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COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
DÉLÉGATION AU CANADA

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DELEGATE

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Comité International de la Croix-Rouge,
Palais du Conseil Général,
Genève, Suisse.

Report on Visit to Settlements of JAPANESE removed from the Defence Area on the Pacific Coast, in the Province of British Columbia, Canada.

On January 9, 1943 I attended a meeting in Vancouver of the British Columbia Security Commission (B.C.S.C.), which is entrusted with the removal of the Japanese from the protected areas. Present at the meeting were Mr. Austin TAYLOR, Chairman, Mr. John SHIRAS, Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Lyall HODGINS, M.D., Member of the Advisory Board of the B.C.S.C., Mr. W.A. EASTWOOD, General Manager, B.C.S.C., Mr. S. Morley SCOTT, of the Department of External Affairs, Ottawa, Mr. Howard PAMMETT, of the Department of Labour, Ottawa, and Mr. George COLLINS, Superintendent, B.C.S.C., as well as the writer.

At this meeting it was pointed out that the removal of the Japanese from the protected area was completed by the end of October, 1942, and that all the residents of Canada of Japanese race are now outside the defence area, with very few exceptions. The location of the various settlements, the number of occupants and their nationality according to the statistics of the B.C.S.C., are given on Annexes A, B, C and D attached to this report.

I was also given to understand that inasmuch as the evacuation is now completed, the internal organization of the B.C.S.C. is being modified and Mr. George Collins, under the Department of Labour, is to be in full charge of the administration.

In company of Mr. Collins, Mr. Scott, Mr. Pammett and Mr. Eastwood, and two representatives of the Custodian for Enemy Property, we visited on January 11 the warehouses where the personal property of Japanese families is stored in Vancouver, pending disposal of these articles, either by restoration to the owners where permissible, continued storage or by sales, with subsequent compensation to the owners. All the property is duly identified as to ownership and stored in safe and adequate buildings.

Business calls were also made by several members of the last mentioned party in connection with the possible manufacture or purchase of soy bean sauce (Shoyu) for the Japanese Settlements. This sauce is much in demand and ways and means are being sought by the Dominion Government to assure an adequate supply of it to the Settlements.

On January 11 a visit was also made to the T.B. Hospital which is still maintained at Hastings Park in Vancouver, which was the clearing station for the Japanese prior to their evacuation. There are only a limited number of patients left at this hospital, namely 98, both men and women, and they are under the able care of Canadian doctors and nurses. A typical menu given at this hospital is enclosed in Annex E. It will be noted from this menu that those requiring special diets are particularly cared for. A new hospital for tubercular patients is under construction at New Denver, B.C., accommodating 200 patients, and we are to visit the site of this new hospital later in our itinerary.

From



From the breakdown of Annexes A to D it would appear that the Japanese population of British Columbia is estimated at about 23,000 persons and that of these an average of 26% are considered Japanese nationals.

On January 12 I left Vancouver at 7 a.m. per motor car for Hope, B.C. and from there drove to the town of Tashme, B.C., which is a new town, built specially to house Japanese evacuees. The name "Tashme", it may be of interest to note, was coined from the three names Taylor - Shiras - Mead, who are the members of the B.C. Security Commission. Tashme is about fourteen miles from Hope, B.C.

TASHME, B.C., January 12, 1943; population 2644, of which 796 are Japanese nationals. Whole families of all age groups are housed here in 346 houses, including 23 duplexes and about 40 apartments, and one dormitory for about 90 bachelors of all ages. The families are not separated but live together. The settlement was started on July 9, 1942, but the mass of the occupants arrived between September 10 and the end of October, 1942. The houses consist largely of wooden structures 14' x 28', subdivided into three sections - a living-kitchen in the center and one bedroom on either side. Small families up to four people occupy one side only, whereas larger families occupy a whole house. The houses are heated by wood stoves, but the large buildings, including bachelors' quarters and school house, are heated by steam. Each family does its own cooking and washing.

