

# The New Canadian

THE VOICE OF THE SECOND GENERATION

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## Accept Nisei In Army Urges United Church - Voices Regret

Unanimous endorsement was given by the Vancouver Presbytery of the United Church of Canada at a meeting Tuesday of resolutions expressing regret that "exigencies of war necessitate this complete disorganization of the way of life" of Japanese in British Columbia and urging that Nisei volunteers be accepted into the armed forces.

### WHIRLIGIG

By K. W.

Education of first and second generation is being advanced today as one of the more novel suggestions as to how we might make the best out of an enforced stay in roadcamps for the duration.

It is an important suggestion. Few of us want to waste years in a camp, living at a subsistence level, staring down into empty and uncertain years. The plan is to organize groups, for the study of language, economics, sociology, cultural arts, and so forth, and above all to give us some training that will help us through the difficult days of rehabilitation after the war.

There are tremendous practical difficulties, not the least of which is likely to be the apathy of the men concerned. Or the women, too, if they are sent to live in ghost towns in the interior as is being suggested. From my own experience in pick-and-shovel work, I know that eight hours of hard work during the day can easily wipe out any will to study in the evening.

But there are many Occidental groups—church and student—which are or could be interested in work of this nature. If they are willing to lend a hand and push through an effective program, the work-camps themselves may be productive of some good human results, as well as of some cheaply-built roads.

To the Vancouver Presbytery of the United Church of Canada goes a vote of thanks, and a vote of admiration, too, for its courage in passing the two resolutions related in the adjoining column.

If we have been disappointed in some of the things we thought we could rely upon—the hospital and the university for instance—the Christian Church on the whole has stood by its principles even to the point of "sticking out its neck." And that is what it has done, when it suggests that the Nisei should be allowed to serve in the armed forces. We like to think that this is a concrete expression of a fighting and courageous democracy—one that will

The first resolution commended the statement of the B. C. Security Commission that it would act in the most human manner possible.

The second declared that "in our judgment there are many places where (Japanese) volunteers for the armed forces could be used to great advantage."

Warning of the danger of a "racial cleavage" in Canada, it said:

"From long association with and work among these people, it is our conviction that many are sincerely interested in the victory of our democratic forces. They love Canada, desire to maintain her freedom and integrity and would willingly shed their blood for her as heretofore.

#### Deprecate Exploitation

In their first resolution, delegates to the Presbytery said:

"We would also express to the Japanese citizens of our province, among us have proved to be a law-abiding and industrious people, our regret that the exigencies of war necessitate this complete disorganization of their way of living.

We deprecate attempts made by anyone to exploit this unhappy situation for their own personal advantage."

To Japanese members, adherents and pastors, the resolution offered "... at this dark hour... the hand of Christian fellowship and continued concern for their welfare."

#### RICE PROBLEM LOOMING

There is no serious shortage of rice in Canada as yet owing to supplies accumulated before the war, but in the future the North American continent will have to produce its own supply, according to Duncan Gavin, president of Canada Rice Mills and recently appointed to the five-man rice board.

not trample down its principles at home, in a frenzied fear to defend its possessions abroad.

When I read of the Presbytery's resolutions, I thought that swapping a golf game on Sunday morning for a Sunday School class wasn't such a bad deal after all.

A letter from a Decoigne work camp says all there is is mountains, mountains and mountains—no amusement, no relaxation, no fishing....

## COMMISSION EXPANDING

Swinging into its huge task of supervising the evacuation of every single person of the Japanese race from the protected area, the British Columbia Security Commission is growing and growing every day. Tuesday night it moved its offices from the 11th floor of the Marine Building—offices formerly occupied by the Japanese consulate—into larger premises on the ground floor.

Chairman of the Commission, Austin C. Taylor, told the press Wednesday that the Commission would follow a policy of not placing any evacuees in any district unless that district favored the move.

He said evacuees would be sent only to areas which requested their services, and then only if there was no opposition to the project.

The Commission Tuesday held conferences with representatives from Alberta, in regard to the possibility of placing workers in the sugar beet fields. No announcement was made, however, as to the results of the conference.

## Temporary Home For Evacuees At Exhibition Park

Temporary quarters large enough to accommodate hundreds of men, women and children are being prepared at Hastings Park, to provide shelter for the many Japanese Canadians who will assemble in Vancouver prior to evacuation from the protected area by the B. C. Security Commission.

