

MS 41
988.200

Green Family fonds

Roy Elvin Green - Japanese Canadian Internment 1942, 1973 sf 4 S 2 1/1

Quotations from
letter from H. B. Green Vanc
written Friday Ap. 17. 42
received Monday Ap 20. 42

"I saw Major Austin Taylor yesterday
chairman of the B. C. Security Council.
He had asked me to come over - we
had it out about Kash and he
assured me that if any large number
of citizens objected to Japs going there
they would not be sent. The plan is
to send 1000 which means the town
will be completely over-run & in my
opinion ruined. It is not a ghost-
town like Greenwood or Sandown - & I
do hope you will spare no effort to

Curle's - That is the true situation
division of opinion developed among the local people
ed, you'll

2

rouse the people against this move.
 I had a letter from Kaslo appealing for
 help to stop it and I wrote yesterday.
 The Legion and its auxiliary & the
 IODE have all protested and
 surely between you, you can get at
 least half the people in town wakened
 up to the situation. Taylor tried to
 tell me it was Kaslo's duty & I told
 him that was utter rot. it is no
 more Kaslo's duty than the duty of
 thousands of other towns and you are
 just having something put over
 you. Please get after this at once
 and keep me informed of what is
 going on. I'll raise a row in the House
 if Taylor tries to force the issue - which
 I do not think he will do if there is any
 opposition worth while.

3/ Actually a camp should be built for all
those people on the prairie and that is
what will be done yet, for those they cannot
place elsewhere.
Now it is up to you & your friends to save
Kash "

Quotations from Letter from Howard, C. Green, dated

April, 17th, 1942. re: Sending Japanese to Kaslo.

"I saw Major Taylor, Chairman of the B.C. Security Commission, yesterday. He had asked me to come over. We had it out about Kaslo, and he assured me that if any large number of citizens objected to the Japs going there, they would not be sent.

The plan is to send One Thousand, which means the town will be completely over-run, and, in my opinion, completely ruined. Kaslo is not a ghost town like Greenwood or Sandon, and I hope you will spare no effort to rouse the people against this move

I had a letter from Kaslo appealing for help to stop it, and I wrote yesterday. The Canadian Legion, its Womens Auxiliary, and the I.O.D.E. have all protested, and surely between you, you can get at least half the people in town wakened up to the situation.

Taylor tried to tell me it was Kaslo's duty, and I told him that was utter rot. It is no more Kaslo's duty than the duty of thousands of other towns, and you are just having somet hing put over on you.

Please get after this at once, and keep me informed of what is going on. I will raise a row if Taylor tries to force this issue, which I do not think he will, if there is any opposition worth while.

Actually, a camp should be built for all these people on the Prairie and that is what will be done yet, for those they cannot place elsewhere.

Now it is up to you and your friends,

" TO SAVE KASLO "

H.C. Green,

M.P. Vancouver South.

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Foy Elwin Green - Japanese Canadian Internment 1942, 1973 S4 S2 11

Copy.

Hosob CE Apr. 23 '42

Major Custer Taylor

Chairman B.C. Security Commission

Dear Sir:

At the request of ~~a number~~^{several} of
citizens of this city, I have, with the
help of others circulated a petition
opposing the sending of Japanese to be
housed in this city.

Enclosed you will find the
signatures ~~of~~ beneath or attached to
the heading which constitutes the petition
mentioned above. These signatures were
given only after the persons had read
and understood the heading

...a very fine letter.')

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ed, you'll

division of opinion developed among the local people when

Telephone Pacific 7521

Feeling is running high here on this issue and I would like to advise you that there is by no means any sign or indication that the public opinion is unanimously in favor of the City Council's resolution or the Board of Trade's resolution favoring the housing of Japanese here.

The whole scheme has developed to be absolutely foreign and different to the original suggestion as advanced by the board of trade.

We do ask for a full investigation, and for your kindest consideration of this petition. You have in your office resolutions from three local organizations opposing the plan of housing Japanese here.

...a very fine letter. 5)

Curle's - That is the true situation ed, you'll

division of opinion developed among the local people when

In the face of this opposition the
Board of Trade insist that the citizens
are in favor of having Japanese here,
which is farthest from the truth.

