

MS 20 Langham Japanese Canadian fonds JCAP letters & clippings from Howard Dawson Scrapbook 1943-46, #3, #4, 86
re Japanese Canadian Internment

SF4 533

Nelson Daily News

Established April 22, 1902.

British Columbia's
Most Interesting Newspaper

Published every morning except Sunday by
the NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY LIM-
ITED, 266 Baker St., Nelson, British Columbia.
MEMBER OF THE CANADIAN PRESS AND
THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS.

THURSDAY, AUG. 26, 1943.

Kootenay's Position as to the Japanese

When it became necessary as a matter of national security that the Japanese should be quickly evacuated from the British Columbia Coast the people of Kootenay acquiesced, as a war measure only, in the establishment in this district of the largest single groups of these people—about 40 per cent of the total then in the Province.

That the Japanese were to be located here for the duration only was clearly and distinctly understood. If there had been any suggestion that Japanese groups might become permanent residents of Kootenay there would have been such an uprising of public opinion as would have forced the Government to carry out the more difficult policy of distributing the Japanese in small groups through other Provinces of Canada or of interning them in concentration camps in the wilds. Some other Provinces refused to accept them under any conditions. They did not want any part of them, and said so with a force which impressed Ottawa.

It was, said some of the other Provinces, British Columbia's problem, not theirs. In that view they were wrong. Immigration has always been under Federal control. The Federal Government admitted the Japanese, against the often expressed protests of the British Columbia Legislature and without taking advantage of the suggestion that was made by the Imperial Government in London that Canada pass a Natal Act. Very definitely and very completely, the Japanese are a Dominion problem. The baby belongs to other Provinces as much as to British Columbia, which never wanted them, never liked them, and time after time passed exclusion acts which were disallowed by the Canadian Federal Government.

Kootenay cooperated. Kootenay, in effect, said we don't want these people, but you—the Dominion Government—may send them here for the present emergency, always providing it is clearly understood that you take them away when the emergency is over.

Once rid of the Japanese the Coast cities declared that they never would permit their return. There would be bloodshed in Vancouver if the Japanese were sent back, said one member in the House of Commons last session.

Other Canadian Provinces continue to say they will not accept them, except in relatively small groups to carry on work currently necessary to the conduct of the war.

Hence has arisen the demand that all the Japanese be sent to Japan when the war ends. That might be a practical solution, but it does not seem to be so. Seven or eight thousand of the 25,000 Japanese were born in Canada, about an equal number are British subjects by naturalization. Unless we propose to rewrite international law, and depart from basic British principles of citizenship of which we are proud, we cannot deport a Canadian citizen. We can cancel naturalization if an individual proves unworthy, but should we cancel for racial reasons?

We might deport Japanese nationals, but that would only be nibbling at the problem.

Out of this situation comes the suggestion that the Japanese be distributed in small groups throughout the Dominion. That appears to be a sensible plan. In small groups, the Japanese would not present the racial and economic problem that 25,000 of them created at the Coast. But, supposing that we do so distribute them, will they remain where we place them? The more widely they were distributed, the smaller the number in any one group, the greater would be the difficulties of control. Permanent freezing of any Japanese family or group of families to any one place would not for long in peacetime be approved by Canadian public opinion—and it would take an army of police to enforce the policy.

The records show that the Japanese prefer the Pacific Coast. They did not spread into various parts of Canada as did other immigrants. If distributed throughout the country as a postwar policy, would it be long before they were again a trial and a tribulation to our people on the Pacific Coast?

Kootenay's position is clear. Whether they return to the Coast, whence they were unloaded on us, whether they are spread all over the country, or whether they go to Japan is not as directly our concern as it is to insist that the Dominion Government carry out its agreement to remove them from their temporary homes in Kootenay immediately peace is signed, or as much sooner as national safety will permit.

This Federal Government problem must not be left on our lap.

Nelson Daily News
Aug 26, 1943

Letters to the Editor

Letters may be published over a nom de plume, but the actual name of the writer must be given to the Editor as evidence of good faith. Anonymous letters go in the waste paper basket.

Ex-Nelsonite Says Kootenay Hasn't Felt Jap Competition Yet

To the Editor:

Sir—Hats off to Mayor Stibbs and the members of Nelson Board of Trade for the stand they have taken on the Japanese question! Truly the situation is a serious one, for should the Japanese be allowed to remain in Kaslo and district after the war, they would make Nelson and the surrounding fertile district their permanent home and it is high time the Nelson citizens take a firm and definite stand against this calamity. Since the Japs are not to be sent back to the Coast then where are they to go? Let's be sure its not the Kootenays.

