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B.C. Security Commission



DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOUR



CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

September 18th, 1943.

A.H. Ham, Esq.,  
Manager,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
SILVERTON, B.C.

Dear Sir:

We wish to acknowledge your letter of September 11th in which you advise that the Japanese are coming into Silvertown and ignoring the sign which is posted on the road about three-quarters of a mile north of Silvertown, to the effect that they would not be permitted to travel south of that sign without permission from the B.C. Security Commission.

We are passing a copy of your letter along to Mr. Boulton at New Denver with instructions to take the necessary steps to keep the Japanese out of Silvertown in accordance with your wishes.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. A. Elsworth', written over a printed name.

W. A. ELSWORTH.

WAE/DS



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
"E" DIVISION.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

DIV. FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

New Denver, B. C.,  
September 16th, 1943.

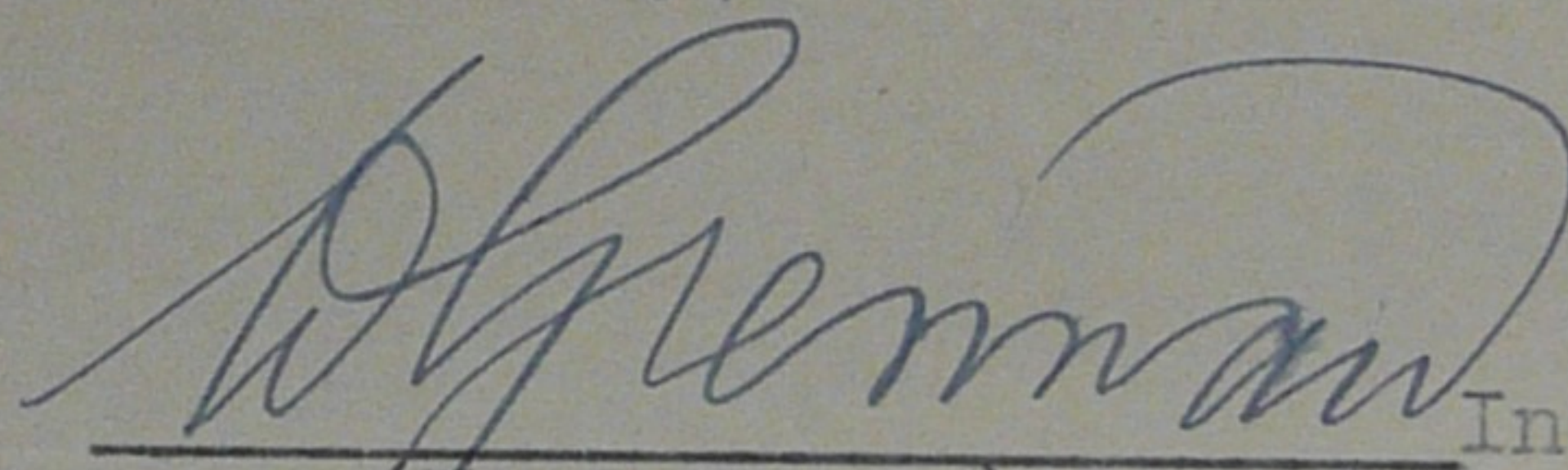
H. Q. FILE No. \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. A. H. Ham, Manager,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
Silverton, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of September 11th, duly received, and same is receiving attention. In regards to Silverton, this settlement is not within the boundaries of a Protected Area.

Yours truly,

  
W. Grennan) Insp.

Commanding New Denver S/Division.

WG/M



# THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF SILVERTON

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OFFICE OF THE CLERK

SILVERTON, B. C., September 15th, 1943.

Mr. A. M. Ham,  
Manager,  
Western Exploration Co.

Dear Mr Ham:

In reply to yours of the 11instant re Jap question as it concerns the Village and the operation of the Western Exploration Co. adjoining.

We are of the same opinion as before in this matter, that is we are in favor of the exclusion of the Japs from the Village and vicinity. However we understand from the R.C.M. Police stationed at New Denver that the Japs are now allowed to travel in the Slocan District, within certain boundaries without the necessity of having Permits, also that any further restrictions would have to come from the controlling authority in Ottawa.

We discussed the matter at our last monthly meeting held on the 2nd inst., and concluded that the matter seemed too complicated for us to take any immediate action.

At the same time we can appreciate your view in the premises, and are still, as before, quite willing to endorse such protest as you may make with the view of prohibiting the Japs loitering in or remaining in the Village.

Yours truly,

*A R England*

Clerk



September 11, 1943.

Inspector Mr. W. Grennan,  
Officer Commanding R.C.M.P.,  
New Denver B.C.