RELIEF

People on maintenance relief are receiving \$11.00 per person per month, but this amount is paid to a maximum of two people in one family, and for the remainder of the family \$4.00 per person per month is being paid. A family of four would therefore receive \$30.00 per month plus shelter, wood, coal oil for lighting and, of course, free water.

PAY

Persons who are working receive regular pay. 25¢ per hour for an eight hour day is paid to all common labor and this constitutes the minimum remuneration. 2 1/2¢ for shelter are taken off this pay per hour. Single men get 17 1/2¢ per hour net, plus food. Skilled labor, carpenters, plumbers, mechanics, etc. receive 27 1/2¢ net per hour and some who supply their own tools get up to 32 1/2¢ net. Four foremen in Tashme receive 37 1/2¢ net per hour.

3 It is claimed that a family of five nets about \$50.00 per month for maintenance, without taking care of clothes, whereas a family of four average \$43.00 per month for the last two months, whereas the men actually made \$65.00 per month working, but the basic rate is only \$45.00 per month if working. It is claimed that about 600 male and female are on the payrolls at present and that not more than 100 are on maintenance relief.

700 school age children up to 14 years and 180 high school children from 14 to 18 are at this settlement, and an adequate school building to house all is under construction and will be ready for occupancy next week.

HOSPITAL

A very large and modern hospital is under construction and expected to be ready by the end of January. Medical services are claimed to be not satisfactory, although there are one British and one Japanese doctor and two nurses in the settlement, but it is claimed that they are not usually responding to calls at night except in very urgent cases. Three deaths have occurred since the settlement was started, viz. one male, 58 years old, died of a heart attack, one male, 18 years old, died of Meningitis, and one female, 54 years old, died of Cancer.

The British doctor is Mr. Cook, M.D., and the name of the Japanese doctor is M. Shimokura, a graduate of Toronto University and also holding a Japanese degree. The dentist is Dr. T. Kuguhara, who holds a United States degree and practiced in Vancouver before evacuation. He is lacking equipment as yet but remedy of this situation has



has been promised.

ONO Yoshio, United Church clergyman from the Japanese Mission on Vancouver Island, says that there are about 500 Protestants, about 50 Catholics, and the rest are Buddhists. He himself is not a member of the Japanese National Committee and works in the camp as an ordinary laborer.

TSUYUKI Kaizo, Member of the Japanese National Committee (by vote), in private life office worker, is motion picture operator and also works as laborer. He says that so far they have had two film shows, for which they charged 10¢ entrance fee for grown-ups and 5¢ for children, which netted \$120.00 and which was donated for Christmas gifts to Japanese internees and sponsored by the Youth Organization of the settlement.

STORE

A very large general store is maintained and I satisfied myself that the prices charged are standard prices. I have asked to be supplied with a recent price list showing the variety of goods held for sale and this list has been promised.

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

NIHEI Kumaji, Member of the National Committee, painter by trade, is fire chief of the village and says that he has 2000 ft. of fire hose and 8 nozzles, but only eight axes and 24 water barrels. He informed me that the Provincial Fire Inspector was in the settlement and made strict investigation, and that the recommendations will be carried out. A fire hose tower is under construction and almost finished.

4
There is no electric light in the houses but only in the administrative buildings and apartment houses. Oil, however, for the lamps is supplied to all houses without charge and is claimed to amount to 90 gallons per day. All wood cutting, splitting and transport of wood is paid for as labor. No charge is made for the wood.

EDUCATION

It is claimed that the students have not enough text books (one book for four children). 26 teachers are available. OKUDA, H., a University of British Columbia graduate, is supervisor of the educational scheme and he tells me that high school courses by correspondence are possible from the Provincial School Commission in Victoria, but that an entrance fee of \$2.00 is required and a charge of \$9.00 per subject per term, with a minimum of five subjects. No books are provided. The teachers receive \$30.00 per month and \$45.00 is paid to the supervisor, plus meals. This is considered to be insufficient by the Spokesman and more favorable adjustment is desired. Since 1941 no teaching in the Japanese language is permitted in the Province of British Columbia. All teaching, therefore, is done in the English language.

