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CORRESPONDENCE 1943/1945-1947, 1968

SLOAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN

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ANGELICAN JAPANESE MISSION,
Box 27,
SLOCAN CITY, B.C.

March 27, 1945.

The Rev. H. G. Watts,
Church House,
TORONTO, Ont.

Dear Mr. Watts:

I received your air mail letter on Saturday, and have made enquiries among our workers, including Mr. Savary who was over from New Denver, and we are all agreed that we have no information on the subject of chapter 3 of the proposed book. So, am afraid we cannot help you out very much.

The evacuation here in Canada, of course, has been handled very differently from the U.S., and the policy of relocation of the evacuees has always been more or less active in this country. Many persons were relocated in Ontario or Quebec directly from Vancouver and other coast towns, by the B.C. Security Commission. Hundreds of others found places for themselves and their families in various districts of B.C., quite independent of the Government - paid their own way etc. In the U.S. I believe the military took hold and moved the whole Japanese population, like an army, and they were all put behind barbed wire. In Canada, the Japanese have always had the opportunity of leaving the evacuation centres, at Government expense, and taking jobs East of the Rockies - these jobs were settled before the persons left the towns, with the exception of a few cases, when an "open permit" was allowed, and the relocatee lived at his own expense until suitable employment was found. These relocatees went out on an R.C.M.P. permit, and were obliged to report to the R.C.M.P. immediately upon arrival at destination.

In the matter of evacuation and of relocation, as far as we know, the voice of the church has been silent - or extremely feeble. The politicians of every hue, organizations of all descriptions, newspapers of every town in the Dominion, have made a loud noise and have kept it up, but we have listened in vain for a strong united voice from the churches. To our dismay, this "Japanese problem" has been allowed to be a political football, when it is actually a social and a moral question, not merely one of many problems, but a matter of fundamental principle, vital, and demanding a democratic and Christian approach and solution. Sometimes, our church leaders explain that "we have not got all the facts", and so are unable to speak. It seems to me that it is "spirit" and not facts that is all important. Certainly, to the politician, facts are quite beside the point, and their propaganda is basically false, but their voice is loud and insistent and their spirit has spread across our country.

The members of the Mission staff in these centres, have made some requests, or suggestions perhaps, to our leaders, where we felt the churches could help in at least urging justice, if not Christian practice, but, as far as we know, it has always been considered that

SLOCAN CITY

T. Isozaki

BAY FARM

K. Usui

POPOFF

R. Masuda

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP

①

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP

①

the church must not interfere in "politics." For instance, on the matter of the Custodian selling real and personal property of Canadian citizens, without any permission, of course, we urged that some steps should be taken. Eventually, we received our reply, in the report of Social Service Council 1943 (sorry we have not got a copy on hand) to the effect that the request had been considered, but it was felt that the B.C. Security Commission and R.C.M.P. knew what they were doing. Of course, as you know, the Custodian's Department is entirely separate from either of the other departments - and the church allowed a gross injustice to be done without a murmur. Aya Suzuki, whom you know as a good missionary and a good Canadian, whose family has always been entirely self-supporting up here, and who in addition have undertaken the care of two orphaned children (receiving a nominal monthly sum for their food) has had all sorts of personal property sold. Her things, including her own piano, were being taken care of in Vancouver by Canadian friends, not in a custodian warehouse, and were taken away, after Aya had written requesting that the things should be left with her friends and not sold, and were sold. Another of our kindergarten teachers, Ayako Tokunaga, has a similar experience. They did not even know their things had been sold until a neighbouring friend mentioned it in a letter. When I was in the Welfare Dept. I had occasion to go into many matters concerning sale of property. One woman, a naturalized Canadian in good standing, told of her car being taken away and sold - although she requested that it should not be sold. It was in good running condition, although not a new car, of course, and eventually she received a statement from the Custodian stating that car had been sold for \$15.00, costs in connection with sale, \$15.00 - so she received exactly nothing. There are many cases of this type of Canadian justice to her minority groups - and although we in the centres know this, those in authority in our churches, will insist that we must not meddle in politics. We are placed here in our mountain retreats and in the best British tradition, apparently "Guns not to reason why, ours but to do".... and keep very silent about what we do, and very especially about what we think.

