

" A STUDY IN BLACK".

The alienation to Japanese interests of large tracts of timber on Vancouver Island, as well as of highly valuable iron ore deposits on one of the Queen Charlotte Islands is very reprehensible from a national economic viewpoint. It stands to reason that no white labor but only Japanese workers, at Japanese wages, working under Japanese working conditions and consuming Japanese commodities, will find employment there. No Canadian need apply for a job in the processes of logging or minning; much less will he have any chance of employment in the further stages of conversion of the raw material into finished products. This will be done in Japan, enabling that country to out-elbow the Canadian exporter from any of his markets. To us are left a barren landscape with ugly stumps, slash as fire hazard, denuded slopes adversely affecting our climate and the cost of reforestation. The precious treasure in our mountains and hills is given away to a potential enemy for less than a song, leaving to us empty caves never to be replenished.

These are only a few highlights of the effects of the exploitation of our resources by Japan. I have not dealt with their penetration in the fields of commerce, fishing, agriculture, fruitgrowing etc. They are untiring, subtle, methodical and deliberate in their work of gaining ground and of crowding the white man out of a living, being helped only too effectively in their endeavour by the connivance and indifference of our authorities, the shortsighted egotism of employers and the very valuable, yet not apparent, help from their government and from their financial institutions.

An increasing realization of these dangers is now evident. Many influential and public spirited individuals and organizations raise their voices in protest against the systematic inroads into our economic security. They are however totally ignoring or are not aware of the danger of the military penetration of British Columbia by Japan.

A study of the map of B.C. will easily convince even a layman in matters military or naval of the extraordinary strategic importance of the Queen Charlotte Islands if another power were permitted to gain a foothold there and were to use any of them as a submarine and flying base. Two-thirds of the coast of B.C. can be kept under observation from there. Prince Rupert, the railroad terminus and the Johnston straits can be blocked; the Gulf of Alaska and the United States military establishments therein can also be kept under observation from such base.

The exploiting of the " Iron Duke " ore deposits on Louise Island, one of the Queen Charlotte group, by the new Japanese owners, means the building of wharves, bunkers, storage sheds, repair shops etc ostensibly for the shipping of ores and for the needs of their ore steamers, which facilities can, under certain circumstances, serve more serious purposes. Many thousands of Japanese workers, possibly army and navy reservists, will be settled there. Much material and machinery will be brought, not all of which might be intended for peaceful purposes, but which can be conveniently and safely stored away from inquisitive eyes in the galleries of a mine.

*Property of H.D. Wilson*  
JAPANESE PENETRATION IN B.C.

March 1938.

by

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When gold was struck on the Fraser River, some of the first prospectors to rock and sluice the precious gravel, were Chinamen. The white men paid no attention to the handful of yellow men who had followed the stampede up from the California gold fields of 1849. Nobody realized then that they were the beginning of the most difficult question that the new colony of B. C. would in future have to face.

Much more serious, but little noted then, was the arrival of the first Japanese family in Steveston in 1887. These were the advance guard of thousands - the seed of the gravest Oriental problem which faces B. C. today. For, while the Chinese are either going back to China or dying off, the Japanese are remaining in their new found home and multiplying so fast, that at their present rate of increase, they would number close to two hundred thousand at the end of the century.

Now, without stirring up racial prejudices, without exaggeration and, attacking the subject non-politically, I shall endeavor to present to you the actual facts of Japanese penetration in our Province.

The data I have collected is positive and reliable, partly from the pen of Dr. W. A. Carrothers, Chairman of the Provincial Economic Council. He has, as late Professor of Economics at U. B. C., made an exhaustive study of this problem.

The Japanese population leaped from 22,205 in 1931 to 25,886 in 1936, an increase of 16% in five years. These figures are based on the last Canadian census, and are therefore official. Some unofficial authorities believe there has been much so called "bootlegging" of Japanese into the country. (At the time of writing, a Board of three is now sitting in Vancouver investigating this very thing.)

In this same five years, the Chinese population declined from 27,139 to 21,740 or 25%. A simple problem in arithmetic will show you that at this rate the Chinese would all disappear in fifteen years, while the Japanese would number about 180,000 at the end of the century.

At present, Japanese produce a natural increase every year of about 25 per 1,000, as against a white increase of less than 5 per 1000 and a Chinese decrease of about 2 1/2.

Chinese immigration has never been so dangerous as Japanese because it has consisted almost entirely of males. Japanese have been very careful to bring in as many women as men. In 1936 - 62 Japanese women came in as against 39 men. In 5 years ending 1936 - 324 Japanese women and 256 men entered our country.

No Chinese women and only 3 Chinese men entered in the same period. And knowing the Japanese as we do, to be a very prolific race of people, these immigration figures have their own significance. From now on, no matter what is done about immigration, B. C. faces an ever increasing Oriental population.

When you look back over the history of the Orientals here, you find that public interest in it rises and falls in waves. For a while B. C. will be acutely aware of its Orientals. There will be viewing with alarm in the Legislature - resolutions from public bodies and many speeches. Then B. C. seems to turn its back and walk away. The matter is dropped - something else takes its place. Meanwhile the Japanese babies arrive with persistent regularity.



