the Provincial and, when necessary, of the County Assemblies of Delegates.

g. The accomplishment of all other tasks which by special law are committed to it.

82. The provincial administration shall have the right to pass special regulations during the recess of the Provincial Assembly on matters within the competence of the Provincial Assembly, such special regulations being necessarily submitted to the Provincial Assembly for discussion at its next session.

83. The representatives of the Central Government may protest against the regulations and instructions of the Provincial Assembly and of the provincial administration which violate the laws and regulations of the Central Government and parties or institutions affected by any such regulations also lodge a complaint there-against, in the manner and grounds specified by special law.

SUB-SECTION III.

The Provincial Emissaries of the Government.

84. In order to effect connection between the Central Government of the Republic and the Local Government bodies and in order to establish democratic rule and order, a provincial institute of Provincial Emissaries of the Government shall be established.

85. Provincial Emissaries appointed by the Government shall be the Government's representatives in the Provinces.

86. Provincial Emissaries shall be empowered with jurisdiction to supervise and control the enforcement of the laws of the Local Government bodies and also by the offices of the Government, of the laws, instructions and regulations of the Government.

SUB-SECTION IV.

The Administrative Authorities of the Counties, Urban Districts, Rural Districts and Villages.

87. The administrative authorities of the counties, districts, rural districts and villages shall have jurisdiction within their respective areas in accordance with the mentioned provisions of this Constitution pertaining to the Provincial Government bodies. The rural district administration in relation to the village administration, the county administration in relation to the rural district and village administration and the provincial administration in relation to the county, the urban district, the rural district and village administration shall have the same rights as those vested in the Central Government in relation to the provincial administration.

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88. Cities with a population of more than twenty thousand shall be excluded from the general county organization and shall form independent counties; other cities shall be included in the county organization with the status of rural districts.

89. County Assemblies and City Assemblies with the status of County Assemblies shall be elected for two years by the same procedure as for the Provincial Assemblies, their number being in the ratio of one member to each thousand citizens, provided however that the total number of the members in the Assembly be not less than thirty nor more than one hundred and fifty.

90. The Rural District Assembly and also City Assemblies with the status of Rural District Assemblies shall be elected for one year, by the same procedure as for the Provincial and County Assemblies, their number being in the ratio of one member to each hundred citizens, provided however that the total number of the members in the Rural District Assembly shall not be less than twenty nor more than one hundred; and for the City Assemblies mentioned herein the delegates shall be not more than fifty.

91. The County, City and Rural District Assemblies shall be controlled in the same manner as the Provincial Assemblies; provided however that the City Assembly shall have not less than twelve sessions and the Rural District Assembly not less than three sessions a year.

92. The Village Assembly shall consist of all the citizens of the village having electoral rights for the National Assembly and shall be convoked at its own discretion.

93. The Village Assembly shall elect from its members a village committee for a period of not less than six months and not more than one year.

SECTION III.

The Court.

94. The People's Court shall be the only Court in the territory of the Republic.

95. The Court is independent of the other Government authorities and shall administer justice in the name of the people of the Far Eastern Republic.

96. The judicial authorities shall uphold the laws of the Republic and their jurisdiction shall extend over the entire territory and the whole population of the Republic. The per-

sonnel, the competence and procedure of the judicial act shall be determined by special laws.

97. Judges shall be elected from amongst those satisfying the requirements of the law for a period determined by law. Judges can be dismissed prior to the expiration of their term, by the decision of the Court.

98. Citizens of the Republic shall participate in the administration of justice by service on juries which shall render verdicts in common with the judges. A special law shall define the conditions under which jurymen shall participate in the administration of justice.

99. In the administration of justice the judges shall be guided by the existing laws and by the dictates of their conscience.

100. All causes shall be heard and all judgments and verdicts shall be announced in public. Hearing *in camera* shall be allowed only by the decision of the judges in conformity with the law.

101. The organization of special courts and the causes submitted to these courts shall be definitely determined by law.

102. Complaints to a Court of Appeal are forbidden. The judgment of a court may be submitted to cassation, and the Court of Cassation shall have the right to annul the judgment if such be found unjust.