About the way in which the churches prepared the outside for the coming of the relocatees, you in Toronto must know more about that than we do here. As far as we know, the only real effort was printing a pamphlet and distributing it across Canada - giving information and suggestions. A very good pamphlet and probably very helpful. The reports of Social Service Council, Synod etc. have carried some fine statements of ideals etc. - but who sees them? I don't get a copy myself, so take it for granted that the rank and file of church people do not have access - that is easy access - to such reports. In U.S., I understand, the churches have been instrumental in finding locations for families, and taking much trouble to educate the people in the towns, until a friendly welcome is assured. To the best of our knowledge, no such thing has been done here. Relocatees, and their families, are grateful for the little we can do in sending their names to Toronto, to be referred to clergy concerned. We never hear from the churches whether or not anything has been done. Many of the relocatees have become established in churches in the East, and are very happy in them - but many have had most unfortunate experiences and it takes great courage to face the suspicion and prejudice of Christian brethren, in the one place they had expected some degree of fellowship - the Church.

One place where I think our Church has fallen down, even in the moments when it has tried to break down barriers, is in always stressing

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SLOCAN CITY

T. Isozaki

BAY FARM

K. Usui

POPOFF

R. Masuda

"duty to our CHRISTIAN brethren". Surely fellowship with other Christians is a "must" and a privilege, not a duty. And surely, too, the church is behind pagans, who are often willing to extend the hand of fellowship to those quite outside of their own circle. Should not the church be ready and glad to befriended any who need help? It seems to me that the non-Christians among the Japanese, stand in far greater need of help in these trying times, than do those who have the joy of the Christian Gospel. And because a person is not a Christian, does not mean that he is not loyal to this country - as so many people seem to think.

Within the past few days, new orders have been posted and copies have been carried in the newspapers, with all sorts of comments - so you will have studied them, I expect. It seems that every Japanese of 16 and over must signify to R.C.M.P., either his desire to go East of the Rockies, or his desire to go to Japan. Those who wish to go to Japan, whether Canadian citizens or not, have certain privileges, and are assured the value of their property etc. etc. In fact, it is obvious that it "pays" to be a Japanese sympathizer. In the meantime, while these people are going through agonies trying to make the best decision for all concerned, the provinces (to which all "loyal Canadians" must go) and all definitely stating that they will not have them, or else sitting on the fence. Why should Canadian citizens of any racial group, be subjected to such treatment? And those who even are allowed to make a choice are those known to be loyal Canadians, vouched for by the R.C.M.P. I do not think the Churches in any of the cities, or in the provinces, have made any appeal to their councils or their representatives, that Canadian citizens should be treated decently. In the papers from time to time, we find letters from individuals upholding just and democratic treatment, but such voices are entirely smothered in the overwhelming preponderance of hatred and prejudice which are abroad.

Although the church as a whole, has been so silent, it seems that there is still time to show its Christian standard, just as boldly as the others show their colors. We have a real admiration for these people under very trying circumstances and are more than ever convinced that they have a great contribution to make to our national life and to our church life. Many of those in the East are already making their contributions through the churches - as you well know. Just yesterday I heard of a family in Guelph and their great happiness in attending St. George's Church there, although the girls of the family did not attend church while in Slocan! One could mention such people as the Fowles in Montreal and their tremendous contribution toward the welfare of relocatees - but it has been a voluntary and "outside" contribution, because of their personal interest in the people. And, one can also mention a Bishop of our church, in whose diocese were large numbers of Japanese people, standing on the platform at a Missionary meeting, and with reference to this question of "disposal of Japanese", made the statement that "they should all be put on boats and shipped to their own country", - meaning Japan, I suppose, although a large number of the people concerned would not think so. The "New Canadian" of March 24, quotes from an editorial in "Toronto Saturday Night", which upholds some principles of democracy. It is so good to know that some of our leading papers are trying to show Canadians that there is a just solution - a real solution - to this so-called problem. I wish the churches, with a single voice, could back up these fair and just statements.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

SLOCAN CITY

T. Isozaki

BAY FARM

K. Usui

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R. Masuda

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP

①

I am sorry that we have not got more of the information for which you are asking, but I hope to have two or three statements of opinion from some of the Nisei regarding the work of the mmx church in this situation, and will send them along. Will forward this at once so that you may contact those who can help you more.

