

# Social Assimilation A Reality!

## Japanese Canadians Enjoy Fullest Rights

By Taro Yoneda

(Special to The New Canadian)

Edmonton, Alta.—Two Nisei students of the University of Alberta from Haney and Victoria, B.C., remaining in Edmonton during the Christmas vacation were treated to unsurpassed cordial hospitality by the Japanese community here, particularly by Mr. and Mrs. Ueyehara, and brought into intimate contact with a shining example of Canadian Japanese relationships.

### Japanese Enjoy Rights

Never before have these two students, brought up amidst the turmoil of British Columbia's Oriental discrimination, been witness to such an encouraging and impressive situation as exists between the small Japanese community and their fellow Canadians. The entire Japanese population comprising seven families scattered throughout the city, enjoy privileges of political rights and social equality, which has done much to obscure racial consciousness.

For instance, Mr. Ueyehara, proprietor of a lodging house, has for years voted in all elections, being honoured by the city press at the last civic election, upon being the second citizen to cast a vote. He also has earned the respect and deep-rooted affection of countless numbers of Canadians, through his constant kindness, his integrity of character, and sympathetic nature.

Another striking instance of a complete breakdown of racial prejudice is that of the Morimoto family, living at Fort McMurray, a small mining town some 250 miles north of Edmonton. Through the years this family has earned such remarkably sincere and widespread devotion from their Occidental Canadian neighbours, that upon the passing of Mrs. Morimoto, not long ago, the whole town, including banks, stores and so forth, closed its doors to business to pay its last respects to one whom they had held in highest esteem.

### Church Stimulates Social Assimilation

Although the scarcity of their numbers is an important factor in creating this pleasant mutual good-will, the work of the United Church amongst these Japanese Canadians, in stimulating social assimilation, is high tribute indeed to Christian ideals and fellowship. The Bissel United Church, particularly under Rev. J. T. Stephens has wrought wonders in bringing the Japanese families into close relationship with their fellow Canadians.

The Church holds an annual social evening for the Nippon Community during the Christmas season, at which the entire Japanese community, Isseis and Niseis, gather and enjoy a Canadian Christmas feast of turkey, cranberry sauce and plum pudding with their Canadian friends.

The whole community was further honored this Christmas, when the secretary of the Young Women's Association, Mrs. Wellwood, who is deeply interested in the welfare of her Japanese friends, acted as hostess to them at a sumptuous banquet at the Y.W.C.A. No greater pleasure and thrill can be experienced by Niseis from B. C. than to see Isseis freely and happily chatting to the best of their ability with their fellow Canadians.

### Niseis Popular

With the Niseis of the city a still greater development of interracial amity is enjoyed. Sumiko Ueyehara, a Junior Matric student and talented pianist and Fred Inouye, young and successful business man, are both associated with the Bissel United Church as Sunday School teachers. They are both remarkably popular with the Young People's group. Eva Saito, Senior Matric student and another gifted pianist, enjoys like popularity at another United Church, where she is a member of the Junior Choir.

These Nisei, together with the few others in the city, join freely in recreational activities with Occidental Canadians at skating parties, house and Church parties, in many cases proving to be the life of these gatherings. Thus within and without the Church, these Niseis enjoy all the privileges, hopes and inheritance of Canadian youth amidst free and friendly Canadian-Japanese associations.

Living amongst them has been a thrilling and delightful experience to these university students from B. C. They can believe ever so more strongly that the "impossible" in B. C. will ultimately be achieved and Japanese Canadian assimilation be completed. Meanwhile Niseis of B. C. can continue to have faith in these words, "In Christ we are but one."

## Nisei Miss Invites You All For Coffee

Another Nisei stepped into the business ranks of the community, it was announced this week, and this time it's a girl.

She is Miss Amy Oki, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Oki, 779 Burdard. A member of the A.Y.P.A., she is well known as a talented Nisei ballet dancer.

She is now in charge of the Girl's Coffee Shop, at 954 Granville Street, just opposite the Dominion Theatre. Breakfast is served from 7:00 in the morning, and light lunches from 11:00 to 8:00.

## Govt. Issues First War Loan Shortly Citizens Urged To Support War Effort By Purchasing Bonds

With organization work in preparation for widespread distribution completed, the Government will shortly offer bonds in its first war loan for public subscription to assist in financing special war expenditure.

Interviewed on the details of the War Loan, R. Y. Yoshimoto, manager of the only Japanese investment department in Canada at Graham MacDonald Ltd., pointed out that as yet the Government has not announced the amount or interest of the new loan, but declared that several facts should be stressed to every Canadian.