Naturally the removal of the Japs from Kaslo and the Slocan would upset the prosperity of certain landowners and business men, but as yet this minority has never had to compete against the Japanese for a living, the Kaslo and Slocan farmers have not been forced to stand by while the Japanese farmers reaped a fortune from the soil, and Kaslo merchants have not been forced to compete against the "Jap across the street," who can ask lower prices for his merchandise and come out on top. Nor have the citizens been forced to work side by side with "the little yellow guys" where for a time the white man was temporarily an equal with the yellow—that would indeed be an experience for "Mr. Kaslo citizen". No indeed, so far the Japanese residing throughout Kaslo and Slocan Valley have been "paying guests".

So I think it would be a good idea for those who feel an overpowering surge of affection towards the Japs and their ways, to pause a moment and consider the folks of the Fraser Valley who for years and years have fought a losing struggle against Japanese infiltrations. It is not because of prejudice and racial hatred that these folks, with one accord, refused to have the Japanese back in their former homes but because they have tasted the bitter futility of trying for years and years to earn a livelihood in competition with the Jap.

As a resident of a Japanese infested community for many years, I urge the people of Nelson and district, don't let this occur in your guard against possible Jap infiltrations.

EX-NELSONITE.

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 21, 1943.

MS 20 Langham Japanese Canadian Fonds
SCHA P letters & clippings from Howard Dawson Scrapbook 1943-46, 43, 44, 86
re Japanese Canadian Internment
SF 4
533

The New Canadian

P. O. Drawer A Kaslo, B. C.

An Independent Weekly Organ Published as a Medium of Expression Among the People of Japanese Origin in Canada

Tom Shoyama
Takaichi Umezuki

Editor & Publisher
Japanese Section Editor

Rates: 40c per Month

\$2.00 for Six Months in Advance

Our Stake in the War

At the instance of the City Engineer, it is reported, the Nelson Board of Trade has decided to reconsider a resolution urging the removal of Japanese Canadians from the Kootenays and if possible from Canada at the end of the war. The Board will pursue its discussions further before taking any action in connection with its recent resolution.

Credit is certainly due to the Nelson Engineer, who, as befits his profession, is more prepared to be guided by simple reason and common sense and less by a confused emotional prejudice than would appear to be true of some of the trade board members.

He is anxious that the sins of a foreign government should not be visited upon peaceful residents of this country, who are themselves wholly innocent of any indictable crime. He believes that the rights and privileges of any minority group should be protected against attacks by fascist-minded individuals. And taking a stand against the exploitation of Japanese Canadian evacuees, he urges that clear thinking be employed to find a just and workable solution of an admittedly-complex problem.

Most important, the Engineer puts his finger upon the root of the question when he declares that this is not a war of "nation against nation." It is one of "ideals against brutal ideologies." And the inference is that the resolution previously adopted by the Nelson Board is more compatible with just those "brutal ideologies" than it is with the "ideals" for which our fighting men are winning victory after victory now on many far-flung fronts.

For our part, we Japanese Canadians can take this same declaration very much to heart as a sober and penetrating reminder of our own stake in the war between democracy and fascism. True at times in our viewpoint the "democratic ideals" have been sadly obscured, and the issue has appeared to be essentially nothing more than an "anti-Japanese" war. But we can be sure, as a correspondent also informs us in his letter, that "the majority of the people, through too silent to be very encouraging, can be depended upon to be fair-minded in a crisis."

When they do speak out, as the Nelson City Engineer has done, we can be genuinely encouraged to retain our faith in the ultimate victory of the "ideals" over the "brutal ideologies" and to do our utmost ourselves to bring about that triumph.

M520 Langham Japanese Canadian Fonds
SCHAP letters & clippings from Howard Dawson Scrapbook 1943-46, 43, 44, 86
re Japanese Canadian Internment
SF4 533

Public Meeting Here

COUNCIL OPPOSES EXILE

'Spread 'Em Out Thin' Policy Urged for Japs In Canada

By ERIC BRODERICK.
Treat the Japanese race in the United States and Canada as you would a lump of rationed butter: spread it out thin.

This is the idea of Vancouver Consultative Council, an unofficial organization "for co-operation in wartime problems of Canadian Citizenship" headed by Dr. Norman Ferguson Black, retired principal of Kitsilano High School and prominent B.C. educationalist, and including in its 50 members some of this city's best known business, teaching and religious personalities.

