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*Unemployment*  
*Japanese*

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF BRANCH

Victoria, B. C.,  
March 31, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY,  
PREMIER'S OFFICE,  
BUILDINGS:

I expect that the Prime Minister will be discussing the Japanese situation when he arrives at Ottawa and possibly he will find the attached report from General Superintendent J. H. McVety of the Employment Service of Canada of some use in making representations. We do not segregate the Japanese in our relief lists but I estimate that at the peak period this winter there will be under 500 individuals in receipt of relief assistance. It will be noted that in Vancouver and Cumberland alone there are 104 families and 50 single men in receipt of relief.

"E. W. Griffith"  
ADMINISTRATOR

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF CANADA411 Dunsmuir Street,  
Vancouver, B. C.,  
March 28th, 1938.E. W. Griffith, Esq.,  
Administrator,  
Unemployment Relief Branch,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Confirming our telephone conversation of this morning. The Commission which is investigating the illegal entry into Canada of aliens and more particularly Japanese, appears to be greatly interested in an argument we advanced some years ago that the agreement covering the admission of 150 Japanese per year should be suspended until all employable persons of that race in receipt of relief are employed and removed from the relief rolls.

As you are aware, we have for some time been endeavoring to arrange to relieve our mental hospitals of some 35 Japanese, with a prospective saving, based on their present ages and Mortality Tables, of about \$175,000.00 and I understand that the Hon. the Provincial Secretary submitted a memo. to the Hon. the Premier, which he is to discuss with the Hon. the Minister of External Affairs in Ottawa, with a view to negotiations being opened with the Ambassador for Japan for the acceptance of these people by the Japanese Government, as all of them have Canadian domicile and are, therefore, not subject to deportation proceedings.

It occurs to me that if the Premier is to discuss the Japanese question at all, he might press the argument already referred to regarding the suspension of the agreement and it is suggested that he be given a memo. showing the number at present on relief. In Vancouver there are 50 single men and 92 married adults, with 210 dependents, a total of 352. In Cumberland approximately

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12 adults with 24 dependents, or a total of Japanese on relief of 388.

There are also a number in our jails and hospitals, both Tubercular and General, and I think these figures are probably set up in the Brief presented to the Rowell Commission as Dr. Carrothers made a survey of all the inmates of hospitals, jails and other institutions some four months ago for the purpose of determining the extent of the load carried by this province of aliens and persons with less than three years' residence.

Yours truly,

"Jas. H. McVety"

General Superintendent,  
British Columbia Offices.