

RECORD GROUP 117

VOLUME 1

FILE 10

OPEN

117
vol. 1
file 10

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE CUSTODIAN OF ASSETS

Ottawa, October 27, 1947.

Dear Dr. MacNamara,-

With reference to your letter of the 12th ultimo, asking for information as to the assets of repatriated Japanese which vested in the Custodian under the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 7355 dated September 15, 1945, I am enclosing a memorandum handed to me by K. W. Wright, Solicitor in the Custodian's Office, together with the list referred to by Mr. Wright.

Yours truly,

I attach a list of assets supplied by our Vancouver Office and you will note that we have under control the proceeds of real estate, stocks, bonds, interests in life insurance policies and refundable savings portion of income tax.

Dr. MacNamara suggests E. H. Coleman Under Secretary of State. referred to may be recalled. It will not be possible for the Custodian to complete the winding up of estates of Japanese repatriates for some time and I therefore recommend that the provisions of the Act relating to Custodian control, as suggested by Dr. MacNamara, C.M.C., Deputy Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

"K. W. WRIGHT"

100/37
attach.

and Deputy Custodian.

H. G. L. Strange, Esq.,
Director,
Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

vol. 1
file 10

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE
PLEASE REFER
TO
FILE NO.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

- COPY -

October 16, 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. COLEMAN

RE: Property of Repatriated Japanese

The Deputy Minister of Labour addressed a letter to you under date of September 12, 1947, asking for information as to assets of repatriated Japanese which vested in the Custodian under the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 7355, dated September 15, 1945.

Mr. Shears was asked for a report and the matter was taken up when I was in Vancouver.

I attach a list of assets compiled by our Vancouver Office and you will note that we have under control two parcels of real estate, stocks, bonds, interests in life insurance policies and refundable savings portion of income tax.

Mr. MacNamara suggests that the Order in Council referred to may be repealed or allowed to lapse unless extension is necessary. It will not be possible for the Custodian to complete the winding up of estates of Japanese repatriates for some time and I therefore recommend that the provisions of Order in Council P.C. 7355, relating to Custodian control, be extended.

"K. W. WRIGHT"

KWW/JF
Attach.

H. G. L. Strange, Esq.,
Director,
Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

and Deputy Custodian.

ATM

Ottawa, January 10, 1944.

Dear Mr. Strange,-

Thank you for your letter of the 7th January. The Japanese problem is, as you say, a very complicated and difficult one. So far as the Custodian's Office has been concerned, we have endeavoured, in carrying out the duties assigned to us, to mitigate hardship where it is possible to do so.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State
and Deputy Custodian.

H. G. L. Strange, Esq.,
Director, Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

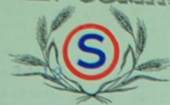
H. G. L. Strange, Esq.,
Director,
Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

and Deputy Custodian.

vol. 1
file 10

SEARLE GRAIN COMPANY, LIMITED

A. L. SEARLE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
W. L. LEACH,
PRESIDENT
J. M. GILCHRIST,
VICE-PRESIDENT
E. A. SEARLE,
VICE-PRES. & TREAS.
H. S. L. STRANGE,
DIRECTOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPT.



MEMBERS
WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE
VANCOUVER MERCHANTS EXCHANGE
CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE
OFFICES
WINNIPEG
CALGARY
REGINA
FORT WILLIAM
EDMONTON
SASKATOON
NEW WESTMINSTER

UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE

WINNIPEG,
CANADA

January 7th, 1944.

Mr. E. H. Coleman,
Under Secretary of State & Deputy Custodian,
Department of Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Coleman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter
of January 4th.

Thank you for the information you have given
me on the methods of handling properties, and the funds
derived from the sales of properties formerly belonging
to Canadian citizens of Japanese racial origin.

I gather from your letter that any monies
which accrued from the sale of properties of these persons
is fairly quickly turned over to them, which, of course
is all, in my own opinion, as it should be. Quite evidently
the young Japanese women with whom I discussed this matter
a few months ago on the train, were in error when they
thought these monies would be held in escrow, and would
not be returned to the original owners, but would be used
for some form of re-establishment of these people.

It also seems to me that if the Government
itself decides to move Canadian citizens from one point to
another that at least these citizens, far from losing any-
thing from the transfer, should be compensated ~~from~~ out
of public funds, and should have returned to them anything
of value which they legally possessed. For my own part,
I am quite opposed to the rumours we hear that British
Columbia will refuse to take these people back. It seems
to me to be an unwelcome way to treat Canadian citizens.

Director,
Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

- 2 -

From the tone of your letter, however, I gather that these people are being treated not only with full legal appreciation of their rights and privileges, but indeed with sympathy.

Thanking you for replying to my letter, I am,

Very truly yours,



H. G. L. Strange
Director, Research Department

HGLS/KM

Dearle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

vol. 1
file 10

Ottawa, January 4, 1944.

Dear Sir,-

Your letter of December 31st has been brought to my attention.

When the Government of Canada, as a matter of national policy, decided to move the persons of the Japanese race from the defence areas of British Columbia, the question of the disposition of their property presented difficult problems. In respect to the property which was reported to the Custodian, the Custodian's staff have managed it to the best of their ability. You will, of course, realize that in respect to real property, taxes and other charges were accumulating and it was found very difficult to secure satisfactory tenants.

Accordingly, in January 1943, the Government, again as a matter of policy, decided that it would pursue a policy of liquidation. Two Advisory Committees were set up, one in relation to agricultural lands, under the Chairmanship of His Honour Judge Whiteside of New Westminster, and the other in respect to property in the Greater Vancouver area, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Justice Sidney Smith of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

The Director of Soldier Settlement administering the Veterans Land Act intimated that his Board would be interested in acquiring a very considerable number of the parcels of agricultural lands and a very large number of parcels have been sold for cash to the Soldier Settlement Board administering the Veterans Land Act. This transaction is not yet fully completed but the proceeds in respect of each parcel will be held in trust for the owners of the Japanese race. A considerable number of sales in the Greater Vancouver area have been made for cash and the proceeds of these sales are being held by the Custodian to the credit of the Japanese owners. In respect to the owners who have moved from the Settlement Camps conducted by the Department of Labour, arrangements are presently being made to pay the proceeds of the sale of their properties to them.

I may state that no sales of the property of these evacuated persons have been made without the recommendation of the Advisory Committees to which I have referred.

Yours truly,

E. M. Coleman
Under Secretary of State
and Deputy Custodian.

H. G. L. Strange, Esq.,
Director,
Agricultural Research Department,
Searle Grain Company, Limited,
Winnipeg, Man.

SEARLE GRAIN COMPANY, LIMITED

A. L. SEARLE
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
M. L. LEACH
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J. M. GILCHRIST
VICE-PRESIDENT
R. A. SEARLE
MANAGER & TREAS.
H. G. L. STRANGE
DIRECTOR
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPT.



MEMBERS
WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE
VANCOUVER MERCHANTS EXCHANGE
CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE
OFFICES
CALGARY WINNIPEG EDMONTON
REGINA SASKATOON
FORT WILLIAM NEW WESTMINSTER

December 31st, 1943.

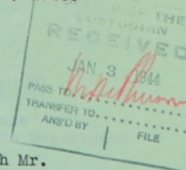
Department of the Secretary of State,
Custodian's Branch,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sirs:

I have had some correspondence with Mr. A. MacNamara of the Department of Labour, about the Canadian born Japanese (with whom I have a good deal of sympathy, and whom I know and understand fairly well) and the disposition of their property. Mr. MacNamara has recommended me to write to you for further particulars.

Some time ago I met a few Canadian born Japanese young women going from British Columbia east to seek employment. They were uncomplaining to a remarkable extent. They did feel, however, that some injustice was being done the Japanese in the disposition of the funds accruing from their property. Would you be kind enough to let me know how these are being managed - if, for instance, Japanese property, land or a business was sold, what would happen to the funds; how does the Japanese owner receive the proceeds of the sales, and so forth.

I greatly regret, myself, to see the wave of emotion that was directed against these Canadian born Japanese. For my own part, I do not regard them as any different from people who live in this country of any racial origin. Certainly I feel from my own experience that they are more to be trusted than many German people who came to this country after the last War, and who have obtained Canadian nationality, some of whom are still enemy aliens.



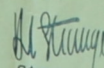
file 10

- 2 -

In all events, regardless of my own personal views which perhaps are prejudiced, I should be glad to have whatever details you can give me with regard to the disposition of their property, and so forth.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am,

Yours very truly,



H. G. L. Strange
Director, Research Department

HGLS/KM

100-1
File 10

423 Queen Street West

"Our doors are open to all"

ADELAIDE 9551

Toronto 2, Ont.
February 22, 1944

Haveell math

PLA. 7.

ATM

Ottawa, July 5, 1943.

A. MacNamara, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of Labour,
Ottawa.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter of July 2nd enclosing for my information and
record a final Statement of Expenditures by votes and
primaries for the fiscal year 1942-43, under the direc-
tion of the British Columbia Security Commission and
the Commissioner of Japanese Placement.

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

Pages

75,745.70	1,743.25	77,488.95
\$754,685.66	\$7,877.37	\$762,563.03



OFFICE OF THE
JUL 5 1943
Under Secretary of State

Ottawa, July 2, 1943.

Mr. E. H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
Secretary of State Department,
West Block,
Ottawa.

I enclose for your information and
record a final Statement of Expenditures by votes
and primaries for the fiscal year 1942-43, under
the direction of the British Columbia Security
Commission and the Commissioner of Japanese Place-
ment.

A. MacNamara
A. MacNamara.

Enc.

Supplies and Materials	15,610.07		
Transportation & Travelling -			
Staff	31,286.33	3,209.61	34,495.94
Wages	75,745.70	1,742.95	77,488.65
	<u>\$754,605.65</u>	<u>\$7,277.37</u>	<u>\$747,608.51</u>

.32
.40
5.18
2.87
5.10
5.12
9.45
5.92
5.22
2.03
5.76
0.55

File 10

1942-43

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

To March 31st/43

F I N A L

Accumulative
Totals to
Mar. 28thTotals for
the Month
of March -
Supplem'tryAccumulative
Totals
to
Date

SUMMARY REVENUES - VOTE 99

Privileges, Licenses & Permits	\$ 14,819.34	\$ 114.83	\$ 14,934.17
Proceeds from Sales	5,197.97	2,266.86	7,464.83
Refunds Expenditures 1941-42	5.49	-	5.49
"Keep" Collected	39,005.83	1,791.66	40,797.49
Light, Heat and Power	\$ 57,824.63	\$ 4,173.15	\$ 61,997.78
Telephone & Mail Service			
Miscellaneous			
Professional Services			
Rent			
Supplies and Materials			
Transportation			
Suspense	\$ 15,470.00	\$ 275.17	\$ 15,745.17

SUSPENSE - VOTE 100

ADMINISTRATION - VOTE 200

Primary

Communication Services	\$ 24,624.74	\$ 1,196.58	\$ 25,821.32
Cost of Living Bonus	15,463.78	1,255.62	16,719.40
Employer's Contribution - Unemployment Insurance	1,435.23	239.95	1,675.18
Equipment	40,151.30	1,211.57	41,362.87
Land & Buildings	211,034.09	2,421.01	213,455.10
Light, Heat and Power	897.92	95.20	993.12
Miscellaneous	51,642.49	34,603.04	86,245.53
Printing and Stationery	16,175.19	1,930.73	18,105.92
Professional & Special Services	9,537.91	1,795.31	11,333.22
Rent	12,824.53	97.50	12,922.03
Salaries	248,630.00	9,488.76	258,118.76
Supplies and Materials	15,416.67	2,633.88	18,050.55
Transportation & Travelling - Staff	31,286.33	3,209.61	34,495.94
Wages	75,745.70	1,749.95	77,495.65
	\$ 754,835.88	\$ 7,277.37	\$ 762,113.25

E. H. COLEMAN

Under Secretary of State.

