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Support from the Universities

NO. 122 GRAND & TOY LIMITED

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January 15, 1946

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The Japanese Question

Peculiar point is given to a letter recently received in these offices by the resolution of the Student Christian Movement to take action to prevent the deportation of several thousand Japanese-Canadians, as reported on page one of today's issue. What action the S.C.M. intends to take is not altogether clear; and it is difficult to offer a suggestion. The writers of the letter alluded to above appeal for "the awakening of the student body," an end which *The Varsity* is glad to further on any subject.

Our correspondents, M. Thomson of III Sociology, D. Franco of IV History, and J. Gipton, a graduate, have amassed an impressive array of facts which bear on the Japanese-Canadian question. We consider it part of our normal service to our readers to make these facts available to them for discussion; we do not publish the complete letter only because of its excessive length.

RIGHTS DENIED

According to our correspondents, the government's policy towards Japanese-Canadians, culminating in the deportation of over one-third of their number, "is not entirely a wartime phenomenon, but has been preceded by a history of provincial denial of citizenship rights and economic and social discrimination. Despite these discouragements, a high standard of civil responsibility was developed. The Japanese-Canadian rates of crime, juvenile delinquency, and receipt of relief have been the lowest of any group in Canada. During the last war, their armed service record was out of all proportion to their number."

The specific injustices under fire, however, arose from the Relocation Policy of 1942, which followed agitation in the press and in B.C. legislature for the removal of the Japanese-Canadians from the Pacific war zone.

FARMS EXPROPRIATED

Six months after assurances that their property would be pro-veteran settlement," and the Exchequer Court of Canada refused to give a decision on appeal. Conditions in the relocation centres were "far from satisfactory. . . . Neither the provincial nor the Federal government assumed responsibility for providing adequate educational facilities. Another demoralizing factor was the inability of these people to engage in those vocations for which their training suited them."

Dispersal of the Japanese-Canadians and their permanent relocation east of the Rockies brought "far from inviting" prospects for the relocatee. "He was faced with federal, provincial, and municipal restrictions, regarding the communities he might enter, vocations he might pursue, ownership and rental of property, and freedom of travel. All this because of his unfortunate choice of ancestors."

REPATRIATION URGED

The deportation alternative was at this point subtly insinuated. "While contending with this, the relocatee's family and friends in the relocation centres were being presented with a 'voluntary repatriation' questionnaire, to be answered individually before a detachment of the R.C.M.P. At this time the Security Commission stated that it would consider any intention to resettle west of the Rockies as an indication of disloyalty," by implication sufficient grounds for deportation to Japan. "Furthermore, the decision to remain in Canada resulted in loss of employment in the relocation centre. That over 50 per cent decided to go to Japan is indicative of the coercive conditions under which the questionnaire was conducted. A similar questionnaire submitted to Japanese-Canadians under less prejudiced conditions resulted in only 7 per cent signing to go to Japan."

We thank our correspondents for an exemplary piece of research. Their facts, if unchallenged, will furnish a valuable spearhead for the protest launched by the S.C.M. Furthermore, we recommend this topic, or a topic of this kind similarly documented, to the sponsors of the newly-launched interfaculty program. Student action in national matters accomplishes little. But student interest in national topics is an invaluable qualification for post-graduate citizenship in a democratic nation.

The

The Undergraduate Newspaper

THE VARSITY

VOL. LXV—No. 83

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Friday, February 15, 1946

Habeas Corpus Is Basis of Law, Order-in-Council Revokes This Decides Jap-Canadian Forum

Brewin, Tanaka, Croll Speak

"Certainly we protest mass deportation," said David A. Croll, Liberal M.P. for Toronto-Spadina riding at an open forum on the Japanese-Canadian question in the Economics Building last night.

"The United Nations Charter states that we must respect human rights and freedom, and if Canada must abide by her signature, there can be no smug smiles on our faces!" continued Col. Croll. "Citizenship must not be lightly given, nor lightly taken away."

Col. Croll went on to say that the government must, under all circumstances convince the citizens of Canada that there has been no coercion nor compulsion put upon the Japanese citizens. If we are to allow deportation of this minority group there will be established a precedent undermining the whole racial set-up of the nation.

"Minorities and immigrants will lose all confidence in Canada if we allow the deportation of the Canadians of Japanese origin," said Col. Croll.

Kinzie Tanaka, Chairman of the Japanese-Canadian Committee for Democracy, represents the Japanese, some of whom were brought to

Canada around 1900 by such concerns as the C.P.R. for the lumbering and mining industries.

"It is quite true that Japanese born in Canada had to report to Japanese authorities," said Mr. Tanaka. "In Japanese law those between 17 and 37 are of military age."