We are all grateful for the interest you have taken personally in this matter, and of course, I have not dealt with the part the Church is playing in supporting these missions - extra grant for High School etc., as I believe that phase will be covered by someone else.

With kind regards and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP

①

CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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Department of Labour
Canada

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION,

C O P Y

Slocan City, B. C.,
June 13, 1945.

SHINTANI, Tsuruye 05836
Town #11, Rooms 9,10

As you have no doubt ~~xxxx~~ already heard the Government has ordered that people of Japanese origin are to be segregated into different camps according to the category under which they come.

As you have expressed your desire to remain in Canada and for various reasons you are not considered suitable for Eastern Placement you will be required to move to New Denver; as Slocan project has been selected as a Repatriation Camp and will house only those who have elected at the present time, or who may elect in the near future, to return to Japan.

In view of this Government order you will be required to move to New Denver project at 9 a.m., Friday, June 29th/45. Transportation arrangements will be made for you and you will be notified as to exact time and date of shipment of your effects.

Beds, stoves, tables, stools and all fixtures must be left in house or rooms you are now occupying.

This order is imperative and must be obeyed.

B. C. SECURITY COMMISSION

SUPERVISOR.....(Sgd.) E. R. Adams
E. R. ADAMS.

N.B...This notice dated June 13th. but received June 20. 1945
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ERA'BE

SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

C O P Y.

July 1st. 1945.

In the spring 1942 situation forced me to quit my job to which I was connected for 15 years, which there I received a salary of over \$200.00 a month. Then my family was forced to go to Slocan leaving almost everything we had. Then I was ordered to leave for a Road Camp. When my family arrived in Slocan there was no place to eat and no shelter to rest .. until the Oddfellow Hall in Slocan City substituted for a living quarter.

After a week they compelled to leave on account of a Community Dance. Fortunately we found a 6 roomed house where five families, 23 persons, managed to live in. Then again we were ordered to move to a "tent". We stayed in the "tent" for about one month during the hottest weather in July and August.

By the end of August we moved into the present dwelling in Bay Farm where we expected to be able to stay until we can relocate to Eastern Canada for permanent settlement. Contrary to our expectation we have been ordered to move to Kaslo.

My former home situated on 2327 Oxford Street, Vancouver, B.C. was sold without my consent, and the price at which it was sold is comparatively cheap to what I expected and furniture left in the house (which I could not put in storage so left in the house for the Custodian's care with list attached) was abandoned.

(Sgd.) TSHUJIRO TAKENAKA.

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

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JAPANESE ANGLICAN MISSION,
SLOCAN CITY, B.C.

July 3, 1945.

The Rev. H. Norman,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Mr. Norman :

Many thanks for your wire - it was encouraging and we were very happy to receive it and to know that you are working on the matter.

Enclosed are copies of two notices given out - the one for those to be relocated and the other for the ones going to New Denver. I thought you might be interested in the tone of these letters. I believe those sent out in the other towns, were better or worse, according to the feeling of the supervisor. I wonder whether you would be interested in receiving copy of the letter sent to Mr. Pickersgill by the Japanese Committee, and his reply, regarding this whole situation? They are rather long, but if you would like them, will copy and send them to you. They are quite interesting - especially in the light of subsequent events !