Ottawa, June 2, 1943.

1943-43

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

To March 31st/43

FINAL

Accumulative
Totals to
Mar. 26thTotals for
the Month
of March -
SuppliesAccumulative
Totals to
Date

MOVEMENT, PLACEMENT, HOUSING & CARE OF JAPANESE - VOTE 201

Assigned Pay	\$ 651.37	\$ 9,959.41	\$ 9,108.04
Dependents' Allowances	65,912.28	241.00	86,153.28
Education	20,464.30	10,241.29	30,705.59
Equipment	221,122.63	55,539.74	276,662.37
Farm Settlement	5,181.37	1,588.41	6,769.78
Light, Heat and Water	24,512.99	5,585.53	30,098.52
Maintenance & Maintenance Allowances	231,063.57	8,735.51	239,799.08
Miscellaneous	13,822.24	1,151.75	14,973.99
Personal Services	51,080.59	13,290.88	64,371.47
Rent	105,664.29	771.84	106,436.13
Supplies and Materials	980,791.32	32,101.03	1,012,892.35
Transportation	439,974.51	20,933.98	460,908.49
Wages	1,118,648.80	124,511.27	1,243,160.07
	\$3,297,387.52	\$283,107.96	\$3,580,495.48
	\$3,978,978.77	\$271,382.27	\$4,250,361.04

Certified Correct:

Approved:

E. H. Coleman
Chief Accountant.

E. H. Coleman
Commissioner.

Correct:

E. H. Coleman
Treasury Officer.

E. H. COLEMAN
Under Secretary of State.

Wash., June 8, 1943.

ATN

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE :

After negotiations between the Custodian's representatives and the Soldier Settlement Board, an offer of \$850,000 for some 769 parcels of Japanese lands in British Columbia has been accepted. The acceptance has the concurrence of the Advisory Committee headed by Judge Whiteside. The Japanese representative on the Committee, Yamaga, felt it his duty to resign from the Advisory Committee, no doubt under pressure from the evacuated Japanese.

Mr. McPherson sends me a memorandum in which he says :

"You will recall that a prepared statement was given to the press with the approval of Mr. Justice Smith and His Honour Judge Whiteside; such statement setting out briefly your policy of liquidation and indicating that the Japanese and the public generally would be informed in due course of the procedure to be adopted. The Japanese newspaper, The New Canadian, which is published in the interior of British Columbia at Kaslo, has referred to this prepared statement, specifically mentioning the fact that the statement indicated additional information would be made available to the public in due course.

Knowing the delicate situation which exists in Vancouver and in the interior camps, I would recommend that you consider the advisability of a prepared statement being given by the Custodian to the Canadian press to the effect that the sale of the agricultural lands in the Fraser Valley has been negotiated with the Soldier Settlement of Canada. Such a statement would forestall considerable newspaper comment and carry out the implied undertaking in the press release above referred to. If my recommendation is considered favourably, Mr. Murchison, the Director of the Soldier Settlement of Canada, might be interested in considering the release of a statement by his Department at the same time."

It is a matter of common gossip in British Columbia that some of the Japanese have raised a fund and have retained the services of a Solicitor with the view of taking action in the Courts to prevent the liquidation of Japanese property. We can scarcely conjecture how such an action may be framed, but if it is taken I presume the Department of Justice will arrange to defend the action.

It occurs to me that you may wish to discuss the advisability of preparing an announcement with your colleagues from British Columbia, the Honourable Mr. Mackenzie, and possibly with the Honourable Mr. Grevier.

E. H. COLEMAN

Under Secretary of State.

Ottawa, June 8, 1948.

OFFICE OF THE

JUN 3 1943

June 2, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. COLEMAN

Under Secretary of State

Re: Japanese Farm Lands

I am attaching a copy of a wire received from Vancouver this morning which indicates that His Honor Judge Whiteside's committee has recommended the acceptance of the Soldier Settlement of Canada offer of \$850,000. Mr. Shears has apparently obtained a formal approval in writing signed by the members of the committee but the signatures will not include that of Mr. Yamaga who, I understand, resigned Monday.

You will recall that a prepared statement was given to the press with the approval of Mr. Justice Smith and His Honor Judge Whiteside; such statement setting out briefly your policy of liquidation and indicating that the Japanese and the public generally would be informed in due course of the procedure to be adopted. The Japanese newspaper, The New Canadian, which is published in the interior of British Columbia at Kamlo, has referred to this prepared statement, specifically mentioning the fact that the statement indicated additional information would be made available to the public in due course.

Knowing the delicate situation which exists in Vancouver and in the interior camps, I would recommend that you consider the advisability of a prepared statement being given by the Custodian to the Canadian press to the effect that the sale of the agricultural lands in the Fraser Valley has been negotiated with the Soldier Settlement of Canada. Such a statement would forestall considerable newspaper comment and carry out the implied undertaking in the press release above referred to. If my recommendation is considered favourably, Mr. Murchison, the Director of the Soldier Settlement of Canada, might be interested in considering the release of a statement by his Department at the same time.

It might interest you to know that I have been advised by a reliable source that the Soldier Settlement have stated they obtained the lands for what they expected to have to pay.

GWR/PC.

G. W. McPherson
(G. W. McPherson)
Executive Assistant.

GWR/JC

Per *[Signature]*

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

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Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	
Evening and Sunday Messages	

Please mark an X opposite the class of service desired.

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W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

CHECK

TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the conditions on the back thereof, which are hereby agreed to.

RM1A519 15

C O P Y

VANCOUVER BC 1 446P

1943 JUN 1 PM 9:04

GW MCPHERSON
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN VICTORIA BLDG OTTAWA
OFFER ACCEPTED AND FORMAL APPROVAL SIGNED ADVISE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE REGARDING NOTICE TO PUBLIC
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

Barristers, etc.,
Swift Current, Sask.

GFR/30

Per

S. H. COLEMAN
Under Secretary of State.

col 1
file 10

ATM

ATM

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Ottawa, May 31, 1943.

Dear Sirs,-

Your letter of the 13th May addressed to the Minister of National Defence concerning the Murphy Estate was in due course referred to the Custodian's Office.

I communicated with the Vancouver Office of the Custodian and find that Messrs. McGregor, Creery & Farmer Limited acted as Vancouver agents for Edith May Dawson. The records indicate that at the time of the evacuation of the Japanese tenant he was in arrears \$165.00. Messrs. McGregor, Creery & Farmer Limited filed a claim on December 2nd, 1942, for this amount, together with an additional amount of \$11.55 for water rates and on February 18th, 1943, the Custodian's Office remitted to them this sum in full. I judge by your letter that the agents may not have reported the transaction to your client.

Yours truly,

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State
and Deputy Custodian.

Messrs. Bothwell and Roth,
Barristers, etc.,
Swift Current, Sask.

GFR/TC

Per

Under Secretary of State.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE
PLEASE REFER
TO
FILE NO. 4636

506 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

29th May, 1943.

OFFICE OF THE
MAY 31 1943
Under Secretary of State

Dr. E.H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Re: Ihachi MIYAZAKI

Referring to your letter of the 20th May I return the correspondence which you enclosed therein.

According to our file Messrs. McGregor, Creery & Farmer Limited were the Vancouver Agents for Edith May Dawson.

The above Japanese was renting the property at \$55.00 per month and at the time of evacuation was in arrears \$165.00 as stated by Messrs. Bothwell & Roth.

Messrs. McGregor, Creery & Farmer Limited filed a claim on December 2nd for this amount together with an additional amount of \$11.55 for water rates and on February 18th we remitted to them this sum in full and we have considered the matter closed.

The stock in trade to which reference is made was advertised and subsequently sold for \$443.00 and out of the proceeds all creditors have been paid and there remains only to the credit of this account the sum of \$28.03.

It may be that Messrs. McGregor, Creery & Farmer Limited have not reported the above transaction to Edith May Dawson.

Trusting this will be the information required.

Yours truly,

F. G. Shears
F. G. Shears,
Acting Director.

FGS/PMH

encl.

BOTHWELL & ROTH

Per *[Signature]*

GFR/30



Forwarded from the office of the Minister.
To A. W. Hamilton, Esq.,
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State.

O. J. WATERS,
Private Secretary.

Hamilton, Private Secretary
19-5-43.

OFFICE OF THE
MAY 20 1943
Secretary of State

May 19, 1943.

Etc.,

Re: Murphy Estate - Lot 37,
Blk. 40, D.L. 196, City
of Vancouver.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of
May 13th regarding the above subject.

As this is a matter which comes within
the jurisdiction of the Custodian of Enemy Property,
Department of Secretary of State, I am referring
your letter to the Custodian for further reply.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary to the
Minister of National Defence

We would much appreciate it if you would write us
at your earliest convenience and explain to us the position
these people are in as owners of their property, if they have
the right to lease this property to another tenant if they can
find one and also what position they are in in respect to the
mortgage and in respect to the claim which they have for arrears
of rent on these mortgaged.

Thank you for an early reply, we are

Yours truly,

BOTHEWELL & ROTH

Per

GWR/30

Original letter sent to A. W. Hamilton, Private Secretary
to the Secretary of State - 19-5-43.

OFFICE OF THE

MAY 20 1943

Secretary of State

May 19, 1943.

Messrs. Bothwell & Roth,
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Etc.,
Swift Current, Sask.

Gentlemen:

Re: Murphy Estate - Lot 37,
Blk. 40, D.L. 196, City
of Vancouver.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of
May 13th regarding the above subject.

As this is a matter which comes within
the jurisdiction of the Custodian of Enemy Property,
Department of Secretary of State, I am referring
your letter to the Custodian for further reply.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary to the
Minister of National Defence

OJW

We would much appreciate it if you would write us
at your earliest convenience and explain to us the position
these people are in as owners of their property, if they have
the right to lease this property to another tenant if they can
find one and also what position they are in in respect to the
mortgage and in respect to the claim which they have for arrears
on these chattels.

Thanking you for an early reply, we are

Yours truly,

BOTHWELL & ROTH

Per

GFR/30

BOTHWELL & ROTH
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, NOTARIES, ETC.
C. E. BOTHWELL, K.C. O. F. ROTH, K.C.

SOLICITORS FOR
CITY OF SWIFT CURRENT

SWIFT CURRENT, SASK.
CANADA

May 13th, 1943.

Hon. J. L. Rawlston,
Minister of National Defence,
OTTAWA, Ontario.



Dear Sir:

Re: Murphy Estate - Lot 37,
Blk. 40, D.L. 196, City
of Vancouver.

This property was originally owned by the Murphy Estate and has been transferred to the beneficiary, Edith May Dawson, who is the registered owner holding a clear Title thereto. It was rented to one Mijuraki who operated a store therein for years but we understand was evacuated with the other Japanese in the month of October, 1942. This property was held by him under a lease at the time under which he paid \$55.00 per month and at the time of his evacuation he was indebted for arrears of rent to the extent of \$165.00. Apparently his stock-in-trade was moved we understand by the Government, but we do not know just exactly what arrangement was made in connection with the premises and with the stock. Our clients have a claim against the stock and are at a loss to understand just what their rights are in connection with this property. There is a balance of 1942 taxes amounting to \$82.32 still outstanding and we have recently received a new assessment for 1943 showing now a total outstanding for taxes, including 1943, of \$345.22.

