

No.

CANADA - Minorities - Japanese

Globe & Mail, May 19/47

Japanese in Canada

Legion Asks Lands Restored To Japanese

A demand that confiscated property of Japanese-Canadians be restored to them by the government, or compensation made if this is not practicable, was made yesterday by District "D," Canadian Legion, at the annual meeting. This was contained in a resolution adopted by the convention.

After lengthy discussion, during which sections of the resolution were criticized and subsequently dropped, the convention went on record as asking for the support of all Canadians in their efforts to see that justice is done Canadians of Japanese origin. The resolution asked the government to review the enforced sale of Japanese-Canadian assets in wartime, whether of veterans or civilians, "to ensure that no Canadian, innocent before the law, shall be deprived of the rights implicit in the word democracy, and supposedly reaffirmed in the new Citizenship Act."

Delegate Joe Pearlstein, in presenting the resolution, declared Japanese-Canadians were being admitted into the Legion, and their claims should be supported.

"People came here from Europe to escape police states and to seek liberty, but these Japanese-Canadians had their property sold for a song," Pearlstein said. "They were treated as traitors and kicked around, their property sold for half the assessment."

The clauses of the resolution which were turned down demanded the government "retract the iniquitous police-state regulations under which Canadians, solely because of their race or color, are subject to restraint in travel, commerce and the pursuit of happiness."

A resolution asking for a selected and assisted plan of immigration, with main consideration going to people from Britain, the Scandinavian and other democratic countries, was adopted by the meeting. It was sponsored by Major Everett Bristol.

The convention sent back for redrafting a resolution which urged that priorities on building materials remain in effect for veterans' homes. One delegate claimed a black market for building supplies existed in Toronto.

"If you have the price and you are in the know, you can get the stuff," he asserted.

Other resolutions urged that the automatic increase in disability pension now granted to severe gunshot wound pensioners only be extended to include all disability pensions; that pensioners admitted to DVA hospitals as Class 1 patients be paid hospital compensation at the total amount equal to 100 per cent pension and that hospital charges of \$15 a month be abolished. Time limit on applications for veterans' insurance should be removed; present preference for ex-servicemen in civil service job applications; appointment of Legion employment officers in all districts; school book allowance for veterans, were all urged.

The meeting was told that Gen. Eisenhower might "take the salute" at the Warriors' Day parade at the Exhibition this year.

W. G. Beach was re-elected district commander, with W. McKenzie as vice-commander and W. Nelson, district secretary.

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CANADA - Inquiries - Japanese

Carole Stan
June 20 '47
Japanese in Canada

BUSINESS LOST IN EVACUATION JAP-CANADIAN GETS NOTHING

By BELAND HONDERICH
Financial Editor

Captain Handa, 37, is a Canadian citizen of Japanese descent. He was born in this country, lived on the west coast until Japan entered the war. When the Japanese-Canadians and Japanese nationals were hurriedly evacuated from the coastal areas on 24-hour orders in 1942, Mr. Handa left behind a home which was assessed at \$1,625 and a cleaning and tailoring shop with fixtures and equipment valued at \$2,000. Eventually, these assets were sold by the government custodian—without Mr. Handa's consent. The price he received, including a small amount for rental before the property was sold, was \$3,689, less than the assessed value of the residence alone.

Don't Do So Well

Actually, Mr. Handa was quite fortunate. Shosaburo Inose, another Japanese-Canadian, also owned a tailoring and cleaning plant. At the time of evacuation, he estimates it was worth \$4,700, which includes \$900 for fixtures and equipment, \$200 for inventories of stock and \$3,600 for good-will. Even without good-will, his investment was \$1,100.

Ordered to evacuate on a few hours' notice, Inose was at a loss to know what to do with his business. Should he sell, knowing full well that would-be purchasers would be inclined to take advantage of the forced sale, or should he leave it behind in the hopes he might be able to return when the war was over? Inose decided to sell. How much did he get? A mere \$160 or about 14 per cent. of the value of his equipment and inventories.