When I wrote to you before, I mentioned that two of our teachers had received notices to be ready to leave in two weeks. Miss Suzuki, who is a missionary with the same standing as the rest of us, is being allowed some leeway, because she and her mother are caring for two orphaned girls, and so far no home has been found for them. Otherwise, they would have been shipped out with the first "shipment" - the Supervisor seems anxious to be rid of them ! The other girl, is a kindergarten teacher on our staff. Her family went to Christina Lake, but she preferred to continue her mission work and came up here at the beginning of the evacuation. We saw the Supervisor and also Mr. Adams ^{Pickersgill} regarding these girls, but their only reply is that "if they move into private houses, and receive no benefits, hospital or otherwise from Commission, they may stay". That was on June 26th. On June 28, our teacher, Miss Shimada, received the notice enclosed stating that she must leave on July 4. I again saw the Supervisor, and pointed out to him that she is living with the Dentist, who is allowed his house to himself - the house is provided by Commission, because remuneration is terribly low - and he has all his own furniture etc. They are old friends of Miss Shimada, and she has stayed with them almost the entire three years. The Supervisor, of course, admitted that he could not put other persons into the house - especially as all will be repatriates and the Dr. is not - but that our teacher is using light, heat and water and so is not considered self-supporting ! So she is coming to stay in our house for the present, because her intention has always been to leave here by the end of July - but even to that extent the Commission will not co-operate with the mission. They admitted that they have no other reasons for issuing the first notices to members of our staff - who have all been self-supporting, as far as possible. It is practically an impossibility to get a private house. Some business people are building places for their own workers. Our pastor received a notice, but as he is entirely self-supporting and in his own house, they stated that it was a mistake ! So he is allowed to remain for the present.

A matter which a member of our staff took up with the Commissioner

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

①

Re Rev. H. Norman ..contd.

was the matter of mothers with very young children being shipped out on trucks - this was corrected to the extent of the babies and very young children being taken in the ambulances. All go from here in open trucks with narrow boards across for seats. The baggage goes out the day before but of course they have to keep their bedding until they leave. The wet cold weather which we have had has not been very good for such travelling.

You ask for details of grievances - and although there are plenty of them, it is not easy to get signed statements. There is a real fear among the people, because they know that if they get a "black mark" they will be repatriated. Along all lines, the repatriates are receiving the best treatment - because they can appeal to the International Red Cross, I expect.

I am enclosing a letter from one man - which does not say much, considering the circumstances. His is one case where he and his family were ordered to Kaslo and the aged Mother, to New Denver. (I should mention that that order also has been changed, and these families are not to be broken up. I think it is because of all the protests.) He and his family had a nice home out on Oxford street, comfortably furnished and cared for. Without their consent everything was sold - although they had repeatedly asked for some of their furniture and were ready to pay shipping charged, of course. Now they are ordered East - to take up a new life, and no furniture or anything else to do it with. His wages here, have been very low - around \$45. a month, I believe, and because of the sale of his house, and funds with the Custodian, he has been forced to use his own funds to supplement the income. Obviously a family of four could not live on that amount. He is a naturalized Canadian and his older daughter is in our high school here. A good Canadian family.

Another family, who have turned over various correspondence etc. to me is the Kuwabara family. Dr. Kuwabara is in charge of medical work here, with Dr. Kamitakahara to help. Mrs. Kuwabara, his Mother, is with him, and she feels very badly about the custodian business. I think you know all about the property sales etc., and the sales of ~~xxxxxx~~ personal property etc. without owners' consent. The Kuwabara's house at Marpole was sold for \$2200. (about) last September, and up to the present they have received no statement, merely a letter mentioning the fact of sale. Previously it had been rented, furnished - the furniture renting for \$15.00 per month, but they later were notified that only \$5.00 was being paid, although they had never been asked about this reduction. The house was worth somewhat more than \$2200. especially in these days - their garden was filled with special shrubs from Italy, France and other places. The furniture was mostly new, and the interior all redecorated and kitchen modernized. They had expressly asked that their things should not be sold, and just last week-end they received word that these goods would be sold at auction. Some had already been sold. They wrote at once asking them not to sell - but do not suppose the letter will have any effect. Of course, they ALL have grievances as far as the Custodian is and I feel that those may be cleared up more readily than other things.

One thing regarding the "re-registration" which so many have told me, is that the forms to be signed for repatriation were all prepared in Vancouver, and were sent up here with all names attached and ready for signature - as though expecting all Canadian citizens to sign away their citizenship. In every case, the forms, with the name attached, ~~was~~ handed to the person, and then if they expressed the desire to stay in this country, a white card was attached, and "relocation" marked on form.

STOCCAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.
CORRESPONDENCE 1943-1947, 1968
①

The Rev.H.Norman...contd.

The young people were very angry about it and are most resentful. The repatriates, of course, are making the most of the Government's treatment of her citizens, and take every opportunity to gibe at them.

It seems unfair, too, that although so many Nisei have so readily joined the services just as soon as the opportunity offered, this has been carefully kept out of the press. The only things the press is allowed to print, are the ones detrimental to the Japanese - mainly statements of certain politicians. Is that really "freedom of the press"?