We would much appreciate it if you would write us at your earliest convenience and explain to us the position these people are in as owners of their property, if they have the right to lease this property to another tenant if they can find one and also what position they are in in respect to the chattels and in respect to the claim which they have for arrears of rent on those chattels.

Thanking you for an early reply, we are

Yours truly,

BOTHWELL & ROTH

Per *[Signature]*

GFR/30

Department of External Affairs

ATM

re Murphy Estate - Lot 37,
Blk. 40, D.L. 196, City
of Vancouver.

Ottawa, May 20, 1943.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
Office of the Custodian,
506 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

I am enclosing correspondence concerning
certain Vancouver property which has been received
from the Private Secretary to the Minister of
National Defence. Perhaps you can let me have a
line in relation to this case.

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State
and Deputy Custodian.

100-1
file 6

ATM
Department of External Affairs
The New Canadian

The Organ for Canadians of Japanese Origin

Kaslo, B.C.
February 10th, 1943.

Dr. E.H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under-secretary of State,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

No doubt you will realize that news of the Federal policy calling for the liquidation of Japanese-owned property in Pacific Coast cities is of vital interest to all persons of Japanese origin in Canada.

As yet information on the policy is very scanty and we are in receipt of many inquiries, asking for further details, and what is expected of the owners.

It would therefore be very deeply appreciated if any further information could be issued in respect to this situation, for publication in our English-Japanese newspaper.

If a copy of the recent order-in-council authorizing the sale of the property is also available, receipt of it will be much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Shoyama
Thomas Shoyama.

REC FEB 13 AM 10:02

DEPT. OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

file 1041

ATM

Department of External Affairs

Ottawa, April 14, 1943.

Ottawa, April 17, 1943.

The Under Secretary of State for External Affairs,
O t t a w a .

I have received your letter of the 14th April on the subject of Japanese property in Canada.

The recent Order in Council conferring power on the Custodian to liquidate the property of persons of the Japanese race evacuated from the defence area of British Columbia dealt primarily with the property of persons of the Japanese race who were not enemies within the meaning of the Trading with the Enemy Regulations. The Trading with the Enemy Regulations, of course, contain the provision for liquidation if necessary.

Following the approval of the Order in Council in January, 1943, the Custodian constituted two Advisory Committees to look into the situation affecting the property of persons of the Japanese race, both enemies and non-enemies, with the view of obtaining recommendations as to the proper course to pursue. One of these Committees, the one relating to properties in Greater Vancouver, is headed by the Honourable Mr. Justice Sydney A. Smith, of the Supreme Court of British Columbia; the other, having to do with farm properties, is headed by His Honour Judge Whiteside of New Westminster. The Committees have not yet submitted any final reports but I have reason to think that they will advise suitable steps for liquidation of most of the holdings. You will, of course, understand that the Government's policy of liquidation in appropriate cases is applied in respect to property in the Pacific defence area.

In respect to Japanese property in other parts of Canada, the Custodian, of course, has nothing to do with properties outside the defence area of evacuated persons, nor has he anything to do with property in other areas of Japanese who have not been interned.

In respect to the property of persons resident in Japan, the Custodian is adopting the usual procedure of control and of liquidation in cases where it appears expedient, from the business point of view, to liquidate. The number of Japanese enterprises, however, outside the defence area is small and there have been *very few* cases of liquidation.

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

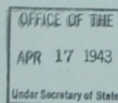
Department of External Affairs

REPLY TO BE ADDRESSED TO:
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA.

OTTAWA. April 14, 1943.

TO: The Under-Secretary of State of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.
SUBJECT: Japanese Property in Canada.

This Department has received enquiries from the Spanish Consul General in charge of Japanese interests in Canada concerning the present and future policy of Government toward the property of Japanese in Canada. I have already received the views of the Department of Labour on this subject. I should be very grateful if you would let me know what policy the Assistant Deputy Custodian is now following, and if you would also give me any further information which would help me in answering the Consul General's enquiries. I am, of course, acquainted with the recent Order-in-Council.



J. R. L.
Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs.

file 10

ATM

Ottawa, March 17, 1943.

G. W. McPherson, Esq.,
Office of the Custodian,
513 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

I am enclosing copy of a letter which I have today received from the Deputy Minister of Justice.

Mr. Varcoe spoke to me on the telephone concerning this. I reminded him that more than a year ago I had suggested the setting up of a panel of Solicitors whose services might be availed of from time to time and that his Department then nominated only one firm. I told him, of course, that the services of that firm had been eminently satisfactory but if other Solicitors should be nominated in addition to the Locke, Lane firm, work would be divided.

I also explained that the work of the Committee was, in essence, advisory.

In any event, you will know how to avail yourself of the professional services of Mr. Crux from time to time in connection with work which may follow the recommendations of the Committee.

McPherson, the Executive Assistant in the Custodian's Office, who is presently in Vancouver.

E. W. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

100-1
file 10

ATM

Ottawa, March 17, 1943.

F. P. Varcoe, Esq., K.C.,
Deputy Minister of Justice,
O t t a w a .

B. 28 - Secretary of State - B.C.

I have received your letter of the 16th, in which you intimate that the Minister of Justice has authorized the employment of Mr. A. G. Duncan Crux to act as solicitor for the committee which has been set up to liquidate, on behalf of the Custodian of Enemy Property, the Japanese lands in the Fraser Valley.

I am sending a copy of your letter to G. W. McPherson, the Executive Assistant in the Custodian's Office, who is presently in Vancouver.

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

file 10

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Ottawa, March 17, 1943.

F. P. Varcoe, Esq., K.C.,
Deputy Minister of Justice,
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B. 28 - Secretary of State - B.C.

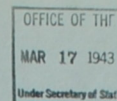
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I am sending a copy of your letter to G. W. McPherson, the Executive Assistant in the Custodian's Office, who is presently in Vancouver.

E. H. Coleman
Under Secretary of State.

file 10

FPV/ELJ.



PLEASE ADDRESS
THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE
OTTAWA

OTTAWA March 16, 1943.

To The Under Secretary of State:

B. 23 - Secretary of State - B.C.

Confirming telephone conversation, I beg to advise that the Minister of Justice has authorized the employment of Mr. A. G. Duncan Crux to act as solicitor for the committee which has been set up to liquidate, on behalf of the Custodian of Enemy Property, the Japanese lands in the Fraser Valley. I am writing Mr. Crux to this effect, and I presume that you will inform the committee of this decision.

F. P. Varcoe
Deputy Minister.

file 10

509-10 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.
August 28th, 1942.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE
PLEASE REFER
TO
FILE NO.

SEP 2 11:05

509-10 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.
August 28th, 1942.

Dr. E.H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
West Block,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Evacuation

Dear Dr. Coleman:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written today to the man who is in charge of the baggage of the evacuees, together with copies of the documents referred to.

A special arrangement was made with the Commissioner several months ago that the Custodian's Agents would locate and ship baggage to the Japanese at the request of the Commission, who would pay the agents' fees for such work through this office. This, of course, was in anticipation of an early and complete evacuation of the Japanese, at which time it was anticipated that all the personal property would be shipped in carload lots to their new homes at their request and expense.

With many of the Japanese in this area and in particular in Hastings Park, it appears that the Custodian's agents are doing a lot of unnecessary work in shipping baggage to the Park where it will have to be re-shipped to the interior at a future date. The amount of time spent looking for a few dishes or articles such as are listed on the enclosed forms is considerable and in my opinion not justified.

I have no doubt that I will be able to settle this matter with Mr. Fisher, but thought you might like to be informed, and see the type of work we are having to do.

Yours very truly,

CWACP:HN,
Eals.

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

509-10 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.
August 28th, 1942.

British Columbia Security Commission,
Marine Building,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Attention - Mr. Fisher

Re: Personal Effects

Dear Sirs:

You will recall that some time ago a meeting was held in my office, which your Mr. Eastwood and yourself attended, concerning the possibility of the Custodian's Agents being used by your Commission to facilitate the movement of the personal property of the Japanese from their former residences. At that time, representing the Custodian, I was quite anxious to co-operate fully with you, provided the amount of work involved would not materially disrupt the Custodian's work being handled through our agents, and it was then anticipated that the Japanese would be located in their permanent settlements in the very near future and the Custodian at that time might be able to ship all of their personal effects to them, possibly in carload lots.

Matters have not developed as was originally expected, with the result that the Custodian's Agents are continuing to do this special work, which takes up considerable time, and in many cases appears to be unjustified under the present situation. As an example of the difficulties experienced in complying with requests received from you through our Agents from time to time, and as an indication of the type of requests, I would bring to your attention the case of Tori Tamoto. I am attaching a copy of this party's "JP" Form, as completed on April 23rd before the Custodian's representative, listing this party's property as declared by her.

This property was checked as soon as possible by the Custodian's Protection Department and it was found that the house had been broken into and the property was, therefore, moved from its original location to a Custodian Warehouse, and a copy of the statement made by the mover is attached. I am also attaching a copy of the usual Custodian Release Form, which our Mr. Robinson at Steveston left with me yesterday.

I do not know what your personal opinion is as to the Custodian's Agent wasting his time finding the property disclosed on this form, but it seems to me that we are going to the extreme to co-operate with these Japanese, and such unnecessary work is being placed on the Custodian's Agents at a time when they can be more usefully used in other work.

FILE NO.

OFFICE OF THE

Aug. 28/42.

- 2 -

The Custodian's Office is ready and willing to co-operate completely with your efforts, but I would suggest that a great deal of time and expense, and I consider the time more important than the expense, could be saved if, as a general policy, it were decided that all personal property will remain where it is until the evacuation is completed and the particular individual or family in their new home. At that time the personal property might then be collected in carload lots and shipped to the people living in the new centre.

I would appreciate it if you would consider this suggestion and if you do not agree with same, I would suggest that a further conference be held to discuss the matter.

Yours very truly,

G.W. McPHERSON.
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary
of State and/ or the Custodian.

GWMcP:HW.
Encls.

STEVESTON BRANCH

FILE NO.

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE SECTION

To be completed by persons of the Japanese race having property in any protected area. The proper administration of this property requires such persons to give full particulars as requested in this form.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME: TAMOTO, Tori (Mrs. Toyokichi)

HOME ADDRESS: P. O. Box 267, #47 Phoenix Cannery, Steveston, B. C.

REGISTRATION NUMBER 03610 SEX: Female AGE: 52

OCCUPATION: Housewife

(If any business or businesses carried on, state where, under what name and whether carried on by yourself or in partnership with anyone; if partnership, give partner's name)

EMPLOYER: None

MARRIED? Yes

NAME OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: TOYOKICHI

ADDRESS OF WIFE OR HUSBAND: Same address

NAMES OF ANY LIVING CHILDREN: HIRAKO (F)--Japan--SAICHI (M)

HIRAKO (F) SHIZUKO (F) YUTAKA (M) AKIRA (M) SAKAE (F)

KAZUKO (F)

ADDRESS OF CHILDREN: Steveston, B. C.

AGE OF CHILDREN: 28, 24, 22, 18, 15, 14, 11, and 9 yrs.

STATEMENT OF ALL REAL PROPERTY (Each parcel must be mentioned and particulars given)

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: None

2. BUILDINGS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:

None

3. INSURANCE (Give particulars; state where policies are)

None

4. TAXES (Amount and where payable)

None

5. ENCUMBRANCES (Including any unregistered claims or deposit of title deed)

None

6. OCCUPANCY AND LEASES (If vacant so state)

None

"COPY"

DATE 11th July 1942

NAME TAMOTO, Tori (Mrs. Toyokichi)

WHERE FROM Phoenix Cannery #47

FUTURE ADDRESS Warehouse #3 upstairs

We found this house broken open.

