

# The New Canadian

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## Nisei Navy Workers In Hawaiian Defence

WASHINGTON. — Tribute to the loyalty and heroism of second generation Japanese in Hawaii was paid by Secretary of Navy Frank Knox in his written statement describing the surprise attack on Pearl Harbour.

Describing the air attack and the defensive action taken by the American forces, Secretary Knox wrote:

"Simultaneously through out the navy yard examples of personal heroism developed. Several workmen of Japanese ancestry deserted their benches to help the marine defense battalion man machine gun nests. Two of them, with hands blistered from hot gun barrels, required emergency treatment."

## ★ Editorially Speaking

The responsibility . . . for our welfare in the present situation, according to the Vancouver Sun, depends very much upon our own attitude. That may be true in part, but it is far from the whole truth. There is undoubtedly an equal responsibility on the part of the Canadian public to be fair to a minority group placed in a very tight spot, through no fault of their own. In occupied countries of Europe, for instance, we do not condemn the unrest of the people, unjustly treated by the Nazi oppressor.

The suggestion of the Sun that if we are loyal to Canada, we should be willing to work for her, reminds us very much of the street peddlars, who rushed to Powell Street as soon as war was declared, to sell Victory buttons, victory calendars, and advertisements for patriotic papers.

Willing to work! There are hundreds of capable young men and young women who could contribute a great deal to Canada's war effort, if only given the chance. There come to mind immediately any number of well-trained University grads who would give their eye-teeth to be doing some useful war-work along the lines for which they have been trained.

We are not afraid of watching

## Chemainus Co. Assures Workers Of Fair Treatment

By S. E. Y.

CHEMAINUS. — Mr. J. A. Humbird, manager of the Victoria Lumber & Manufacturing Co. Ltd., has assured the Japanese Canadian employees here that the policy of the company will be to keep them employed just as in normal times.

This statement was given to a committee including Messrs. G. Kawahara, T. Kawabe, H. Okade and S. E. Yoshida, all employees of the company.

Shortly after this same assuring statement was issued to a general meeting of all employees of the company.

Registration of enemy aliens for the Japanese community was completed here on December 14-15, last Sunday and Monday. Acting as interpreter for the Provincial Police was S. E. Yoshida.

Community life is functioning here as in normal times, without any feeling directed against the Japanese residents. In some instances, in fact, the public attitude seems to have improved.

## Corporal Nakamoto



"Corporal Jack Nakamoto" is the way the soldier above signs his name now. Notice has just been received that this Vancouver-born Nisei who worked his way East over three years ago and enlisted in the Royal Canadian Engineers in Quebec in the summer of 1940, has received his stripes and thus has become the first Japanese-Canadian non-commissioned officer in the regular army.

### Alien Registration Correction

In the list of centres where Japanese aliens may report published Wednesday, the twelfth centre, B. C. Police at Kamloops, was mistakenly omitted.

## A.R.P. Precautions Plan Local First Aid Post

VANCOUVER.—Air Raid Precautions organization for the district embracing the downtown Japanese section of the city is going ahead rapidly, according to Captain Francis M. Hann, chief warden for district 3. Present plans call for 300 wardens to provide patrols 24 hours of the day. Equipment is being slowly secured, and arrangements being made to provide adequate training for the wardens.

A first aid station at the Japanese Hall on Alexander Street, staffed by a Japanese doctor and two Nisei nurses, and to operate 24 hours in emergencies, is also planned.

The Seamen's Institute has also been named as a first aid post.

In the re-organization of the ARP set-up for this district, no Japanese wardens have been appointed. In the blackouts of last week, the area was patrolled by other wardens.

It is believed, however, that some steps may be taken to provide Nisei wardens, who would be able to give instructions without being hindered by the language handicap. Any such action, however, will have to come from the community itself.

District 3, from Main Street to Clarke Drive, and from the waterfront to Terminal Avenue, is of course one of the more vulnerable areas of the city, by reason of its proximity to the waterfront and semi-industrial nature.

It is divided into 6 zones, each with a chief warden and two deputies. Each zone is sub-divided into sections and each section into patrols. Three wardens will be required for each patrol, if men are required to be on duty 24 hours of the day.

Placards detailing instructions as to what to do in the event of air raids have been widely distributed in homes throughout the city by school children.

## ● Newsbriefs

### "Sixth Columnists" Organize "Pacific Coast Security League"

VANCOUVER.—The government's methods in dealing with Japanese enemy aliens and the Japanese minority in B.C. was criticized Wednesday night at a meeting in the Hastings Auditorium of 30 delegates to an organization described as the Pacific Coast Security League.

The chairman, Wilfred White, who was associated in 1940 with the organization of the now defunct British Canadian Allies Club to combat a German fifth column here, said the meeting was called at the instance of James Law and Alderman Halford Wilson.

### Education Dept. to Consider Policy for Japanese Pupils

VICTORIA.—Minister of Education, Hon. H. G. T. Perry, said yesterday that school inspectors had been asked to submit reports, describing the reaction of the public caused by the war, with respect to the attendance in different schools of Japanese children.

What changes in policy, if any, will be decided after the completion of the survey.

In replying to a protest received from a woman at Duncan against allowing Japanese children to attend school, Mr. Perry observed:

"While I can readily understand your feeling towards the Japanese, yet we must be careful not to be unfair, even to the children of our enemies."

### "Up to the Japanese Themselves," Says the Sun

VANCOUVER.—In an editorial Wednesday, the Vancouver Sun urged that "early and careful consideration by the authorities" should be given to the question of employing Japanese fishermen cut off from their livelihood.

"It is worth while repeating," says the Sun, "that it depends very much upon the attitude of the Japanese themselves to determine what kind of beds they are going to sleep in during the trying months that are ahead."

## No Need to Register Again

## Ottawa Says Registration Compulsory

Widespread confusion has been reported over the interpretation of a news report from Ottawa that Prime Minister Mackenzie King announced Wednesday the passing of an order-in-council making it compulsory for all persons of Japanese race in Canada over the age of 16 to register.

This report has given many people the impression that in addition to aliens and those

eyes, as long as the eyes are fair and unprejudiced.

naturalized after 1922 having to report, all others must also register again. This impression, of course, is wholly mistaken.

The registration carried out by the R.C.M.P. during the past several months, in which all persons over 16 were issued identification cards, complete with photographs and fingerprints, was only a voluntary scheme. It was carried out as such on the recommendation of the inquiry committee which investigated the local situation in B. C. in 1940.

Although it was a voluntary plan, the authorities were well satisfied that very few residents failed to co-operate.

Now Compulsory Under the new order-in-council announced by the Prime Minister, the registration has been changed from a voluntary act to one compulsory by law. Any person, therefore, Issei or Nisei, who failed to register, must do so or else be guilty of breaking the law.

In his statement the Prime Minister said that the loyalty of the great majority of Canada's 25,000 Japanese was unquestioned.

He warned, however, that any Japanese whom the government has any reason to suspect of "fifth column" activity, will be treated like an enemy alien.

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