

3464-AM-40

Department

ffairs

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FILE 3464-AM-40

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25-1-43
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Subject:

VISIT BY S. MORLEY SCOTT TO JAPANESE
SETTLEMENTS, JANUARY 1943
--REPORTS RE.

PAC

References to Related Files

File No.	Subject
3464-A-40	VISITS BY VARIOUS PERSONS TO JAPANESE INTERNMENT
	CAMPS IN CANADA--ARRANGEMENTS & REPORTS.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES / ARCHIVES CANADIENNES
DEPOT DES ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
OTTAWA

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SMS/CC

February 18, 1943.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS

File No. 3464-AM-40

Sub. Chron. Filed

MAINTENANCE OF JAPANESE IN CANADA

On January 6th or 7th in Vancouver, Mr. George Collins raised with me the question whether the Commission could assess the liquid assets (by which is meant, I think, property not with the Custodian) for maintenance. That is, can Commission refuse relief to Japanese having such assets until such assets are exhausted? These would include bank balances, bonds, stocks and the like. Mr. Collins added that if real property were converted into liquid assets, it was supposed that the proceeds of such a sale would remain with the Custodian and would not be involved. He said that occidentals were not usually given relief if they have funds of their own. The Commission will allow a certain minimum proportion, \$50.00, to be retained by the Japanese. I said that I would ascertain the views of the Department.

During the trip I gathered that there was no uniformity of practice in the settlements. Indeed, in one place I got the impression that if a Japanese has spent as much as \$50.00 of his own money, he could then claim relief.

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GREENWOOD

We spent only an hour or two at Greenwood at dusk on January 13th. Greenwood is isolated from the other Japanese settlements. It is on the main line of the Kettle Valley, but only reachable by train by stopping off twenty-four hours. I believe it comes under Mr. Boulton's charge as general supervisor of interior towns.

It is a ghost town with no new bungalows and very few new buildings of any sort. We visited some of the old hotels and rooming houses which are typical of those in ghost towns generally. They are large, usually three stories, with wide halls, very ugly, reasonably warm, extremely crowded and perhaps fire traps. Usually one family lives in one room. The people seem reasonably content and probably are no worse housed than they used to be. They seem to prefer Greenwood to other newer settlements.

We saw the Committee headed by Rev. Fr. Katsuno, a Roman Catholic priest. Most Roman Catholic Japanese are in Greenwood, but not all the population is Roman Catholic, perhaps only 120 Families.

The school is run by a Roman Catholic sisterhood with five teachers, all graduates of the University of Washington, D.C. The money all comes from the head of the sisterhood. There are eight grades and, I think, a commercial high school class. The school is a former fire-hall and said to be very nice though we did not see it. The text-books are provided by the Japanese. There are 85 in the kindergarten and 430 in the grades, Protestant and Catholic alike.

Points raised by the Committee were:-

1. Relief too low, especially if the third person in the family were an adult such a person would draw only \$5.00 instead of \$11.00.

2. Only about 60 people had work in shops, domestic service and on farms. The farming season is very short.

3. Wood is green.

4. Emergency permits to travel take too long. This has since been changed.

5. Some unhealthy rooms with no outside light. Some overcrowded. Mr. Boulton said that this was true, but that when individual families were invited to move to better houses, would decline in order to stay with their friends. The delegation pointed out that things happened when the Red Cross Delegate came along, but then lapsed again.

6. Special favours were desired for Canadian nationals.

7. Information desired about repatriation.

8. Rice still rather scarce, but some had recently arrived. They claim they need one lb. per person per day, which is more than the Commission thinks they need. Rice is eleven cents a lb. Fish is available but very expensive as compared with the coast.

British Columbia Security Commission

Lerna Cook

Dear Sirs:

Please give the following your immediate and most kind consideration.

1. Maintenance Allowance.

Due to the rising costs of commodities, it has become impossible for families to exist on the present rates of allowance. We were given to understand by the B. C. Security Commission that the rates of relief would be raised in proportion to the rising cost of living, but this has not been done. In fact the rates have been lowered from the original.

