

STATEMENT FOR PRESS

January 26th,
1938.

I have received numerous complaints as to the activities of Orientals within our Province and the manner in which they have injected themselves into our industrial and farming operations.

No one can blame the Oriental for trying to make a living. The mistake has been their admission into the country, constituting as it now does a very serious problem.

Some time ago I asked the Economic Council to make a survey of the situation, which was done. I also discussed the matter when I was east last, and propose to further pursue it when I go east the latter part of March.

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Jan. 26th

Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
O t t a w a, O n t.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The people of British Columbia are very much exercised over the Japanese situation here.

Some time ago I had a survey made by our Economic Council and it was found that the Japanese population was rapidly increasing, while the Chinese population was decreasing, the reason being that there are comparatively few Chinese females in proportion to the male population. The computation was made from Dominion statistics.

The Opposition is endeavouring to make political capital of the situation and in view of the activities of Japan, public feeling is becoming very much aroused. A Conservative Member charged that many Japanese had been bootlegged into British Columbia, that is that the quota of one hundred and fifty a year was very much exceeded by Japs coming in surreptitiously.

In order that there may be no mistake in the matter and to allay public feeling, I would be glad if your Government would cause a most careful survey to be made of all Japanese now in the Province, to ascertain what number of Japs, if any, are here who should not be here.

When I go to Ottawa I would like to talk over the problem with you and suggest that no Japs be allowed admission.

I feel that I must make a public statement, but will do so guardedly, as I do not wish to say anything that will embarrass the national situation, as there may exist a situation of affairs not within my knowledge.

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In the meantime I would be very glad of any suggestions or advices from you which you care to make.

Very faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature or set of initials, possibly 'R' or 'D', written in dark ink.