

The New Canadian
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 A paper published by and for second generation Japanese in Canada, and devoted to their welfare as citizens of Canada.
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No Reprisals

The news of appalling atrocities committed in the Far East by the Japanese forces has come as a terrible shock to every person of Japanese descent in Canada. No one assuredly will condemn such a record more than ourselves who are so placed by the tide of war that we can appreciate to the full the fear of terrifying things that may easily follow, if justice and humanity are entirely swept aside by brutality and violence.

Anthony Eden's report has come at a very tense moment in the situation here at home. There can be no mistaking the aroused temper of a large section of the people along the Pacific Coast. Every care must be taken on our part to avoid any provocation that would aggravate the tendency to "get even" on us, thus setting in motion a vicious circle of reprisals and counter-reprisals, with ourselves and British civilians and prisoners of war in the Far East the tragic victims.

We are indebted to the Prime Minister for his warning that there must be no attempt at retaliation in kind. Likewise too to Conservative Leader Hanson. In a situation of this nature, it is significant that we depend upon the protection of lawful and responsible authority to a greater degree than some of us, in our bitter complaints over the shortcomings of democracy, are perhaps willing to admit.

But the Prime Minister's expression will help us to believe that the government has been sincere in its program and thus to accept the total upheaval in our lives, the irritating web of restrictions imposed, with greater understanding.

Rights Of Citizenship

At its conference in Ottawa two months ago the government indicated that it wished to preserve as far as possible a distinction between Japanese nationals and Canadians of Japanese racial origin. Hence, its first plan of removal and a number of restrictions were to be applied only to those who legally were not recognized as Canadian citizens.

Although the legal distinction between citizen and alien in some cases may be faulty as a general principle it is basically sound, and is a part of the democratic framework of our country.

A rapid and drastic change in governmental policy seems to have swallowed up the distinction. Restrictions have been applied with equal force both to aliens and to Canadians, regardless of a difference in status. There can be no doubt that these developments have caused some doubt as to the value of our citizenship.

It is true of course that thus far the removal policy to compulsory work camps has been applied only to aliens. But there are few, if any, indications left that any different treatment will be accorded Canadian citizens. And yet we believe that it should. We do believe that we have a right to insist upon a treatment that recognizes our citizenship.

If we are insistent in that regard, it is essentially because we are still convinced in spite of all that has been said, in spite of all that has happened, that we are and can be good and useful Canadian citizens.

Little Tragedies

LADIES... Notice that Nisei have a habit of referring to young women around twenty-five as girls, that is when they don't say dames. Wouldn't it be better to call them women? Or am I treading on dynamite when I venture to make such a suggestion. While we're on the subject, always remember, young fellow, that all ladies are women, but not all women are ladies... Add odd Nisei names: Hattie Horino. Do you have a Japanese first name that you never use? Most Nisei using Christian names never use their given Japanese handles. I like mine, but it's too awkward. If I ever get married and have children, I'm going to give serious consideration to the idea of letting the kids choose their own names as soon as they grow old enough to do so. Most parents don't realize the importance of giving their children nice sounding names. How would you like to have a name like Tetsujisaburo or Michiteramasa? It's sheer cruelty, that's what.

REPARTÉE... Reader wishes to know what kind of girls are the quickest at repartee, or the snappy comeback, as the boys say. Well, I don't know how you feel on the point, but I've always thought that waitresses as a group, are the fastest on the comeback trigger. That's because the nature of their work makes it necessary for them to build up a defense mechanism. Either be fast on the trigger or take a constant riding. As a result, most girls who have been waitresses for some time develop the art of repartee to a fine point. They have an apt answer to everything. Next to waitresses, secretaries are the quickest. I don't know why that is so, unless it's to defend themselves against the verbal parryings of their bosses. Of all the girls, the slowest are those who work in homes. Guess the lack of personal contact and the absence of the need for a defense mechanism is the main reason for this.

COFFEE... Do you like coffee? I usually drink about six or seven cups a day if the coffee is good. There's nothing worse than a cup of bad coffee, unless it be a plate of cold, fried onions. The success of most lunch counters and grills depends largely on the quality of their coffee. Usually, when the coffee is good, the food is likewise good. If the Java is bad, ditto for the food. Which is one reason why eating in Nihon-machi is a necessary habit, not a thing of joy... This column is lousy, but there's no inspiration in the daytime, and less at night within the four bare walls of a hotel room.

IN THE GROOVE... Heard along our stem: "Is the guy conceited? Why every time his birthday rolls around, he sends his mother a wire of congratulations"... A good slogan for Nisei dentists: "Be true to your teeth, or they'll be false to you." A good motto for a go-getter: "No cents in waiting"... Gag for golfers is credited to a lazy North Carolina duffer. He travels from green to green on a two caddy-drawn, rubber-tired jin-ricksha with a rumble seat for his clubs. However, says the story, he still does his own putting... Seen on a West End Church signboard: Evening subject—"What is Hell Like?"; Come and Hear our Organist.

Golden Rule For Aliens In U. S.

(Rodney Brink in the Christian Science Monitor
 When peace comes again (after victory for the United Nation of course) it will be an added source of gratification if we, the people of the United States can look back upon a clear record of good sportsmanship and fair play—if we can say honestly that alien within our borders has been treated in accordance with the Golden Rule.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has been the Nation's first point of contact with citizens of enemy lands now within our borders, has painstakingly set an example of fair treatment that doubtlessly will be patterned by the Army, now taking over that part of the work.

This attitude of fairness and gentleness has been especially evident in the handling of Japanese, aliens and citizens, on the Pacific Coast. Here, in an atmosphere aggravated by confusion caused by the dual citizenship of many of the American-born Japanese, the best traditions of the United States Department of Justice and the gentlemanly conduct of the men of its Bureau of Investigation have held true under extraordinary stress. There has been no public complaint of any brutality or mistreatment.

The FBI has had the assistance of an amplified personnel of the Post Office Department in registering aliens of enemy countries and the Immigration Service has received from FBI for detention hundreds of aliens arrested on suspicion of foreign loyalties, some of them to be confined for the duration of the war.

FBI, however, has been the focal point of all such activities, and its methods, complimented even by some of the aliens who come within their scope, are of exceptional interest.

"We have tried to carry out the instructions of the Attorney General of the United States," says William Fleet Palmer, United States District Attorney. "In dealing with the Japanese we have held merely that they should not be discriminated against; that they should be treated as human beings."

Under the Department of Justice, sifting boards have been set up to hear the cases of all individuals taken into custody, whether they request such hearing or not. Three civilian judges will hear each case, and in each case will recommend either unrestricted liberty for the individual, or parole to a responsible citizen, or internment for the duration. The Attorney General will pass finally on each case.

"We believe in justice and democracy," says Mr. Palmer, "and we want to treat all in a way that will justify our claims to justice and humanity. We are not interested in the howl being raised against American-born Japanese, which seems to be at least partly economic in its origin."

Here Mr. Palmer referred to the fact that Japanese have been the keenest of competitors as vegetable growers, produce distributors, and in other fields; and that the times and strained circumstances give occasion for much subtle, perhaps even unconscious, antagonism under a cloak of patriotism or defense.

"We would be violating our United States Constitution to the very extent that we permitted discrimination against those citizens of Japanese extraction," Mr. Palmer said. "We are determined that they shall not be persecuted or stripped of their property without due reason."

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