	Left in this house
1 gramophone	1 iron pail
1 rocking chair	1 mattress
1 tool box	2 tables
1 trunk	6 chairs
8 cartons & K. ware	1 cook stove
1 bear skin	
1 basket pots & pans	
1 tub do	
1 gas galley stove	
1 wooden box	
2 coils rope	
1 set antlers	
2 lanterns	
2 pictures	
2 coats	
1 crosscut saw	

3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR
CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY. None

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: None

5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF
OTHERS: None

6. MONEYS OWING TO YOU (State if any of these debts assigned and if so, to whom)
None

7. BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, STOCKS OR OTHER SECURITIES (State whereabouts)
\$5 War Savings Certificate, in own possession

8. BANK ACCOUNTS Royal Bank, Steveston Branch, (1) T275--\$2,000.00

9. LIFE INSURANCE: None (2) T283-- \$500.00

10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS.
None

11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: None

LIABILITIES:

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: None

2. TRADE DEBTS: None

I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily turn over to the Custodian all my property in the protected area as set out above, excepting fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities, if any.

I certify that the above information is true and complete and fully discloses all my property of every description in any protected area in British Columbia and sets forth all my liabilities direct and indirect.

Dated this 23rd day of April 1942

(Signature) "T. Tamoto"

"A. E. McArthur"

Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: None
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN: None

STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Cannery house, #47 Phoenix Cannery
Steveston, B. C.
2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: A.B.C. Packers, Steveston, B. C.
3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID: Arrangement by cannery
4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: None
5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid) None
6. IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN: None

STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:

1. GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS: 2 heaters, 1 kitchen stove, 6 beds, 6 kitchen chairs, 1 rocking chair
20 benches, 3 tables, 2 bureaus, 1 trunk of clothes, 1 box
Carpenter's equipment, kitchen utensils, chinaware; located at #47
Phoenix Cannery; key to be left with manager of cannery
2. HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS: 1 cat (grey) for S.P.C.A.
3. GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY: None

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: None
5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF OTHERS: None
6. MONEYS OWING TO YOU (State if any of these debts assigned and if so, to whom) None
7. BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, STOCKS OR OTHER SECURITIES (State whereabouts) \$5 War Savings Certificate, in own possession
8. BANK ACCOUNTS Royal Bank, Steveston Branch, (1) T275--\$2,000.00
9. LIFE INSURANCE: None (2) T283-- \$500.00
10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS: None
11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: None

LIABILITIES:

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: None
2. TRADE DEBTS: None

I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily turn over to the Custodian all my property in the protected area as set out above, excepting fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities, if any.

I certify that the above information is true and complete and fully discloses all my property of every description in any protected area in British Columbia and sets forth all my liabilities direct and indirect.

Dated this 23rd day of April 1942

(Signature) "T. Tamoto"

"A. E. McArthur"

Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE

7. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF TITLE DOCUMENTS: None
8. STATE IF ANY OTHER PERSON HAS ANY INTEREST: None
9. IF FARM LAND STATE CROPS SOWN: None

STATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY OCCUPIED

1. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Cannery house, #47 Phoenix Cannery
Steveston, B. C.

2. LANDLORD'S NAME AND ADDRESS: A.B.C. Packers, Steveston, B. C.

3. PARTICULARS OF LEASE AND RENT AND DATE TO WHICH PAID: Arrangement by cannery

4. STATE WHEREABOUTS OF LEASE: None

5. SUB-TENANTS, IF ANY (Give name, address, rent and to what date paid): None

IF FARM LAND, PARTICULARS OF CROPS SOWN:

None

STATEMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED:

GIVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION AND STATE LOCATION OF FURNITURE, FIXTURES,
EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY, STOCK IN TRADE AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:

bedsteads, 1 kitchen stove, 6 beds, 6 kitchen chairs, 1 rocking chair
benches, 3 tables, 2 bureaus, 1 trunk of clothes, 1 box
carpenter's equipment, kitchen utensils, chinaware; located at #47
Phoenix Cannery; key to be left with manager of cannery

HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS, POULTRY AND PETS

1 cat (grey) for S.P.C.A.

GIVE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF ANY PERSON HAVING ANY INTEREST IN, OR
CLAIM ON ANY SUCH PROPERTY: None

FILE No.

4. INSURANCE CARRIED ON ABOVE PROPERTY: None

5. MORTGAGES, LIENS AND OTHER CLAIMS ON PROPERTY IN POSSESSION OF
OTHERS: None

6. MONEYS OWING TO YOU (State if any of these debts assigned and if so, to whom): None

7. BONDS, DEBENTURES, SHARES, STOCKS OR OTHER SECURITIES (State whereabouts)
\$5 War Savings Certificate, in own possession

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9. LIFE INSURANCE: None (2) T283-- \$500.00

10. INTEREST IN ANY ESTATES OR TRUSTS:

None

11. SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX: None

LIABILITIES:

1. PERSONAL DEBTS: None

2. TRADE DEBTS: None

I, the undersigned, hereby voluntarily turn over to the Custodian all my property in the protected
area as set out above, excepting fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds
or other securities, if any.

I certify that the above information is true and complete and fully discloses all my property of
every description in any protected area in British Columbia and sets forth all my liabilities direct
and indirect.

Dated this 23rd day of April 1942.

(Signature) "T. Tamoto"

"A. E. McArthur"
Witness

FOR DEPARTMENTAL USE

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION
CUSTODIAN RELEASE FORM

Address: Greenwood, B. C. Date: August 25, 1942.

To: The Secretary of State, acting in his
capacity as Custodian, Vancouver, B. C.

I, TAMOTO, Tori Police Registration No. 03610
hereby request you to release to me the under-noted property
stored at House #47, Phoenix Cannery, Steveston, B. C.
in possession of Mr. Bill Lord, Phoenix Cannery, Steveston, B. C.
and I release you from any claim whatsoever with respect to
such property.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

Dishes and Japanese Bowls all contained in a dish pan.

Enema

Urination Bowl

Rubber Bed Seat

Blanket (Double-color Red)

Original Address: House #47, Phoenix Cannery, Steveston, B. C.

Date Evacuated to Vancouver: April 28, 1942.

Date Evacuated to Present Address: April 29, 1942.

Number in Family - 12 years and over: 6

Number in Family - 5 years to 11 years: 1

Number in Family - under 5:

Total Number in Family: 7

I agree to pay all charges as required by the British Columbia
Security Commission.

APPROVED:
BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

per: (Signed) F. Cooper (Signed) T. Tamoto
ASST. SUPERVISOR Claimant Sign Here

ATM

Mar 16/42

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE :

I returned this morning from Vancouver where I spent three days last week making arrangements for the performance of the duties imposed on the Custodian in relation to Japanese property under P.C. 1665, approved 4th March 1942.

On arrival in Vancouver I saw Austin C. Taylor, Esq., Chairman of the British Columbia Security Commission, explaining to Mr. Taylor that we desired to co-operate with the Commission in the performance of the very heavy responsibilities imposed on the Commission in relation to the evacuation of Japanese from the Coast area.

Very satisfactory arrangements were made for liaison between the Commission and our officers.

I convened a meeting of the Licensed Trustees in Bankruptcy resident in Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster and had a very satisfactory discussion with them. I pointed out that it would be difficult and, in my judgment, wasteful for the Custodian to set up an elaborate organization to deal with the Japanese property turned over to him under P.C. 1665, when these trustees, comprising some ten private individuals and six or seven Trust Companies, had already staffs and officers equipped to deal with questions relating to property both real and personal. At my suggestion the meeting appointed a Committee of five, two representing the individual Trustees, two representing the Trust Companies, and the fifth

representing ----

representing the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association, to advise and assist in considering plans for the honest and effective administration of property confided to the Custodian by Japanese required to leave the protected area. As you will recognize, we must have an entirely separate accounting and administration system, since the property of these persons cannot be mingled with enemy property.

I met with this Committee again in the afternoon and on the following day I met with the representatives of the leading wholesalers in Vancouver.

The Japanese themselves, so far as we could ascertain, have been pleased that some Government agency has been set up to look after their property. During the past few weeks, not knowing what disposition would be made of their effects, they have been the victims of speculators and instances were told where 1941 motor cars in excellent condition had been sold by the Japanese owners for trifling amounts, far below the value of the cars. In connection with Japanese stores, however, there is another problem, that is, that many of the traders and merchants have been conducting "sacrifice" sales, depleting their stocks and converting every conceivable asset into cash.

While I quite appreciate the desire of the Government to allow the Japanese to take with them their portable property, including their cash deposits, this, in respect to merchants and traders at least, almost invited many of these to leave the Province without making provision for their trade debts. There is also the circumstance that

those -----

- 3 -

those of them who had properties subject to recurring charges might leave the Province with their cash deposits and not make any provision for the necessary outgoings for the protection of their property. It was, therefore, our view, after looking into the question, and it is the view of the British Columbia Security Commission, that that portion of the Order in Council (P.C. 1665) dealing with the custody of Japanese property should be amended, and I am attaching a copy of the proposed amendment.

If you will examine P.C. 1665, paragraphs 12 (1), (2) and (3), you will see the nature of the amendment. You will notice that we contemplate dropping completely 12(3), which reads as follows :

"The property, rights and interests so vested in and subject to the control and management of the Custodian, or the proceeds thereof, shall be dealt with in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct."

I do not think it was ever contemplated by the Government that they would deprive the Japanese owners of their property or the proceeds thereof but that the intention is that the Custodian will account to the owners for the proceeds realized. The terms of 12(3), it seems to me, are susceptible of the interpretation that something in the nature of confiscation is taking place and I am sure this was not the intention of the Government.

Another reason for the proposed amendment is that, to avoid the possibility of claims against the Government in the future, it is very desirable that a full inventory should be had so that an evacuated Japanese cannot

return -----

VANCOUVER NEWS-HERALD, March 11, 1942.

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return in later years and assert that the Custodian, as representing the Dominion Government did not look after his property in British Columbia. If each Japanese is required to make a full disclosure over his signature, the possibility of disputes in the future will be eliminated.

Another reason for the proposed amendment is that I understand, although my information is based only on newspaper reports, that the Federal Reserve Bank in the United States, which is performing duties similar to those of the Custodian, has been empowered to freeze all Japanese accounts and to take complete control of Japanese property in the evacuated areas.

The matter is one of pressing urgency and I hope, therefore, you may see your way clear to discuss with your colleagues the amendment along the lines indicated.

E. H. COLEMAN
Under Secretary of State.

Ottawa, March 16, 1942.

File 10

VANCOUVER NEWS-HERALD, March 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Re Proposed Amendments

Custody of Japanese Property.

(1) As a protective measure only, all property situated in any protected area of British Columbia belonging to any person of the Japanese race who is or was resident in such area on or subsequent to the seventh day of December, 1941 (excepting fishing vessels subject to Order in Council P.C. 288 of the thirteenth day of January, 1942) is hereby vested in and subject to the control and management of the Custodian as defined in the Consolidated Regulations Respecting Trading with the Enemy (1939); provided, however, that no commission shall be charged by the Custodian in respect of such control and management.

(2) In administering the property so vested the Custodian, upon being satisfied that due provision has been made for any debts or liabilities of such person shall, on request being made therefor in writing by such person, release such personal property (such as deposits of money and securities) as, in the opinion of the Custodian, may not be required in the administration of property remaining in the protected area belonging to such person or in which he may have any interest.

(3) For the purposes of the control and management of such property by the Custodian the Consolidated Regulations Respecting Trading with the Enemy (1939) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the same extent as if such property belonged to any enemy within the meaning of the said Consolidated Regulations.

VANCOUVER NEWS-HERALD, March 11, 1942.