The council's recommendations which brand theories of deportation as "Nazi-like" and "entirely unconstitutional," and suggest that we should overcome social prejudice against Japanese-Canadian intermarriage, have been put before Premier John Hart and the Vancouver City Council.

DEPLORE PREJUDICE.

Strong criticism of the present relocation and interment camp system of handling evacuated Japanese is offered by the council.

"We are 'de-Canadianizing' them in far shorter time than it took to instill into them the Canadian outlook many of them already had," Dr. Black charges.

"The people's initiative, independence and industry are being demoralized. Their children, heretofore conspicuous for freedom from juvenile delinquency, are growing up in conditions that can not fail to produce anti-social results. These people should be self-supporting and be carrying their own share of public taxes," the doctor states.

Education of Japanese youths in the same schools with Canadian boys and girls, equality in social contacts and membership in the same trade unions are ways of making the Japanese good, solid citizens, the group believes.

DISSOLVE JAP RACE.

Briefly, their proposal is that the Japanese race in Canada be "dissolved" by simply planting a few families in each city until the group "disappears." Residents of Japanese origin, of which there are about 23,000 in Canada, represent only one-fifth of 1 per cent. of the total population.

portation. Most of the Japanese minority here who can not claim citizenship are good members of society, however, the council says.

Expulsion or exile for the Japanese would necessitate the adoption of Nazi principles, would be incongruous "in an empire that itself is chiefly colored," and might also complicate the making of a durable peace, Dr. Black said.

MANY ASK EXPULSION.

Dozens of organizations, however, have gone on record as demanding "The Japs be sent back to Japan." The Union of B.C. Municipalities, at its convention last week, passed a resolution calling for their "expulsion" from Canada.

A. W. Neill (Independent, Co-mox-Alberni) told the House of Commons that he would subscribe to a plan for separation of the western provinces from Eastern Canada if the Japanese problem were thrown back into B.C.'s lap.

Members of the Consultative Council's executive, including Rev. G. Hayden Stewart, Laura Jamieson, M.L.A., Mrs. R.C. Weir, D. R. Poole, Rev. Hugh M. Rae, Helen Hurd and Carleton St. C. Clay, endorse Dr. Black's analysis of the situation.

"Fundamentally," he says, "the problems have arisen from an abnormal geographical and occupational concentration of the Japanese. The obvious remedy is geographical and occupational dispersion."

Columnist Says Montreal Niseiettes As 'Canadian as Maple Sugar'

New Canadian, Sept. 18-43

(From the Montreal Standard)

(DOROTHY SANGSTER in her column, OUR MONTREAL)

"Why should you write about us? After all we're just starting to give blood to the Red Cross, and there are hundreds other Canadians who have been giving it for months."

That's how we were greeted the other evening by three young Japanese Canadians who have only recently come to Montreal from British Columbia under the B.C. Security Plan. Their names? Nete Ikeda, Joyce Ikeda and Ruth Ishihara, and they're as Canadian as maple sugar. Nete we first heard of through the blood transfusion centre on St. Catherine Street, and when we dropped in to see her, Joyce (her sister) and Ruth (her friend) were all spending a quiet evening at home.

All three girls were enthusiastic about the Red Cross and blood transfusions to help save Canada's wounded.

"It doesn't hurt at all. I was quite surprised" said Nete who had already given her first pint of blood and is waiting to give her next.

"Gosh, I hope my blood will be all right!" put in Ruth. "If it's not right, I intend to eat vitamin pills or something until it is. I'd be awfully proud to wear that silver button they give you when you've donated six pints of blood."

"I went to the movies a while ago," Joyce said, "and it showed a wounded man getting a blood transfusion, and he sat up and said, 'Maybe one of you in this

audience has given me this blood. Thank you.' That made me feel pretty guilty. I'm going with Nete next week."

HOMESICK FOR B.C.

Speaking of British Columbia is apt to make Nete, Joyce and Ruth considerably homesick. They're singularly free from bitterness concerning their enforced exile, but they're a little worried about what's going to happen after the war's over. "Some people don't want us back in B.C.," Ruth said. "Some people even think we ought to be sent back to Japan."

"Japan? What on earth would we do in Japan?" Joyce asked. "We belong here. We're Canadians."