Yours truly

Roy E. Green

On behalf of the Petitioners

...a very fine letter. v)
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division of opinion developed among the local people when

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To Major Austin Taylor
Chairman, Security Commission
Vancouver B.C.

We the undersigned, being either
householders or taxpayers in the city of
Vancouver do oppose most strenuously any
proposition to house any Japanese
within the limits of this city.

And do respectfully ask the Commission
of Security to refrain from placing
any of these people here.

...a very fine letter. 5)
Curle's - That is the true situation ed, you'll

division of opinion developed among the local people when

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List of names on petition, copy

Betty Mc Carney	W. Murchison
Mrs. ..	Mrs. ..
Mary E Price	Clara Hill 40
Elise Hodges	Frank ..
Mrs E Gapp	Margaret Whittaker
Daphne Chandler	Wm ..
Mrs Angus McLander	Mable Wellington
Grace McMatthews	O.S. Gosdalk
Barack Burn Timms	Oscar Anderson
Constance E Chandler	Elenor W South
A. Tapanilla	Hubert South
Mrs ..	Harry Lind
Just Johnson	Mrs Coghill
Christine Johnson	A. H. Gunn
Emmy H. Alm	Mrs Lora J.
W. P. Bason	Iris & Clarke
J. R. Bason	Flora Roberts
Sophia Moulton	Catherine Roberts
John Moulton	J. Gray
J. Moulton	Mrs Chow wone

... a very fine letter. ...
 Curle's - That is the true situation ... ed, you'll
 division of opinion developed among the local people when

Chow Joe Mrs E.E. McNulty
 Wo Chang Mrs E.J. Horner
 J. McElbhorn Mr
 R. Q. Chester J. Helme
 Mrs .. Mrs ..
 Wm English Mr. Axel Augustine
 Mrs .. Mrs M. Murphy
 Agne Singel Mrs A. Fennell
 H.E. Mrs E.J. Wadsworth
 Mr J. C. Deam Gusti Junkins
 John McHardy Mrs Lind
 Mrs .. Jack Hendon
 Mrs Axel Augustine Axel Beckman
 Mrs A.E. McCartney A.P. Allbrook
 Mrs R. Barrman Reg E. Green
 Dorothy a Palmer Meriel Riddell
 Chas Lind Jo
 Isabel Lind Jos Chambers
 E. Goldsmith Mrs ..
 Edgar J Wadsworth Leanie Butler
 Mrs J. McElbhorn Mrs Dan ..
 Mrs E. Pearson Mrs Pool ..
 Mrs Lundberg

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Curle's - That is the true situation
 division of opinion developed among the local people when

@ m Harris
 C Peterson
 C Gary Webb
 And ..
 E. Marjorie Reister
 J. Ames
 Mrs ..
 J. H. Wellington
 John E Lawrence
 Ch. Quinn
 Chas Dow
 R. W. H. Meger
 Alice Perkins
 Ada Leveque
 Anne McLean
 Annie Price
 Mrs M. Augustine
 Mrs J. Thackan
 Mr. J. Thackan
 Frank Hanson
 Ted Horner
 W. J. Roberts.

J. S. Chandler
 T. H. Horner

a very fine letter.
 Charlie - that is the true situation

division of opinion developed among the local people when

used, you'll

Telephone PACific 7531

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

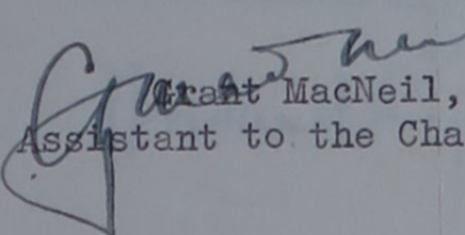
24th April 1942

Mr. R.E. Green,
KASLO, B.C.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by the Chairman of
this Commission, Mr. Austin C. Taylor, to
acknowledge and thank you for a telegram of
this date. Your representations on the
question of settlement of Japanese in the
Kaslo district will be given consideration
by the Commission.

Yours truly,


Grant MacNeil,
Assistant to the Chairman.