NOTICE TO PERSONS OF THE JAPANESE RACE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

THE Custodian desires to bring to the attention of persons of the Japanese race the following provisions of Order in Council Number P. C. 1665 dated the 4th day of March, 1942:

"As a protective measure only, all property situated in any protected area of British Columbia belonging to any person of the Japanese race resident in such area (excepting fishing vessels subject to Order in Council P. C. 283 of the 13th January, 1942, and deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities), delivered up to any person by the owner pursuant to the Order of the Minister of Justice dated February 26, 1942, or which is turned over to the Custodian by the owner, or which the owner, on being evacuated, is unable to take with him, shall be vested in and subject to the control and management of the Custodian as defined in the Regulations respecting Trading with the Enemy, 1939; provided, however, that no commission shall be charged by the Custodian in respect of such control and management.

"Subject as hereinafter provided, and for the purposes of the control and management of such property, rights and interest by the Custodian, the Regulations respecting Trading with the Enemy, 1939, shall apply mutatis mutandis to the same extent as if such property, rights and interests belonged to any enemy within the meaning of the said Regulations.

"The property, rights and interests so vested in and subject to the control and management of the Custodian, or the proceeds thereof, shall be dealt with in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct."

The above provisions do not apply to fishing vessels, deposits of money, shares of stock, debentures, bonds or other securities, or property required to be delivered to any person by the owner pursuant to the Order of the Minister of Justice dated February 26, 1942, but enable persons of the Japanese race to deliver to the Custodian, before they are evacuated from a protected area, such other property as they have not disposed of and are unable to take with them.

All such other property not disposed of or delivered to the Custodian prior to evacuation automatically comes under the control of the Custodian upon the evacuation of the owner but persons of the Japanese race are urged to report their property immediately instead of waiting until their evacuation as this will enable the Custodian to take prompt action to protect and administer the same.

Forms for setting forth the particulars of such property may be obtained on written application to the undersigned and should be completed as fully as possible by owners of property and mailed to the undersigned without delay.

Dated at the City of Vancouver this tenth day of March, 1942.

G. W. McPHERSON,

Authorized Deputy of the Custodian,
1404 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B.C.

should be recruited there rather than here.

As regards the Custodian's office if the Government's policy is changed and the Custodian takes charge of all assets of persons moved over the mountains, there will have to be a rapid expansion of the staff to handle the work. I feel that the Custodian in this case should be forewarned before any Government announcement is made and given an opportunity to get the organization in line in view of the fact that any general exodus would result in chaos in the Japanese districts and some Government agency should be in a position to take immediate control. I deal with these problems later but, as to the office itself in this case, I would have the following suggestion.



MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

Ottawa, 2nd March, 1942

BY HAND

Dear Doctor Coleman,-

Herewith copy of a telegram received from Austin C. Taylor.

Will you kindly let me have a reply to this today, or will you be good enough to wire Mr. Taylor direct, sending me a copy of your telegram.

Yours sincerely,

E. H. Coleman, Esq., K.C., LL.D.,
Under-Secretary of State,
O t t a w a.

There is a competent assistant from the Ottawa Office and additional help should be recruited there rather than here.

As regards the Custodian's office if the Government's policy is changed and the Custodian takes charge of all assets of persons moved over the mountains, there will have to be a rapid expansion of the staff to handle the work. I feel that the Custodian in this case should be forewarned before any Government announcement is made and given an opportunity to get the organization in line in view of the fact that any general exodus would result in chaos in the Japanese districts and some Government agency should be in a position to take immediate control. I deal with these problems later but, as to the office itself in this case, I would have the following suggestion.

February 25, 1942.

British Columbia

(COPY)

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

VANCOUVER, B.C.,
February 28th, 1942

Hon. Ian Mackenzie,
Minister of Pensions and National Health,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Presume you will appoint if you have
not already done so Custodian for evacuated
Japanese property

(Signed) Austin C. Taylor

Address:

555 Burrard Street,
Vancouver, B.C.

in this case, I would have the following suggestion.

February 25, 1942.

British Columbia

1. Vancouver Office

(a) General

The Custodian is at present occupying rooms 1404 and 1405 in the Royal Bank Building at a rental of \$52.50 a month. The outer office is occupied by the two secretaries and Mr. Gardner. All files are kept there and the public also uses the room as a waiting room. Room 1405 is occupied by myself and is a room of approximately 7 feet wide by 10 feet long. This space has been satisfactory up to the present time but recent developments may necessitate an expansion.

The staff consists of Mr. Gardner and his secretary, Mrs. Farrant and my secretary, Miss Carroll.

P. S. Ross and Sons have been doing a great deal of work that could be done by this office if qualified staff were available. Insofar as the public are concerned the operations of the office have, I believe, been carried on satisfactorily but the volume of work is not diminishing and there will be numerous liquidations of companies and the sale of assets in the near future resulting from the preliminary investigating work carried on since December 7th. The nature of the work is, therefore, changing and while I feel that Mr. Field and his staff are entirely competent, I believe it is advisable that someone with legal training remain in Vancouver for some time to come. If the Custodian is agreeable I am quite prepared to remain in Vancouver for such time as may be necessary and if there is no change as to the nature of the work done by the Custodian, I believe that most of the problems could be settled within two months and the remaining problems could then be dealt with direct from Ottawa. If there is to be any change and additional work is to be placed on the Custodian's department then a re-organization of the entire office would be necessary and this is dealt with later.

Mr. Gardner's work has been entirely satisfactory but there are several reasons why he should return home as soon as I return to Vancouver. Firstly, he is not well and secondly, the nature of the work is changing and there is no customs work to speak of. I feel that if someone is to be taken from the Custodian's office to replace him, the most suitable person would be Mr. Reed. I feel that additional legal assistance is required and can be used, either here or in Ottawa and I understand that Mr. Drewry may be available. On the present basis it would appear advisable for Mr. Drewry to come to Vancouver with me and I would spend a few weeks initiating him into the work and he would, in my opinion, require an assistant who might be recruited locally or Mr. Reed might be loaned. If the assistant were recruited locally it would mean training two people and leaving both here. I do not feel that any person can come into the Custodian's office and after a couple of weeks appreciate all the problems involved in administering the Regulations or understand the policy. This would seem to be the reason why Mr. Drewry, if he is left in charge, should have a competent assistant from the Ottawa office and additional help should be recruited there rather than here.

As regards the Custodian's office if the Government's policy is changed and the Custodian takes charge of all assets of persons moved over the mountains, there will have to be a rapid expansion of the staff to handle the work. I feel that the Custodian in this case should be forewarned before any Government announcement is made and given an opportunity to get the organization in line in view of the fact that any general exodus would result in chaos in the Japanese districts and some Government agency should be in a position to take immediate control. I deal with these problems later but, as to the office itself in this case, I would have the following suggestion.

The space occupied by Mr. Field's office and which he is vacating, consists of two private offices in one suite, a public office and a large room where stenographers could be placed. He also occupies another suite of two rooms on the same floor. The larger office rents for \$112.50 a month and the smaller for \$45.00 a month. My office and these offices are all on the same floor and all in the same corner of the building, although they are not connecting offices. It would be my suggestion that the work would have to be departmentalized and set up in the manner of a trust company. Mr. Drewry would be in charge, occupying one of the private offices and his immediate assistant would occupy the other. There would be an office for the public and a stenographers' room. The two smaller rooms should be retained for an accounting staff which would be essential to handle the properties. The space that the Custodian is now occupying would be retained, temporarily at least, and I would personally handle the work with P. S. Ross and Sons on the straight enemy property from these offices. This would divide up the public and Mr. Drewry would administer the assets of persons moved over the mountains. Mr. Field has made arrangements with the Royal Bank not to lease this space immediately but the Bank is anxious to know what the Custodian is going to do. This would appear to be the only suitable space in the building.

(b) Particular Problems

The general work is proceeding; P. S. Ross and Sons handling the investigations, controls and liquidations, and I do not intend to deal with specific cases in this memorandum. Their work has been highly satisfactory but they require guidance as to the interpretation of the Regulations and, for the present at least, in view of the tense situation existing here, the Custodian's office should be maintained for this purpose if for none other.

Considerable difficulty has been encountered and will be encountered as regards the disposition of 51 fishing vessels, the title of which has vested in the Custodian. In the first place the history of the seizure of these vessels is heartbreaking. The boats were seized by the Navy and it appears from the result that the persons who were making the seizure were absolutely inexperienced. It is impossible to get any definite statement but nobody denies that at least 135 boats have been sunk and many of the boats damaged because they were not properly cared for while under the control of the Navy; for example, the engine blocks were not drained and the water froze and cracked many of them. The seizure of the boats is a good example of lack of planning for the eventuality that was almost certain to occur. The boats were just picked up and towed to several harbours where they were placed under control. Reports indicate that a great deal of equipment has disappeared from the boats in addition to other damage. If the seizure had been planned there appears to be no reason why the boats could not have been picked up in an orderly fashion, catalogued and placed in particular localities where they would be readily available for examination. None of this was done and even up to now the Navy are not in a position to say where any particular boat is. I understand from the Custodian's surveyor that the Navy is now preparing a catalogue.

The Navy, under powers of requisition, has taken six of the Custodian's boats but no advice was given to the Custodian of the first requisitions nor was the Custodian given any opportunity to have the vessels surveyed before the Navy took them over, to examine the extent of the damage caused by the original seizure. The Navy have now followed up this action by demanding that the Custodian repair two of the boats that they have been operating since December 7th. One of these

boats requires \$5000.00 worth of work and as far as I can find out they used it for an icebreaker and a great deal of the damage was caused by the Navy. It is very difficult to co-operate with the Navy here when they receive orders from Esquimalt and act on same, apparently without considering the Custodian's position at all, simply on the grounds that they are orders. I have written to Commander Smith who is in charge in Vancouver, in an attempt to reach a better understanding and I feel that this matter may be cleared up by discussing it with the Naval officials.

As regards the Japanese Fishing Boats Disposal Committee, my work with that committee has been highly satisfactory but there are many complications of interest. For example, the committee is opposed to advertising and in fact cannot advertise because it is not acting in the position of owner, merely as a referee. The Custodian's position was carefully explained to Commander Johnson of the committee and subsequently 41 boats were advertised. The bids on the boats have to be in by March 9th. The committee also desires to sell all boats and are refusing to charter and have requested that the same procedure be followed by the Custodian. Except where boats are needed in the Custodian's enterprises, I have agreed to do this but I anticipate that a large number of boats will not be sold and will have to be chartered. The large packing companies know that in spite of the committee's policy, if they make no bids, the committee will be forced to arrange charters. The Custodian's surveyor is surveying each boat and his reports should be completed by the time the bids are in. A special fireboat committee has been negotiating to buy two of the Custodian's boats and these have not been included in the sale out of consideration to the committee. A newspaper report today indicates that this deal may fall through.

As regards the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Provincial Police, I have received the utmost co-operation as is also the case with all other Provincial and Dominion departments here with the one exception of Mr. Norman Lee, the Inspector of Dominion Income Tax. Mr. Lee has been adopting obstructionist tactics but, as a result of words between us and threats on my part to take the whole question to Ottawa and place the matter before the Commissioner, he has reluctantly, I would say, agreed to co-operate more fully.

(c) Government Removal Policy

Considering only the Custodian's position in this matter, the Government's policy of moving alien Japanese is having an immediate effect in that key men in various companies under the control of the Custodian's agents have been moved or may be moved in the future with the result that liquidations will be necessary. These liquidations will result in hardship to Canadian Japanese who are working alongside Japanese Nationals in these companies, since they will be thrown out of employment and the chances of obtaining any new work in this Province are certainly remote. The removal of the Japanese nationals will also cut down the market for the goods sold in stores under the Custodian's control and this will also necessitate wholesale liquidations. The question of whether or not the Custodian could proceed immediately to liquidate all stores to avoid having to liquidate in a forced market in the near future, without embarrassing the Government's general policy as regards the Japanese population, is one that should be considered.

