

Japanese Repatriation ²¹ 1946

CITY ARCHIVES

LOCATION 28 C4

FILE NO. 21

COPY OF RESOLUTION PASSED BY VANCOUVER CITY
COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 20TH, 1942

Moved by Alderman Geo. Buscombe,
Seconded by Alderman H.L. Corey,

THAT WHEREAS prior to the outbreak of the present war the presence in Vancouver of persons of the Japanese race was a constant source of irritation; owing among other things to unfair labor and business practices;

AND WHEREAS the experience of the last few decades has shown that assimilation of the two races is impossible; and that the Japanese standard of living is lower than that of the Canadian people;

AND WHEREAS as a necessary result of the action of the Imperial Japanese Government in making war upon our Empire, the Japanese population of Vancouver is being removed from the Coast of this Province;

AND WHEREAS the dislocations caused by the removal of Japanese from the fishing, lumbering, agricultural and other industries will be adjusted so that when peace comes we shall find that our own people are regularly carrying on all the activities which had formerly fallen into the hands of the Japanese;

AND WHEREAS it would be most unwise at a time when our own returned men will be seeking re-establishment in civil life to permit the Japanese to return and repeat the process of infiltration into business and industry which had become such a source of irritation during the years immediately prior to the war;

AND WHEREAS for many years it will be impossible for persons of the Japanese race to expect sympathetic consideration from our people and in their own interest it will be better for them to join their own countrymen in Japan;

AND WHEREAS the other Provinces of Canada have shown a disinclination to assume any portion of the burden of our present Japanese problem;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this City Council do petition the Government of Canada to take in hand as one of its postwar problems the question of the repatriation of all Japanese-born persons resident in Canada; and the setting up of a tribunal to enquire into the loyalty of all Canadian-born persons of the Japanese race, with power to order the removal to Japan of any whose loyalty to this country is not definitely established; and that the continued residence in Canada of Canadian-born Japanese be contingent upon the setting up of such tribunal and a fair distribution of their numbers among all the Provinces of Canada; and that such proportion shall be maintained;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and other Members of his Cabinet, as well as to all Members of Parliament representing British Columbia constituencies.

- Carried.