These two case histories, taken from the reports of the Japanese-Canadian Committee for Democracy, provide an insight into the losses suffered by people of Japanese descent through their forced evacuation from the west coast. What their total losses are is not known. But Andrew Brewin, the committee's legal adviser, estimates that they will total about \$5,000,000.

It now appears, however, as though the federal government intends to compensate these people for a part of their losses at least. The public accounts committee, after a lengthy investigation of the matter, recommended to parliament this week that a commission be appointed to investigate their claims. And there is every likelihood the report will be accepted.

Deserve Fair Treatment

The committee's recommendation, at any rate, will have the support of all fair-minded Canadians. For, although some people who suffered losses through evacuation were Japanese nationals, a great many were Canadian citizens, born and raised in this country. And, extenuating though the circumstances were at the time of evacuation, citizenship certainly means more than the right to be victimized. The Japanese nationals, too, are entitled to fair treatment.

One has only to examine the case histories compiled by the Japanese-Canadian committee to appreciate the substantial losses suffered by these people. Take the case of Tokichi Takeuchi, 57, a Canadian citizen. He owned a house in Vancouver, assessed at the time of evacuation at \$2,500. For his livelihood, he operated a rooming house in which he had an estimated investment of \$2,500.

All Mr. Takeuchi received from the custodian for his home and rooming house fixtures and supplies was \$1,675. This is not even as much as the assessed value of the house alone. And the assessed value invariably is below the market value, often represents only 75 per cent. or so of the real value.

Although assessed at \$1,800, Mr. Takeuchi estimates the value of his home was \$2,500. The custodian sold the property for \$1,500 and, after deducting selling expenses of \$200, turned the remaining \$1,300

Globe + Mail

Japanese in Canada
July 24 1947

Judge Named to Probe Charges B.C. Jap Lands Sold Far Below Value

By WARREN BALDWIN

Ottawa, July 23 (Staff).—The government has appointed a judge of the British Columbia Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Henry Irvine Bird, as commissioner under the Inquiries Act to investigate the claims of Japanese evacuated from the protected area of British Columbia in 1942.

State Secretary Colin Gibson, in announcing the appointment, said the commissioner would report to the Governor-in-Council "the claims which in his opinion are well founded and the amount which, in his opinion, would fairly and reasonably compensate the claimant for failure of the custodian to exercise reasonable care."

While claims for loss on land sales will be entertained, there is no specific direction in the terms of reference for investigation of the sale by the Secretary of State to the Veterans Land Act administration of Fraser Valley farms at \$400,000 below their assessed value.

It was this deal particularly which held the attention of the Public Accounts Committee of the Commons and inspired the report recommending appointment of a Royal commission.

The committee's report presented

to the Commons on June 17 recommended, in view of the evidence adduced, that "a commission be appointed under the provisions of the Inquiries Act to inquire into and report upon the claims of any person of the Japanese race now resident in Canada for alleged loss which resulted from the amount received by him being less than the fair market value of his property at the time of sale or loss."

Actual terms of reference to the new commissioner define the Japanese claims to be considered as those in which it is found "that by reason of the failure of the custodian to exercise reasonable care in the disposition of the real and personal property vested in the custodian, the amount received by the custodian for such property was less than the market value thereof at the time of such disposition."

The private interdepartmental deal by which the Fraser Valley land passed from the hands of the custodian (Secretary of State) to the Department of Veterans Affairs was the result of fairly lengthy discussion and negotiation during which, according to evidence, the custodian's office was instructed that it was government policy to allow no one else to purchase the land until the department had bought what it wanted.

The price was set at 2 per cent below an appraisal made by the Veterans Land Act administration. It will, presumably, be the duty of the commissioner to determine whether these proceedings constituted "reasonable care" on the part of the custodian.

In addition, the commissioner is directed to investigate claims in cases where it is found "that by reason of the failure of the custodian to exercise reasonable care in management of personal property, such property was lost, destroyed or stolen."

The Japanese will be required to submit all claims in writing, verified by statutory declaration, and addressed to the office of the custodian, 506 Royal Bank Building, Vancouver. The commissioner himself will give public notice later of the time for filing of claims and for the hearing of evidence.