February 24, 1942.

British Columbia

2. Removal of Japanese

Public opinion in Vancouver and vicinity has just about reached the breaking point insofar as their understanding of the Government's policy is concerned as to the removal of the Japanese. Whether or not their attitude is reasonable is a matter with which I am not concerned but I do feel that there is every possibility of there being a civil demonstration against the Japanese in the very near future. Newspapers are not improving the situation nor are the various public bodies here and the recent shelling of the California coast has not improved the whole picture. The Japanese themselves up to this week do not appear to have been co-operative insofar as leaving is concerned but this may have been as a result of having been advised not to leave by their leaders and on this point I think the R.C.M.P. have some rather definite information.

As regards the Custodian's work, the removal of these Japanese, provided they are not detained under the Defence of Canada Regulations, is of no interest to him insofar as their personal assets are concerned but their removal is affecting the companies that the Custodian is operating. For the proper administration of the Custodian's regulations it is most essential that the Custodian be advised in advance of the publication of the Government's policy as to what that policy is and of any changes in same. While it may be possible to salvage some of the business today there will, in my opinion, be no market for some a month from now if the Japanese are moved. On the other hand there is the question of the assets of these people and their disposal as a result of the removal. There is every possibility that if this is not handled by some agency considerable loss will occur and if a plan of administration is not worked out now in anticipation of trouble it is my opinion that an organization that will eventually have to take control, will take control at a time when chaos will exist as regards the assets to be controlled. I know that it may be said that the Japanese can look after their own property and this may be true for a time but as the removal continues there will be fewer Japanese to look after the businesses and certainly the number of Japanese who can manage a business is limited. I feel that the Japanese would be more willing to leave if they knew that their property would be protected by the Government. I realize that this is not the Custodian's business but I know also that the Custodian has the only organization now operating which could by expanding take over the administration of these assets. If any committee or other organization takes over this work the Custodian should be represented, in my opinion, on such committee or in the organization since there will be conflicting interests from time to time and these could be avoided by a close liaison as might have been avoided by the Custodian being represented on the fishing boat committee. Commander Johnson himself appeared surprised that the Custodian was not represented on that committee in view of his interest in the boats and I feel that this problem should be brought to your attention for your consideration.

Having considered the situation for several weeks and knowing something of the problems involved in administration Japanese assets, I am of the opinion that, if this work is to be turned over to the Custodian or to any other organization, and I feel it should be placed under some department's control, then the department which is to do the work should be given an opportunity of setting up the necessary machinery before the newspapers are told. I estimate that 50% of the telephone calls received in the Custodian's office in Vancouver are directly or indirectly connected with problems of Japanese residing in the province who are not enemies and who do not come under the Custodian's jurisdiction. These telephone calls

CANADA

- 5 -

are a result of newspaper articles to the effect that the Custodian is handling all Japanese assets in the province. I think that the Government's policy would be considerably strengthened if it were announced to the press that the assets of all Japanese have been placed under control. This would satisfy the Japanese since my experience with them is that they are quite willing to co-operate with the Custodian and understand his position as being one of a trustee. It would also satisfy the whites in some measure to know that measures had been taken to control all assets. In addition to this it would give the police, through co-operation with the Custodian's office, the entry to a great deal of information which they cannot obtain at present without warrants.

I am not advocating that the Custodian take on this work but I personally see no reasonable alternative if it is decided to control the assets of the Japanese who are being moved. Another point which I think should be kept in mind, is that by controlling the assets considerably more might be salvaged and used to re-imburse the Dominion Government for the maintenance of these Japanese.

File

File 10

VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

1404 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.,
February 7, 1942.

RECEIVED
FEB 11 AM 9:28

Dr. E. H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Coleman:

Re: American Custodian

I am having considerable difficulty in straightening out the affairs of the Ocean Timber Company Limited. If I could contact the proper United States official I think I could settle this matter fairly quickly and without prejudice to either Custodian's rights. Mr. Towson does not appear to be at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco nor have I been able to contact anyone else who appears to have any real authority.

I am going to Victoria to see the Inspector of Legal Offices and the Registrar of Titles on Monday in an effort to straighten out the Custodian's position insofar as taking over the titles to the timber lands and the mortgages, but it would greatly simplify matters if I could get the documents from Seattle. One of the banks here has received instructions from an American bank to the effect that certain cheques collected here can be deposited in an enemy account provided the funds are held subject to the American Custodian's claim. This indicates that there is an American Custodian and it would be extremely useful if I could have information as to who this party is and whether or not he has a responsible representative on this Coast.

Yours very sincerely,

Shaw

GMW/TC.

Act. H. Johnson
11/27/42

I licence from the Assistant Timber Controller, U.S. LUMBER TRADING FROM THE SALE. This contract was also completed on Saturday and the documents will be signed this week. There will be in the neighbourhood of five million feet of Cedar available for sale possibly the latter part of July and in addition an unknown quantity of Spruce which may include the highest grade Spruce used in airplane construction. In order to avoid criticism from local timber brokers and mills, I would

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE
PLEASE REFER
TO
FILE NO.

1404 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.,
February 2, 1942.

1942 FEB 5 PM

UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE

Dr. E. H. Coleman, K.C.,
Under Secretary of State,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Re: Japanese Matters

There have been several developments during the last few weeks of which I feel you should be kept informed and your views and instructions attained, if any. For the purpose of dealing with these questions I have divided this matter into sections, each section dealing with a particular phase.

1. General Matters

Since my arrival here I have arranged for the investigation and control of many companies and of the property of individuals who have been interned. In the case of what we might call refugee dependents from the Far East, that is for example, girls going to school here whose parents are in Hongkong, I have arranged for the releasing of any bank accounts used for the maintenance and education of such persons where there was authority vested in someone here to operate said accounts.

As regards Chinese matters, a notice has been inserted in the local Chinese press indicating that the Regulations have been applied to the China Coast and other Japanese controlled areas. Debts and assets are now being reported and investigations being instituted where necessary. Keeping in mind that the Chinese are in fact our Allies, I am doing everything possible to properly explain the Regulations and administer them in a sympathetic manner. The same policy is being followed in the case of American occupied territory. Mr. Gardner and myself being very careful to explain that the Regulations, while controlling assets, are also designed to protect same.

There are several large Japanese companies which require a great deal of detailed work and have taken considerable time owing to negotiations being carried on for their continued operation.

The N. S. McNeil Timber Company owns a large tract of timber in the vicinity of Port McNeill on Northern Vancouver Island. Negotiations have now been completed and the legal documents will be signed this week whereby the logging company will log at least thirty million feet of timber, approximately seven million feet of which will be Cedar. Two million feet will be sold to a company in which Colonel Nelson Spencer is interested and I have arranged to sell this company this timber without advertisement because the company had an existing contract for same and this sale will clean up that contract. The price of the sale of the Cedar was negotiated Saturday and I am advised is quite reasonable. The balance of the timber, consisting mainly of Hemlock and Balsam, will be sold to an American company and exported under a special licence from the Assistant Timber Controller, U.S. funds resulting from the sale. This contract was also completed on Saturday and the documents will be signed this week. There will be in the neighbourhood of five million feet of Cedar available for sale possibly the latter part of July and in addition an unknown quantity of Spruce which may include the highest grade Spruce used in airplane construction. In order to avoid criticism from local timber brokers and mills, I would

suggest that this timber be advertised for public sale. Negotiations are now under way with a towing company to tow the booms to Ladysmith and these arrangements will, I hope, be completed within the next day or two. This entire deal has necessitated a very careful investigation into the assets of the company, the ownership of the company and the market available for the sale of the timber. The entire deal will involve at least a half million Dollars and I hope that there will be a net profit on the year's operations of over Sixty Thousand Dollars. I am waiting for a final report from the controllers but in the meantime the above arrangements have been made for this year. Timber is at a premium owing to the war and whereas it is usually a buyer's market, I am informed on what I consider to be excellent authority, that the situation is reversed and it is definitely a seller's market with the result I feel the Custodian would be well advised to proceed immediately during the coming season to negotiate for the sale of the company's entire assets.

Another company that is requiring a great deal of time is the Ocean Timber Company which is owned by the Mitsui Interests and I am endeavouring to complete a sale of the Company's shares, two mortgages and five promissory notes this week. The sale price of the company is approximately a Hundred and Seventy-three Thousand Dollars and the sale is being carried out without advertisement because an agreement was more or less reached between the parties interested prior to the outbreak of war and the Mitsui Interests have agreed to this price. This deal should net the Custodian in the neighbourhood of a Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars.

There is another company, the Cameron Lake Logging Company which is operating on Vancouver Island, its property being near Nanaimo. This company's financial position is precarious and, while certain interested Japanese are anxious to put up further money to operate the company this year, I do not anticipate that an arrangement can be made with the creditors and it is my intention, if no arrangements are made this week, to advertise the company for sale, the market for timber property being exceedingly good this year in the opinions of many timber men I have talked to. At the present time this company would appear to be insolvent owing to a certain juggling of funds between it and certain other associated companies and its liquidation may require the liquidation of two other companies.

There is another company owning very valuable timber limits in the Queen Charlotte Islands known as the Queen Charlotte Timber Company and this matter is now being pushed and it may be possible to sell the company's assets for approximately One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.

There is a departmental store called the T. Maikawa Stores Limited which is being controlled by P. S. Ross and Sons and something will have to be done with this company, particularly if persons of the Japanese race are moved over the mountains but the other work has prevented my taking any active interest in its administration. I intend, however, to follow it up before my return to Ottawa and will have some definite recommendation to make before that time.

2. Japanese Fishing Fleet

The Custodian is interested in thirty-four fishing and tug boats and he may have an interest in others as yet undiscovered or undisclosed. I have discussed the position of the boats with Mr. Justice Smith, the Chairman of the special committee and the committee have now opened an office with which I am co-operating closely. The arrangements made are that the Custodian, representing the enemy interest, will negotiate directly with any prospective purchaser or charterer of any of these vessels and when the negotiations reach a point where they can be completed, the committee will be informed and asked if they have any objection. At the present time the boats are under the control of the Navy and

there are many rumours that a number of the boats have been damaged. Five of the boats have been requisitioned by the Navy and one of the five has, I am informed, been burned and sunk. I have ascertained that there is a definite procedure for determining the compensation to be paid, the procedure requiring a hearing in the Admiralty Court in Ottawa. Since two Government departments are involved there would not appear to be any urgency in the matter but I have notified the Navy and the Shipping Committee of the Custodian's interest. As regards the balance of the boats, the respective Registrars of Shipping have been notified of the Custodian's interests, as have the committee and the Navy. Twenty-one of these boats belong to the Nanaimo Shipyards Limited which is an enemy company which is under control. It may be necessary to liquidate this company because of the transferring of the Japanese. I am not taking delivery of the boats from the Navy and it is not my intention to do so until the boats can be examined for damage, the damage agreed upon by someone representing the Custodian and a Naval Authority. The boats will then be taken delivery of from time to time and turned over to the charterer or purchaser. The first opportunity to charter will be given to the persons or company who chartered the boat last season. Several of the boats will be required in logging operations and these will be retained by the companies under the Custodian's control. The Committee insist that none of the boats be put into the hands of persons of the Japanese race and that fishing boats be used in fishing and other boats connected with the logging industry be used in that industry.