Dear Sir;

We operate two lead-zinc mines in the Mountains East of Silverton B.C., with a modern 250 ton concentrator on Slocan Lake at Silverton. Our power dam, flumes and compressor house are located on Silverton Creek which flows through the town. Our Mill and power house are on the Lake shore just below the main road, which passes through our mill yard.

When the Japanese were first located in New Denver and at Mr. Harris's ranch, north of our plant, we made overtures to the B.C. Security Commission to have the Japanese kept out of Silverton. The local Village Commissioners made similar requests, and the Japanese were kept out. The Security Commission placed a sign on the main highway, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile North of town, stating that no Japanese were permitted South of the sign without written permission from the Security Commission.

The above action had the desired effect of keeping the Japanese out of Silverton for awhile or until a few weeks ago. They are now ignoring the sign and coming into Silverton in considerable Numbers. They pass through, but some have been found wandering around our Mill Yard, and we have found some of them in the blacksmith shop. We have a large investment here and most of the machinery could not be replaced at this time. Our lead and zinc goes to the United Nations.

To eliminate, as far as possible, any act of sabotage, we would appreciate your cooperation in having the Japanese kept out of Silverton and would appreciate a reply in this connection.

Yours very truly,

Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,

A.M. Ham. Manager.

*Copy to  
Mr. Geo. O. Collins  
Commissioner of Japanese Placements  
Def. Affairs of Canada  
Van. B.C.*



September 11, 1943.

Mr. Fred Fingland,  
Municipal Clerk,  
Silverton B.C.

Dear Mr. Fingland;

Perhaps you will have noticed that during the past few weeks there has been a large number of Japanese in Silverton at various times.

The situation as I see it is no different from what it was when we as a company and the Village Commission made application to have the Japanese excluded or kept out of Silverton.

I have written to Mr. Geo. E. Collins, Vancouver, and To Inspector W. Grennan New Denver regarding the matter. Copies enclosed.

We would appreciate your having a meeting of the Commissioners, and if as I believe your feelings regarding the Japanese are the same as when we made original application to have them kept out you will no doubt back us up in the stand that we are now taking which is exactly the same as when the matter first came to our attention.

I would appreciate a reply from you in this connection.

Yours very truly,

Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,

A. M. Ham.





House of Commons  
Canada

Rossland, B. C.,  
September 26th, 1942.

Dear Mr. Ham,

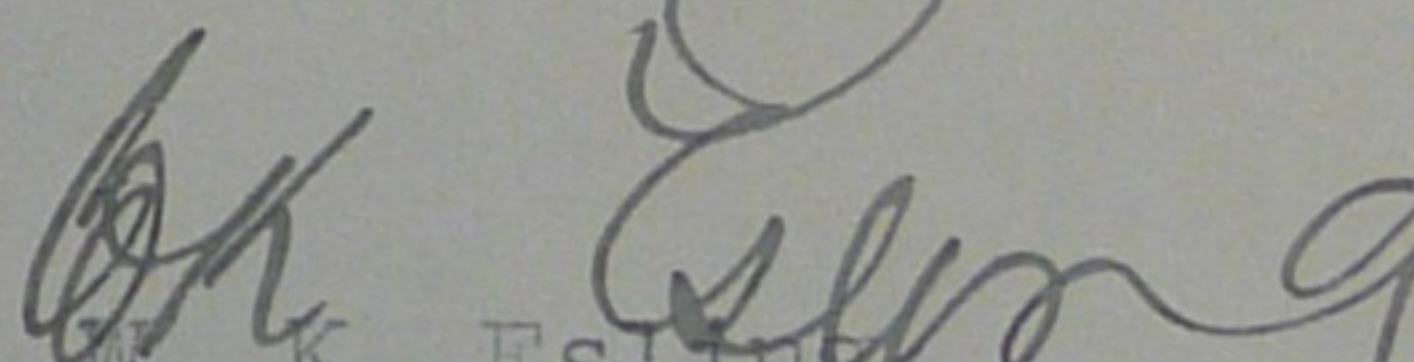
I took up with Ottawa the complaint made in your letter of September 5th about the free movement of the Japanese and the possible danger to your plant. I now have a reply which states that the Japanese are under the discipline of the British Columbia Security Commission. They are not in any way considered as internees but a large number are Canadian born citizens.

Regarding your local problem, Ottawa suggests that at the first opportunity you have a chat with the Officer in charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments located in the Slocan area. I understand that the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has placed a Commissioned Officer in charge of a fairly large detachment of members of that Force to assist the Provincial Police in carrying out orders of the British Columbia Security Commission. Enquiries at the Police detachment at Slocan would result in his being located if he is not stationed there.