CGM/EG

division of opinion developed among the local people when

sed, you'll

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Roy Elvin Green - Japanese Canadian Internment 1942, 1973 sf48211

Curle's - That is the true situation



House of Commons
Canada

O T T A W A
25th April 1942

AIR MAIL

Roy E. Green, Esq.,
K a s l o,
B. C.

Dear Roy:-

Yesterday I received your night letter of the 23rd and I expect a copy of the petition will be along in a day or two; I would suggest that you send a copy also to the Attorney General and make the strongest possible protest to him; also to Harold E. Winch whose address is:-

C/o C.C.F. Headquarters,
16 Hastings Street East,
Vancouver.

We shall do our best here, but those of you who are opposed to the move must spare no effort to help yourselves.

With kindest personal regards,
Yours sincerely,

Howard Green

HCG/P

P.S.

The Kootenian last week has a very fine letter. I Curle's - that is the true situation

sed, you'll

division of opinion developed among the local people when understand.

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Letter referred to at
bottom of letter is
probably

April 23, 1942

Kootenai

by Curle

Copy of letter in

Information file

"Japanese Internment."

REET

of April 25th re the

Security Commission this
had approved of the
lot of arrangements
ing them there. As you
s the ideal way would be
t all enemy aliens,
e but they are getting
here we are likely to

be attacked. I feel it is too late to do very much about
stopping them going up there and as the situation is entirely
in the hands of Mr. Taylor and his Commission, I feel it
is a matter between the citizens of Kaslo and that Commission
to settle.

I will be glad to receive an invitation
to your wedding, which you state will probably take place
early in June.

With kindest regards to all,

Yours sincerely,

AEJ/GH

P.S.

The Kootenai last week
has a very fine letter.
Curle's - that is the true situation

pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a
division of opinion developed among the local people when

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vimage so if I get mixed up in the terms used, you'll
understand.

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Telepl

A. E. JUKES
840 WEST HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B. C.

April 27th, 1942

Roy E. Green, Esq.,
Kaslo,
B. C.

Dear Roy:

I have your letter of April 25th re the Japanese question.

I called up the Security Commission this morning and they told me that Kaslo had approved of the Japanese going up there and that a lot of arrangements have already been made about sending them there. As you know, we have a war on and where as the ideal way would be to intern all Japanese, and in fact all enemy aliens, Canada so far has dodged this issue but they are getting them away from the Coastal areas, where we are likely to be attacked. I feel it is too late to do very much about stopping them going up there and as the situation is entirely in the hands of Mr. Taylor and his Commission, I feel it is a matter between the citizens of Kaslo and that Commission to settle.

I will be glad to receive an invitation to your wedding, which you state will probably take place early in June.

With kindest regards to all,

Yours sincerely,

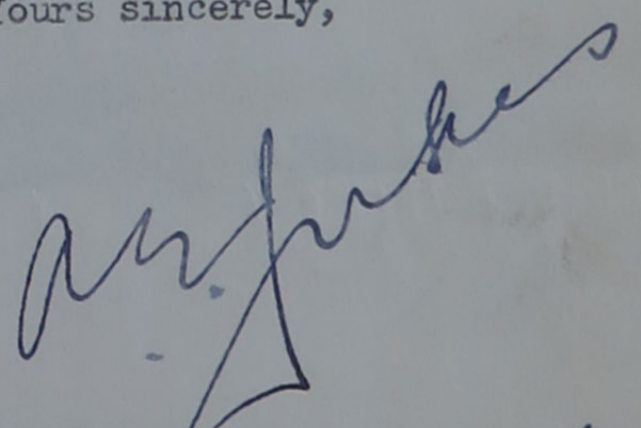
AEJ/GH

P.S.

The Kootenian last week has a very fine letter. Curle's - that is the true situation

effect of setting up a feeling of resentment to anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when

time of the Japanese occupation but later reverted to a village so if I get mixed up in the terms used, you'll understand.



Telephone PAcific 7531

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

April 27, 1942.

Mr. Roy E. Green,
Kaslo,
B. C.