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Hoko's Page

*Japanese in
Japan in Canada
July 25, 1947*

**Jap Claims Group
Said Too Confined**

A recent order-in-council allowing for establishment of a commission to investigate claims against the wartime custodian by Japanese-Canadians for property claims is too restricted to be of any use, it was charged last night by the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians. In a telegram to Prime Minister King, the committee is asking for an immediate "remedy to the injustice."

"In terms of the order-in-council," the committee charged "impose an impossible burden on claimants. Under the setup, before a commissioner can recommend a cent of compensation, he must be satisfied the custodian has failed to use reasonable care in disposition of properties."

"Many hundreds of claims cannot even be considered (under these terms) for the properties were lost or disposed of before the custodian was able to take charge. These losses arise no less out of the government's evacuation orders and policy of which the Japanese-Canadians were innocent victims."

... to Mr. Takeuchi
Rooming house fixtures

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No.

Evening Citizen - Dec. 9, 1947
Togawa in Canada

Asking Canada For Restitution

KAMLOOPS, B.C., Dec. 9.—(CP) Japanese Canadian yesterday asked the federal government to make restitution of more than \$13,000 which they claimed is owing them from property sold by the government during the Second World War.

The three claimants are only a small start on the 3,000 expected to be dealt with by the Japanese property claims commission, set up by the federal government with Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird of the British Columbia Court of Appeals as the one-man royal commission.

The three claimants—a widow, a former hot-house owner and a former small fruit-farmer—were among the many thousands of Canada's Japanese forcibly evacuated from west coast "protected areas" during the war.

More than 1,400 already have filed complaints against the federal government claiming inadequate compensations from the sale of their property and 50 claims daily, each averaging \$4,000 hour in.

Globe Mail - Dec. 21, 1947 Japanese in Canada
Globe Mail - Dec. 17, 1947 Japanese in Canada

Japanese Problem Solution Nears; Credit to Canada

By ERWIN FRICKE

Vancouver, Dec. 16 (CP).—Canada's "Japanese problem," thrust into prominence six years ago with the attack by Japan on Pearl Harbor, today appears dwindling from a subject of utmost concern to a perplexity with solution in sight.

But it has not diminished unaided. Canada's handling of the "problem" has been termed by some civil liberty-minded persons as "a milestone in the democratic treatment of minorities."

Of necessity, the first chapter was grim.

At the outbreak of war with Japan, more than 1,000 fishing vessels of Japanese-Canadians who fished off the British Columbia coast were immobilized as a defense measure.

The Pacific war later spurred Federal Government regulations permitting confiscation by RCMP of automobiles, radios, cameras, guns and explosives owned by Japanese in British Columbia.

In 1942, B.C.'s 22,000-odd Japanese, nearly the entire Japanese population of the dominion, were dispersed from west coast "protected areas" to points east of the Cascade Mountains. Their property was taken by the Custodian of Enemy Property and sold.

The vast majority were naturalized or native-born Canadians. During the war, 400 were interned and, following it, 4,000 went to Japan.

All of the Japanese in Canada today have been cleared by the government of any suspicion of disloyalty.

Voluntary citizens' committees in many parts of Canada campaigned to abolish racial discrimination against Japanese-Canadians.

In 1944, the federal government promised that Canadian citizens of Japanese origin, loyal to Canada, would be treated "fairly and justly."

The upshot of the promise was the appointment this fall of Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird of the British Columbia Court of Appeal to hear claims from Canada's Japanese that they had suffered "serious financial losses" through the forced sale of their property by the custodian of enemy property.

In a five-day sitting last week in Kamloops, B.C., Mr. Justice Bird heard the first 18 of an expected 3,000 claims. Compensation requested from the government totaled \$68,000. About \$12,000,000 has been estimated as the over-all claim, with individual requests ranging from \$500,000 down to \$92.