In the meantime, I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Honourable the Minister of Labour.

With best wishes,

Yours truly,

  
W. K. Esling  
Member for Kootenay West

A. M. Ham, Esq.,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
SILVERTON, B. C.





House of Commons  
Canada

Rossland, B. C.,  
September 10th, 1942.

Dear Mr. Ham,

I have just returned from a brief absence from the city and have your letter of the 5th concerning the Japanese matter. I have sent this to Headquarters at Ottawa and will advise you immediately on receipt of reply.

Sincerely,

W. K. Esling  
Member for Kootenay West

A. M. Ham, Esq.,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
SILVERTON, B. C.



Telephone PAcific 7531

**BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION**  
**MARINE-BUILDING**  
**VANCOUVER,-B.C.**

New Denver, B. C.  
September 17th, 1942.

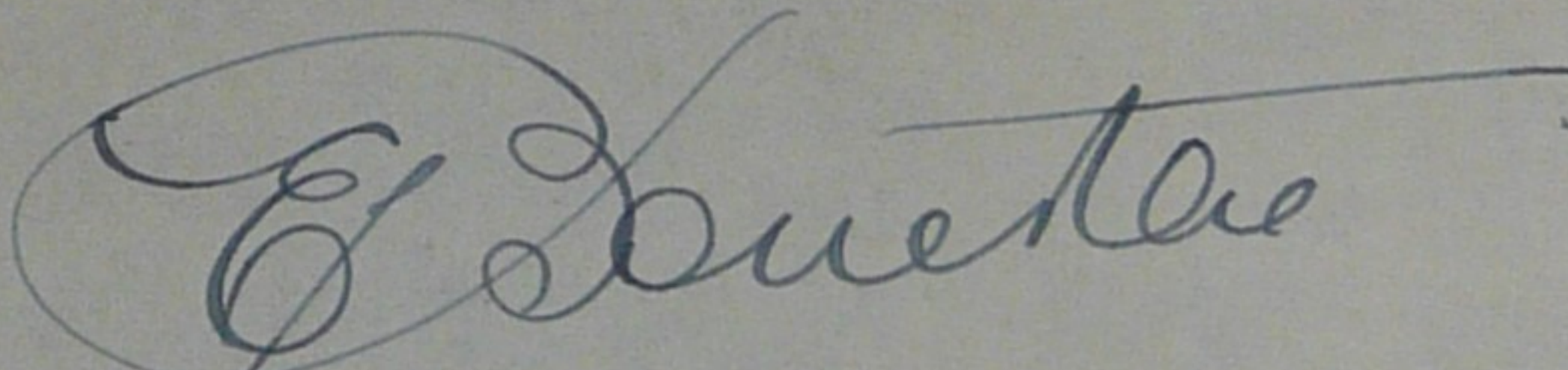
Mr. A. M. Ham,  
Western Exploration Co., Ltd.,  
Silverton, B. C.

Dear Sir:

With further reference to your letter of September 1st. I have to advise you that there are now twenty-seven mounted policemen on duty between Rosebery and Perry Siding, and it is their duty to see that law and order is maintained amongst the Japanese.

I think you need have no fear that your property will be in any way molested.

Yours very truly,



(E. L. BOULTBEE)  
General Manager, Interior Housing.

ELB:AG



September 5, 1942.

Mr. W.K.Esling,  
Rossland, B.C.

Dear Mr. Esling:-

I have been in receipt of your letter of August 7, and did not at that time think it necessary to write on the same subject again. Apparently the Japs will not be located in Silverton, but as far as we can find out there has been nothing done as far as guarding them or restricting their movements.

As you know the Japs are located in New Denver which is only three miles from our plant. They still stroll around unguarded and only last Sunday two male Japs were seen walking around our mill yard.

In the past two years we have produced approximately 18,000,000 lbs. of zinc metal. We are doing the same work that the C.M.&S.Co. are doing at Kimberley, the only difference being that they are producing more. The Japs were not allowed even at Lumberton, which is 26 miles from Kimberley, yet in here they are within three miles of us, and allowed to roam around promiscuously.

We trust you will bring this matter before the proper authorities, so that this condition will not be allowed to continue.

With kind regards,

Yours very truly,

WESTERN EXPLORATION CO.LTD.

H/McK.

per.

A.M.Ham



September 1-1942.

Mr.C.L.Boulton,  
B.C.Security Commission,  
New Denver B.C.

Dear Sir;-

In our letter of August 8, you state that you cannot agree with us that the Japanese situation here is any threat to either the citizens or to our industry.