We suggest that the following rates, at least, be granted.

a. One person	-	\$18.00
b. Second person	-	15.00
c. Child	-	9.00

These rates, of course, must be raised in proportion to the rising cost of living.

2. Supplementary (Children's) Allowance

Some families have received their children's allowances, but there are others that have not. We would like to know the reason. If, however, no more allowances are to be granted, we desire a cost of living bonus or an increase in wages be given us.

3. Due to the light structure of the houses, and not enough weather insulation, and the shortage of heaters, there are many houses that have mattresses and palliases that are extremely damp. This is very serious from a health standpoint, and unless some improvement is made immediately, we fear a possibility of many more persons becoming extremely sick, due to this condition. All palliases should be replaced with mattresses, as they are in such conditions that are seriously injurious to health. We would like heaters to be distributed to houses without them.

4. Necessary medicine and medical supplies are lacking here, and we feel that no matter how high the prices may be of these medicine and supplies, they should be placed here. We request that necessary medicine be supplied free to people who need them but cannot afford them.

Lemon Creek Japanese Committee

Per. Signed. (T. Watanabe...)

Signed (K. Tateishi)

Signed (S. Uchiban)

Signed (T. Abe)

Lemon Creek Women's Association

Mrs. T. Towata (signed)

Mrs. Y. Kawaguchi (signed)

cod	Frozen	.274	per	lb
herring	Fresh	.200	"	"
salmon	Smoked	.280	"	"
	Salts	.270	"	"
calf liver				
steak heart		.300	per	lb
year ribs		.250	"	"
beef steak		.200	"	"
egg		.250	"	"
hamburger		.200	"	"
pork		.150	"	"
kidney		.200	"	"
lamb chops		.200	"	"
roast sausage		.100	"	"
beef loaf		.270	"	"
fine bacon		.200	"	"
weiner		.500	"	"
round steak		.200	"	"
pork tenderloin		.400	"	"
lard		.400	"	"
roasted chicken		.150	"	"
bakery shortening		.250	"	"
cooking cheese		.250	"	"
butter	1st Grade	.400	"	"
	2nd "	.400	"	"
EGGS	A Grade	.500	"	"

SMS/CC
February 3, 1943.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
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S A N D O N

Mr. Maag and I visited this settlement on January 15, 1943. It is reached by car in one or two hours from New Denver. The drive is a very beautiful one, though the village itself is not particularly attractive. It is a ghost town consisting of two or three streets in a narrow valley. The stream runs under-ground under the main street. The houses are all old ones, mostly abandoned hotels and rooming houses. There are no amusements other than the hall of a fraternal order in which we saw some fencing being done. There are several private shops run by occidentals. There are only twenty white residents. The Japanese were the first group to be evacuated in June, 1942, and there is a very high percentage of old people. They seem pretty content and the Commission thinks it one of the least troublesome communities. Young folk would be pretty unhappy here. The community is Buddhist and the Buddhists look with disfavour on dancing and the like. The Protestant church has become a Buddhist temple. The spokesman is a Buddhist priest, Rev. Mr. Katatsu. We saw him and three other persons, and a female interpreter.

The hospital is under a Japanese doctor, University of Alberta, one R.N. and several Japanese aides. All medicines are free. Only emergency operations are performed, others going to New Denver. The dentist comes weekly. There is no equipment here. The doctor seems satisfactory to Japanese. Patients on relief are not charged.

There is very little work done there, being no land for farming or fruit, or even gardens. This place will always be on relief, both because of its situation and its population.

COMPLAINTS -

1. Prices higher than in other towns. I think this is true.
2. Relief too low.
3. There is no passenger transportation to New Denver.
No bus or train - only way is by Commission trucks.
4. Mail from internment camps sometimes takes three or four months. There is a Government Post Office here with three mails weekly. The personal message system works alright.