SECTION IV.

State Board of Control.

103. The National Board of Control is independent and directly subordinated within its jurisdiction to the legislative authorities.

104. The National Board of Control shall consist of :

- (1) The State Comptroller-General and two Assistant Comptrollers-General appointed by the Government.
- (2) The College of State Control.
- (3) The Council of State Control.
- (4) The Central State Board of Control.
- (5) The Local Department of the State Board of Control.
- (6) The Field Department of the State Board of Control.

105. The Central College of the State Board of Control shall consist of the State Comptroller-General (who is also the President of the College), his two assistants and five members of the College elected, one by the united workers of the Far E

Republic, three by the united peasantry, and one by the indigenous nationalities of the Republic. The powers of the elected members shall be officially confirmed by the legislative authorities.

NOTE. Until the union of the peasant organizations of the Far Eastern Republic the peasant members of the Central College shall be elected by the peasant delegates of the National Assembly.

106. The Provincial College of the State Board of Control consists of the Manager of the Provincial Department of the State Board of Control (who is also the President of the College), and his assistant, appointed by the Central College ; and of three members of the College elected by the Provincial Assembly for the period of its term.

107. The County College of the State Board of Control shall consist of the Manager of the County Department of the State Board of Control (who is also the President of the College) appointed by the Central College, and two members of the College elected by the District Assembly for the period of its term.

108. The Comptroller-General shall be present at the meetings of the Cabinet and the Government in a consultative capacity.

109. The State Board of Control shall :

a. Supervise the lawfulness and expediency of the work of Government institutions and officers, likewise of social organizations and private enterprises in the matter of national economy.

NOTE. Public organizations and private enterprises are subject to the control of the State Board of Control if and when they are financed or subsidized by the Government or are acting on the Government's orders or guarantee.

b. Supervise the strict and precise execution, both centrally and locally of all laws and regulations lawfully issued and pertaining to the national economy.

c. Investigate the just distribution of various manufactured products and articles of consumption.

d. Investigate the different branches of national economy and report the result to the legislative body.

e. Examine financial estimates, projects, budgets and present their reports thereon to the legislative body at the same time as the budget is brought before the National Assembly.

f. Supervise the proper distribution of assigned credits.

g. Report upon the various financial and economic plans and proposals of the administrative departments, and also upon bills and proposed ordinances submitted to the legislative body for new Government expenditures and report on proposed changes in the financial and economic policy of the Republic.

h. Veto, when exceptional circumstances appear to warrant, any plans of the administrative department that are obviously detrimental to the national wealth.

i. Draw up inventories of the State property and make yearly reports on their working and condition, to be submitted to the legislative body at the same time set for the presentation of the budget.

k. Have direct supervision over the work of all departments and their local branches and generally over all Government bodies.

l. Prosecute Government officials for negligence and offences in connection with their respective duties, and also private citizens for crimes likely to cause losses to the Government; and shall inform the authorities concerned of the dismissal of officials.

110. For the realization of the proposed task, large groups of the working population shall be invited to participate in the State Board of Control, both permanently and for purposes of occasional inspection.

111. A bureau of complaints shall be established in each department of the State Board of Control for the receipt of complaints and declarations concerning wrongful acts, abuses and violations of the law by officials of all departments.

112. The Field Departments of the State Board of Control shall be subordinated only to the Central College of the State Board of Control and through it to the legislative body.

SECTION V.

National Self-administration.

113. All indigenous nationalities and national minorities within the territory of the Republic shall enjoy the right of self-determination on a broad basis.

114. The national self-administrative bodies shall be guided in their activities by the laws of the Republic.

115. A Ministry of National Affairs with corresponding national departments shall be established to control and guide the national self-administration.

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SUB-SECTION II.

Autonomy of the Buriat-Mongols.

116. The entire area inhabited by the Buriat-Mongols shall form a special territory under the name of the "Autonomous Buriat-Mongol Territory" the boundaries of which shall be fixed by law.

117. In order to abolish the interlocking of strips of land owned by the Buriat-Mongols and Russians, a special commission for the regulation of land relations of the Buriat-Mongols and Russians, shall be established by the Government, such commission consisting of equal numbers of representatives of the interested parties.