HOUSING

The Spokesman expressed a desire to have the houses improved by the addition of inner linings to the walls in order to overcome dampness. Another 130 stoves should be supplied in addition to the 100 which already have been distributed. These heaters are additional to the cooking stoves which are provided in each house. It is also pointed out that electric light installed in all houses would be much appreciated.

POST OFFICE

The Committee expressed a desire to have a Government Post Office in the community. The nearest post office is at Hope, B.C. and a handling charge of 10% on parcels and money orders is made for delivery at Tashme. This request - according to the administration - will be granted. The Committee also pointed out that some 500 Red Cross Postal Message Scheme forms are desired at once and these too will be furnished by the Post Office.

I was asked by Mrs. KAJIRO, whose husband is interned at Camp #101, and who is living in Tashme with her eleven year old girl, to inform her husband that both are well and that they have applied for repatriation to Japan, which request has been granted, but nothing has so far been done about it.



A general idea of this camp and its lay-out can be obtained from photographs 1 to 6 in the enclosed album which forms part of this report. These photographs were taken by the writer on occasion of the visit and they give a fairly good impression of the type of houses, etc.

Tashme will provide the settlers with a large acreage of arable land, where they can grow their own vegetables. Picture #6 shows a small section of the huge plateau which forms the bottom of the valley and which is very fertile; as can be seen on that photo, pigs and horses already form part of the animal life at this settlement.

5 The population gave the impression of contented people; the children were without exception adequately dressed and they enjoyed the winter sports which are afforded them there. A list in the Japanese language of all the inhabitants of this settlement was also given to me, this list forming Annex F attached hereto. The photo album is Annex G.

15-MILE ROAD CAMP:

15-Mile Camp is a lumber camp fifteen minutes walk from Tashme and 23 Japanese nationals (13 married and 10 single), with families in Tashme, work here. The spokesman is TAHARA Kunimi and the assistant spokesman KAMIMURA Kahei. These men say that the food supply is not regular and at times hardly sufficient. It is also claimed that the foreman (Mr. Murphy) at 15-Mile Camp has no sympathy for the Japanese and had to be reprimanded repeatedly and warned by the engineer in charge (Mr. Lowe). The married men would like to move into Tashme, especially four of them who already have made application. It is claimed that the wages compared with other road camps are lower, so, for instance, do axe men get only 25¢ per hour, the same as wood cutters, whereas in other camps they are receiving 30¢ per hour. It is also claimed that no first aid man is at 15-Mile Camp, although they have a first aid kit, and they claim that in case of an accident it would take them 25 minutes to bring a victim into Tashme. Unlike the settlement, this road camp is under the administration of the B.C. Provincial Department of Labour and not under the B.C. Security Commission.

Another claim made was that the men who are sick and work only part of the time have not enough spending money. The men are charged 75¢ per day for board and lodging and \$1.00 per month is deducted for medical care. No serious sickness has ever occurred in the road camp.

11-MILE ROAD CAMP: This camp is situated on the road from Tashme to Hope, 11 miles from Hope and 3 miles from Tashme. It is a road construction camp similar to the 15-Mile Camp but it is larger and houses 68 Japanese, of whom 49 are nationals and 19 Nisi. The camp was opened on March 15, 1942 and was visited by me in July, 1942. The families of about sixteen men live in Tashme (1 1/4 hrs. walk). Weekly visits with the families are permitted and the men can stay with their families over week-ends.

FOOD

No complaints are made about the food except that there have been irregularities in the supplies, but the Superintendent, Mr. Lowe, is getting over this trouble.