Granting the facts as stated in the third paragraph of your letter, the situation is that these people were evacuated from Coastal areas because they, as a whole, were not trusted.

As you state this area was not set aside as a vital defence area, but that does not preclude the fact that we are a defence industry, and have produced in the past two years about 18 million pounds of metal, practically all zinc.

In our letter of July 30 to Mr.Taylor, we objected to the Japs being allowed to roam around unguarded.

Last Sunday, two male Japs were found roaming around our mill yard. Acts of sabotage can, and do happen, and we request that the Japs be kept a sufficient distance from our plant, so that this threat will be minimized.

Yours very truly,

WESTERN EXPLORATION CO.LTD.

Per.

A.M.Ham.

H/McK.  
c.c.Mr. Austin Taylor.  
Vancouver, B.C.



# Corporation of the Village of New Denver

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

NEW DENVER, B. C.,

Aug 24th, 1942.

Mr. A. M. Ham,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.  
Silverton, B. C.

Dear Mr. Ham:

We have for reply your recent letter regarding the Japanese situation in this district.

In the first place, the B. C. Security Commission asked permission to place a few families in and around New Denver. As, at that time, there was no organized objection to such, we felt that it would be in the interest of the war effort to aid in this way.

Since permission was granted, however, settlement has proceeded on an unconsidered scale. However, as permission was granted as above stated, there is apparently nothing that can be done now. We do hope that adequate guards will be provided when this settlement is completed.

Yours very truly,

CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW DENVER

Clerk.



# BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

~~MARINE-BUILDING~~

~~VANCOUVER~~

B. C.

New Denver, B. C.  
August 8th, 1942.

Mr. A. M. Hamm,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
Silverton, B. C.

Dear Sir:

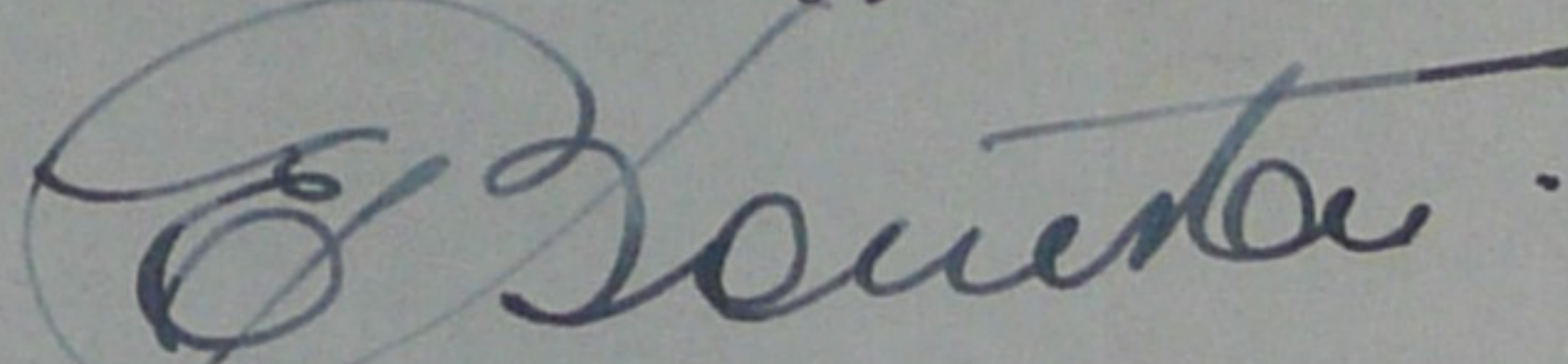
Your letter of July 30th has been forwarded to me for attention.

I am sorry that I cannot agree with you that the Japanese situation here is any threat to either the citizens or to your industry. We have no intention of placing any Japanese in Silverton.

With reference to the second paragraph of your letter, I would draw to your attention the fact that many of these people are Canadian citizens, have been born in this country and cannot speak Japanese, and the treatment that we accord these people will affect very materially the treatment which is meted out to the 150,000 unfortunate British subjects who are presently in the hands of Japanese.

The Government have set aside certain areas which they consider vital defence areas, and New Denver and district are out of that area. The Mounted Police are responsible for law and order and I am quite certain that you may have no fear as to any possible damage that might be done to your plant.

Yours truly,



(E. L. BOULTBEE)

General Manager, Interior Housing.

ELB:AG





House of Commons  
Canada

Ottawa, Ontario,  
August 7, 1942.