The appointment of the Japanese Property Claims Commission is unique in Canadian history. Charged with hearing the greatest number of complainants ever to appear before a Canadian tribunal, the investigations—to be at five interior British Columbia points, beside Lethbridge, Alta.; Moose Jaw, Sask.; Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto and Montreal—may last more than three years.

Settling of the problem, however, also has taken another form.

Once concentrated almost exclusively on the British Columbia coast, a contentious issue, the 1942 evacuation distributed Japanese more than halfway across the Dominion.

An official of the claims commission said British Columbia now had only 3,000 to 4,000 Japanese; Alberta, a similar number; Saskatchewan and Manitoba, about 1,000 each; the major share—about 7,000—were in Ontario, and Quebec had approximately 3,000.

Furthermore, many of British Columbia's former Oriental residents claim they have no desire to return to the province from which they were dispersed.

Kaoru Kobayashi, 28-year-old Canadian-born Japanese, evacuated from the "protected area" to interior British Columbia, said in an interview he was "satisfied where I am and I think that would apply to most Canadian-born Japanese."

"The discrimination is more pronounced at the coast. I have heard from friends that discrimination is even less in Eastern Canada than here. We'll stay put."

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CANADA - Minorities - Japanese

Ministry of the Peace - March 22, 1948 in Canada

Racial Discrimination

The decision of the House of Commons to continue official discrimination against Japanese Canadians for another year makes discouraging to all believers in civil liberty. That this decision was sponsored by a Liberal government must bring a feeling of shame to all Canadian liberals, whatever political party they may support. However, the government at least is positively committed to end the present regulations against Japanese by April 1, 1949. It will be for Parliament and the public to make sure that this promise is kept.

The C.C.F. deserves full credit for its attempt to repeal the orders-in-council by which Japanese are still prevented from entering the coastal areas of British Columbia. In its struggle to secure justice for Japanese—including, courageous British Columbia—the C.C.F. has been enlightened, courageous and consistent. No doubt its policy has cost it many votes in British Columbia, both in federal and provincial elections, but outside that province its attitude has won wide appreciation, as it deserves to do. There can be little doubt, indeed, that the great majority of Canadians are behind the C.C.F. in its attitude and ashamed that their Parliament is perpetuating a piece of racial tyranny without a shadow of legitimate excuse.

This feeling was clear enough in the recent parliamentary debate. For the extension of the present regulations the government, through Mr. Mitchell, offered no excuse. It could only argue that the removal of the Japanese from the coast was necessary, for security purposes, during wartime. This, of course, has nothing to do with the present issue. When Japan was conquering a large part of the Pacific basin and its ultimate reach of power was unknown, the Canadian government was obligated to take every necessary step to protect the Pacific coast. Like the United States government, it could not afford to leave there a group of people whose loyalty it felt it could not trust in the event of attack. But that danger ended with the fall of Japan. The reasons of security, valid during the war, are not valid now and by mentioning them Mr. Mitchell only showed that he had no real argument.

The fact, of course, is that the present regulations have been maintained until now—long after the parallel regulations in the United States were repealed—and are being extended for another year for only one purpose. That is to satisfy the British Columbia members of Parliament who cannot even demonstrate that they have the support of the British Columbia people. This is a case of pure racial prejudice and of local politics. A small group of British Columbia politicians has successfully blackmailed the government and Parliament of Canada.

When the C.C.F. members argued in the House of Commons for the repeal of the regulations they were met first with Mr. Mitchell's irrelevant reply that the Japanese were dangerous during the war (though no single act of sabotage occurred among them.)

They were met next with accounts of Japanese atrocities in Asia, but what had the Canadian Japanese to do with these acts? How were they responsible for crimes committed half way around the world any more than a Canadian of German descent was responsible for the crimes of Hitler?

The C.C.F. was finally met by the revealing admission of Mr. Thomas Reid, of New Westminster, that if the Japanese return to the coast they may establish themselves again in the fishing industry. In other words, the government is asked to decide which Canadians shall work in that industry, if necessary by keeping some Canadians away from the sea—one of the first principles of the police state. If that principle can be applied to one minority it can be applied to another and no minority will be safe in its livelihood or even in its place of residence.

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