3. Internees

As regards the property of internees, there are very few interned persons who have any real assets. Mr. Gardner is handling this question in co-operation with P. S. Ross and Sons and the R.C.M.P. Following the usual policy cars have been seized and stored and it will be necessary to advertise and dispose of same unless required in the internee's business. The Japanese internees should give very little trouble as there are only forty of them and most of them have no property to speak of. It is my intention to bring all the internee files to Ottawa and turn them over to Mr. Read for administration. Time does not allow for the clearing up of internees' affairs nor do I consider them of such importance to justify the time being spent here other than taking control and protecting the assets of internees and placing the dependents in funds or on relief as necessary.

4. Movement of Japanese

Transferring of persons of the Japanese race of military age from the Coast Defence Area will create an immediate and pressing problem for the Custodian. I am advised today that 150 Japanese aliens have received notice to move by Thursday of this week and I do not know if any arrangements have been made for handling their assets. I have discussed this matter with Sergeant Barnes and he told me that the committee thought the Custodian might be able to look after such assets but I advised him that we were not prepared to undertake such a large operation and I thought that the committee, having made recommendations to Ottawa as to what policy should be followed, should have outlined the machinery necessary to carry out this policy. He advised me that the committee was considering the machinery at the present time and that the question of the Custodian stepping in was being considered.

While I, personally, would not object to the work involved, I do not feel that the Custodian should be burdened with same, and I would recommend that every step possible be taken in Ottawa to see that the committee's discussions do not result in the assets of these persons being placed under the Custodian's control.

6. Customs Matters

Prior to Mr. Gardner's arrival I attempted to handle the release of the cargo on the M. S. "Granville" but it was not until after the arrival of Mr. Gardner that any real headway was made in this matter. Mr. Gardner has, up to the present time, released approximately 75% of the cargo and has assisted Canadian exporters in getting releases of cargo on ships unloaded in American ports under the same circumstances as the Granville here. The situation as far as the Granville cargo is concerned is still complicated due to the fact that a large percentage of the cargo was still in transit through Canada from the United States and American shippers are interested in that portion of the cargo. It is probable that the Custodian will find himself the owner of a portion of the unreleased cargo and it will, therefore, be necessary to dispose of same, creating a further complication insofar as American cargo is concerned since it will very likely have to be exported to the United States because of customs and import entries here. Mr. Gardner is pressing this matter but a great deal of negotiating is necessary.

Chinese custom problems are just beginning to come in and Mr. Gardner will deal with the more urgent ones while here and after our return East they will have to be handled through Ottawa in spite of any delay.

7. Debts and Collections

Mr. Gardner is looking after the collection of all enemy debts and has located approximately a Hundred Thousand Dollars in ordinary trade debts and this figure does not include the debts owing by companies under the control of the Custodian. The reporting of debts is continuing and no doubt will increase as a result of the advertisement in the Chinese papers. In any event up to the present time I believe that, while books are not kept in this office, Mr. Gardner has collected in the neighbourhood of Fifty Thousand Dollars, which is an indication of the amount of work done and which will have to be done within the next week or ten days if we are to return to Ottawa together.

Mr. Gates is anxious to return to Montreal within the next week but Mr. Brown of the Montreal office will remain here for some time. In view of the complications and the amount of work as yet uncompleted by P. S. Ross and Sons, I do not think it advisable that I should return immediately with Mr. Gates but rather that I should remain here for a short time after in order to see how P. S. Ross and Sons carry on without him.

As regards Mr. Gardner, he is making a careful study of all files in view of my uncertain position and I feel that he should return to Ottawa with me where he will have to handle Japanese questions, or at least advise on same, particularly during my absence in New York.

The above is a review of only a few problems encountered and the fact that over 350 files have been opened should be an indication of the number of individual cases and problems which are arising from day to day. There are many other important companies and assets which are not listed above but investigations have not proceeded to a point where a definite policy has been determined. I thought you would be interested in having this preliminary report so that you may be informed of the major developments here.

Yours truly,

G. W. McPherson
(G. W. McPherson)
Authorized Deputy of the
Secretary of State and/or
Custodian.

GWMcP/WC.

Jan. 14/2

MEMORANDUM

To: G. W. McPherson, Esq.

from

Frank E. H. Gates

RE JAPANESE SECTION

Following is a general explanation of the proposed organization as outlined in the attached draft organization chart which has been revised as the result of our discussion on Tuesday evening.

G. W. McPherson

Will deal with all question of policy and act as liaison with B. C. Security Commission and any other Government departments or agencies with whom contact is required.

Will keep in touch with the progress of the Section through daily meetings at a fixed hour with C. L. Drewry and the Secretary. If deemed necessary the heads of the various departments would be requested to attend meetings.

Will control all funds by approving salaries and commitments and countersigning cheques. Will be provided with weekly statements of receipts and expenditures and list of unpaid accounts.

Property funds will be dealt with as trust funds through a separate bank account and periodical statements at least monthly will be prepared showing the position with respect to such funds.

C. L. Drewry

Will administer the entire Section in accordance with the policies established by G. W. McPherson.

Will arrange for daily meetings with G. W. McPherson as referred to above. Will also arrange for schedule of daily meetings with heads of departments to deal with current problems.

Will review registration forms and decide which cases are to be referred to the Investigation and Liquidation Committee which has been formed.

Secretary

Will act as general executive assistant to C. L. Drewry and supervise the office personnel and procedure. His duties will include :

- (a) the opening and distribution of all mail - in this connection any funds or securities received should be recorded by him and a copy of such record handed to the accountant.

After being recorded the funds will be deposited and securities placed in a safety deposit box under the joint custody of G. W. McPherson and the Secretary.

- (b) the signing of all cheques in payment of expenses and in connection with other disbursements pertaining to property accounts. The invoices and vouchers will be checked by the accountant who will also prepare the cheques. The cheques and vouchers will then be passed to the Secretary who would review the accounts and sign the cheques. The cheque would then be countersigned by G. W. McPherson;

- (c) acting as Secretary at Executive Meetings or at any other meetings which he is required to attend.

INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

The functions of this Department fall into three main divisions, namely:

- (a) protection;
- (b) registration and
- (c) inspection and reporting.

Protection Division.

Will arrange for the proper protection of the property of persons who have been evacuated pending the inspection of each property and the establishment of control over such property by agents appointed by the Custodian.

The procedure will be as follows :

- (a) protection officers will visit each district evacuated.
- (b) contact with local police;
- (c) consider availability of local representation;
- (d) obtain a general idea of property as regards nature and location;
- (e) take information as to how property is safeguarded;
- (f) inquire generally as to the nature and extent of the property from the viewpoint of the value, par-

ticularising on what appears to be of greater value;

- (g) inform the local police of the necessity of safeguarding property; consider the risk of loss by fire, theft, the elements, etc.
- (h) advise position generally by telephone or telegram to Office of Custodian, Vancouver.
- (i) appoint caretakers where considered necessary;
- (j) arrange for the immediate disposal of perishable goods;
- (k) prepare written report in duplicate on each district visited; where specific properties are dealt with separate reports in duplicate on each property will be prepared for filing purposes.

In cases where protection officers visit property in remote areas where no agents are available they will inspect each property and report thereon. These reports which will be prepared in duplicate will take the place of the reports which will usually be made by agents appointed to inspect and report upon each property.

Registration Division.

Will set up registration bureaus to record the property of Japanese.

A registration bureau has been established at 314 Powell Street, and another bureau is being established at Hastings Park. It will also be necessary to establish bureaus at Victoria and Steveston.

A certain number of Japanese nationals have already been evacuated by the police and sent into the Interior before arrangements could be made for their registration. It will, therefore, be necessary to send registrars to the work camps, etc., to which these people have been sent. In the near future it will be necessary to provide for a local registration of the property in certain districts.

The completed registration forms will be reviewed by Mr. G. L. Drewry who will determine which ones are to be referred to the Investigation and Liquidation Committee.

In the case of registrations referred to the Investigation and Liquidation Committee the recommendations of the Committee as to the appointment of agents to inspect and report will be considered by Mr. Drewry and if approved the necessary appointments will be made under Regulation 8.

The registration forms will be filed in numerical order, according to the registration number in each case. As the files are opened index cards will be prepared in duplicate on which will be recorded the name, address, location of the property and registration number. One set of cards will be filed alphabetically and the other geographically. Where property is owned in more than one locality additional cards will be required for the geographical index.

Inspection and Reporting Division.

Will notify agents of their appointment to inspect and report upon specific property requesting them to prepare their reports in duplicate as expeditiously as possible and outlining the essential information to be included therein.

An index card will be prepared for each agent appointed on which will be recorded the file reference of the property and the date of the appointment. As reports are received a notation will be made on the index cards.

The reports will be reviewed by Mr. Drewry and a decision reached as to whether the property is to be administered or liquidated and agents will be appointed accordingly.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Will supervise the administration of registered property which it is decided to operate in the interests of the owners. The scope of this department's activities is not yet known.

Will notify agents of their appointment to administer specific property and instruct them as to the procedure to be followed. Agents would be required to submit periodical reports of their administration in standardized form.

An index card will be prepared for each agent appointed on which will be recorded the file reference of the property and the date of the appointment. As reports are received a notation will be made on the index cards.

In cases where disbursements are required in connection with any property under administration the Department will authorise the Accounting Department in writing to prepare the necessary cheques, giving full particulars in each case.

LIQUIDATION DEPARTMENT

Will supervise the administration of registered property which it is decided to operate in the interests of the owners. The scope of this department's activities is not yet known.

Will notify agents of their appointment to liquidate specific property and instruct them as to the procedure to be followed. Agents would be required to submit periodical reports on the progress of the liquidation and final reports showing the proceeds of liquidation will be required in duplicate, one copy of which will be passed on to the Accounting Department.

An index card will be prepared for each agent appointed on which will be recorded the file reference of the property and the date of the appointment. As reports are received a notation will be made on the index cards.

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

The accounts will fall into two main divisions, namely: (a) Office Administration accounts, and (b) Property accounts:

Office Administration Accounts:

These accounts will be maintained in order to account for the funds provided by Ottawa for the operation of the Japanese Section of the Office of the Custodian at

Vancouver. Such funds will be deposited in a separate bank account and cheques drawn on the accounts will be prepared by the accountant, signed by the Secretary and countersigned by G. W. McPherson.

Property approved vouchers will be kept on file in support of all disbursements and the cheques will be entered in a cash book which will provide for a suitable classification of expenditures. A weekly statement of receipts and expenditures and unpaid accounts will be prepared and submitted to G. W. McPherson.

Property accounts:

As funds are received from the liquidation of registered property they will be deposited in a separate bank account and credited to the account of the owner of the property. Disbursements for the maintenance of the owner's family or in connection with the administration of the property apart from management fees will only be made on the written authority of the Administration Department. All cheques issued will be prepared by the Accountant, signed by the Secretary and countersigned by G. W. McPherson. At the end of each month or more frequently if necessary, a statement will be prepared showing the position of the property accounts.

Any securities, including negotiable and other securities, received will be recorded in the books of account for control purposes and such securities, if negotiable, will be placed in a safety deposit box at a Bank under the joint custody of the Secretary and G. W. McPherson.

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE SECTION

CHART OF PROPOSED ORGANIZATION

AUTHORIZED DEPUTY OF THE SECRETARY
OF STATE AND/OR CUSTODIAN

MANAGER

SECRETARY

Investigation
Dept.

Administration
Dept.

Security
Registration
Reporting

Liquidation
Dept.

Accounting
Dept.

(Toronto)The Globe

Q 714
1100
1100

(Toronto) The Globe

VANCOUVER NEWS-HERALD,
Friday, December 12, 1941.

