

C3129-1-7

You will note from that, no action was necessary
by us in connection with the alleged malingerers at the
Japanese camps at Yellowhead and Revelstoke projects. To
that communication I attached Cst. Davidson's report of April 9, 1943, para.
3 of which dealt with that particular situation. Davidson
dealt with the general situation amongst the
Japanese and your attention is drawn to paragraph 3 in
connection therewith. I think it might be well for me to
reiterate Davidson's comments in connection with the gener

Personal & Confidential.

Dear Mr. MacNamara,-

I am attaching copy of a personal discuss
letter received from Assistant Commissioner Hill of
Vancouver, under date of April 6th, which I think may
be of interest to you. I interviewed ex-3.A.'s 409 and 419.

From this report that he states there is a
general feeling of distrust amongst all
Japanese, due to rumours and contradictory statements. Mr.
Collins was with Davidson when many of the Japanese gave
him this information and it is to be seen that the contra-
dictory statements are chiefly (F. J. Mead).
The Supervisors
at the various work projects and interior camps.

Yours very truly,

MacNamara Esq.,
Deputy Minister,
Department of Labour,
Ottawa.

~~PA [Signature]~~

were ironed out on this
and one typical instance might be related here. It
seems that at one camp the foreman complained that the cook
did not function properly. It was found that the cook was
from Steveston and while he was doing
his best, he was not an experienced cook. When

FJM/W.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

Vancouver, B.C.

April 6, 1943.

DIV. FILE No.

H. Q. FILE No.

PERSONAL

My dear Jack:

I sent an official airmail communication to the Commissioner this morning, in reply to your airmail memorandum of April 2nd, 1943, under the following heading: "Japanese Non-workers - Yellowhead-Blue River and Revelstoke-Sicamous Projects".

You will note from that, no action was necessary by us in connection with the alleged malingerers at the Japanese camps at Yellowhead and Revelstoke projects. To that communication I attached Cst. Davidson's report, para. 5 of which dealt with that particular situation. Davidson's report also dealt with the general situation amongst the Japanese and your attention is drawn to paragraph 3 in connection therewith. I think it might be well for me to enlarge on Davidson's comments in connection with the general situation.

He took the opportunity on this trip to discuss the situation generally with many Japanese and was able to get an idea of the general feeling of these people at this time. He particularly interviewed ex-S.A.'s 409 and 419. You will note from this report that he states there is a general feeling of distrust and discontentment amongst all Japanese, due to rumours and contradictory statements. Mr. Collins was with Davidson when many of the Japanese gave him this information and it is to be seen that the contradictory statements are chiefly issued by the Supervisors themselves at the various work projects and interior camps.

Many minor difficulties were ironed out on this trip and one typical instance might be related here. It seems that at one camp the foreman complained that the cook did not function properly. It was found that the cook was formerly a fisherman from Steveston and while he was doing his best, he certainly was not an experienced cook. When this information was imparted to the foreman, endeavours were made to have a man more suitable for the position, instead of penalising the fisherman as was at first the foreman's desire.

Much discontent is evidenced over the question of cameras, cars and radios. All the Japanese complain that the Custodian's office has charged them amounts equal to or exceeding the price realized on the sale of the car as handling charges. One car was sold by the Custodian, which was, in the opinion of the Japanese owner worth \$200. He received a cheque for \$7.50 and promptly returned it to the Custodian, refusing to accept it. Another one, as pointed out in Davidson's report, was charged \$5.00 over and above the value of the car, for selling services.

Mr. F.J. Mead,
C.M. Police,
OTTAWA, Ont.

These incidents have aroused in the Japanese mind some concern as to whether or not they will get anything from the sale of their property, which is now being undertaken by the Custodian's office. Another point mentioned in Davidson's report is that the older people influence the younger ones not to move to work which might be provided for them in the East. Many Japanese have stated that when they were being evacuated from the coastal areas, they were told that they would be required to live in the town or project to which they were evacuated and most of them went with fairly good grace. They have become settled in their new homes. Many of them have started little gardens and feel very keenly the fact that they are now required to move again.

Up until this time I do not think Mr. Collins had had an opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the Japanese and their psychology, but on this particular trip he had a very good opportunity of learning from many Japanese first-hand, the things that cause dissention and lack of co-operation with the new placement policy. We are co-operating with him in every respect and I feel that he will be able to make adjustments locally as these incidents crop up and thus avoid the necessity of any drastic action.

I feel that Mr. Collins, during this trip with Davidson, for whom the Japanese have a most wholesome respect, was for the first time able to get into close contact with them. On previous inspections he had always been in the hands of the Supervisors and I feel that this trip has been most beneficial to him, as he now realizes that it is nothing more or less than a number of minor incidents which have been and are still making them suspicious. I personally feel that in many cases a lot of our difficulties would have been overcome had the supervisors used better judgment.

There is one point that I would like to make absolutely clear and that is the Government is not going to gain anything if it is decided to force some of these people into the Eastern labour market in any capacity, as if a move of this nature should be considered, they will simply become mulish and in my opinion it would be far better to continue to keep work projects on a voluntary basis.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

C H Hill

(C. H. Hill)

*osp. Savil has
and. No 5/2.*