Nete told us that the 200 to 300 young Nisei in Montreal think the people here are swell. "Only some of them," she laughed, "apparently never saw a Japanese Canadian before. They take one look at our faces, and they speak broken English to us... things like, 'You likee Montreal?' and 'What placee you belong?' It's kind of silly. But I guess they forget that we were brought up just like their own children in Canadian schools."

Then, as we left, she switched back to the blood transfusion business. "I forgot to say it's a good place to come for the second cup of coffee. Good, big steaming cups, just as soon as the transfusion is over. And I'm not fooling—it really doesn't hurt a bit."

ed at points where they value to the country. not be exploited, he asse Lengthy discussion, iety of viewpoints pre lowed.

the floor. An ash pan was upended in the middle of the floor and coal was dumped among the ashes. A Santa Claus suit used for Christmas concerts was trampled in the ashes and coal, ruining it. Books on the library shelves were tumbled on

Appearance of the spilled sandwich spread and water on the kitchen floor indicates that it was comparatively recent.

About three years ago vandals broke into the Church of the Redeemer and used the vestry as a lavatory.

servations ly equally essent enjoying

Release 21,000 Jap-Americans

LAWRENCE, Kas., Oct. 16 (AP)—Dillon S. Myer, Director of the United States War Relocation Authority, told a Rotary Club audience today that 21,000 loyal Japanese-Americans have been released from relocation centres this year, and that 70,000 more are eligible for return to civilian life.

vasion, but he is now interned in a Malai Camp. On a postcard his father has received from him he says he is well treated and well fed.

Belated Postcard

A postcard message which was written over a year ago by Pte. Aubrey Sellen, R.A.M.C., a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands, has just been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Sellen, of 45 Plantation Road, Faversham. The card is dated June, 1942. On it Pte. Sellen said that he was fit and well.

MS 20 Langham Japanese Canadian Fonds
SCHAP letters & clippings from Howard Dawson Scrapbook 1943-46, 43, 44, 86
re Japanese Canadian Internment
SF 4 533

Joe Grant Masaoka's article on race problems in a recent issue of Pacific Citizen declares: "Sometimes, in the struggle to be accorded acceptance in all levels of a society, professedly activated by the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, one wonders if the minority groups aren't in the same position of Johnny, the Negro."

"Johnny had been trying unsuccessfully for several months to become a member of a famous white church. One night in a vision the Lord appeared to Johnny and said, 'Don't worry, Johnny, I've been trying to get into that church for twenty years myself.'"

Board Resolu

Council of to again stu with Japan Following engineer H. D tion submit previous re luncheon n day, decide commendati viously a the Govern pledge to of this dis citizenship ada. It wa to Mr. D considerat

His nev asked tha should no the Board minion G in assisti prising th ority to o ployment and to various p that this prosecute view to wide an eliminati unities purely J

THREAT
Mr. D of the J point of "very fe overseas

Board to Again Discuss Moving Japanese

Resolution of the Nelson Board of Trade asking the Government to implement a pledge to remove Japanese from this district and possibly to other parts of Canada, will be discussed at an October meeting. Additional discussion and original motion it seek the support of Trade for the City Engineer careful consider these problem and as to the purpose the resolution meeting of the C

"DOESN'T HELP"

Mr. Dawson "doesn't help at all in dealing with Hitler had spreading them. They make Japanese responsible for cousins of the which they had This was no against nations, brutal ideologic If Japanese were smouldering re low. He doubt international a mit it.

The solution clear thinking. Japanese setti They should b ed at points w value to the not be exploit Lengthy dis iety of view lowed.

Release 21,000 Jap-Americans

LAWRENCE, Kas., Oct. 16 (AP) —Dillon S. Myer, Director of the United States War Relocation Authority, told a Rotary Club audience today that 21,000 loyal Japanese-Americans have been released from relocation centres this year, and that 70,000 more are eligible for return to civilian life.

NEW CANADIAN SEPT 12, '43
ANOTHER GOODBYE
LAST SPRING WHEN a group of Japanese left early one morning from Kaslo for Ontario, there was a goodly crowd to see them off. It was just another one of those partings so common now in interior towns. But that parting was something special for one old man. He was dressed drably and shabbily. He hung around the tail-end of the bus, away from the throng that crowded the leavers. Now and then, he brushed his eyes as tears came, unrestrained and unashamed. He was being left behind for on that bus his daughter, his son and his wife with their children were leaving for the East. The bus roared off. Quickly the people dispersed to their waiting breakfasts. The old man stood, in an pose of Little Ben-nie, the likeable hobo of the comic strip, long time after the last dust had settled once more on the street.