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By 1900 - 12,000 Orientals had come into B. C. The people became alarmed, so immigration was suddenly prohibited.

In 1904 - immigration was again resumed and soon 7000 Orientals per year arrived.

In 1907 - Vancouver's feeling over ran in a serious riot which threatened to wreck Chinatown and for the first time, Canada realized it had a real problem.

In connection with this I looked up an old "News Advertiser" on file in the "Sun" office, and found dated Sunday Sept. 8, 1907, "Quote":

Vancouver was in throes of serious riot last night. The Asiatic Exclusion League had organized a parade through downtown Vancouver to the City Hall on Main Street where members of the League addressed the meeting. The paraders started out from Cambie St. grounds seven or eight hundred strong - marshalled by Major Brown (not Harold). This number was augmented as the parade progressed and by the time the City Hall was reached there were two thousand in the Parade. They were headed by a band playing "Rule Britannia" and "The Maple Leaf Forever." Great banners were carried with inscriptions such as - "Stand for a White Canada. We have fought for our Empire and are ready to fight again." "The Steamer Montezuma will arrive here Sept. 11th with 900 Hindus - 1100 Chinamen and a bunch of Japs." Closing the procession was a banner: - "What shall we do to be saved?"

The meeting was addressed by Rev. Dr. Fraser, Rev. G. H. Wilson, Harry Cowan and C. H. Woodworth.

Windows in Canton and Shanghai Alley were smashed and Powell St. was attacked. When some semblance of peace descended on Vancouver that Saturday night, a check up showed many Japanese had been "ducked" in False Creek, a 70 year old Japanese had his skull cracked and one white man was badly stabbed. Several false fire alarms had been rung in adding to the general confusion. The disturbance was not caused by the Asiatic Exclusionists who favored peaceful measures, but by the mob that followed." End of quote.

Mayor Bethune expressed his regrets to Ottawa over this riot.

It was a peculiar coincidence that Mr. Ishii, special envoy of the Japanese Government, arrived in the city the same evening as the riot. Certainly his impression of the treatment his countrymen were receiving could not have been very favorable, and his speech to his countrymen on this occasion was very significant. At a gathering on Powell St. the Japanese asked their representative what they should do to retaliate. Emphatically he replied, - "nothing - be peaceful - white man in riot like dog with distemper - dog, when cool off, distemper gone."

After this demonstration, a young man, a Mr. King, now our present premier, was sent out from Ottawa to investigate a new problem to Ottawa, the Oriental one, (mixed), consisting of 25,000 in population. No one knew then that Mr. King would be Prime Minister of Canada thirty years later and facing an Oriental problem now grown so grave that he would have to plead with Parliament not to do anything about it for the present, lest, on account of international conditions, it became worse.

As the result of young Mr. King's investigation in 1907, Ottawa took the matter up with Japan and Japan agreed to restrict its immigration to certain classes, but the total continued high. In 1929 the present gentleman's agreement limiting Japanese immigrants to 150 a year, was inaugurated and the numbers since then have always been well below the agreed total, that is "officially" below.

We possess in B. C. a wild rugged and lonely coast line, very conducive to the landing of Japanese unknown to Government Authorities. I personally know of young Japs 17 and 18 years of age being found on our coastline. They could not speak a word of English. However, this information along with much more, has been presented to the Board of Investigators. I note with pleasure that B. C.'s Premier is leading in all investigations along these lines.

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At first the Japanese were polite houseboys, clothes pressers and gardeners; of late years he has been getting along in the world. He has learned skilled trades, he has accumulated property, he has become a small capitalist. He has graduated from our University into the professions. He has penetrated into every corner of the white man's country. In the labor field, farming and fishing are the two great outlets. A trip up the fertile Fraser Valley and into "the Islands" District, will disclose the numerous farms held by Japanese; in these districts they hold almost a monopoly of the small fruits.

A trip to Steveston will disclose their activity in fishing at the mouth of the Fraser; the town itself is completely Japanese. A trip to Vancouver Island and up our Coastal waters will disclose 1200 Japanese working in the timber industry; many more are employed in canneries and 529 are employed in the pulp and paper business. Many of these operations are owned and controlled by Japanese, sometimes under their own names, but more often (and I say this with shame) under the names of white men. Land is bought up by Japanese and held under white men's names. Recently Crown granted timber lands have changed into Japanese hands.

Great inroads have also been made into the retail business and the walk along Water street wholesale Row, so familiar to us all, tells its own tale only too well. Just what the Oriental earns, how and where he spends his money no white man knows. No one knows just how much land he owns or leases.

Lately Japanese have been entering industry in a bigger way, backed by large capital, but how far they have progressed, no one knows. There is no record to show, for instance, how much timber Japanese own, since they usually buy it over the name of Canadian Associates. Not long ago they bought a large timber area on Vancouver Island near Port McNeill to supply pulp mills in Japan. Near Cowichan Lake, Japanese operate a substantial logging camp. On Vancouver Island they own several small mills. On Queen Charlotte Island they own extensive timber limits and iron deposits. They recently bought copper property on the West Coast of Vancouver Island and hope to ship concentrates to Japan soon.

