

Council Circular

THE JAPANESE CANADIAN CASE

Five years ago, as victims of circumstances, we were evacuated to Southern Alberta. The evacuation was not a military necessity but was due to the activities of the race baiters, pressure groups and unscrupulous competitors under the cover of war time flag waving patriotism, to do what they always wanted to do in peace time: get rid of the Japanese. Unfortunately the fact that the Japanese lived in concentrated communities gave these agitators a basis for their argument. Our immigrant parents, like any other immigrant group, no better no worse, congregated into communities because of various reasons. Socially it was a natural thing to do because of the language handicap. Economically they were discriminated against. Virtually the only occupations open to them and to us were lumbering, fishing and farming. Therefore, they became more and more dependant upon each other. This, in brief, is our background.

The supposed hysteria over Japanese aliens and Canadian citizens of Japanese origin scarcely existed among the people themselves -- the excitement was visible almost entirely in political and journalistic quarters. They were seeking to capitalize on the supposed excitement of others which were mostly figments of their own imagination. This then, was responsible for the evacuation. The evacuation was tragic. It was humanity uprooted. I cannot even begin to tell you of the countless numbers of hardships and injustices suffered by the Japanese. The evacuation order made no distinction of citizens. People were evacuated on a basis of race. Does the Government have the legal right to sell the property of a citizen without his consent? This has been done in the case of the Japanese evacuees. The Japanese were evacuated to road camps, to former mining towns of interior British Columbia and to the sugar beet fields of Manitoba and Alberta. We were evacuated from comparatively comfortable homes to deplorable beet shacks and semi-slave labour conditions. Untold numbers of hardships were suffered by the evacuees. It is a publically accepted fact that had it not been for the evacuees, the sugar beet industry could not have carried on as it did. We have also made a worthy contribution to the lumbering and canning industries of Alberta. There has not been a single case of disloyalty, sabotage or sedition anywhere in the whole of Canada. We were not allowed to enlist in the armed forces, because of our racial origin. Certainly we have proven ourselves to be worthy Canadians.

Five years have passed and actually we are not better off now than we were at that time. The deportation issue has been settled to the satisfaction of everyone, except for the fact that minors who were forced to accompany their parents back to Japan were deprived of their Canadian citizenship status. We are looking forward to the future, to our establishment, but the future is beclouded and uncertain. Today we are still tied down by numerous restrictive legislation. Granted, that perhaps during the war many of the restrictions were justified, but to all intent and purpose the war is now over; what possible justification is there in the continuance of these restrictions? There is an agreement which states that no Japanese will be

allowed to reside nor take employment within the City limits of Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. The Attorney-General of Canada has stated "no Canadian city has the legal right to bar Canadian citizens from within its bounds." There is an agreement which states that the Japanese evacuated to Alberta will be removed after the cessation of hostilities. There is a restriction that states no Japanese will be allowed to travel, that is to change residence, without first securing a "police permit." There is a restriction that states no Japanese will be granted fishing licenses.

On January 1, 1947, the new Canadian citizenship law came into effect. By it for the first time in history Canadian citizenship was established, and anomalies that existed to the handicap of Canadians were corrected. It means, among other things, that no longer can there be two classes of citizens in Canada. Regardless of race or religion, either a man is a Canadian citizen, owing political loyalty solely to Canada, and enjoying all privileges or he is not. If he is, he must be allowed to exercise the franchise -- municipal, provincial and federal -- to travel, to do business, or reside anywhere in Canada without let or hindrance.

From all indications the travel and fishing restrictions will be carried over after the 31st of March, unless public pressure is brought about to defeat its re-enactment. There is urgent need for immediate action on this matter. We ask that this organization take a strong stand to have this highly discriminatory and expedient piece of legislation cancelled.

Are we to have legal restrictions on our right to choose our occupation and place of residence? As Canadian citizens, we would like to live in honour and self-respect as true Canadians.

So much has been asked time and again about the Youth Council's disapproval of Mr. A. G. Virtue's appointment on the Consultative Committee's judicial sub-committee that it seems to warrant a statement to be issued so as to clear up the matter once and for all.

The actual reason for the decision may be layed to the fact that the Council deems it fit to question the integrity of Mr. Virtue's character because of a dearth of evidence and opinions of unfavourable nature.

