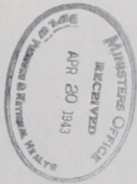


(2)

Vancouver Centre - Japanese in B.C., 70-25912
1942-1943



70-25A(2)



Ottawa, April 19, 1943

My dear Colleague:

I received the copy of the confidential letter which was written to you by Mr. Wilfred Henbury. Thank you very much. I was interested to read his views about the Japanese.

Yours sincerely,

Henry Mackenzie

Honourable Ian Mackenzie, M.P.,
Minister of Pensions & National Health,
O t t a w a.

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70-25A(2)

MM

Ottawa, 10th April, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Colleague,-

Herewith copy of a confidential letter from Mr. Fred Hanbury, dealing with the Japanese situation in British Columbia.

With much of what he says I am in entire accord. I think at all costs that we should not allow these people to loaf and be idle if they are able to work.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Humphrey Mitchell,
Minister of Labour,
O t t a w a.

✓

Ottawa, 10th April, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Fred,-

Many thanks for your letter of
April 6th.

I shall immediately bring it to
the attention of the Minister of Labour. I
agree with you that we should be slightly more
realistic in approaching the problem of the
Japanese in British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

Wilfred Hanbury, Esq.,
Hotel Vancouver,
Vancouver, B.C.



Hotel Vancouver

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Vancouver, B.C.
April 6th, 1943.

PERSONAL and CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. Ian MacKenzie,
Minister of Pensions and National Health,
OTTAWA, Canada.

My dear Ian:

In an endeavour to organize the movement of Japanese to the lumbering in the interior of British Columbia, during the past week I visited a number of the Japanese maintenance camps in the Slooan district.

Considerable effort will be required to get these Japanese to move. Few, if any, of them are idle with the deliberate purpose of retarding Canada's war effort. Some are idle because the wages they would receive in industry, less deductions for war tax, unemployment insurance and workmen's compensation, etc. would not sufficiently exceed the Government pay they are receiving for road work, etc. However, most of them are idle because they are glad to be the guests of the Government for the duration of the war.

With the shortage of manpower and commodities in Canada today, we cannot permit the Japanese, or any other group, to remain idle.

I recommend to you that the Government should not appease the Canadian-born or naturalized Japanese any longer; that a deadline should be set when the Japanese maintenance camps will be closed. This announcement would induce many Japanese to seek work before the deadline. The others should be distributed throughout the other Provinces of Canada, and if necessary maintained in these other Provinces until they have secured work. The B.C. Security Commission could spare a number of their present staff to assist in relocating the Japanese in other parts of Canada. Spread throughout the whole of Canada the Japanese cease to be a major problem, and

Hon. Ian MacKenzie

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Apr. 6/43

every effort should be made within the next twelve months to reduce the B.C. Japanese population to less than five thousand.

One method of encouraging Japanese to leave this Province would be to restore their radios and cameras to those moving East of British Columbia; also to return to them any funds now held in trust for them.

I believe, as do many in authority in British Columbia, that the Japanese will be no military menace, unless and until continental North America is invaded by the Japanese.

We want the Japanese producing. The rest of the people in Canada produce or starve, including the Germans and the Italians. I recommend a positive policy in dealing with the Japanese, that they be told they are free to find work, that they will be helped to find work, but that they are going to work or starve.

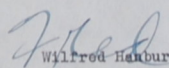
One legacy of this war will be the maintenance of Japanese indigents, the orphans and aged. Heretofore when they were concentrated in British Columbia they provided for their own. Hereafter it will become a problem for Canada. Discussion should be initiated to ensure their maintenance becomes a national charge instead of the responsibility of British Columbia.

I am still hoping to visit Ottawa some time before summer, but the date is at present quite uncertain.

With kindest regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

WH/B


Wilfred Hanbury.