

Such action in itself is no threat to our rights and interests. On the contrary, by opening up the country and by enriching the inhabitants, these measures will make Manchuria all the better a market for our goods.

But Russia goes further than this. She tells us that Manchuria is to be within the sphere of Russian influence.* She objects to our asking China to open a second Treaty Port (Talienwan), though she sees no objection to bullying China into handing her over two ports, both of which she proceeds to fortify, and one of which she absolutely closes to trade. She attempts to negotiate a loan with China, but when China tries to negotiate one with us, she so threatens her, that Chinese officials come piteously to us † saying that they are so afraid of Russia they cannot do business with us. She obtains exclusive rights of railway construction in North Manchuria, but she vigorously protests ‡ against the employment by a Chinese railway company in the South of an English engineer (Kinder) who had been with that same company

* *Vide* Blue Book, China, No. 1 (1898), p. 6.

† *Vide idem*, p. 32.

‡ *Vide idem*, p. 5.