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[Correspondence and other material, from accordion file 9]

1940-1945

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9-8  
~~for~~

Hon. Ian Mackenzie,  
Vancouver, B.C.

VANCOUVER CENTRE LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

NOMINATING CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 28, 1944.

2476. W-18<sup>th</sup>

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~~PART I~~

-- Vancouver Development --



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Once again -- after twenty-five years --  
in which I have enjoyed the unbroken confidence  
of my fellow citizens of Vancouver, -- I am  
proud and happy -- to accept your invitation --  
to offer my services -- to my home City --  
for another parliamentary term.

It was a very young man indeed -- just  
back from the wars -- whom you first honoured  
with your support in 1920.

I shall never forget that it was -- very  
largely -- the loyalty of my old comrades of  
the fighting forces -- who sponsored my entry  
into public life a quarter century ago.



As a result of what I learned in those early months of my new responsibilities -- very great changes took place in Canada.

When -- on December 7th, 1941 -- the treacherous and wily nation occupying the Islands across the Pacific -- struck its foul blow at Pearl Harbor -- there was a system of defence in existence on this coast -- which successfully deterred the Japanese from venturing to attack Canadian territory.



There was criticism of extravagant expenditure, -- there was ridicule of pop guns in Stanley Park, -- but we all realize today -- that the measures which were taken in 1937 -- 1938 -- and 1939 -- in building up the defences of the Pacific coast -- constitute the reason why the Japanese did not dare to hazard an attack upon our territory.

We had coastal defences on land and in the air.

We had a flotilla of destroyers and other light naval craft.



We had squadrons of aircraft patrolling the seas for hundreds of miles offshore, in equipment and from bases -- most of which had been developed in the peaceful days before Hitler marched into Poland.

In these past five years of war -- we have not been so much concerned about local matters. The fate of our nation -- of civilization itself -- has been in the balance.

But -- in the early years of the war, -- when it was not always easy to convince Eastern Officials of the great industrial contribution this City was capable of making to the common cause, -- I was able -- from time to time -- to lend a helping hand.



Even before the war -- our infant Vancouver shipbuilding and aircraft industries had been given their first contracts -- out of which have grown the great enterprises which -- today -- employ more than 50,000 workers in shipbuilding and aircraft manufacture.

The experience that our industry and our workers have gained in this past five years will not be lost.

How much experience we have gained -- few people are able to realize.

I have -- however -- obtained accurate figures -- as to the extent of the war contracts carried out in British Columbia.



Up to July of this year -- the ship-  
building programme in British Columbia  
aggregated 410 Million Dollars.

This included: --

Naval vessels

Steel cargo vessels

Barges

Wooden ships -- and  
smaller craft.

Products of our heavy machine shops, --  
engineering works and foundries, -- including  
equipment for the United Kingdom, -- Russia, --  
and Australia, -- totalled 300 Million Dollars.



*contracts*  
Other miscellaneous ~~---~~ including  
electrical equipment, ~~---~~ leather goods, ~~---~~  
woolen goods, ~~---~~ uniforms, ~~---~~ radio equipment, ~~---~~  
aggregated an additional 290 Million Dollars, ~~---~~  
making in round number One Billion Dollars  
of war contracts let in British Columbia.

Our population is about 7 per cent of  
the population of Canada.

War contracts let in British Columbia  
aggregate about 11 per cent of the total.



New ship contracts were placed with our shipyards only a few weeks ago -- and I have trustworthy information that others are to come, -- not merely from our own Government, -- but from friendly powers -- whom we have helped in the war.

Vancouver has won her spurs as a shipbuilding centre -- and other nations today recognize our capacity.

Great developments lie ahead for this mighty seaport city, -- the colossus of the Canadian West standing astride the seaways leading to world markets.



Much is owing also to the indefatigable zeal of Tom Reid, -- the member for New Westminster. His efforts for the development of Fraser River port facilities, -- for the improvements of the fishing industry, -- and for the benefit of farmers, -- and of ex-service men -- are worthy of all the commendation and support that we can give him.

I can pay one little compliment to Tom Reid -- which those who are familiar with parliamentary life will appreciate. When the word goes through the lobbies that Reid of Westminster is speaking -- the members flock into their seats. He commands the respect of Parliament in a degree that is given only to few.



Other measures adopted during the  
recent Session of Parliament are designed to  
assist the people of Canada through the  
difficult reconstruction period.

~~PART V~~

-- Reconstruction --



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Other measures adopted during the recent Session of Parliament are designed to assist the people of Canada through the difficult reconstruction period.

There is a housing shortage, -- and we have modified and improved the National Housing Act, -- which enjoyed such a great success in the pre-war years.

I am told that the thousands of attractive bungalows, which are so pleasing to the eye as one passes along South Granville, were nearly all built under the provisions of the National Housing Act.



This Act makes it possible for the ordinary working man -- or average soldier -- to build a modest home of his own -- with the opportunity to pay for it over a period of twenty or more years -- at  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  interest.

There are also substantial measures of Dominion Government assistance towards slum clearance -- and the provision of low rental houses for those who cannot afford to build.



~~PART II~~

-- Japanese --



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There is one other issue -- very  
dear to our hearts here in British  
Columbia, -- affecting as it does --  
the security of our homes -- and of our  
shores -- in days to come.

On that subject -- I wish -- for a  
moment -- to divest myself of the mantle  
of ministerial responsibility -- and  
speak to you in a very personal way --  
as one British Columbian to another.

I refer to the subject of the  
Japanese in Canada.



The Prime Minister made a magnificent statement in Parliament the other day -- and I support him in that policy -- as far as it goes.

He has laid it down -- as the policy of the Dominion of Canada -- that all disloyal Japanese shall be expelled from Canada, -- that there shall be no further Japanese immigration, -- and that Japanese shall not be permitted to concentrate in any one province -- as they did in the past.

But -- I should like to go farther.



I maintain that British Columbia must be declared -- and continued to be -- a security zone, -- that no Japanese shall be permitted to have his residence or domicile -- at any place between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Coast.

Let that be our slogan for British Columbia: --

No Japanese from the Rockies  
to the sea.

I ask my fellow citizens of Vancouver Centre -- and of British Columbia as a whole -- to range themselves beside me on this issue -- and to serve notice on the rest of Canada -- that we will not have Japanese in this fair Province.



We -- as British Columbians -- insist upon our right to have our country protect us from this menace.

The magnificent campaign -- which this Province has conducted in recent years -- to show our fellow citizens our determination on this Japanese question -- has borne fruit in the declaration already made by the Prime Minister.

I thank you -- for the loyal support and co-operation -- that you have given to your representatives in Parliament in this matter.



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But -- as British Columbians -- we  
must not let up for one moment -- in  
insisting that our fellow citizens in  
other provinces recognize our unique --  
and special danger -- in this regard.

We may well -- as British Columbians --  
adopt the American war slogan: --

"Remember Pearl Harbor"

Another time -- it might very well  
be VANCOUVER -- or PRINCE RUPERT + w

Victoria!