To be more specific, a list of items in this connection follows:

- 1) Before Mr. Virtue was elected to the City Council, he showed interest in the minority problem so far as to have his name on the roster of the Consultative Committee and manifesting an interest in furthering the cause of the Japanese. His appointment on the Committee was as a representative of the Joint Committee. However, when the matter of campaigning to arouse public opinion came up, this same man who had in the meantime been elected to the City Council, opposed the action saying that it was best to let sleeping dogs lie, or in other words, do not make a fuss or it might prove to be quite a obnoxious undertaking for the instigations due to the repercussions which might arise. This course of inaction suggested by Mr. Virtue could only be taken to mean that he was suggesting it because he found it politically expedient. It was at this time that the Youth Council was trying to arouse public opinion in favour of the Japanese, as was also the Toronto Co-operative Committee. And may it be stated here, in no uncertain terms, that it was public opinion that swayed the government in its decision to treat the repatriation question fairly. (It is so easy to forget things that have past is it not, and so conveniently?) When it appeared that beyond a shadow of a doubt that the government would reconsider, Mr. Virtue advised the Joint Committee that it was time to act; safe perhaps but rather belated was it not?
- 2) At another time, at a later date, the question of sending delegates to Edmonton arose. The Youth Council saw no actual need of Mr. Virtue's going although it thought it might prove enlightening if just a few Japanese went to confer with Mr. Manning. However, on Mr. Virtue's recommendation, the trip was scheduled. Before the delegates entrained for Edmonton however, a press release of a statement made by Mr. Manning appeared. The statement dealt with the very matter for which the delegation was to see Mr. Manning and as such obviated the necessity of the trip. However, Mr. Virtue blithely carried on as per schedule and in the report which he gave upon his return made available no news which was not already known. The Japanese delegates were specifically warned by Mr. Virtue that they were not to utter a word during the interview. Thus it was that when a query was made to why the Youth Council delegate had not asked Mr. Manning whether or not Japanese Canadians in Alberta had the vote or not, he had to reply that he was told not to speak up, and therefore had not the chance to ask any of the many questions he wished to ply.

- 30 On this same question, the Beet Grower's Ass'n was approached and they agreed to send a delegate to accompany the Japanese delegation to Edmonton, provided that Mr. Virtue did not go. However, they stated that if Mr. Virtue was to go along, they absolutely refused to have anything to do with the matter. The consensus of opinion of the assembly concerning Mr. Virtue was very definitely unfavourable. This matter should be stressed.
- 4) Yet on yet another occasion, dealing with the property loss survey, Mr. Virtue discarded a most comprehensive form printed by the Toronto Co-operative Committee for one of his own which proved repititious and very inadequate.
- 5) Mr. Virtue's trip to Ottawa, which he himself suggested, no tangible benefit was derived. In fact there is reason to believe that he actually disrupted the tenor of the government's gradual relenting to show more consideration to the appeal of the Japanese on the Claims question. Incidentally, Mr. Virtue's trip was made under peculiar circumstances. At a meeting of the Joint Committee just before he left, Raymond, Coaldale, and Taber advised the cancellation of his trip east but were informed by the executive that it was TOO LATE to cancel it and so the trip was completed. All this notwithstanding the fact that travel reservations may be cancelled. Mr. Virtue's going to Ottawa only overlapped the work done by the Co-operative Committee and was entirely unwarranted.
- 6) For further enlightenment on all this Mr. Everson made the following stat comment: "You(the Japanese) just pouned \$1000 down the drain. The trip to Ottawa was entirely unnecessary and Virtue had no need to go to Edmonton. It would have been alright for just a Jap delegation to go to see Mr. Manning though." Alberta Japanese have to admit that Mr. Everson is a sincere man and has done much for their welfare.
- 7) Just as a matter of interest, it might be well to mention here, that amongst the City's influential business men, men who are prominent in civic, social, and charitable organizations, Mr. Virute finds little favor.
- 8) It might behoove us to red Mr. Virtue's activities on the City te Council to gather a further and more comple e picture of the man's nature. He has very obvious materialistic tendencies. And so very obviously seeks publicit̄y that is rather disgusting.



STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF A BILL OF RIGHTS

The protection of the liberties of the subject has from time immemorial been the historic responsibility of Parliament.