As I have said before, we have no accurate official picture of Japanese penetration into the ownership of the Province's resources. The Japanese works quietly, making his deals through white men and through companies with Canadian Directors. He is not revealing his plans and at the moment B. C. is not asking him to do so.

According to the last census there are between twenty-five and thirty thousand Japanese in B. C., eleven thousand of them born in Canada, - that means B. C., seven to eight thousand in Vancouver alone. On this basis even if immigration bars were lowered immediately, there would be sixty-seven thousand Japs in B. C. by 1963, twenty-five years time. The total population of Vancouver in 1937 was three hundred and sixty thousand.

It seems strange that the Japanese should be given preferred treatment over our American cousins. The Jap can come in as a plain laborer, but try and get a skilled artisan over from the United States and see what happens. In our average home the man is the breadwinner, but no so the Oriental. While he is away fishing, working in canneries or camps, the wife often runs a well stocked store. Our Sabbath means nothing to the average working Japanese.

The fishing industry has fallen entirely into the hands of the Japs. Four hundred Japanese have gillnet licenses on the Fraser River, but actually seven hundred Japs fish. Of the twenty-six salmon dry saltery licenses issued last year, twenty-six went to Japs, and of the five herring saltery licenses, four went to Japanese. But the Government has insisted that 50% of the men employed in salteries must be white. White men working for Japs in their own white country. A Japanese controlled Cod Fisherman's Association control our Cod market right at the present time, 107 Japs to 71 Whites.



Last July tenth, Jap. fishermen penetrated Alaskan waters with four floating canneries; they processed and packed twenty thousand of the cream of the red salmon run, right aboard their boats. The United States Government immediately demanded Japan to stop all fishing in U. S. Waters. Whether this request will be met, remains to be seen. The State of California has taken very stringent measures to control Japanese immigration and to prevent Japanese acquisition of property. Has California suffered any retaliation for these common sense steps?

Has Australia suffered in trade or any other way through her outspoken determination to keep her country white? Not Australia's gains in the Oriental market have been greater in the past five years than those of almost any other country.

There is a movement on foot at Ottawa, backed by every B. C. Member of Parliament, to abrogate the gentleman's agreement, but on March 18th last, the McNeil Exclusion Bill was shelved and on March 23rd, the Ottawa House asked that the McNeil Bill be withdrawn because it would not be worth running the risk of strained relations with Japan just over an Exclusion Bill. Mr. McNeil knows only too well the extent of Japanese penetration into B. C. and is still fighting for his Bill.

The East does not realize the West's problem. I believe in the use of educational publicity in Eastern Canada. I do not say Japanese standards of living are lower than ours, but they are different and their racial characteristics cannot be assimilated by our people. The Japanese having his family here and watching his children go to white schools adopts Western customs very quickly. He wants his children educated in Canadian schools (and clever pupils they are too), and then after our regular school hours, they attend Japanese schools, which the Jap. himself supports.

There are forty-one Japanese schools in B. C. with a total of 3,280 pupils and 60 teachers. Among other things, the Japanese are taught that they are a superior race. And still the Japanese, in spite of all his Canadian education and training, is not being absorbed and will not in the future be absorbed. But he has come here to stay and has organized himself for the uphill economic struggle against the Whites. He has formed numerous clubs, societies and labor unions that white men know nothing about.

All Communistic organizations are very much in favor of the Japanese remaining in the country and one organization presented a brief to this effect to the Rowell Commission when it met in Victoria.

The time will come when Japanese born in this country can rightly demand a vote and some weak minded political party will probably give it to them. The fun will begin in politics when we have Japanese in the Cabinet at Victoria!

If the jobs now held by ten thousand adult male Japanese in this Province were transferred to white men, our two great problems, unemployment and debt for relief costs, would be substantially reduced.

We should welcome more British settlers in B. C.

In March 15th issue of McLeans Magazine, we have an article entitled "Can War cross the Pacific?" This article goes on to show that on account of the distance, the danger of actual warfare is remote. We are not liable to lose our Country through force. I believe, however, the silent and stealthy penetration of the Japanese is a greater factor to be reckoned with. It is a warfare of another kind and just as deadly. We, ourselves, and not the Japanese are responsible for the existing situation. We cannot blame them; they are a clever farsighted race, and have taken advantage of our short sightedness and our stupidity. This is our problem: what are we going to do about it? Pass it on with many more of our blunders, to our children to solve, or is it worth our effort now to keep B. C. white for posterity?

"How courteous is the Japanese.  
He always says "Excuse me, please."  
He climbs into his neighbors garden  
And smiles and says, "I beg your pardon."

He bows and grins a friendly grin  
And calls his hungry family in,  
He grins and bows a friendly bow;  
So sorry, This MY garden now.  
--Ogden Nash.