

COPY

1/1

THE JAPANESE -- WHAT ??

An Expose of the Facts

By Ald. Halford D. Wilson

The presence in British Columbia of many thousands of Japanese and British Subjects of Japanese racial origin is the topic of a great deal of discussion pro and con as to whether "Japanese here constitute a menace to our National safety."

Information of facts and figures available prove beyond contradiction that Japan has won the first round in carving for herself a large chunk of British Columbia Domestic Trade, and this has been accomplished without the presence of a Japanese soldier on B.C.'s shore.

The peaceful penetration of Japanese into the economic life of the Province has been accomplished by an insidious and destructive method of boring which threatens to establish in the not distant future a standard comparable only to the sweat shops of the industrial centres of Japan.

One line of business after another has fallen victim to the rapacious and untiring efforts of the Japanese to oust Canadians from industry and business that formerly was the means of support for many thousands of merchants and laborers of true Canadian stock. Legislation guarding and protecting labor and assuring a reasonable standard of living has been openly flaunted, and successfully circumvented, providing a form of competition that no Canadian accustomed to reasonable amenities of toil could adequately meet.

The Fishing Industry provides an excellent example of the methods adopted by Japanese in gnawing at the vitals, namely, the producer until the time arrives when the whole industry topples into the outstretched arms of Japanese fishermen and producers.

During the past week citizens of Vancouver have had an opportunity of witnessing Japanese tactics undermining the Herring Fishing Industry forcing Canadian Fishermen out of their livelihood to be replaced by Japanese.

The fresh fish market of Vancouver has formerly been supplied with Herring by approximately forty fishermen, resident in Vancouver, maintaining homes and paying taxes in addition owning their own boats and gear and the majority of whom, served in the Royal Navy during the last war.

(continued)

71

(2)

These men have brought their catches from Point Grey, fresh to the market every morning, and have received on the average 5¢ a pound; 2½¢ being received for any surplus used for kippering.

The Japanese have decided that these men must go, and go they will unless the Dept. of Fisheries at Ottawa acts immediately to safeguard their interests. Each year licenses are issued to the Japanese Seine Boat Fishermen for the seining of Herring, a quota being set in each district. These licenses are presumably issued to obtain fish for Dry Salting, Canning and Fish Reduction. The Japanese are now sorting the large herring and dumping them on the fresh fish market of Vancouver for 1 to 1½¢ per pound and the fish is anywhere from two to three days old on arrival in Vancouver. If the white fishermen must face this competition his family will be forced to move into shacks and become accustomed to a diet of raw fish and rice.

Another example of Japanese policy of non-co-operation occurred in the early summer when the Canadian fishermen's Unions were negotiating the price of fish to prevail this season.

The fishermen were asked to take a reduction in the price of fish. This resulted in a refusal on their part to fish, as they argued that cost of living, cost of gear and operation had increased owing to the war, the Japanese had promised co-operation with the white fishermen in holding out for last year's prices. Typical of Japanese tactics, Japs were observed fishing contrary to the agreement and they had issued a circular expressing loyal sentiment to the Empire and explaining why they were fishing for the lower price. This action broke the deadlock between fishermen and canners and the Canadian fishermen were forced owing to the action of the Japanese to accept the lower price. As a result of the settlement, the operators made contracts to furnish the United Kingdom with canned salmon. The Japanese loyalty to himself and himself alone is again evident, as the ink on the agreement between canners and fishermen setting prices was hardly dry before the Japanese issued another circular advising that fishermen may sell their fish to a Japanese buyer; This buyer, acting for an American concern and taking advantage of the premium on American money, is paying more for fish than that set out in the agreement.

The result was that the Japanese again broke faith and shipped their salmon to the United States, thus depriving the British Isles of much needed food, while at the same time Canadian fishermen stood by their agreement in spite of inducements offered by the U. S. Buyers.

(over)

Yi

(3)

It is all too evident, and such incidents only prove the truth of the saying, "that the Japanese prosper, expand, and live by the "Double Cross."

Incidents similar in character can be repeated in every phase of business engaged in by Japanese. Future articles will deal with these, suffice it to say that ruinous competition and the destruction of Canadian standards, as seen in the fishing industry is aided and encouraged every time Canadians knowingly patronize Japanese merchants and the products of Japanese industry.