6 The Spokesman is YAMAGA Yasutaro (Japanese national), whereas the representative from House No.1 is TAMAI Katsumi and from House No.2 ISHII Teichi. Here too the claim is made that no trained first aid man is in the camp, although there is first aid equipment there. Hospitalization fee of \$1.00 per month is also deducted and income tax is paid by bachelors who make more than \$55.00 per month minimum. About 66% of the workers get 25¢ per hour and have little left over after board of 75¢ per day is paid.



paid. The oldest member of this camp is 73 years old. He is sawing wood merrily every day and does not wish to be transferred. The youngest is 19 years old. No comment about his prowess was made.

When a married man is laid up injured, no pay is given, but the B.C.S.C. used to pay \$20.00 per month to the family, but this too has been cut out now. No board is collected from injured and severe injuries of a permanent nature come under the compensation paid by the Workmen's Compensation Board.

There are two dormitories, dining hall, kitchen, bath, sheds, etc., and everything is very clean and proper. No complaints were made about the treatment and the question about the work being too hard was answered by broad smiles and shaking of the heads.

PRINCETON ROAD CAMPS

Returning to Hope in the evening, I was met by representatives of Camps Nos. 1, 2, and 3 of the Hope - Princeton Highway, and I had an interview with the following men:

- Camp No. 1 - YOKOME Mitsuo,
- " No. 2 - FUKABORI Jugoro,
- " No. 3 - SUGAYA Yoshiharu.

Camp No. 1 is known as "Red Buck"; has an occupancy of 80, of which 2 are Canadians, 1 naturalized and 77 nationals. It is eleven miles southwest of Princeton.

Camp No. 2 is known as "Copper Creek"; has an occupancy of 76, of which 3 are Canadian born, 1 naturalized and 72 Japanese nationals. It is 29 miles southwest of Princeton.

Camp No. 3 is known as "Princeton "; has an occupancy of 52, all Japanese nationals, and it is located 17 miles southwest of Princeton.

The representatives assured me that the treatment is absolutely satisfactory. There are no complaints about the food, but it was pointed out that at present only 1050 lbs of rice are left in the stores and they have no knowledge of how and where to get further supplies.

Newspapers, like in the other camps, are read daily. There is, however, no radio and no electric light. The men work eight hours daily on the road. The work is not hard. The pay is 25¢ per hour for labor, 30¢ for blacksmiths, saw filers, etc., 35¢ for carpenters with their own tools and foremen, and 40¢ per hour for teamsters. 75¢ per day is taken off for board and lodging and \$1.00 per month for medical care. Income tax for single men is deducted if the earnings exceed \$55.00 per month, but no deductions are made for Workmen's Compensation or Unemployment Insurance, although compensation is paid if permanent injury should occur to these men. Two men are 67 years old and two others are over 60 years, whereas the youngest is eighteen years old, a Canadian born Japanese, whose father is in the same camp. About 20% are between 20 and 30 years old. Cooks, firemen, cleaners around the camp and bunk houses are all paid. The sanitary installations are alright, including showers and Japanese style bath.

COMPLAINTS

It is very lonely in the mountains. The men would like a picture show once in a while and are wondering if it would not be possible to arrange a show in Princeton at least once a month. It is claimed that they spend up to \$1500.00 per month in Princeton and that the population there would not mind at all. The Japanese would, of course, gladly pay for the transportation and the admittance fee.

No. 2 Camp has a recreation hall housing about 25 men and baseball and skating are pastimes; also there is some skiing, but only two men could afford to buy skis so far.

No fishing is allowed in streams and lakes to the Japanese population and this privilege during the season would be much appreciated.



The pay of 25¢ per hour is considered not enough, because, as the Spokesmen pointed out, the work done would warrant a higher pay because they are really trying to cooperate and put in an honest day's work. During the cold weather and rain no protection is given when the men are driven to work in open trucks. They wonder if tarpaulins could be provided on the trucks, offering some shelter. Mr. Bowring is engineer in charge and the men claim that at first he was somewhat difficult but is alright now.