The Constitution of Canada, of which the B.N.A. Act is the principal written part, is a constitution "similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom", and embraces by implication but nowhere expressly sets forth in binding and written form such fundamental freedoms as freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press and association, nor does it afford protection for the individual against arbitrary arrest, seizure and excessive bail, and other like civil liberties and human rights.

Recent events in Canada and throughout the world have demonstrated that it is desirable that such rights be stated with the utmost clarity in the written Constitution of Canada, namely, in the B.N.A. Act, in order that all men and women in Canada shall know them and shall feel that their rights are secure from interference by legislative or administrative action, through the protection of the Courts.

We therefore urge that the Parliament of Canada should by resolution seek an amendment to the B.N.A. Act, restraining the Parliament of Canada and provincial legislatures from making or enforcing any laws abrogating the aforementioned liberties and, in particular, any laws interfering with freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of association and organization, freedom of speech and expression, freedom of the press, protection against excessive bail, protection of minorities, protection against cruel and unusual punishment and protection against arbitrary and abusive deprivation of life, liberty or property, and providing against the exile of Canadian citizens, establishing the above rights and the right to the franchise, to habeas corpus, to a fair trial with the assistance of counsel, all without discrimination as to race, sex, language or religion.

Parliament has recently approved the Charter of the United Nations which declares it to be amongst the purposes of the United Nations to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

It would be particularly timely when recent events have left in the minds of our people a vivid sense of the dangers of totalitarianism and the repression of civil liberties, and when the Parliament of Canada has recently defined Canadian citizenship, that a solemn and explicit declaration of these fundamental freedoms hitherto implicit in our traditions, should now be enacted as part of our Constitution. These rights would be in addition to, and in no way in derogation from existing minority rights already set forth in the B.N.A. Act.

We urge that the members of Parliament of all parties should seize this opportunity to establish a Bill of Rights for all Canadians.

Editor, The New Canadian:

Apparently your editorial has been taken in the wrong spirit. No doubt in your trip through Alberta you arrived at certain conclusions of your own, which, of course, you used as a basis for your editorial of January 19th entitled "Trouble in Southern Alberta." It was unfortunate that perhaps the heading of your editorial was not exactly clear-cut. Your ^①impartial viewpoint has been misconstrued into partiality for a certain element, which has led Mr. Virtue to make certain strong statements accusing persons of distorting facts.

Mr. Virtue has made an issue of the statement, "vague purposes to Ottawa and Edmonton." Unfortunately your phraseology did not convey the true reasons for objections to Mr. Virtue's trips. Let us take the trip to Ottawa. ~~He did~~

~~As Mr. Virtue states,~~
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there was the purpose, certainly, but Mr. Virtue infers he believes that the appointment of the commission was due in

some measure as a result of his trip to Ottawa. What he does not state is the fact that ^②the Government had already

^③promised to set up a commission. Therefore, at the time of

Mr. Virtue's trip, we contended that we work in conjunction with the Toronto Co-operative Committee to have a favourable

type of commission set up. It must be remembered that it was through the campaigning of the Co-operative Committee

that the Government finally did promise to set up a commission. May we point out to Mr. Virtue that ^④the whole of the

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p.t.o.

letters

Southern Alberta Central Committee was not in favour of the trip. And would like to advise Mr. Virtue to confer with his clients to get his facts straight.

In Mr. Virtue's trip to Edmonton, there again the purpose was there. It was the stand of the youth group that though there might be the desirability of a delegation, there was no need for Mr. Virtue's accompaniment. The youth group advised the Southern Alberta Central Committee the reasons for it's stand and actually it was not a charge against Mr. Virtue, but a statement of conviction that his presence in Edmonton was not necessary. Mr. Virtue has stated that "the desired result was attained." May we ask Mr. Virtue just what he means by "desired result"? It is almost a year since the delegation asked for removal of the present discriminatory legislation. Nothing was done, in fact Alberta residents are still considered temporary, still pay hospital fees, receive no mothers' allowance, still have no franchise. There has been no definite improvement in the status of Alberta residents. What then, is it that Mr. Virtue calls "desired result"?

Thus in the two instances of "trips for vague purposes," Mr. Virtue is technically correct and justified in stating that it was untrue. However, as we pointed out before,

5 it was the inaccurate wording of the "charge" by the editorial writer that caused this furor. May we ask that in future, more care be given ^{and in the future} matters so that a correct picture is presented thus eliminating these unpleasant instances. We are

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p.t.o.

not attacking Mr. Virtue nor the editor; we, in our feeble and simple way are trying to present ALL the facts.