Mr. Tanaka denied that they were sent from Japan as a definite part of a policy of the Japanese war-lords. He asserted that it was reasonable for the Japs to be removed from the coastal areas, but he was given only three days notice and not told where he was going.

Most of the Japanese adults desire to remain in Canada since it is their homeland by birth and naturalization.

"The whole question is not one of citizenship but one of oriental exclusion," said Tanaka.

The last speaker, Andrew Brewin, K.C., stated that the basis of our legal system is freedom from forced imprisonment and infringement of liberty where no crime has been committed.

"The Habeas Corpus Act," said Mr. Brewin, "is still in force here unless revoked by recent Orders in Council which have not been ratified by Parliament but passed after the National Powers Act at its first reading."

Because of the war Parliament gave the government power for war measures, but not the power to deport loyal citizens who are considered as enemies because of their race.

"One of the bases of the Nuremberg trials is the fact that we are proposing to judge enemy leaders because they deported their enemies. The battle of liberty must be fought in this unpopular case," said Mr. Brewin. "If not we all lose our freedom."

Jap-Canuck Exodus Vetoed By Trinity

A motion that the Jananese Canadians should be deported was defeated by a beter than two-to-one majority at the meeting of the Trinity College Literary Institute last Friday night.

The government speakers, J. Gwynne-Timothy and David Russell, pictured the Japanese as a race inherently different, and not readily assimilated in this country. Possessing an ingrained concept of racial superiority, they are not completely civilized, and have by their economic aggressiveness and low standards of living made themselves unwelcome to the majority of people.

Consequently, the government maintained, Canada should follow the example set by Europe in the forcible repatriation of millions of Germans, and deport the Japanese-Canadians within her borders, many of whom are already anxious to return to their homeland, World War Two, concluded Russell, was caused by hesitation, a sin into which we must never again fall.

The opposition spokesman, E. Evans and D. Herington, maintained that the object of our national life is to create a united Canada, undisrupted by racial hatred. The Japanese-Canadians were represented as a mistreated minority charged with the vices of their nationalistic cousins in the homeland, who are deprived of their legal rights, taxed without representation, and generally made a scapegoat upon whom our national rage may be vented.

The opposition defended the Jananese-Canadians against what it regarded as the jealous economic and racial accusations which are levelled at them. They concluded that although we won the war, if the Japanese-Canadians are deported then Hilter in introducing racial prejudice will have won the final victory.

The Gauntlet Is Accepted

The Editor, *The Varsity*.

Dear Sir:

The questions raised by Mr. G. E. Bettson in yesterday's *Varsity* concerning the problem of Canadians of Japanese descent are questions which may properly be asked and which deserve to be answered. One regrets however that his argument in support of the deportation of loyal Canadians is based entirely in expediency and shows no concern about the meaning of citizenship in a democracy.

It needs to be said that, whether or not Toronto is "prepared to accept and settle in its midst several thousand Japanese Canadians", Toronto has not been asked to do so. Nor are students being asked to give up their places in the University to "Japanese" students. Nor is the question of a housing shortage or unemployment among ex-servicemen in British Columbia or any other part of the country relevant to the argument. The ten thousand people whose fate is in dispute are not a new immigrant group come into the country at the present time to displace Canadians. They themselves are Canadians and many of them have their roots in this country as deeply if not more deeply than some who lay a much easier claim to the title because their racial stock or national origin is not so distinctive.

It needs to be said also, in fairness to Mr. Bettson's first query, that the question of the resettlement and reestablishment of the whole group of loyal Canadians of Japanese ancestry who spent the war years in relocation centres is a question not for B.C. alone but for every other province in Canada. By all that is decent and democratic, former residents of B.C. (against no one of whom has any charge of disloyalty ever been made) should have the right to return to their homes if they wish. Many of them realize, however, that their problem as a minority group will be minimized if they are not concentrated in one area.

Provincial authorities can do a great deal to solve the "Japanese-Canadian problem" by facilitating the resettlement within their own borders of a portion of those Canadians of Japanese descent who wish to establish homes outside of B.C. Ontario will not be expected "to accept and settle in its midst several thousand." But we should be prepared to stand by our fellow citizens, regard-

less of racial extraction, and willingly welcome a few hundred.

We must agree with Mr. Bettson, I think, that "one side only of the problem has been presented by *The Varsity*." Some of us would be glad of the opportunity to hear a coherent argument from the other side. We would like to see "a competent exponent of British Columbia's views given space in the *Varsity* to present the reasons for the government's action's." We hope that Mr. Bettson and some of the "many others" who share his feelings will make use of the next Hart House debate to state the case for the government's position. We would like to see who the people are who are prepared to support an onslaught on the basic principles of democratic citizenship, and we would like also to know whether they are able to sustain their case on legal (not to say moral) grounds, without recourse to the kind of racial fanaticism and blind prejudice characteristic of the system supposedly destroyed in the last war.