Dear Mr. Green:

Your letter of April 23rd gives this Commission reason for concern. To realize that people enjoying a peaceful community life such as those of Kaslo do and have for many years now should refuse, in a time of emergency, to share with the rest of Canada their responsibility is to say the least alarming and I am sure the situation is not fully appreciated by those few citizens who signed the petition you enclosed.

It is not necessary for me to tell you that it is the responsibility of every Canadian citizen to do their part during these troublesome times, and I am sure you and the rest of your many friends are not to be numbered amongst those shirking their duty to Canada at this time.

Yours sincerely,

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

ACT/JM

populations in areas occupied by these armies, and the effect of setting up a feeling of resentment to anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when

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THE CONSOLIDATED MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY
OF CANADA LIMITED

CABLE ADDRESS
"COMINCO"

Trail B.C. Apr. 29/42

Dear Roy:-

Herewith are 13 more names
for your petition. I think I have got
almost everyone in Trail who qualifies
as a resident of Kaslo except G.W. Wheatley
who is at present out of town and will not
be back until Friday. I did not want to
hold it up long enough to wait for him.

The Matkins have just purchased
the Strachan Roberts property behind Mrs.
Whittakers and somewhere alongside the
hatchery.

I hope you will still be
able to speak English the next time I see
you and that you may have some luck
in stopping Kaslo from growing so fast.
Sincerely Walter.

populations in areas occupied by these armies, and the
effect of setting up a feeling of resentment to anything
pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a
division of opinion developed among the local people when

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you find a more loyal, unselfish or generous people. more than sixty men are serving in the armed forces and more than sixty thousand dollars have been subscribed in bonds. The ladies are working hard in every branch of voluntary war work.

I am sure no one here wants to ship but we do plead with you, on behalf of the many ^{of these} who are being exploited by the few ^{who hope to make money out of this scheme} to see at least that this town is not plugged ~~to the limit~~ so that ~~we are not~~ ^{used to that} end. A few of the Japanese would not have been objected to, had every other town been asked to do their share, ~~but~~, but the idea of having this little town plugged full of them is unfair and the cause of great concern to us all.

I hope you will receive this plea in the kindest way. We do not want to be obstructionists to Canada's war effort.
Thanking you

erect or setting up a feeling of resentment to anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when

time of the Japanese occupation but later reverted to a village so if I get mixed up in the terms used, you'll understand.

H. E. WINCH, M.L.A.
3741 KNIGHT ROAD
VANCOUVER, B.C.



May 11, 1942.

Mr. R. E. Green,
Kaslo,
B. C.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date relative to the decision of the B. C. Security Commission and enclosing for my information a petition protesting the sending of Japanese within the city limits of Kaslo.

The Advisory Council is not now sitting and I do not know when they contemplate calling another meeting. However I do remember that at our last meeting the question of sending Japanese to Kaslo came before the Advisory Council and we were informed that the Commission was making arrangements to send Japanese to Kaslo and that they were in receipt of communications from the mayor and the Board of Trade showing that they were in agreement with the policy of the Commission. In view of these communications no objection could logically be raised by the Advisory Council.

Thanking you for your courtesy in writing, I am

Sincerely yours,

H. E. Winch

W/M

populations in areas occupied by these armies, had the effect of setting up a feeling of resentment to anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when

time of the Japanese occupation but later reverted to a village so if I get mixed up in the terms used, you'll understand.

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Kootenay Lake Historical Society

Kootenay Lake Archives
PO Box 537
Kaslo, BC V0G 1M0
Canada

File # **KLA 960.001.2038**

Date: **1973-02-28**

Tel: (250) 353-9633
(250) 353-2525
(SS Moyie Visitor Centre, May - September)
Fax: (250) 353-2525
e-mail: archives@klhs.bc.ca

The Japanese-Canadian Internment at Kaslo

Remembered by
Roy E Green

Note 1. Transcribed, into print, by Gene Larcombe. 436, B Ave, Kaslo BC. April 2004 from an audio tape provided by Kootenay Lake Archives.

Henry Hincks explains: Concerning the Japanese people who were interned, involuntarily, in this area. Roy Green will give us further detail into this subject.

