



Weekly Whirligig

By K. W.

On Being a Nisei . . .

In my ambulating around Nisei-ville for the past seven years, I have met the odd Nisei who wished desperately that he had not been born of the Japanese race. I suppose there are not a few who feel that way, particularly at just this time. I imagine that when the news of the war came over the radio, that thought may have flashed through many minds.

It would be a very natural thing for young people, caught up in this mad welter of conflicting forces, to bewail the particular fate that befallen them with black hair, slanted eyes, and a Mongoloid complexion. In short, with all those physical characteristics belonging to the "little yellowbellies", as the current vernacular puts it. This physical appearance, plus a Japanese name, seem to have visited upon most of us a whole series of misfortunes. The war comes now, to crown them all.

For myself, I cannot share any regret that I was born of the Japanese race.

Looking back is a startling revelation of how much the fact of being a second generation has actually meant. For one thing, it has opened up richness of life far surpassing the things that a Teutonic cast might have brought. It has displayed the fascination of two distinct cultures, Japanese and American — of two modes of life — of eating, drinking, singing, dressing, thinking, talking, even writing.

Even more, being a Nisei has presented a whole set of problems that have kept me alive. It has given me something very real and very personal to work for. It has been a constant spur to effort, to study, to serious thought — in short more than anything else it has promoted me from the plane of mere existence, no matter how luxurious it might have been, to the plane of real living.

All the highlights that come to mind all the stirring and glowing friendships, all the battles fought and being fought . . . these were part and parcel of a Nisei milieu.

In fact, being a Nisei has been the chief joy of my life. It has shaped it, developed it, made it, I feel, one that is worthwhile.

I'm grateful for being a Nisei.

Notice To Readers

In order to meet new demands, The New Canadian will be published at least twice weekly in the future, (except for Christmas week). The support of the public generally in making this journal of real and vital service to the whole community is earnestly requested. News items and notices of public interest will be gratefully appreciated; and it is hoped that in the New Year definite plans for issuing The New Canadian more frequently will be made. The next issue will be published this Friday.

Navy To Protect Fishing Boats May Build Ways At New Westminster

NEW WESTMINSTER. — A sadly forlorn sight here is the huge boom of Japanese Canadian-owned fishing boats, now anchored here in the relative shelter of the "wing dam" or New Westminster Breakwater.

Frail gill-netters, west coast trollers, "inside" collectors, packers, large and small are lined up one against the other; and many engines have been adjusted to render them inoperative. Patrolling the immobilized fleet are armed naval guards.

Boats from Steveston, the upper Fraser, the gulf islands, up coast, and Nanaimo are all included.

Fears for the safety and care of the craft are uppermost in the minds of most fishermen, who are anxious that steps be taken to prevent the boats from ruin.

Naval and government authorities have given assurances, however, that existing arrangements are only temporary and some such steps will be taken. Possibly a "ways" will be constructed at New Westminster, so as to haul the smaller boats out of the water.

Two fishermen have been given special permission to keep their boats in order to take their children to and from school. They live on islands in the middle of the Fraser River.

Newsbriefs

Hart, Ottawa to Confer On Japanese Situation

VICTORIA. — Premier John Hart will discuss problems arising from the presence of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia with the Federal Government in Ottawa this week.

This conference follows a previous meeting between the Premier and Lieut.-Col. Macgregor Macintosh of the advisory committee on Oriental affairs held in Victoria last week.

Col. Macintosh stated that the committee had found a readiness among the leaders of the different Japanese colonies to co-operate in carrying out the wishes of the Federal Government.

National J.C.C.L. to Hold Emergency Meeting

VANCOUVER. — Members of the National Executive of the Japanese Canadian Citizens' League will meet in Vancouver Sunday, December 21, for a consideration of the many serious question that have arisen from the outbreak of war on the Pacific.

Local Community Stores To Open Evenings

VANCOUVER. — Under the shop regulation act, storekeepers may keep open evenings the week before Christmas. In the Japanese community stores will remain open until 9 p.m. on the following days: December 20, 22, 23, 24.

In the event of a blackout, however, all stores will close down.

Stores will be closed Christmas and Boxing Day; and the following Wednesday, December 31, they will close at one o'clock.

More Workers Fired Following Outbreak of War

VANCOUVER. — Several more cases of Japanese Canadians being laid off were reported since the last listing of casualty bulletins. These included about five men at Englewood, a longshoreman on the Vancouver docks, and several more hotel workers in city hotels.