"How often," he declared, "have we realized that many have doubted the loyalty of Japanese Canadians. We have tried to prove it quietly, by being good citizens. We have worked hard, paid taxes, supported charities. But all these have been silent forms of help.

### Demonstrate Loyalty

"But in this loan every Japanese in Canada has an opportunity to prove to the world that he is loyal. We must not lose this opportunity. Let us all get together, through every association and group, and show the whole world what we can do! Buy these bonds!

"Responsible officials, too, will be only too glad to cooperate in giving widespread publicity right across the Dominion to this demonstration of loyalty of Japanese Canadians. The total sums subscribed by various racial groups will be widely publicized. I really think it is an opportunity we must not lose."

Mr. Yoshimoto pointed out that although everyone could not go to the front to fight, every single person could subscribe to buy these bonds, and thus help.

It is probable that they may be purchased as low as \$50, and in all likelihood, will be payable on the installment plan over a three months period.

Those interested should contact M. Yoshimoto at TRinity-2711.

### For Real Japanese Dishes

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## Y.P. Shuttlers Off On Pennant Chase Down Strathcona 5-3; Steveston Defaults

After a long lay-off over the Christmas and New Year holidays the shuttlecock artists of the local badminton league legged into their second encounter of the season at the Strathcona gym last Monday. The Powell Y.P.S. established themselves strong favorites to cart off the league championship by setting back last year's winners, Strathcona, 5-3 while Steveston defaulted to the powerful Gakuyukai team.

Gakuyukai and Y.P.S. are both tied for league leadership with two wins and no loss apiece, while Strathcona and Steveston share the cellar with two setbacks in two attempts.

### Champs Upset

Highlight of the evening's play was the surprise upset of last year's men's doubles champs, Tommy Iwasaki and Mi Akiyama, by Ernie Arikado and Matt Matsui.

Iwasaki and Akiyama who had subdued the strong duo, Henry Arikado and Michi Ashikawa, in straight sets seemed headed for a sweeping victory as they took the first set, 15-8, from Arikado and Matsui, but the latter found their feet in the second set to win 15-7, and after a long draw-out battle took the deciding set, 15-12.

In the mixed doubles the smooth-working Strathcona pair, Fumi Deshima and Yoshio Matsui, was the only team on their side to enjoy a clean slate at the end of the evening.

With Matsui displaying a hatful of trick shots and wide court coverage and Miss Deshima chopping the feather from close in, the two easily disposed of Mary Nishikawara and Dave Arikado, met some stiff opposition from Mary Saegusa and Johnny Tanaka but finished strongly for their second consecutive win.

### Y.P.S. vs. STRATHCONA

T. Iwasaki, M. Akiyama 14-11; H. Arikado, M. Ashikawa 18-14, 15-8; M. Nishikawara, Dave Arikado 15-8, 15-11; E. Deshima, Y. Matsui 14-11; Nishikawara, D. Arikado 15-4, 15-12 and M. Saegusa, J. Tanaka 18-16, 16-10; E. Arikado, M. Matsui 14-11; T. Iwasaki, M. Akiyama 8-15, 15-7, 15-12 and S. Hagino, S. Yamada 15-7, 15-10; H. Arikado, M. Ashikawa 14-8, Hagino, Y. Ono 15-5, 15-3; M. Saegusa, J. Tanaka 14-8, N. Ikeda, M. Toyota 15-4, 15-2.

## Monarchs Nose Out Ernies To Start New Year's Cage War

Staring a last-quarter rally the gangling East End Monarchs started the New Year off with a bang by nosing out the strong Ernie five by a slim one-point margin.

The East Enders kept stride with the fast-pacing Ernie's throughout the game. Ernie's enjoyed a three-point lead at the end of the second quarter but in the third the Monarchs throttled Ernie's scoring punch, limiting the usually high-scoring ice cream vendors to one solitary basket and cutting the Ernie lead to one point at whistle time.

Ernie's took the lead again as Kaz Umakoshi and Mitsuki sank two baskets to give a comfortable margin, but a rally staged by the Tokawa brothers, Al and Toru, put the Monarch boys ahead 28-25. Nobby Tanaka again brought the difference to only one point, but with a whole minute to go the East End boys desperately hung on to their slim lead to end the game at 32-27.

Doing most of the scoring for the East Enders was Toru Tokawa who garnered 16 points while brother Al came next with 8. High for Ernie's was Nobby Tanaka with 9 and Kiyoshi Suga with 8.

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