Roy Green speaks:

From time to time, the subject of the internment of the Japanese, who were dispersed from the coastal areas, upon declaration of War on Japan by Canada, comes up. It is now 30 years since this action was taken and as the records of the BC Security Commission are not available for recording, and further as the records of the matter as relating to corporation of the City of Kaslo are missing, it is necessary for the narrator to fall on his memory of those days to relate a brief sketch of events relative to the choice of Kaslo as one of the communities selected to house two thousand of the many thousands evacuated from the Coast.

Our community had lost approximately one-half its population in the Depression, of the thirties. As a result, many of the larger buildings, which had housed hotel businesses, offices, stores, apartments and other institutions, along with many private dwellings, were vacant. Still the town had utilities and businesses capable of catering to the needs of a greatly expanded population. This capability appealed to the BC Security Commission in their search to an alternative to building new concentration camps.

It is hardly necessary to explain that the people of this isolated region were very much in ignorance of the nature of the people whom the BC Security Commission proposed settling among them. This, coupled with the reports of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbour, by the Japanese, and of the atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese armies on civilian populations in areas occupied by these armies, had the effect of setting up a feeling of resentment to anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when

it became known that the negotiations to bring these people to Kaslo were underway. Protests were forwarded to the Dominion Government Departments and to the BC Security Commission by individuals and organizations. Much correspondence was exchanged by the members of the BC Security Commission, members of parliament, members of the legislation and members of organizations here in Kaslo. If you will bear with me, I'm going to read a few pieces that will explain some of the feelings prevailing at that time, or maybe I should delay the reading of these until I can go into some of the action that lead up to the moving of the Japanese from the Coast and into the Interior and into the so-called ghost-towns of the Slocan.

The first intimation that a move was going to be made to pull these people from the Coast, was in the form of a letter from the Immediate Action Committee asking the Council to agree with the proposition which lead to the elimination of Japanese from the coastal areas. Resolution 7306 was passed by the City Council, endorsing such action. There were several communications from the City, to Victoria, agreeing to the removal of the enemy aliens. Mister EL Bolt of the BC Security Commission sent in a team to survey the possibilities of the City as a possible internment camp. They set up negotiations whereby the Village agreed to lease to the BC Security Commission many of the older buildings, larger buildings which had reverted to the village by way of unpaid taxes and the titles were held by the village.

These of course were buildings that the village could negotiate on and would be liable to be made available to the BC Security Commission providing that an agreement could be reached. Among these buildings was the old Kaslo Hotel, the R&K Block, the Archer-Hartin Block, the Langham Hotel and several others. After this agreement had been set up, agreements were negotiated whereby the City - - - I'm using the term village and city because we get a little bit confused because Kaslo was still a city at the time of the Japanese occupation but later reverted to a village so if I get mixed up in the terms used, you'll understand.

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Permission was given to certain Japanese to come to Kaslo. This was on the request of the BC Security Commission and they formed the vanguard of the main occupation. There was considerable local controversy and accusations were thrown back and forth between the local people. This will probably be explained a little bit later but as a result of these accusations, the hard feelings were stirred up. Mayor Archer and Aldermen Grayling and Larsen and Webster, members of the Council, all resigned and this necessitated the sitting of almost a new Council. So this will probably serve to demonstrate the depth of feelings that were aroused, either in favour of, or in opposition to, the proposed occupation of Kaslo by the Japanese.

The Commission proceeded to prepare a report on the possibilities of rehabilitating the Japanese to the Kaslo area. A new Council was formed and an era of peace was more or less accomplished and the BC Securities Commission was able to move into the town and set up headquarters and to arrange for the accommodation of at least two thousand people in these old, unoccupied buildings.

The outcome of some of this controversy was that the Japanese were denied the privilege of setting up businesses for the general public. They were denied a local licence and after they had organized several small businesses such as drug stores, tailor shops, provision stores, they were given to understand that they could do business among their own people but they were not to open up their business to the public. This was a matter that showed there was an element in town who were quite prepared to take advantage of the added population but were also reluctant to share their good fortune with the people of Japanese origin. So, as a result, the Japanese people were denied local licences.