EDWARD T. LUTE.

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The Editor, *The Varsity*.

Dear Sir:

I am nauseated. The housing shortage is acute in Vancouver, and equally so in Toronto.

There are many thousands of returning ex-servicemen who are finding it difficult to find accommodations.

Yet at this very moment there are people with blonde hair and blue eyes occupying the very premises that are needed to relieve this housing shortage.

Who will deny that the housing shortage would be immeasurably relieved if these people were deported!

Ideologically, perhaps, one may concede that blue-eyed blondes should not be deported, but practically, *realistically*, one can see no other solution.

A British Columbia M. P. has enlightened us on a similar problem

"... these Japanese, the same people who kicked the teeth out of half of our boys over there, ... people want to welcome them into our midst."

The whole world knows what horrors have been perpetrated by blue-eyed blondes in the guise of Nazi Supermen. Are we to allow these same people to deprive our fighting men of the very homes they have fought to protect?

No!

R. A. STALL
(Graduate Studies).

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TIMES

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these used to live as a box cubicles, several Powell Street area of Vancouver its residents were signs over crumbling doubtedly not receive a notice from the Board of Health. compelled to shoe-horn newspaper clippings tell the story here; in a manner crowd used to call

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NO. 123 GRAND & TOY LIMITED

Editorial

Japanese-Canadians

From journalistic Frank Rasky, last year's Assistant News Editor of The Varsity and currently feature writer for the Vancouver Sun, comes his enlightening report on East Coast attitude to the Japanese.

In view of the enormous importance of his subject, we make no apology for turning over to Mr. Rasky the greater part of this page. We commend his letter to the attention of every reader.

Editor, *The Varsity*,

Dear Sir:

Since the day I arrived here in Vancouver three weeks ago I have been puzzled by the fiercely blazing anti-Japanese intolerance. As the editorial you quote from *The Manitoban* says, a strange tribe of people doth dwell on the far side of the Rocky Mountains.

In all other things but this, the people are amazingly progressive: certainly in no other province have I seen the Negroes, Jews and other racial minorities so frankly accepted. Yet this resentment against the Japanese is everywhere prevalent, and it is an attitude that makes me as an Easterner boil up with anger, an attitude which in my short stay I have tried to deduce.

We usually accept intolerance as a state of mind lodged in the ignorant and uneducated, but that does not hold here. The intellectuals, with a nice logic that I cannot comprehend, have drawn up an imposing list of sins against the Orientals, and this has been eagerly snatched up by those seemingly less learned. The newspapers are banded together in an editorial crusade against the Japanese; this regardless of their political stripe. I have spoken to trade unionists, journalists, artists, hand laborers and businessmen, and no matter how divorced they are economically, they stubbornly uphold one opinion in common: kick out the Japs.

It is useless to argue with them. When I point out that a religious group in Toronto, the Student Christian Movement, submit, and rightly, that to discriminate against any people because of race, creed or color is to copy Hitler's policies, the conventional retaliation is that the Easterners are luckily free of those grinning and hissing Nips; that the Easterners have no conceptions of "what is going on"; and that it is, in any case, none of their business.

Mention of such high-principled terms as "civil liberties" and "humanity" are equally brushed aside as having nothing to do with the matter, and, moreover, in this particular case, rather naive. In short, the people of B.C. pose mentally as daring little Dutchmen, who until now have kept their thumb plugged in the hole and so stemmed a tide of uncouth Japanese—for which gesture the rest of Canada should be forever grateful.

As it was correctly submitted by several professors in the campus survey *The Varsity* ran recently, the problem is deeply rooted in the pocket book. According to back files of the newspapers I have glanced through, the business element protested the Japanese inroads into their trade as early as 1937. Headlines tell how the Vancouver city council, obviously prodded by the industrial element, tried to pass resolutions which would limit trade licenses to all Orientals.

A bit of crossfire dialogue from one clipping illustrates the rather incensed sensibilities of two city fathers:

"I demand that no more licenses be handed out to this Oriental scum . . . these immigrants," said one Counsellor.

"If you do that, you'll have to include Greeks and Italians," replied another.

"Don't you dare include those law-abiding citizens . . ." went on the first Counsellor.

As a prelude to ousting the Japanese from British Columbia—whether they are foreign or domestically born—

the charges against these unfortunate people ran roughly like this:

1—In all B.C. communities with an Oriental population, it was found that the cost of maintaining public services was borne by the white inhabitants to an extent all out of proportion.

2—Only a small contribution was made in any sort of taxes by the Oriental. The causes for this is allegedly based on the practice of Japanese families to crowd into cheap residences, several families to a dwelling, where taxes are low.

3—Japanese fisherman were depleting the cod in B.C. waters.