118. The population of the Buriat-Mongols Autonomous Territory shall be subject to the general laws of the Republic, but within the limits of its territory it shall be independent in the matter of establishing courts, economic, administrative institutions and such institutions as pertain to their national culture.

119. The Autonomous Buriat-Mongol Territory within the limits of its competence shall be self-administered, in accordance with general laws of the Republic, by its Territorial Assembly of delegates who shall elect an executive body—Territorial Administration—and the Territorial Assembly of Delegates shall be empowered within the independent spheres enumerated in paragraph 118 of this Constitution to pass territorial laws which shall not conflict with the general laws of the Republic.

120. All laws, instructions and regulations of the Central Government of a general State character shall be enforced in the autonomous Buriat-Mongol territory through the territorial administration.

SUB-SECTION III.

Autonomy of National Minorities.

121. All the national minorities in the territory of the Republic shall be granted autonomy in matters pertaining to their national culture.

122. Autonomy in matters pertaining to the national culture of minorities shall be made effective by their respective self-governing bodies, elected by universal, equal, direct and secret ballot, on the basis of proportional representation.

123. The national self-administrative bodies shall be public

bodies legally authorized, and their competence shall be limited to matters pertaining to the national culture of the respective minorities.

124. The language of the autonomous national cultural groups is the language of the respective nation: Ukrainian, Yiddish, Korean, Tartar, etc.

125. Funds for the satisfaction of the cultural needs of each national minority, in due proportion shall be provided from the general State budget.

ARTICLE V.

The Bases of the National Economic Organization.

SECTION I.

The Land.

126. Private ownership of land, forests, waterways, and their resources within the territory of the Far Eastern Republic is for ever abolished.

127. All land in whose soever use or possession it may be is declared to be the property of the workers and forms the national fund.

128. The manner of the use and management of the land, forests, and waterways and their resources shall be provided for by a special law.

129. The apportioning to the workers of land of agricultural value shall be by allotments established by the land authorities of the local administration according to climate and soil.

130. The general and fundamental basis of the right to use land is personal labour. Exceptions to this rule shall be allowed in cases specially provided for by the land laws and the right to use the land shall not be dependent upon creed, nationality or sex.

131. The people themselves shall decide whether the employment of the land shall be effected collectively, by groups, or by individuals.

NOTE. The land allotment to the Buriat-Mongols for cattle-breeding shall be determined in accordance with the conditions of their economic life.

SECTION II.

Labour.

132. Having undertaken the task of organizing the national economy and an equal distribution of the burden of its restora-

tion, the Far Eastern Republic affirms that work must be obligatory upon all citizens of the Republic.

133. The normal working time shall not exceed eight hours for day work and six hours for night work with an uninterrupted weekly rest of not less than forty-two hours.

134. For persons under eighteen years of age or for those engaged in severe work detrimental to their health the normal working day shall not exceed six hours.

135. Overtime work shall be forbidden except in extraordinary circumstances and with the consent of the professional unions and labour organizations.

136. In agriculture on account of its peculiar nature, overtime shall be allowed, over-time pay being reckoned from the basis of an eight-hour working-day.

137. The valuation of the agricultural products, in cases where hired labour is not used, shall be determined by law on representations from the Union of Peasants, taking as a basis the eight-hour working-day, including the cost of materials.

138. In the case of very severe labour, or labour prejudicial to the health overtime shall be positively forbidden for both men and women under eighteen years of age. Night work shall be positively forbidden for men under eighteen years of age, and for women regardless of age.

139. Women engaged in manual labour shall be released from their work for eight weeks before confinement and for eight weeks after it; and for six weeks before confinement and six weeks after it, if engaged in other work.

140. Children under sixteen years of age shall not be employed.

141. In order to guarantee to the workers a normal living minimum wage, the Republic shall establish by law on representations from the workers through the central professional organizations, a minimum real working wage which shall be obligatory upon all Government, public and private enterprises.