Libel--Mr. Virtue mentions libel. Libel is defined as "any public act or writing, defaming the character of another or to defame through malice." We vehemently deny Mr. Virtue's charge that we are trying to "defame character or defame through malice" or are "desireous of distorting facts." May we point out to Mr. Virtue that words such as "disireous of distorting facts" and making "misrepresentations" are of a libelous nature.

We have written this letter, because we feel that we are responsible for some of the information upon which you Mr. Editor, have based your editorial.

Sincerely believing that this is not a letter of libelous nature but just a supplement to give the over-all picture, we remain,

Lethbridge, Alta.
M. Sunada
M. Takada

Perhaps there may have to be two chapters for Southern Alta. But as long as they don't tear each other down all the time, I don't see anything wrong with it.

p.t.o.

The New Canadian

AN ORGAN FOR CANADIANS OF JAPANESE ORIGIN

PHONE 501 306

504 Talbot Avenue

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Jan 31 1948

Mr. Min Takada
906 8th Ave S
Lethbridge

Dear Min:

Thank you for your letter of the 29th. I held up Virtue's brief on getting your wire although it was all linotyped and set to go to press in today's issue.

I am sending back copy of your letter to editor because of one very serious error. I have a number of other suggestions as well. Hope you will understand that I wish to protect you as well as ourselves in taking these precautions.

Fun I would like some information if you can get them. You mention \$800 and \$200 for Virtue's trips. Can you get me the exact figures, so we can use them--possibly in an article or an editorial?

Your point about Virtue not getting much result and challenging him to ~~give~~ explain what he means by "desired result". Of course I imagine he'll get around it somehow, but just the same I'd like to find out what he says.

Regarding his brief, I can't see any objection to using it. It contains much information which we didn't have and which we'd like to place on record. If you think it will give favorable publicity to the Central Committee or factions opposed to the JCCA, it can be offset by your letter and possibly by another editorial from me since he asks my opinion on it. I'll point out the weaknesses of his claim.

You mention "true reasons" for retaining Mr. Virtue. I don't know what they are although I remember you saying something about the matter in Lethbridge. What is it? confidentially.

Regarding the rupture in the ranks of Joint Committee, there is apparently those who are opposed to some of its leaders methods... it also seems to show that there is also lack of skill on the part of leaders in conducting their affairs. I don't know the complete facts. In addition, I feel, after remaining as leaders for so long, there would naturally be a lot of grievances piled up--it always happens in politics.

Now my stand regarding the whole matter. I fully realize the sincerity of the Youth Council, and am sympathetic. But I feel yet that there could be established a JCCA in Alberta to which the great majority would belong--including the Picture Butte leaders. Perhaps there may have to be two chapters for Southern Alta. But as long as they don't tear each other down all the time, I don't see anything wrong with it.

p.t.o.

I still have reservation about accepting your views regarding Mr. Aoki, Mr. Sakumoto and others. I have ~~had~~/~~no~~ been told no definite reasons for distrusting them, and I did try to find out what was wrong with them while I was in Alta. My mind is open, but I have to be convinced with good reasons before I can have convictions. You don't have to ask my opinion about desirability of JCCA. If I appear dense, I hope you will not be too harsh in your judgment. I think I am as broadminded and as open to conviction as most people. George Tanaka will be going down there, so I'll ask him to look into all aspects for me.

Regarding Virtue's brief, I promised in my editorial that I would print all such stuff. If Virtue thinks it would clarify the issue from his standpoint, that is his opinion, and he is entitled to ~~the~~ it. I find the brief interesting for another reason as well--because of the summing up it contains.

Now I came to your letter to the Editor.

I have marked the parts I want to discuss in red.

1. I thought my viewpoints were impartial, I am still of that opinion, but I happened to show the editorial on the question to a lawyer and asked him for his opinion. He thought that although the editorial ~~appeared~~ impartial, it still seemed to have a leaning for the Youth Council group. ~~slight~~

2. I think I can agree with you. My wording or phrasing or summing up is faulty. But of course it would not be strictly in order to take it for granted that my views were formed (on this matter) solely on what you stated.

