
Premier
Oriental Exclusion
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Premier
PABC
GR 1222

D-4-G.

1 9 4 7
February 24

J. P. Knox, Esq.,
Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Mr. Knox:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of February 22nd with reference to the employment of Japanese labour in the Greenwood area.

Please be advised that your views in this matter will be given every consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Premier.

RECEIVED
FEB 24 1947
PREMIER'S OFFICE

Greenwood, B. C. February 22, 1947.

Honorable John Hart,
Premier British Columbia,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir;-

You have doubtless been made aware of a situation that has developed here in Greenwood regarding the Japanese who are resident self-supporting Canadian Citizens. These Canadian Japanese have established themselves anew here by working in the woods for contractors on Crown lands, as well as in sawmills and on the Railroad, but after a few weeks now their work on Crown lands is to be stopped.

As well, a road contract has been let from Rock Creek to Greenwood which could employ all resident labour if the Japanese of Canadian origin were allowed to work, but again the contract wording rules them out, being Asiatics. This road contract is but a small part of your meritorous program for better roads in British Columbia, and as Canadian Citizens under the new ruling, these Japanese should be allowed to work on this road contract if the siging of the Four Freedoms Atlantic Charter means anything.

Canada's magnificient war effort has been proclaimed all along as a fight to give those rights and freedoms that a Democratic Country stands for. Just what is the status of a Canadian Citizen if he cannot be a Canadian and live and work as one.

I have been with the Department of Labour, Japanese Division for over three years, until the Projects closed down, and have seen the way the Japanese have taken their removal from their established homes and feel they have made a better showing as citizens than any other group would have under similiar circumstances, and also feel that Canadian Labour situation needs this kind of help. If these Japanese Canadians who have re-established themselves here are denied the opportunity to do the work that is available to them here, it means get out and re-establish themselves another time, and the housing situation all over being what it is no mass movement could take place, which means they would have to be on Unemployment Insurance and relief until something was straightened out to take care of them.

If permission to employ these Canadian Japanese on this road contract were given at this time, it would solve the situation to a great extend for the present, and the Crown land angle could be taken up later, but the contractor is ready to go ahead now the snow has cleared away and it would certainly speed up operations if you would grant permission to use the Canadian Japanese right away.

Your kind consideration of this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

J. P. Knott

O-4-G

1 9 4 7
February 24

R. Corris, Esq.,
Secretary,
Greenwood Board of Trade,
Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Mr. Corris:

With reference to your letter of February 22nd on the subject of the employment of Japanese, please be advised that your representations will be given every consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Premier.

MINING - HUNTING - FISHING - RANCHING - LUMBERING - TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Good Hotel Accommodations

RECEIVED
FEB 24
PREMIER'S OFFICE

GREENWOOD BOARD OF TRADE

Greenwood, B.C.

February 22, 1947

The Honorable John Hart
Premier
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

At a recent meeting of the Greenwood Board of Trade, on motion it was requested that I communicate with you in regards to the Japanese inhabitants of our community.

It is now within reason to believe that the Japanese now here, some Canadian born, a few First World War Veterans, are anxious of becoming good Canadian Citizens. Therefore, from a humane point of view in justice to them, they should have the privilege to earn their own living to maintain their homes.

These peoples have obeyed all laws of this community and are highly respected. Our merchants enjoy their patronage and for any reason that this should cease, it would be just a matter of time before our business section would be cut in half.

Previous to the War this community was on the decline. When War broke out a big percentage moved to the coast and obtained good positions and settled. This left this community in very dire circumstances until the Japanese arrived. Since then this Community increased its business double to what it was previous to the outbreak of War.

I mention the above facts to point out that it is vital to this community that the Japanese be given every opportunity for employment possible. The fact that they are working in the woods here on Crown Lands should be overlooked. It is also requested that they be permitted to work on Highway Construction here. May I also inform you that we have no accommodation here for outside help to carry on the work even if they were available.

Therefore, may I suggest that our local Japanese be given every opportunity possible to be employed.

We would be very glad to discuss this matter in detail with you if possible.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary

c.c. - T.A. Love, M.L.A.
E.T. Kenny, Minister of Lands

O-4-G.

1 9 4 7
February 24

G. Weatherly, Esq.,
President,
Greenwood Community Association,
Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Mr. Weatherly:

I have for acknowledgment your letter of February 22nd enclosing a copy of resolution with reference to the employment of Japanese labour.

Please be advised that the views of your Association will be given every consideration in this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Premier.

Greenwood Community Association

Operating:
Public Library
Picture Show

GREENWOOD, B. C.

Sponsors of:
Community Welfare
Athletic Association

February 22, 1947

RECEIVED
FEB 24 1947
PREMIER'S OFFICE

The Honorable John Hart
Premier
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Greenwood Community Association, made up of representatives from the various local organizations such as The Women's Institute, the Catholic Women's League, Ladies' Aid, Canadian Legion, Red Cross, the Holy Name Society, the discussion arose concerning the importance of Japanese Labour.

This labour is urgently needed in this district in the production of lumber, box shook, highway construction and mining.

The construction contractor is required to employ local labour, but in its absence will have to bring in a class of help which is most likely to be very unsatisfactory and, in the meantime, some of our local Japanese men, who would be available and desirable in this work, will be idle. Furthermore, in the event that outside labour is brought in, there will be no housing available and this will aggravate the situation.

Furthermore, it is becoming evident that public opinion is crystallizing more and more in favour of the elimination of discrimination against any race or creed. It is recognized that all our forefathers were at one time immigrants and were not discriminated against.

In this territory we have lived amongst the Japanese evacuees for nearly five years. We have found them to be clean, honest, intelligent and law abiding. Their conduct has been above reproach and has won them many friends so that the opposition against them on arrival has been entirely overcome.

In view of the foregoing facts the enclosed resolution was unanimously adopted in protest of the conditions existing in the various contracts for the non-employment of Japanese labour.

While we use the word "Japanese" most of these people are either citizens or Canadian Born. We consider that we should at least have something to say re our own district.

Respectfully yours,

G. Weatherly

G. Weatherly
President

Encl.

Greenwood Community Association

Operating:
Public Library
Picture Show

GREENWOOD, B. C.

Sponsors of:
Community Welfare
Athletic Association

RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED that the Greenwood Community Association go on record in protest of the discrimination against the employment of Japanese labour on Crown Land, highway construction and mining, whereas at the present time there is a definite need for their labour in the woods, on the highway and in the mines, and we feel that in all fairness to them we should suggest that the satisfactory arrangement made by the Federal Government to be in force until March 31st, be continued until such time as the present situation is altered.