Belt Tightening Seen as War Slows up Business

VANCOUVER. — Although the tense pitch of uncertainty, worry and insecurity in the Japanese Canadian community has declined somewhat after ten days of war, the whole community has resigned itself to saying, "goodbye" to "normal" conditions, and is now trying to adjust itself to the new situation. Paramount is the feeling of economic depression, as business and employment have both slumped considerably.

Although a few Powell Street merchants report that business is keeping up, there is a general tightening up of spending on the part of most people, and concurrently a tightening of retail credit. The uncertainty over the future has slowed up the usual Christmas rush, although merchants are hopeful that business will improve in the remaining days before Christmas and in the week before New Year.

As was to be expected, part of the trade that normally goes to uptown stores has been diverted into local channels, but because of the war this volume has not been large.

Local Japanese shop owners who cater chiefly to Occidental customers — fruit markets, grocery stores, coffee shops, dry cleaners — have an even sadder story to tell, with many reporting as much as a 50 per cent drop in business.

While window-smashing and other untoward incidents have been confined to a few districts, notably the West End, most of the stores all over the city reported that business was bad. (Plate glass insurance policies have also been cancelled by the insurance companies.)

Here the shop owners are optimistic, feeling that most of their customers of long-standing will come back.

The majority, however, just like the entire community, are preparing themselves for some stringent belt-tightening, resigning themselves to the fact that business may not get better. It may, in fact, get worse.

Thanks To JCCCL For Allegiance Telegram

VANCOUVER. — Acknowledgement and appreciation of the telegram sent December 7 by the National Japanese Canadian Citizens' League to the Prime Minister pledging the loyalty of second generation is contained in a letter received from H. L. Keenleyside, Under Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Wrote Dr. Keenleyside:

"The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of December 7 and to thank you and the members of the Japanese Canadian Citizens' League for this new expression of their loyalty to Canada.

"The Prime Minister was happy to receive this further indication of the contribution that you are making to Canadian unity."

Regina Mayor Sure Of Nisei Loyalty

(Regina Leader-Post)

Regina, Sask. — Japan's declaration of war against Great Britain and the United States came as a shock and a matter of great regret to the small colony of approximately 50 Japanese in Regina. Most of those interviewed adopted the attitude that it was Japan's own business and called for no action on their part except as local naturalized Canadians.

"I think we can safely trust the Japanese in Regina to continue to be loyal to the land in which they have made their home and living for many years," said Mayor James Grassick.

Japanese residents of Regina had expressed their loyalty to their adopted country in the tangible form of a large donation to the Canadian war chest early in 1940, the Mayor recalled.

Moose Jaw Declaration Similarly in Moose Jaw, Japanese residents through one of their more prominent business men, Harry Nakashima, expressed deep regret at Japan having entered into war against the United States and Canada.

See "PRAIRIES" Page 3

Aliens To Report At Twelve Police Centres For Parole

VANCOUVER. — Some 12 Federal and Provincial police offices have been designated as centres where Japanese aliens and those naturalized since 1922 are required to register before February 7, 1942, and to report periodically thereafter on parole.

All those who register are required to sign a declaration pledging themselves to report periodically, to obey the law in all respects and to guard against any subversive activity.

They are also required to report movements from their own localities and to obtain special permission and instructions from the centre where he is registered.

For the convenience of readers, the list of registration

centres, together with their districts, follows:

(1) R.C.M.P. Barracks, 33rd and Heather, Vancouver: Vancouver; New Westminster; Marpole; The entire North Arm; Burnaby; Queensborough; Port Moody; Westminster Junction; Pitt Meadows; Hammond, Haney; South of the Fraser, west of Coghlan; North Vancouver; Britannia; Woodfibre; Bowen Island; and the rest of Howe Sound.

(2) Abbotsford R. C. M. P.: South Fraser, east of Coghlan; Coghlan; Mount Lehman; Pinegrove; Abbotsford; Chilliwack and all surrounding districts.

(3) Mission R.C.M.P. Post: Whonnock; Ruskin; Albion; Mission; Dewdney; and all of Stave Falls district.

(4) B. C. Police, Prince Rupert: Prince Rupert and district.

(5) B.C. Police, Ocean Falls: Ocean Falls and district. (Residents of Skeena districts report either to Ocean Falls or Prince Rupert centres).

(6) Victoria R. C. M. P.: Vancouver Island.

(7) B. C. Police, Alert Bay: Alert Bay and district.

(8) B.C. Police, Powell River: Powell River.

(9) B.C. Police, Vernon: Vernon; Kelowna; Armstrong; Westbank; Okanagan Centre; Rutland; Lumby.

(10) B.C. Police, Salmon Arm: Salmon Arm and district.

(11) B.C. Police, Penticton: Penticton; Summerland; West Summerland.