142. Workers are guaranteed through their professional and industrial organizations the right of voting membership in the Government economic bodies, the right of participation in Government enterprises, and also participation in Government control of private enterprises.

143. The Republic guarantees through the enactment of appropriate laws the protection of labour by the fullest participation of the workers in the Committee for the Inspection of Labour Welfare, elected by the professional unions.

144. Insurance with the full participation of the insured shall be established against all risks for all workers in Government, public or private enterprises or institutions and the premium shall be paid by the respective employers without any reduction of the earnings of the insured.

145. All workers and employees shall be entitled to one month's leave after having worked not less than one year and to a fortnight's leave after working not less than six months with the right to full pay during leave.

SECTION III.

The Financial-Economic System.

SUB-SECTION I.

General Provisions.

146. The institution of private ownership is maintained. All citizens and private companies are guaranteed the inviolability of their movable and immovable property subject to the restrictions provided by this Constitution.

147. The granting to private citizens or companies of the right to use and develop the resources of land, forests and waterways, by lease or concession, shall be in accordance with the legislation governing such leases or concessions; it being provided that the term for any concession or lease shall not exceed thirty-six years. Leases and concessions may also be granted to foreign persons or companies, provided however that other conditions being equal, preference should be given to citizens and companies of the Far Eastern Republic. In the case of competition between private persons and public organizations preference shall, all other conditions being equal, be given to the public organizations.

148. The Government shall, by appropriate legislation, give the fullest assistance to rural economic life in all its forms, in the first place to those lowest in the economic scale; and also to the promotion of all forms of public collective economic life, with a view to their development.

SUB-SECTION II.

Taxes.

149. No person shall be exempt from paying taxes except in cases provided for by the law.

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150. Except in cases specially exempted by the law dues for the State or local administration shall be collected only in the form of taxes.

151. No taxes, direct or indirect and no duties shall be introduced or collected within the territory of the Republic except under the authority of the law.

152. The levying of State taxes and duties shall be the prerogative of the legislative authority. The levying of local taxes and dues by the local self-administrations shall be in accordance with paragraph 76 relating to local self-administration.

153. Indirect taxes on commodities of general consumption shall be allowed as a provisional measure only on the grounds and to the extent strictly specified by law. On articles of luxury indirect taxation shall be allowed as a permanent measure; and indirect taxes shall be subject to yearly revision by legislative process.

SUB-SECTION IV.

State Revenue and Expenditure and the State Budget.

154. The principal State revenue shall be derived from the progressive income tax, property tax, tax on title-deeds, inheritance tax, tax on unearned increment, tax on donation, etc. and the income from State enterprises and monopolies.

NOTE. The minimum income and also the minimum property and stock-in-trade not subject to tax shall be determined by law.

155. State monopolies commercial and industrial and the extent of their contribution to the State treasury shall be determined by legislative process.

156. All the State revenues and expenditures shall be incorporated in the general State budget.

157. The State budget shall be submitted for approval to the National Assembly not later than two months before the financial year.

NOTE. Until the approval of the first budget all State expenditures shall be met by credits allotted by the Government in each specific case by legislative process.

158. If the State budget be not approved before the financial year, the Government may, pending the approval of the budget avail itself of credits equal to those allotted in the previous budget to meet necessary Government expenses, but only for a period of not more than one-third of the year.

159. No expenditure of Government funds shall without an appropriation in the State budget or passing of a special law.

160. No pensions nor rewards shall be provided State treasury except as authorized by law.

161. All appropriations in the State budget shall be for the purposes and within the limits specified in the budget and shall not be used for any other purposes without special permission from the Government.

SUB-SECTION IV.

State Loans.

162. No State loans, domestic or foreign nor financial operations which would embarrass the State treasury or mortgages shall be concluded without the sanction of the Government.

NOTE. All loans, financial obligations and mortgages concluded or made by the Republic before the ratification of the Constitution, but sanctioned by the National Assembly, shall be recognized as valid by the Republic and guaranteed by the Constitution were in effect.

163. No new currency system shall be introduced and no currency shall be debased, no currency shall be withdrawn from circulation, and no new monetary tokens shall be issued without the sanction of the Government.