3. This statement is erroneous, and needs some modification. I have enclosed the facts for comparison. Incidentally, this is one of the crucial points you make in your letter.

4. I don't know who hired Virtue. If the Central Committee did, Virtue would be responsible to them, not to the Japanese Canadians or even to the individual delegates who make up the Central Committee. I imagine that Central Committee will act on majority ~~opinion~~ decision. This point I want to make for your reference and for checking purposes. Possibly you could get around this by saying that a particular section of the delegates were opposed though the majority favored it. If he is to confer with his clients, it would be conferring with the body which hired him. If that is ~~the~~ central committee, he would probably have to concern himself with ~~what~~ whether they asked him to go or not. If it was on divided opinion, that is a problem for the Central Committee--not Virtue. Perhaps you had better make sure of your ground here.

5. What do you think ~~are~~/~~the~~ I should have said. I know I didn't say the right thing, but I'd like to know how you would have worded the "charge" or opinion or whatever may be stated at this point--for my own reference.

6. I think you're stretching a point here, first by taking the charge on to yourself, when Virtue remains quite general in his statement; and second, ~~by~~ by a slightly different interpretation of what he actually says

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FOR

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in his letter.

I'm just

in Canadian

ORGAN FOR CANADIANS OF JAPANESE ORIGIN

504 TALBOT AVE.,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

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in his letter.

I'm just making these points because we want to protect you and ourselves. I think the letter could be made more watertight, and less pointed towards Virtue.

I am eager to print your statement, but the one serious error (3) should be corrected. You may revise other sections too, but I leave that to your discretion. And one final point. I don't want to get into too much trouble over this controversy, so if a legal authority advises me that it would be harmful to print your letter, I am going to give his advice careful thought. I feel sure, however, that you can pick holes in Virtue's letter without risking ~~your~~ your (and my) neck.

If a general tone of your letter seems to cast a doubt on Virtue's honesty or sincerity, that can be taken as libel--unless you can prove your statements or substantiate the thing to the satisfaction of the judge. You have to remember that you are dealing with a lawyer, and you know they're pretty smart.

I think the important point is: who hired Virtue? Virtue can be attacked or challenged on the concrete opinions that he expresses in his letter. However the question of need or advisability of hiring him has nothing to do with Virtue (technically) in my opinion. If Virtue persuaded the Joint Committee, you can't make that an accusation. The Joint Committee should not have been persuaded. So the criticism should be levied at the Joint Committee.

Please treat this letter confidentially--keep it to yourself and Mas Sunada. However you can discuss any points I raise with anyone. I don't want to give the impression that I favor any faction. That would ruin my chances with influence of the opposing faction. And we are interested in bringing all groups in Alberta behind the National JCCA.

Sincerely

Kasen

Over

I think it will be advisable to tone
down any accusations - it will add to the
effectiveness, and will win more
supporters -

Am enclosing two special envelopes for
early reply —

Sincerely
Foley

I hope to see you again — ~~for~~

Jill writes again ^{now}

personally —

Please don't get
the impression that I'm against Youth Council
or JCCA — I'm not

apparent

Virtue

reminded by the fact that
the government is prepared
to ensure, however, that
the opinion of the
public is taken into
account. 24. 1947-1948

Facts for Souther Alberta

1. Jan. 24, 1947--The Prime Minister said: "...the government is of the opinion that the sales were made at a fair price... To ensure, however, the fair treatment promised in 1944, the government is prepared, in cases where it can be established that a sale was made a less than a fair market value, to remedy the injustice."

2. Feb. 18, 1947 --Mr. Gibson, secretary of state said: "I cannot give my hon. friend particulars yet as to how these Japanese claims will be ahndled. The matter is under consideration at the present time, and no decision has yet been reached. It is difficult to know just yet the extent and number of the claims and what would be the best way of handling them, but that matter is receiving consideration."

Mr. Gibson also said on the same day: "I feel that it may be necessary to set up another commission, as was done before, to hear these cases and decide whether the valuations put on by the government or the valuations put on by the Japanese are correct." This second statement was made before the first statement in the same discussions of matters concerning the Custodian.

3. March 15 1947--Andrew Brewin of Co-op Committee has interview with Secretary of state. Results unknown. Brewin urged appointment of 3-man claims commission.