My feeling has been that these Canadian-Japanese, are now numb, and little fight is left in them. Last night, a fine young Nisei girl expressed her feeling as just that - numb. One blow after another and each one worse than the last.

I might just add about Miss Shimada, that she was ordered to Kaslo - where there is no work, and she might be required to remain there for some time, and be maintained by Commission - if they kept that part of their bargain. Here she has been absolutely no charge on the Commission - excepting, they claim, light, water and fuel. From a purely economic viewpoint it seems wasteful. Many cases are like this - only much worse because there are families to be considered and they will be harder to relocate. Mr. Pickersgill claims that it is untrue that people go East and jobs are taken and there is no housing. But we have numbers of such cases in our own circle - there are three families now at the Summerville Hostel, because no houses yet, and they have been there for some time.

The whole thing is completely heartless - which is one of the biggest "hurts" - the people who, from the first, have co-operated to the utmost of their ability, are the ones who are receiving absolutely no consideration.

If I can get signed statements of grievances, will send them just as quickly as possible.

Again thanking you for your interest and efforts on behalf of these fellow-Canadians,

Yours sincerely,

P.S....I might add that, although in the first place, it was announced that this policy was to be completed by the end of August, it is now being rushed to completion by the end of July. Some persons in business, have been given July 31, as the last day here. One woman, widow with four girls, has a Beauty Parlour - pays rent and light to Commission. Ordered to N. Denver - but unable to find place for business to support family. Told by supervisor here, that she would not be able to get maintenance at New Denver because she has been self-supporting here.

CORRESPONDENCE 1943-1947, 1968
STOCCAND CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

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C O P Y

ERIC G. ADAMS
ECONOMIC AND ENGINEERING REPORTS

411 Confederation Bldg.,
Montreal 2, P.Q.
Oct. 29, 1947.

Mr. F. Andrew Brewin, Counsel,
Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians,
372 Bay St.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Further to our conversation of yesterday, I am writing to outline a proposal covering the valuation and statistical work involved in the substantiation of Japanese Claims to be filed with the Commissioner appointed by Order P.C. 1810 as amended by P.C. 3737 of this year. This will provide something concrete for you to place before your Executive for consideration.

In addition to the legal work involved in this matter, it is evident that expert testimony before the Commission will be required to prove "fair market value" for individual property items. With the possible exception of most household chattels, the various types of property, particularly those of any size, will require an expert appraisal conforming to the particular requirements of these claims cases. In addition, a considerable amount of economic research and statistical compilation should be undertaken to establish the general pattern of property values and their trends up to the period when sales by the Custodian took place, and also to corroborate the individual valuations. To the degree that this valuation and statistical work can be undertaken by one or two experts who will see the whole job through, wasteful duplication of effort will be avoided and their resulting familiarity with all the problems will prove advantageous to claimants.

With this continuity of effort in mind, I suggest that Mr. Hidaka and I be retained together to perform the following functions:

1. To work closely with claimants in establishing "fair market value" and presenting evidence, and where possible, to assist individual claimants in making up their statements of claim;
2. To determine "fair market value" for individual properties, in most instances by personal inspection and the use of available alternative determinants of value. Obviously different procedures are required to evaluate different types of property; e.g. urban real estate, farms, businesses as going concerns, machinery and equipment, etc.;
3. To compile statistical data and other facts required as corroboratory evidence;
4. To testify as an expert witness on valuation and extent of loss before the Commission.

Our qualifications for undertaking this work may be summarized as follows. I am a professional engineer and economist,

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLIDING CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

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with nine years employment in private industry and consulting engineering, five years in government service, mainly in economic work, and two years in private practice as a consulting engineer and economist. During three years with Cloverdale and Colpitts, consulting engineers in New York, I spent some time on valuations in connection with railroad reorganizations and tax cases. During my term of employment with the Canadian Government, I organized and for the first year and a half personally did the majority of investigations and appraisals for the Industrial Development Bank. This involved not only the evaluation of borrowers' physical assets mortgaged, but also determination of the position and prospects of the individual businesses applying to the Bank for loans. In my private practice I have appeared as an expert witness before Arbitration Boards in labour disputes, and consequently have some experience in presenting evidence and standing up under cross-examination.