164. The weight, the fineness and the value of the money shall be determined by the law. The control and the issue of everything pertaining to coinage, the settling of accounts, the assaying and all matters connected with, and the issue of paper notes shall be regulated by the law.

ARTICLE VI.

The Defence of the Republic.

165. The people in arms are the sole defenders of the Republic, and therefore for the defence of the country universal military training on the militia system of all male citizens shall be established between the age of eighteen and forty-five.

166. Universal training shall take place at the territorial military centres without interrupting the participation of citizens in social productive work.

NOTE: The division of the Republic into territorial

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districts and the manner of universal military training shall be established by legislative process.

167. The permanent bulwark of the defence of the country shall be the regular People's Revolutionary Army. The Army shall be organized on the basis of universal military training for all male citizens of the Republic and shall consist of:

(1) Male citizens of twenty years of age conscribed for a period of two years, and

(2) Volunteers from the age of eighteen years whose number shall be determined by legislative process.

168. The military service of the indigenous nationalities of the Republic shall be determined by a special law.

169. The supreme direction of the People's Revolutionary Army shall be vested in the Government of the Far Eastern Republic.

170. The formation and organization of the People's Revolutionary Army is determined by legislative process.

171. In the interest of the defence of the Republic the Government shall have the right to mobilize all or part of the citizens capable of carrying arms. Such mobilization shall be effected by legislative process.

172. The maintenance of citizens on military service, the welfare of their families and also the social welfare of citizens who have been rendered incapable during military service and of the families of those who died in the defence of the Republic shall be determined by law.

173. Each citizen during military service shall enjoy his civil rights and shall be under the same civil obligations as all other citizens of the Republic.

ARTICLE VII.

Public Education.

174. The Republic shall undertake the task of providing for all citizens and in the first instance for the workers a broad education.

175. The school is separated from the Church. Religious teachings, and religious services shall be forbidden in all Government, public and private schools following a general curriculum.

176. Education shall be compulsory and free for all children of school age, the cost being borne by the State; and the social

welfare of all children of school age shall also be provided by the State.

177. Co-education of the two sexes shall be established in schools of the Republic.

178. The education and instruction in all the schools of the Republic shall form one system, united by one course and based on labour principles of education.

179. All nationalities of the Republic shall have the right to establish their own national language schools.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Arms and the Flag of the Republic.

The State Arms.

180. The State arms shall be as follows: on a red shield a pine garland in the middle of which on a ground of gold is the rising sun and a five-pointed silver star (in the upper part), crossed over a wheat sheaf are an anchor and an axe with its point downwards; on the right side of the shield on a red band is the letter "D" on the left "V" and amid the branches is the letter "R."*

The State Flag.

181. The State flag shall be as follows: on a red ground the length is one and half times its width, occupying the upper quarter next to the staff shall be a dark blue quadrangle, the following red letters arranged in a triangle: D. V. R.

ARTICLE IX.

The Revision of the Constitution.

182. The revision, modification, supplementing or amendment of this Constitution wholly or in part, may be initiated

(1) One-third of all the members of the National Assembly in session;

(2) The Provincial Assembly of Delegates;

(3) The Government;

(4) Ten thousand of the citizens possessing electors for the National Assembly.

* D.V.R., i.e. Dalne Vostochnaya Respublika, which is the name for the Far Eastern Republic.

183. The modification, supplementing or annulment of the Constitution, wholly or in part shall be effected only by virtue of a law, passed by the National Assembly with a quorum of two-thirds of its members and with a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the members present.

ARTICLE X.

The First National Assembly and the Government.

184. The order and time for the election of first National Assembly and Government shall be determined by the Constituent Assembly.

The President of the Constituent Assembly:			SHILOV.
Senior Assistant	"	"	BERODAVKIN.
Assistants	"	"	KLARK.
			LECHOV.
			MANSVETOV.
			DAMBIKOV.
			FEDOTOV.
Senior Secretary	"	"	SUCHOVET.
			BEREDIN.
			YATZENKE.
Assistant Secretaries	"	"	NIKIFEROV.
			KIRGISOV.
			BAROVINSKY.