Why Not Include Germans, Italians? Asks McInnis

D. NEWS.
VANCOUVER, Nov. 1 (CP)—Angus MacInnis, C.C.F. M.P. for Vancouver East, said last night that if Japanese, including those born in Canada, are to be repatriated then "why has no one suggested that all residents of German and Italian extraction be repatriated also?"

"The crimes of Germany and Italy in this war are just as ghastly as those committed by Japan," MacInnis said in an address at St. John's United Church. "If the rules applied against the Japanese are not also applied to the Germans and Italians, then we will be guilty of racial prejudice."

Vandals Make Shambles of Church of Redeemer Parish Hall

Nelson News about May '43
Vandals, breaking into the Church of the Redeemer Parish Hall, have damaged dozens of books and Sunday School equipment, and have made shambles of the kitchen. Rev. W. J. Silverwood, following discovery of the damage, announced Monday he would post a reward for information leading to the identification of the vandals. Entry was gained by smashing a panel of the door leading into the kitchen. Once inside the vandals spilled cocoa and sugar, threw sandwich spread around on the floor and on windows, and tumbled stored groceries upon shelves and the floor. An ash pan was upended in the middle of the floor and coal was dumped among the ashes. A Santa Claus suit used for Christmas concerts was trampled in the ashes and coal, ruining it. Books on the library shelves were tumbled on the floor, some of them ripped. In the hallway leading to the main hall large sacred pictures used in Sunday School instruction were ripped out and thrown on the floor, a large number of hymn books were ripped and thrown down, and the Sunday School roll of honor was torn to pieces. Toilet paper was unrolled and left in a heap in the lavatory. The Sunday School has been closed during the Summer, and it is not known definitely when the vandalism occurred. The broken door was noticed Sunday, leading to the discovery of the damage. Appearance of the spilled sandwich spread and water on the kitchen floor indicates that it was comparatively recent. About three years ago vandals broke into the Church of the Redeemer and used the vestry as a lavatory.

vasion, but he is now interned in a Malai Camp. On a postcard his father has received from him he says "he is well treated and well fed."

Belated Postcard

A postcard message which was written over a year ago by Pte. Aubrey Sellen, R.A.M.C., a prisoner-of-war in Japanese hands, has just been received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Sellen, of 45 Plantation Road, Faversham. The card is dated June, 1942. On it Pte. Sellen said that he was fit and well.

Nelson Daily News
don't want the Japanese back, and the Government promised to move them from the Kootenay. If we remove them from this district, we have enough of one class now that is not being assimilated and if we have another it will be hard on the District." The Board should ask the Government straight to carry out its pledge," W. M. Cunliffe felt. Six thousand out of the 23,000 had already been moved, so the Government was doing better than moving the Japanese out of the District at the end of the war, Mr. Dawson commented.

NEW CANADIAN SEPT 12, '43
ANOTHER GOODBYE
LAST SPRING WHEN a group of Japanese left early one morning from Kaslo for Ontario, there was a goodly crowd to see them off. It was just another one of those partings so common now in interior towns. But that parting was something special for one old man. He was dressed drably and shabbily. He hung around the tail-end of the bus, away from the throng that crowded the leavers. Now and then, he brushed his eyes as tears came, unrestrained and unashamed. He was being left behind for on that bus his daughter, his son and his wife with their children were leaving for the East. The bus roared off. Quickly the people dispersed to their waiting breakfasts. The old man stood, in an pose of Little Ben-nie, the likeable hobo of the comic strip, long time after the last dust had settled once more on the street.

Why Not Include Germans, Italians? Asks McInnis

D. NEWS.
VANCOUVER, Nov. 1 (CP)—Angus MacInnis, C.C.F. M.P. for Vancouver East, said last night that if Japanese, including those born in Canada, are to be repatriated then "why has no one suggested that all residents of German and Italian extraction be repatriated also?"

"The crimes of Germany and Italy in this war are just as ghastly as those committed by Japan," MacInnis said in an address at St. John's United Church. "If the rules applied against the Japanese are not also applied to the Germans and Italians, then we will be guilty of racial prejudice."

Japanese and Fed"

ing observations
ld apply equally
at present enjoying

MS 20 Langham Japanese Canadian cards
 SCNA letters & clippings from Howard Dawson Sorapbook 1943-46, 43, 44, 86
 re Japanese Canadian Internment
 SF 4 533