I am familiar with the various methods of property valuation and believe that my particular experience as consultant in both engineering and business administration is more in line with the services required by Japanese claimants than that provided by the general appraisal engineer. In order to establish the going concern value of a business, consideration must be given to more than the aggregate of the costs of all physical assets. As I see it, the value which should be determined for these claims, in general, is something broader than the sum total of costs, and for this reason, an economic rather than a strict engineering approach must be used.

Mr. Hidaka has specialized training in the fields of economics and public administration. He has experience in economic and social research on housing, town planning, land use and zoning as well as industrial surveys. He is competent to carry on the necessary statistical and economic research work to which I will also devote some attention. His experience during the past seven years in executive positions in leading organizations concerned with Japanese-Canadian affairs greatly enhances his usefulness in work of this kind where close liaison with individual Japanese claimants is desirable.

I am prepared to devote full time to this work for limited periods at a time, and part time for an indefinite period. Mr. Hidaka can spend full time on this project until its completion if necessary. We are prepared to work closely together. Whenever the occasion arises where it is desirable to have local experts testify on specific questions, we are prepared to recommend such specific assistance where we feel it will improve the claimants' cases.

In view of the probable duration of this work, we are prepared to establish a basis of remuneration which I am sure will compare favourably with the cost of hiring a series of individual experts for different properties and locations. Our suggestion for remuneration is a daily retainer of fifty dollars (\$50.)

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLIDECITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
INTERMENT CAMP.

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covering the services of both of us. When only one is working full time on this project, the daily rate will be adjusted accordingly. Out-of-pocket expenses, including outside assistance and travel costs when away from Montreal, are to be reimbursed to us. The hiring of additional assistance, of course, will only be done with the concurrence of the Co-operative Committee. Since it is my understanding that the Co-operative Committee is to have custody of the funds to meet the expenses of claims work, I would expect to bill the Co-operative Committee weekly for the time and expenses as outlined above. In addition, should the amount of work involved on particular claims be found to be far in excess of the average, because of special complicated conditions, we would reserve the right to negotiate a separate (additional) commission direct with the claimant based on a reasonable percentage of the actual award by the Commissioner.

As the time is now very short in which to do all of the valuation work required, I am sure I do not need to emphasize the desirability of getting started as soon as possible. To that end, I would appreciate an early decision on this proposal, so that I can plan my other consulting work accordingly.

Yours very truly

"Eric G. Adams"

CORRESPONDENCE 1945-1947, 1968
SLOAN CITY JAPANESE CANADIAN
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THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE
ON
JAPANESE CANADIANS

TORONTO, ONT.

94 Homewood Ave., Apt. 28,
November 15th, 1947.

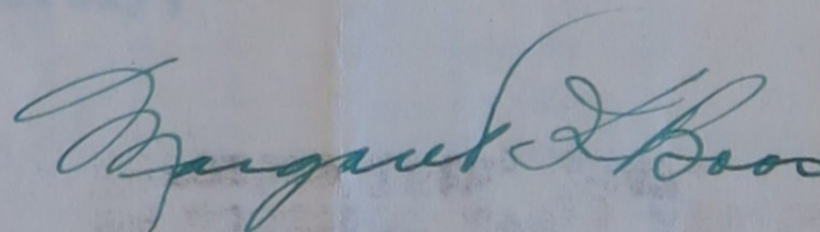
MEMO TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Brewin has asked me to arrange a Committee meeting as soon as possible, to discuss proposals regarding valuation and statistical work on claims.

As we must reach a decision in a very short time (meeting between 5.30 and 6.00 p.m. on Tues., November 18th in Mr. Finlay's study), it would be appreciated if you would acquaint yourself with Mr. Adams' proposal (copy of which is enclosed), so that you will be prepared to register your decision after presentation of an alternative suggestion which Mr. Brewin has received from Mr. McMaster, one of our lawyers in Vancouver.

If by any chance you are unable to attend, would you be good enough to contact me at KI.4274 (evening) and let me know your reaction to Mr. Adams' proposal?

Sincerely,



SECRETARY

MKB

Encl.

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