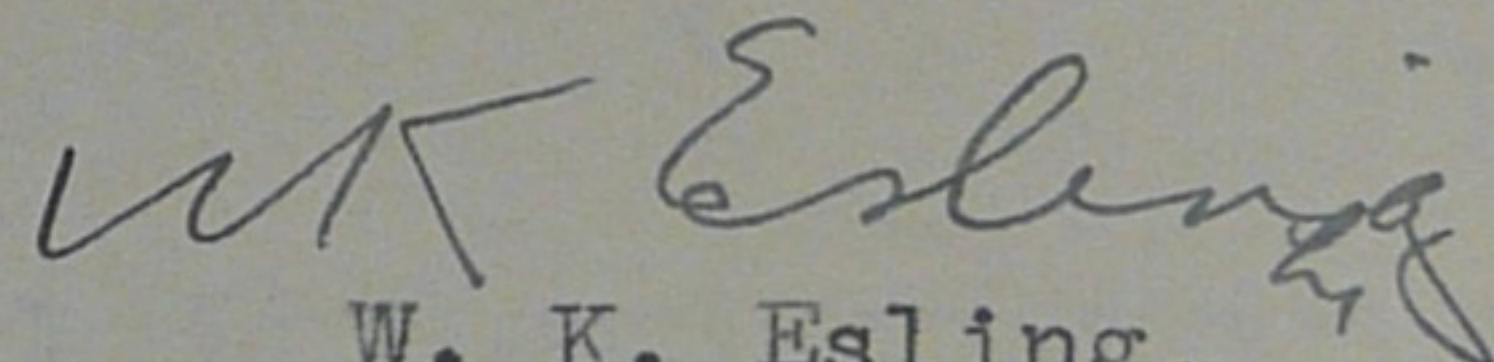
Mr. A. M. Ham,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
Silverton, B.C.

Dear Mr. Ham:

Acknowledging yours of July 30th,  
I have not had any intimation that it was  
planned to settle Japanese in Silverton.

However, I was glad to receive  
your communication and I am passing your  
objection along to the Labour Department.

Yours very truly,

  
W. K. Esling,  
Member for Kootenay West.



Telephone Pacific 7531

# BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

MARINE BUILDING

VANCOUVER

B. C.

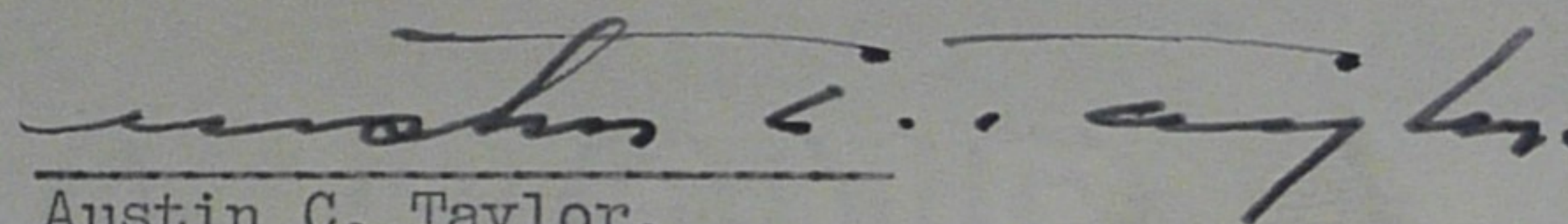
August 3, 1942.

Mr. A. M. Hamm,  
Western Exploration Co. Ltd.,  
Silverton, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of July 30th has been referred to  
our Mr. Boulton at Kaslo for attention.

Yours very truly,



Austin C. Taylor,  
Chairman, B. C. Security Commission.

ACT/JM



July 30-1942.

Chairman,  
B.C. Security Commission,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Same letter to- W.K. Esling M.P. Ottawa.  
Dr. A. Francis, New Denver.  
Chairman, B.C. Security Commission,  
Vancouver B.C.  
Commissioners, Town of New Denver.  
Commissioners, Town of Silverton.

Dear Sir:-

The Jap situation in here is an ominous threat to the  
citizens and to industry. We are trying to keep them out of Silverton.

The Japs are already in Slocan City and Sandon. They ride  
and walk the roads in here with apparently all the liberties of Canadians.

We have the only defence industry on the Lake, and one act of  
sabotage would close us down for the duration. We understand Japs are  
going to be placed at Union Bay, near New Denver, which is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles  
from our mill and power plant.

We object to Japs being placed in New Denver, as they are too  
close to our plant, and we strenuously object to any Japs being  
allowed to roam around unguarded.

We would be pleased to hear from you on this subject.

Yours very truly,

WESTERN EXPLORATION CO. LTD.

Per

A.M. Ham.

H/McK.