

Our Fishermen Face an Uncertain Future

Premier Thanks Vets For Offer of Service

VANCOUVER. — Japanese Canadian veterans of World War I, who fought overseas in Flanders with the Canadian army, have again volunteered their services to Canada in the present emergency, it was disclosed yesterday.

A special general meeting of the Japanese Branch of the Canadian Legion wired Prime Minister King pledging loyalty and offering their services.

In a reply to the veterans H. R. L. Henry, private secretary to the Prime Minister said:

"The Prime Minister has directed me to acknowledge your telegram transmitting the resolution of loyalty to Canada adopted by the special general meeting of the Japanese Branch of the Canadian Legion, and to express the government's appreciation of the promptness of the action taken by its members in making immediately known their readiness to serve Canada wherever their services may be required.

By STAFF WRITER

Hardest hit among the Japanese as a result of the war have been the fishermen. At one fell blow the future hopes for a livelihood have gone a-glimmering. Here's the situation as your reporter could ascertain.

The great sockeye season is past history. But some of the Japanese Canadian fishermen had already gone out fishing again, this time for the dog-fish whose liver yields much valuable oil. Others were planning to leave in a few days or after New Year's.

But, for the present, that's out of the question. Orders have come from the naval authorities for all fishermen of Japanese extraction (both Nisei and naturalized Issei — for you must remember that no "alien" is allowed to fish in B.C. waters) to have their vessels ready for special inspection.

Pure and simple, the naval authorities' orders are that all boats out fishing at present must head for the nearest official fishing port (there are thirteen of them in B.C.), and report to the authorities. Those in port already must leave their crafts tied to a wharf, or if they have already put them away for the winter to leave them where they are and await the arrival of an inspector or further word.

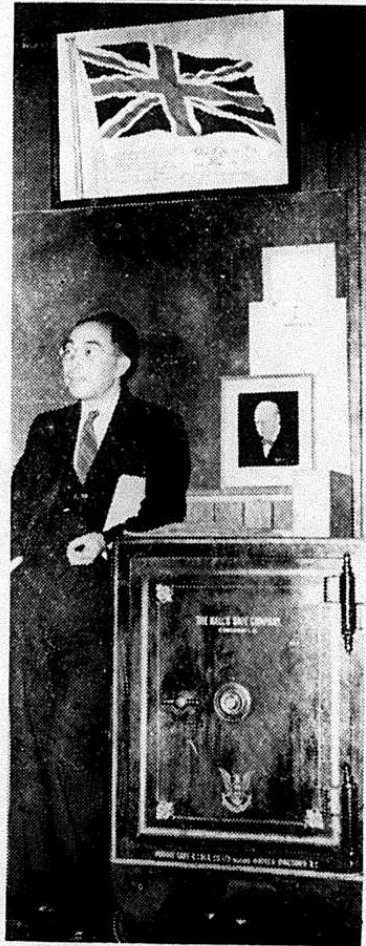
Thus, from the Fraser—Sunbury, East Richmond and Steveston—up along the coast—Rivers Inlet, Knight Inlet—north to the Skeena and the Nass, out on the West Coast—Ucluelet, Tofino and Clayoquot—Japanese fishing craft have been immobilized.

And what will actually happen to their boats? Wild conjectures are rife. But all that the naval authorities are doing—as far as I can make sure, is to inspect the boat for firearms or any weapon which might be used for purposes of sabotage and are naturally enough, making sure that the vessels will not be operated for the present by taking some part of the boat engine away.

Sore Predicament

Fortunately, most fishermen enjoyed a bumper sockeye catch this year. With the prices fair, most of them have managed to pay off their debts and to lay aside a little in savings so that they and their families will not have to starve for a while.

In spite of this fact, one stalwart Nisei fisherman tersely described the whole situation with these words: "It's a g-d--- predicament we've got into." For what if the government will not allow them to fish next year by refusing them licenses? But all are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping for the best, trusting that conditions will improve by the time next year rolls along.



Courtesy, Vancouver Province

With attention focused on the Japanese population in Canada, the spotlight naturally turned to Steveston, best-known Japanese centre in the country. A Province photographer hid himself down there, and posed Mitsunobu Kuba, secretary of the Steveston Fishermen's Association and former active Citizens' League leader, beneath a picture of the Union Jack and beside a portrait of Winston Churchill in his office.

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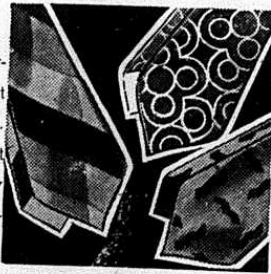
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Fishing Fleet Tied Up—No One Left to Supply Britain With Vital Product

VANCOUVER.—A vivid illustration of how important a part Japanese Canadian fishermen in British Columbia were playing in the war through service on the production front was reported yesterday by the Vancouver Sun.

The Sun disclosed that one of Great Britain's prime requirements, high vitamin-oils, manufactured from British Columbia dogfish livers, is being lost because the Japanese boats have been tied up and there are no other fishermen able to go out and catch the dogfish at a price that operators, under contract with the British ministry of food, will pay.

The price was pegged in Ottawa at 12c per pound, in the belief that the small gill-net fleet could operate at that price. Under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Turner, newly-appointed oils administrator, an agreement was effected with the manufacturers, and approved by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. It was then submitted to the British Food Mission, and if it becomes effective, the price will be officially pegged at 12c a pound.

Scott from p.1

I believe that this can be, in a minor way, a test of the things that we are fighting for. Not color against color or language against language, but for bigger things, far, far bigger than harshly callin a dog "German."

If such a stand as this—and I know how unpopular it will be—can be called a lack of patriotism it seems to me that a lot of cherished standards are going to fall.

I believe we should guard against that as we guard against the Japanese or the Germans who are that in thought and not merely name.

S. HAYAMI

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