May - Public accounts hearing held in May during which Brewin testified as to Japanese losses. May 27, at final day of this hearing, Co-op committee delegation of Mrs. MacMillan

Brewin and George Tanaka urged the appointment of claims commission with sufficient powers to make fair and just settlement. In the meantime JCCD continuing their survey of losses, almost concluded.

June 17, Public Accounts committee recommends in its report to House of Commons that claims commission be established.

June 27, Commons approves above report by passing it.

July Commission appointed.

Those who oppose the retention of Mr. V. for the Joint Comm. say

1. It is dangerous to place implicit faith in one man, however, capable and well-meaning he may be.

The pro-V. have repeatedly said that they trusted the man implicitly. You may recall that such a statement once made it's appearance on your paper I have heard them say the same thing time and time again.

2. It is wiser to have the general public behind us. That is work with the local consultative Comm. and the various church groups, the Community Council, the Civil Liberties Union etc.

In spite of repeated urgings from the Youth groups the Joint Comm. refused to get in contact with the local Con. Comm. Needless to say very little or no effort has been made in connection with the other groups. Mr V. is a member of the con. Comm and is also a prominent member of the Baptist Church. Is it not strange that their aid has not been summoned?

3. In the interest of the whole it is wiser to work in close co-operation with the other Japanese Canadians across Canada.

Because of their implicit faith in Mr. V. the joint comm group favour the "alberta first" policy. Their stand of "horyu-seikan" regarding the J.CCA is indicative of their leanings.

To my mind, most of the troubles stem from the difference of opinions on these three points. Of course, whenever there's an exchange of conflicting ideas, personalities intrude to complicate matters. As you know it has happened here too. However that that may be, if the isseis could swallow some of their "goddam" pride and stop wasting everybody's time with their eternal "face-saving" tactics. I'm sure the other difference could be ironed out. Pride and reason do not mix. No need of going into the issei mentality.

Now, you can see why the pro JCCA do not compromise with the pro-V's. Compromise may be effected only when the difference is minor or is just in the method. When the controversy is over the basic idea there can be no such thing for then, it would be sacrificing the principle

You can gather from what I have written, how strongly Mr V. figures in the trouble here is S. Alberta. However, the blame should not be placed wholly on Mr. V 's door. It can be that he in his own way is doing his best-- his naive statement "seeking to contribute to the general good of his fellow men". notwithstanding. Rather, the blame lies largely on the door-steps of the Isseis who failed to see the over-all picture of conditions. And their refusal to see the things after they are pointed out to them is causing all these troubles to-day. Pride and self-importance is not conducive to

Re: making trips for vague purposes to Ottawa and Edmonton.
 Mr. V. is right in saying that the trips weren't made with vague purposes. The purpose was clear enough, but it is the method and result that is under question

Re trip to Edmonton April 27

We went up there with the Jap delegation as "spokesman therefor" only. He did not have the backing of the people of this community. The delegation could have had the endorsement of the local Con. Comm. of which Mr. V. is a member. Also they could have had the endorsement of the beet growers (purely on a business basis though -- Alta Japs are good workers, indispensable for the beet industry etc. They were not prepared to argue the matter on a moral basis, however) The former was not even consulted. The latter refused to have anything to do with the delegation because Mr. V. was connected with it--they hate his guests. Needless to say, no other group were asked to help in any capacity. The delegation went to Edmonton solely on their own. So when Mr. V. appeared before Mr. Manning and the cabinet as "spokesman therefor" and presented his (no doubt) beautifully prepared brief there was no push behind it at all. They were courteously received and given a hearing of course. But that was about all that took place. In his letter to the N. C. he states "the desired result was attained" Just what the desired result was he does not say. You can bet your life that had there been any result he'd let us know in no uncertain terms. As matters stand there has been no tangible result creditable to the delegation's work. Mr. V. conveniently slurs over the whole question with the desired result was attained" If the purpose was to go to Edmonton only to present the brief, then the "desired result was attained" If the purpose was to get some action from the government the desired result was not attained. It boiled down to this. The purpose was good but for the result attained, time, money and energy, were unwisely spent. Considering the times and the governmental attitude, it was foreseen that nothing concrete could come of such a delegation and the youth group did their darndest to dissuade the Isseis

Re: trip to Ottawa May 8 to 9th

At that time, to quote Mr. V. "a crucial point in the negotiation was at hand."