4—Cheap Japanese labor in fruit and vegetable farms throughout the Fraser and Okanagan Valleys resulted in those industries falling completely into their hands.

5—By working as family combines, the Orientals made the minimum wage and factories act of no effect.

6—Also that old bogey (familiar to all ranters against the French-Canadians) has been exhumed, to the effect that the Japanese would soon swamp the whites by their birth rate. The viewers-with-alarm pointed at the 1937 birth figures which showed that, while the general increase in population was 4.75 per 1,000, Japanese registered 20.18 per 1,000.

On the surface this might seem to be an imposing schedule of misdemeanors, but it ought not to be glibly flaunted at its face value.

Certainly it is true that the Japanese used to live as a floating population in cheap tinderbox cubicles, several families to a hovel. I visited the Powell Street area of Vancouver, known as "Jap Town" before its residents were bodily evicted, and the "For Rent" signs over crumbling shacks and locked-up huts would undoubtedly not receive a stamp of approval from even Toronto's Board of Health. But no wonder, the Japanese were compelled to shoe-horn into this poverty-stricken area. Newspaper clippings tell me that the Nipponese were restricted here; in a manner not entirely unlike what the Hitler crowd used to call "ghettos".

It is also true that the Japanese were ready to take smaller wages and were prepared to work longer hours, but I hardly see why they are to be blamed. It's hardly probable that the Orientals maliciously tried to deprive the white worker of a job; immigrants are hardly that openly aggressive. Rather the employer, the white man, is to blame—as he is in the Southern States, Rhodesia, Argentine and a hundred other places—for the reason that he has tried to secure cheap labor with the knowledge that the Orientals of the first generation are more used to maintaining themselves on less than the whites.

Given the opportunity, the Orientals certainly would have demanded wages similar to the whites. So we can assume that the low wages paid to the Orientals were chiefly to blame for the Orientals lowering the standard of living for all. It is unlikely that the Orientals, who have families in Japan would improve their standards of living even if receiving higher wages. This would also be true of single Japanese intending to save and return to their own country.

In other words, the white man himself has contributed largely to the low Oriental living standards which was a menace to his own economic condition. He paid the Oriental low wages, then, by a curious double entendre, complains that the Oriental wages are too low.

It seems to me that the white population in B.C. would, further, not accept an obvious fact upon which any graduate in U. of T. Psychology 1a could have provided enlightenment: namely, that they did not give the second or third generation Japanese residents a chance to grow up and assimilate. Given time, they would have passed over the phase of conflict between two cultures—their parents' and the western one—and would soon have adjusted; not necessarily by intermarriage, but through a gradual adoption of social mores.

Meanwhile, there are 24,000 Japanese scattered throughout east Canada, all awaiting shipment out of the Dominion, all pondering man's inhumanity to man.

—FRANK RASKY.

Correspondence

The Views of Mr. B

The Editor, *The Varsity*,
Dear Sir:

Mr. Bettson will not leave well enough alone. He persists in presenting his views with a diligence worthy of a better cause, and he deserves to be contradicted in the bluntest manner.

"We live in an imperfect world," moans Mr. B., and on reflection decides it would be far less trouble to make it more imperfect still by heaping crime on injustice. The property of the Japanese-Canadian has already been sold, therefore, Mr. B's mind brilliantly concludes that it is right and proper—no, it is expedient!!—to expel them forthwith.

There are thousands of girls waiting in Europe to join Canadian husbands—who, let me observe, are Canadians only "by accident," just as Mr. B's appearance in this imperfect world was undoubtedly a deplorable accident—and to make room for them we must remove a bunch of "foreigners"!

I shall not labor the point. Both Mr. Lute and Mr. Stall have written excellent replies exposing the moral bankruptcy evident in such abysmal failure to understand the difference between principle and expediency. "Democracy is expedient"! "Realism" reigns supreme! Such "profound" statements reveal nothing but a shocking emptiness in the cerebral regions. The depths to which Nazism descended were in part at least due to the abandonment of a belief in the validity of principles of human conduct.

PAUL M. PFALZNER
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TORO

aid Than Done The Artists

John A. Hall, instructor of Hart House art classes and a member of the Fine Art Department staff, expressed his disappointment at lack of response to this student endeavor. Mr. Hall was appointed judge of the art submitted for publication.

Late last night Editor Kenner announced an extension of the deadline on art work to next Monday, December 10, at 5:00 p.m. It is hoped that the additional week-end will bring some evidence of student interest, he said. Drawings of any subject and of any size suitable for publication can be used—ink, pencil, linoleum cuts, etc.

CBC To Broadcast Glee Club Carols

A half-hour spot on the CBC's coast-to-coast Trans-Canada network has been given over to the Hart House Glee Club, according to Charles Delafield, director of institutional and religious broadcasts for the CBC.

Singing from the Great Hall of Hart House, the Glee Club is