Department of the Secretary of State
Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that by Order in Council, from and including the 7th Day of December 1941, the Consolidated Regulations Respecting Trading with the Enemy (1939) have been applied to Japanese, Japanese controlled and Japanese occupied territory as enemy territory.

These Regulations vest in the Custodian all enemy property and require all persons to report to the Custodian and hold subject to his control all enemy property as defined by the said Regulations.

Under these Regulations "enemy property" includes the property of all persons regardless of their nationality who reside in enemy or enemy occupied territory, and in addition the property of all persons who are detained under the Defense of Canada Regulations.

These Regulations do not affect the property of persons of the Japanese Race who are conducting themselves in a proper manner and who have not been detained under the Defense of Canada Regulations.

By special order dated the 8th Day of December 1941, the Secretary of State and/or Custodian has delegated his power and duty under the said Regulations to the undersigned—Glenn Willoughby McPherson.

To facilitate the investigation and control of all such enemy property the undersigned is now in Vancouver and all reports required by the Regulations and all other communications should be addressed to him c/o P. S. Ross & Sons, Royal Bank Bldg.

G. W. McPHERSON.

Authorized Deputy of the Secretary of State
and/or Custodian.

G. W. MCPHERSON.

(Toronto) The Globe

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Full Rate Message	
Day Letter	D L
Night Message	N M
Night Letter	N L

If name of these three symbols appears after the check number of words, this is a full-rate message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

D. E. GALLOWAY, ASSISTANT VICE-PRESIDENT, TORONTO, ONT.

FORM 5125
Exclusive Connection
with
WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAPH CO.
Cable Service
to all the World
Money Transferred
by Telegraph

STANDARD TIME

MOA18 155 NL GET REPLY=VANCOUVER BC 12

E H COLEMAN=

1187 DEPUTY CUSTODIAN 7 OCONNOR ST OTTAWA ONT=

I WILL CONSIDER TEMPORARILY ALL JAPANESE IN UNITED STATES AS ENEMIES WHETHER INTERNED THERE OR NOT AND ALSO SUCH COMPANIES AS THEY MAY OWN STOP FOR EXAMPLE MITSUI INTERESTS HERE CONNECT WITH SEATTLE WHERE MITSUIS I AM INFORMED HAVE BEEN INTERNED STOP I SEE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY AS TO LEGAL STATUS AND CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY TO OBTAIN FULL INFORMATION FROM UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES STOP DO YOU AGREE WITH SUGGESTED POLICY AND CAN YOU OBTAIN NAME OF AMERICAN OFFICIAL ON COAST TO ESTABLISH CONTACT IN MUTUAL INTEREST STOP RECOMMEND REGULATIONS BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE AS ENEMIES ANY PERSON INTERNED BY OUR ALLIES THUS CLARIFYING ENGLISH SITUATION AS WELL AS AMERICAN STOP POLICE HERE REFUSING TO SUPPLY LIST OF DETAINED PERSONS WHICH IS DELAYING MY INVESTIGATIONS STOP SAME TROUBLE ENCOUNTERED IN CASE OF GERMANS BUT ARRANGEMENTS SUBSEQUENTLY MADE WITH COMMISSIONER TO GET INFORMATION STOP CAN YOU ARRANGE WIRE TO COMMANDING OFFICER HERE INSTRUCTING DELIVERY OF LIST TO ME FOR CONFIDENTIAL USE=

G W MCPHERSON.

(Toronto) The Globe

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

PHONE PACIFIC 5131

PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

1942 MAY 4 AM 9:42

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.,
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
VANCOUVER, B.C.

April 29, 1941

Dr. E. H. Coleman, K. C.,
Under Secretary of State,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Coleman,

Re: Agents.

In the course of administering Japanese property we will, through Agents, be collecting rents and other moneys.

I have given instructions that these agents are to report and remit each month, not later than the 10th, for the preceding month. I also think it would be desirable to have all agents, who are handling money for this office, bonded to the extent that they are likely to have money in their hands.

I do not know what the practice of the Custodian's Office is in this respect and would appreciate your comments on my suggestion.

I should think it would be sufficient if you agree with the suggestion, if agents were bonded for the equivalent of their total collections for two months as this would be the maximum they would have in their hands at any one time.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
C. L. Drewry,
Manager.

Japanese Evacuation file.
FTG
CLD/PWR

(Toronto) The Globe and Mail, Monday, June 2, 1947.

Right the Whole Wrong

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons has unanimously decided to recommend the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the sale of Japanese-Canadian farms in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. So far as it goes, this is a most commendable decision. The committee itself has uncovered ample evidence that this was a highly irregular transaction in several respects. Not the least of these was the gross undervaluation of the land by the Government's appraisers. Not only did they place the value at \$400,000 less than the assessment, but when parts of the land were sold to private bidders, amounts from ten to thirteen times higher than the Government offer were obtained. That it could be possible for a Government deliberately to deprive a certain group of citizens of the just value of their property deserves rigorous inquiry, to fix responsibility and to prevent a repetition of the deed.

Disgraceful as this matter is, however, it is only one of many similar incidents which have marred Canada's treatment of its citizens of Japanese origin. Had the committee searched further, it would have found innumerable instances of injustice and betrayal of the interests of these unfortunate people. A great many of these arose from the way in which the Government order beginning their dispersal throughout Canada was put into effect. The Order-in-Council was passed on Feb. 26, 1942, and in most cases the Japanese had only from twenty-four to forty-eight hours' notice to leave their homes. The amount of personal baggage they could take was strictly limited. In this atmosphere of confusion, stocks, businesses and real estate were got rid of at sacrifice rates.

It was not until March 27, 1942, that another Order was passed, turning over the remaining Japanese-Canadian assets to the Custodian of Enemy Property, not because the Japanese were enemies, but because in this organization there was already established machinery for handling such affairs. Not all the property was immediately turned over, however, and fishing boats which had been seized at the time of Pearl Harbor were sold in large numbers by a Government agency, which did not yield its control over the few it had left, until July, 1942.

There is also the matter of personal property, such as house furnishings, books, keepsakes, and the like, much of which has apparently been lost, and for which no accounting has been made. As with the fishing boats, a great deal of this sort of property was sold or stolen by thieves before it could be taken over by the Custodian.

The Government has admitted that it has before it a proposal to appoint a Commission of Claims, to deal with losses and injustices which occurred after the Custodian of Enemy Property took over the Japanese assets. If this Commission and the Royal Commission proposed by the Public Accounts Committee are to be "merged," the terms of reference of the new Commission should be widened to take in the period before the Custodian took over, when most of the losses occurred.

It should always be borne in mind that no less than 17,000 of the 23,000 Japanese in Canada at the time of the 1941 census were either native or naturalized Canadians. It was of most of these that Prime Minister King said in the House of Commons on Aug. 4, 1944: "It is a fact that no person of Japanese race born in Canada has been charged with any act of sabotage or disloyalty during the years of war." It is also a fact that the United States Government did not sell the property of its Japanese citizens, and that President Truman has moreover asked permission for Canada to provide compensation for the losses arising out of the evacuation there. Since Canada's record in this matter is much worse, we may surely be less generous and maintain our self-respect.

The Globe and Mail, (Toronto) April 19, 1947.

Policy of Discrimination

There are as yet few signs that the King Government has become aware of the contempt the decent element of this country has for its treatment of our Oriental minorities. Driven with obvious reluctance, it has been moved to repeal the Chinese Immigration Act, which it passed in 1923, with the intention of stopping all Chinese immigration—the only people in the world Canada insulted in this way. Even the repeal of the act was insincere, however, as certain Orders-in-Council were left in force, which virtually nullified the purpose of the move, and permitted only a handful of the Chinese men in this country to bring in their wives and families.

The treatment of the Japanese of Canadian birth and citizenship has been scandalous. Admitting the necessity of the removal of these people from the Pacific coast area for security reasons, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, there can be no humane excuse for their continued persecution nearly two years after the war ended. Before the House of Commons there is a bill which extends the power of the Government to prohibit Canadian-born people of Japanese origin from pursuing fishing as an occupation, and which obliges them to obtain police permission to travel. The power is requested for one year only, but Veterans Minister Ian Mackenzie, who represents a Vancouver constituency, indicated in the House on March 27, that he would like to have it continued for "five or ten years." He boasted further that his views on the matter of restricting the liberties of the Japanese-Canadians "so far have been the views of the Government. If it should come about that the views on these things should change the Member for Vancouver Centre (himself) will no longer be a member of the Government."

It is not only in this shameful interference with the citizen's elementary right to work at any legal occupation that the Government's record is blighted. There is also the sorry story of the mishandling of the property of the

Japanese-Canadians, which was turned over for convenience to the Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property. It should be borne in mind, however, that the vast majority of this property did not in fact belong to enemy nationals, but to native-born and naturalized Canadians. As with the properties of the Ukrainian Canadian organizations, which were taken over during the early part of the war, and in many cases sold for a fraction of their real value, the property of these Canadian people was largely put rid of at any price, or none. Valuable fishing boats were sold for a song; even personal belongings were "lost" without trace or recompense.

Reference was made to these doubtful transactions in the House on Monday. Mr. Donald Fleming (Toronto-Eglinton) drew from a report of the Deputy-Custodian of Enemy Property, Dr. E. H. Coleman, Undersecretary of State, a reference to the robbery of the home of the Japanese Consul in Vancouver, and of the homes of some Japanese-Canadians. There is serious negligence in that matter, which should be explained. Mr. H. W. Herridge, Member for Kootenay, said in the same connection:

There is evidence as to the sale and disposition of houses, boats, farms, cars, and general effects formerly belonging to Japanese evacuees, which will make any honest Canadian hang his head in shame.

There is ample reason to believe that the prejudiced attitude of certain Members of Parliament by no means represents the views of many British Columbia citizens in this matter. They resent the suggestion that this blatant racial discrimination meets their approval. They share the disgust of fair-minded citizens all over Canada over the fact that any Canadian Government, especially one claiming the name Liberal, should put race prejudice and rank injustice on the statute books of Canada.

Should a like emergency occur in 1948

file 10

B. C. Japanese Houses, Stores Put Up for Sale by Government

From Our Own Correspondent

VANCOUVER.—Whether Canada will permit Japanese to live within her borders after the war is an issue that probably will not be settled until Hirohito's empire has been defeated, but Canada meanwhile is taking steps to eliminate the Jap problem in British Columbia.

Acting through the custodian of enemy alien property, the government is disposing of all property owned by Japanese in the west coast province. The houses they occupied in Vancouver and other coastal areas, the stores they operated, and the farms they cultivated, are gradually being sold, just as several months ago their fishing boats were transferred to other hands.

In a few months, while British Columbia will continue to have some 12,000 Japanese within her borders, practically all of them in special camps and settlements far in the interior, they will be virtually disposed of. They will, of course, receive payment for their property, but there will be no easy return to them to the

homes and occupations they had before Japan went to war with Canada.

A good many British Columbians, including outspoken members of the Legislature, hope that these steps will make it easier for Canada to ship all the Japanese back to the Orient after the war.

It is argued that the Japanese have lowered living standards, and that they have created a serious sociological, economic and political problem in British Columbia.

If the Japanese in Canada were scattered throughout the various provinces and not concentrated on the west coast, British Columbia would have less to worry about, but the majority of people here are determined to see that the racial issue is not permitted to rise again.

Regardless of this sentiment, there will obviously be a delicate problem for legislators and diplomats in finding a way of returning to Japan the thousands of Japanese in Canada who were born in this country and do not speak the language of their fathers.

gains of
nation
case ver
come to
under
grants.
For
Canada
Canadian
children
relatives

file to