The point is, who had been working to bring about this crucial point, and where does Mr. V. fit into the scheme. It cannot be argued that his representation in Ottawa had no effect at all, because in all probability, it did have some effect. The very fact that he saw the Ministers would have some effect. Of course he is careful in pointing out the fact that he was not the sole cause?

Dear Mr. Editor:

Apparently your editorial has been taken in the wrong spirit. No doubt in your trip through Alberta you arrived at certain conclusions of your own, which, of course, you used as a basis for your editorial of January 19th entitled "Trouble in Southern Alberta." It was unfortunate that perhaps the heading of your editorial was not exactly clear-cut. Your impartial view-point has been misconstrued into partiality for a certain element, which has led to Mr. Virtue to make certain strong statements accusing persons of distorting facts.

Mr. Virtue has made an issue of the statement, "vague purposes to Ottawa and Edmonton". Unfortunately your phraseology did not convey the true reasons for objections to Mr. Virtue's trips. Let us take the trip to Ottawa. We did not charge that the purpose was vague. As Mr. Virtue states, there was the purpose, certainly, but Mr. Virtue infers he believes that the appointment of the commission was due in some measure as a result of his trip to Ottawa. What he does not state is the fact that the Government had already promised to set-up a commission. Therefore, at the time of Mr. Virtue's trip, we contended that we work in conjunction with the Toronto Co-operative Committee to have a favourable type of commission set-up. It must be remembered that it was through the campaigning of the Co-operative Committee that the Government finally did promise to set-up a commission. May we point out to Mr. Virtue that the whole of the Southern Alberta Central Committee was not in favour of the trip. And would like to advise Mr. Virtue to confer with his clients to get his facts straight.

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it was untrue. However, as we pointed out before, it was the inaccurate wording of the "charge" by the editorial writer that caused this furor. May we ask that in future, more care be given matters so that a correct picture is presented thus eliminating these unpleasantries. We are not attacking Mr. Virtue nor the editor, we, in our feeble and simple way are trying to present ALL the facts.

Libel -- Mr. Virtue mentions libel. Libel is defined as "any public act or writing, defaming the character of another or to defame through malice." We vehemently deny Mr. Virtue's charge that we are trying to "defame character or defame through malice" or are "desirous of distorting facts". May we point out to Mr. Virtue that words such as "desirous of distorting facts" and making "misrepresentations" are of a libelous nature.

We have written this letter, because we feel that we are responsible for some of the information upon which you, Mr. Editor, have based your editorial.

Sincerely believing that this is not a letter of libelous nature but just a supplement to give the over-all picture, we remain

Yours very truly,

"we challenge you to publish this letter in its' entirety, not someone's interpretation of it."

The New Canadian

—WEEKLY NEWSPAPER—

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Aug 17 1947

Dear Min:

I arrived in Winnipeg this a.m. and looked into the school matter immediately.

I found that it is possible to get your entrance standing in one year at
Winnipeg Tutorial Institute
214 Enderton Building
Winnipeg

They have evening course up to Christmas on language and mathematics and day course after Christmas on certain other courses...something like that. Cost would be \$6 per month for night school and \$12 per month for day courses.

The night classes have started last week, but it may be possible to get private tutor to catch up on back work and start digging in with the rest. I think the plan is okay but it would mean pretty quick action on your part, and it may be advisable for you to get to Winnipeg at least during October, and sooner the better.

I'll look around some more, and go up there also to try to get more dope.

Let me know how things stack up with you and the possibilities of you making a decision on the matter. I think I can offer you a part time job here to cover your board and fees at least without too much time being demanded, should you be interested.

Sincerely

Kasey Oyama

The New Canadian

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue
WINNIPEG, MAN.
Sept 22 1947

Dear Min:

Thanks for your letter and enclosure of Sept 1.

Hope you'll keep sending them in while you're there, but I want to give you more dope on school.

This Winnipeg Tutorial institute apparently take in students all the time, so it won't matter if you're a little late.

If you decide to come I'll do all I can to help; your board will be assured in a fairly good home in a fairly quite district.

Since there is the matter of planning, as far as our paper is concerned, I'd like to get your decision on the matter at the earliest convenience. Of course I would urge you strongly to start the course at the first opportunity rather than leaving it until next year.

Sincerely

Kasey

P.S. Looks like this legal committee you got is excellent especially as Virtue isn't on it.