Although members of the commission declined to reveal plans, it is understood that these shelters will house the evacuees from up-coast and island communities, as well as those people who are selling out their businesses, and unable to find other quarters in the city.

Two buildings used for the annual exhibition, the Women's Building, built in 1939, and the Livestock Building, erected in 1931, have been leased by the Government for the next four months, Exhibition officials said.

They will thus again be available for the annual event which takes place the last week of August.

Both of these modern, fireproof buildings of steel and concrete construction, with concrete floorings, are undergoing almost complete renovation as civilian workmen and soldiers are installing wash basins, toilets, baths and showers. Rooms are being partitioned off, while baths, blankets and bedding are being brought in. Drain Into City

Use of the buildings will help to solve the increasingly grave problem of housing being encountered as more and more people arrive in the city. Loss of employment elsewhere and uncertainty as to the future have been the chief factors in causing this drain into the city, which has just been brought to a halt by orders of the Austin Taylor Commission. Along Powell Street, the housing shortage is already reflected

## Make Application Custodian To Take Control Of Property Of Evacuees

VANCOUVER — Unliquidated property of all persons of Japanese race evacuated from the coastal area will be placed under the control and management of the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property, Glen F. McPherson announced Wednesday.

In a paid newspaper announcement, Mr. McPherson said that order-in-council P. C. 1665 passed in Ottawa on March 4, had vested in his office all property which evacuees cannot take with them when they leave.

It does not apply, however, to fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities.

It is understood also that automobiles and other motor vehicles, radios and cameras now being delivered up to the R.C.M.P. will be subject to the control of the custodian.

The order provides that "no commission shall be charged by the Custodian."

#### Report Property Now

Every person of Japanese race is urged to report their property to the office of the custodian immediately. Forms for setting forth the particulars of such property may be obtained on written application to the office in Vancouver.

The property, rights and interests thus turned over to the Custodian will be dealt with "in such manner as the Governor-in-Council may direct." By Governor-in-Council is meant the government at Ottawa.

When the property is vested in the control of the Custodian, the regulations respecting trading with the enemy, 1939, will apply. Thus any other person having business dealings with such property will have to report such transactions to the Custodian for approval.

Dr. E. H. Coleman, K. C., under-secretary of state for external affairs, is present in the city conferring with the custodian and other officials as to what steps are to be taken in administration of the property.

A hazardous guess at the total value of realizable assets owned by persons of the Japanese race exceeds twenty-five millions.

## Move to Camp Gaining Speed

Evacuation of Japanese nationals from the coastal area continues to gather momentum, as larger and larger groups are rolling out to work on the road-building program planned for them.

A record number of 130 left Wednesday night for Gosnell and Lemprieri, points near Blue River, C.N. divisional point in the North Thompson valley. Camps are now being established on the Blue River-Jasper highway section.

A total of 625 nationals have now been moved, all of whom have been placed in this northern district near the B. C.-Alberta boundary.

Plans are going ahead for groups shortly to go to Princeton, to begin work on the Hope-Princeton road, it was understood today.

There is little likelihood that any evacuees will go to work on the Alaska highway through northern British Columbia.

Japanese nationals are arriving in Vancouver regularly, where they are required to report to the Department of Labor for assignment to the camps.

#### SEND TO ALL PROVINCES

The Union of B. C. Municipalities executive meeting Tuesday asked the Dominion Government to distribute all Japanese in Canada among the various provinces in proportion to the population of each province.

At the present time they are the only persons permitted to travel from their present homes under orders of the Taylor Commission.

## Island Cars Surrendered at Victoria

VICTORIA, March 12—All motor vehicles owned by first and second generation on Vancouver Island are being impounded here today by the R.C.M.P.

The cattle shed in the Willows Exhibition grounds, situated off Cadboro Bay is being used by the police for the purpose, and sunset today was announced as the surrender deadline by Inspector C. R. Peters, officer commanding.

Residents of island communities were required to report with their vehicles to the nearest B. C. provincial police office. From these

various points, they were driven in convoy under police direction. Inspector Peters announced that the curfew law was still in effect, and that hours of sunset and sunrise should be obtained from local newspapers.

Information on the number of cars owned by Japanese Canadians resident on the island is not available, but estimates place it at less than one hundred.

Surrender of motor vehicles, radios and cameras in the Lower mainland which began Monday morning is proceeding according to plan.

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