Several of these people did make application for licences but by action of the Council they were denied. Events, as the developed, possibly showed that there was some wisdom in denying these licences because we had a small community and the capacity of this community to provide enough business under ordinary circumstances was limited to a provision of services for the population as it existed prior to the time the Japanese came in. We could easily see that these people enjoyed living in this community and were allowed trade licences, they might make up their minds to stay and eventually, being good business people, there was the possibility that they might have stayed and crowded the already established businesses out of the area.

So, I'm just mentioning a few of these little items so that anyone listening will probably get some idea of the basis of the controversy that ensued owing to the fact that the government had decided to send these people into the area. The Council, at that time, did make several poor bargains with the BC Security Commission and this also aroused the ire of the local people because of the fact that we had certain established water rates and light rates and when it was found that Council had made special concessions with the BC Security Commission it aroused their ire and necessitated re-negotiating several of the agreements between the village and the BC Security

Commission. This was all finally settled to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. So with that as sort of a little preamble to what I remember of the occupation of Kaslo by the Japanese, we can continue to go on with the narrative as I commenced it.

It's hardly necessary to explain that the people of this isolated area were very much in ignorance of the nature of these people whom the BC Security Commission proposed setting among them. This coupled with the report of a sneak attack on Pearl Harbour and the atrocities perpetrated by the Japanese armies on civilian populations and areas occupied by these armies had the effect of setting up a feeling of resentment of anything pertaining to the Japanese. It is not to be wondered at that a division of opinion developed among the local people when it became known that negotiations to bring these people to Kaslo was under way. Protests were forwarded to the Dominion Government departments and the BC Security Commission by individuals and organizations.

However, most businessmen in the community, sensing an opportunity to profit, backed the suggestion of the Security Commission to quadruple the population and backed the Commissions proposal and stated their approval in no uncertain terms. This, coupled with the people's appeal to patriotism prevailed. The vanguard of our new population were soon on the ground and set about preparing, and modifying, the empty buildings to receive the influx. Many of the evacuees were transported to this location by way of the SS Moyie. Most of the locals, out of curiosity, would assemble on the docks to witness the arrivals. The scene, which unfolded, awakened the sympathies of our people and this narrator was among the first to offer assistance to those who were most desperately in need of comfort.

It took a few months for us to adjust but gradually it dawned on us that it was going to be relatively easy to accommodate to the situation. These people set up their own council, their own watchmen, their own internal security authority and social and recreational organizations. Soon things were running very smoothly and the natives began to benefit from their contacts with the newcomers. The narrator was happy to make the acquaintance of some of the more friendly among the Japanese and through associations and their homes and at their tables, soon became semi-pro in the use of chopsticks.

The industry of these people put the rest of us to shame. Gardens sprung up in every square foot of tillable soil. Fruit trees that had been neglected for years were pruned in preparation for a new crop. Gangs of men were organized to provide sanitary facilities and to supply fuel for the many hungry Queen stoves and ranges which heated the quarters and provided cooking facilities for the large communal kitchens. The children were a delight to us all. They were always cheerful which was surprising when we considered the living conditions and the restrictions to which they were subjected. They demonstrated a desire to excel and they backed up this desire with genuine effort. It did not take long for friendships to spring up between the

local children and the visitors, some of which f
resulted in mixed marriages which have
successful.
The War eventually drew to a close
set in. Very few of the interned returned
either found opportunities to begin a new
BC or moved out into the prairie
Montreal and beyond. Many of the
time to time, and all looked pros
have found happiness and good
We found eventually that w
that we had been privileged
fine people.

End of narration

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local children and the visitors, some of which friendships resulted in mixed marriages which have been very successful.

The War eventually drew to a close and the dispersal set in. Very few of the interned returned to the Coast. Most either found opportunities to begin a new life in this part of BC or moved out into the prairies and as far east as Montreal and beyond. Many of these people returned, from time to time, and all looked prosperous and report that they have found happiness and good fortune in their new homes. We found eventually that we had been most fortunate in that we had been privileged to enjoy the association of these fine people.

End of narration

Japanese Internment 960.001.2038

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