What about giving me confidential dope on what happened at that Tuesday's executive Meeting? Of course I'll respect your confidence and not publish the contents. I'm also wondering how Sakumoto san and Aeki sensei will take to the new legal committee.

The New Canadian

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue
WINNIPEG, MAN.
Oct. 4 1947

Dear Min:

Received your Oct. 1 letter; and statement re Virtus. I would suggest you send copies of this letter to the various Japanese committee in Alberta if you think it worth while, but I think it would be unwise to publish it.

Regarding room and board, I think the best way is to board with us, as I suggested before. There is a large size double bed with good springs on which Frank Moritsugu is now sleeping. We have a studio couch too which can be converted into a double bed, but I think it would be more suitable if you could share the bedroom with Frank.

You won't have to bring any bedding.

Also as I said before, your part time work will be sufficient to cover your board and school fees at least--depending on how much time your study will take etc., the final arrangement will be made.

Middle of the month is excellent with us, since you will get here in plenty time to give us a hand with with Xmas edition.

(local news)

Try and pick up some dope at wherever you go if you have the chance.

Yours sincerely

Kasey

The New Canadian

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Oct 20 1947

Dear Min:

I was disappointed when I received your letter of Oct. 14, but I don't think badly of you on this account at all.

I realize that you've reached your decision after careful thought, and after all you are the one who should make your decisions.

Your cousin Taxi phoned me before the day you were scheduled to arrive, and the two of us were down at the station. We were wondering what on earth happened when you didn't arrive.

Although this will mean a delay in your education, I hope you won't give ~~up~~ it up. I believe you'll never be satisfied until you've got your degree, and I also know that you'll never regret it when you do go through... Even if it doesn't make such a heck of a big difference in earning capacity or anything of that sort. But I find that in most cases, schooling does make a difference in earning capacity eventually. One of the contributions has an interesting article on this which we are planning to run one of these weeks.

Well, lots of luck anyway, and don't forget to keep in touch. If you wish to take us up on our offer of part time work, you'll be my first choice as long as we have an opening.

Yours sincerely

Kasy

The New Canadian

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue

WINNIPEG, MAN.

Feb 10 1948

Confidential

Dear Min:

You will no doubt have seen George Tanaka by this time. I showed him my correspondence with you regarding the Virtue problem, in order to ~~keep him~~ keep him fully informed. I had been waiting to hear from you so we could say something about Virtue's briefs.

Failing to hear from you, however, I tried to pick holes in Virtue's letter myself. It isn't very easy to do safely, and at the same time ~~hope~~ to have the support of many people who are critical of Mr. Virtue.

I thought that point about "desired results" was a good point of attack, but I find it isn't exceptionally good. If you will carefully read the same paragraph and possibly the preceding one, he elaborates on the fear in Alberta about the evacuees not being allowed to remain permanently. He has elaborated this into the main issue, and thus the "desired effect" can be inferred to mean a satisfactory solution on this specific question. If not an outward statement of assurance, the confidential assurance that the evacuees won't be chased out may be regarded by Mr. Virtue as the "desired effect."

byalta
gwt . Anyway I'm making reference to it in my editorial. I think a slight ridicule of Mr. Virtue's pompous claims may be the best method to adopt.

To go after him with sharper weapons may kick back because after all he is a lawyer.

Hoping to hear from you soon,

— over —

Had a very sharp letter from
Miss Bartling - Burned me up a
little because I'm trying to be
do my best

Sincerely

Kerry

The New Canadian

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

A MEDIUM OF EXPRESSION FOR JAPANESE CANADIANS

504 Talbot Avenue
WINNIPEG, MAN.

Confidential

Feb 11 1948

Dear Min:

Thanks for letter to editor received this a.m.
is

I think it ~~was~~ a great improvement, and am making space for it this week. I have also asked the printer to hold up the editorial I had already written in order to let your letter stand out by itself, and not to give the impression that we were ganging up on Virtue.

I took the editorial liberty to make ver minor changes which does not change the meaning, but makes certain parts more specific.

The only important change I made was to change the word "charge" to "insinuate." I think these slight changes bring out the intent of your letter more clearly so that you can't be tripped up by critics.

Regards

Kasey

From the strictly editorial viewpoint, I value your letter because it shows that we do not necessarily endorse all the crap by Virtue, which however has definite information value.