In case of need of manpower in industry, these men would like to be transferred. They also wanted to know why newlyweds are moved out of British Columbia. I had no answer to this question.

They also asked me for a list of all Japanese in Canada, so that the newspaper "The New Canadian" might be sent to all. They also wanted to know why applications for repatriation were stopped by the Protecting Power. I informed these men that the representative of the Protecting Power would be visiting them very shortly and that he probably would be in a position to answer this question. These men would also like to know definitely if the Japanese Red Cross or the Japanese Government are looking after and providing for the families in Japan, whose husbands are in Canada.

GREENWOOD, B.C. - January 13.

I was met by the following committee:

Rev. Father PETER, R.C. (KATSUNO Iwao, #12965,
EBISU, R., #05070,
SAKAMOTO, S. #09783,
NAKANO, Y. #09080.

The population of Greenwood is composed of:

739 Canadian born,
280 naturalized,
116 nationals,
14 not classified, making a total of

1199.

The people are housed in about 25 dwellings, i.e. old established houses, and have the use of a covered skating rink, recreation hall, moving picture hall and hospital with fifty beds. The entire population is on maintenance except about sixty, who are on the payroll of the B.C.S.C. The hospital is in charge of Dr. Burnett, who is employed by the B.C.S.C., and the matron is Mrs. Rendell, R.N., plus one Japanese registered nurse and other helpers. A Japanese dentist with complete equipment, including dental laboratory, is also installed in the hospital. No deductions of any kind for medical or dental care are made. The settlement was opened end of April, 1942. Reverend Father PETER thought that about 120 of the population are Roman Catholics, about 20 Protestants and the rest are Buddhists. The general state of health is good. Since April, 1942, two persons have died and about 25 were born.

SCHOOL

Five Roman Catholic sisters of the Franciscan Sisters of Atonement (New York, U.S.A.) are operating a school of eight grades and a commercial high school. All these sisters are graduates of the University of Washington, D.C. and about 430 children receive education and 85 are cared for in the kindergarten. The expenses are borne by the Roman Catholic church and it is claimed that it takes about \$2500.00 per year to operate the school, not counting the expenses required to start operation. The School President is SHIOZAKI, B., and the School Secretary HAMAGISHI, J.W.

The New Year greetings from the Japanese Red Cross were received (see Annex H) and



and the spokesmen wished me to convey their heartfelt thanks and to let the Japanese Red Cross know that all is well here.

The relief paid here is \$11.00 for the first person, \$11.00 for the second person, \$5.00 for the third person, and \$4.00 for the fourth or subsequent members of families. In view of the rising cost of living, it is felt that this relief is not enough. It is claimed that \$27.00 for three grown up people does not cover living expenses at present. Although children are considered adults after their 16th birthday, they are not paid adult relief.- The committee also wants to know if the B.C.S.C. will supply seeds for the garden and if plots will be put at the disposal of the settlers. Although I could not give a definite affirmative answer to these questions, I am given to understand that the necessary will be done in order to make the settlement self-supporting as far as the growing of vegetables and gardening are concerned.

A rumour has gone around the settlement that the occupants will be moved to other locations in springtime, and they wish the B.C.S.C. to know they would like very much to remain in Greenwood.

FOOD

The population is afraid that rice is going to be scarce. One week ago a supply of 18 lbs per person (10 tons) arrived, but they fear this source will stop. They pay 11¢ per lb. for rice and they think that one lb. per person per day would be a fair proportion. They pay 30¢ per lb. for Dog Salmon (fresh) and 15¢ per lb. for Red Snapper (they used to pay 2¢ per lb. on the Coast) and 15¢ per lb. for fresh herring, which used to be 25¢ for 15 lbs. on the Coast. Bread, 3 loaves 25¢ (used to be 2 loaves for 15¢ per 24 oz. loaf).

It is claimed that if relatives are sick in other settlements, it is difficult to get travel permits between the various places. A change in the requirements for travel permits, the issue of which will, according to information received, be placed in the hands of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, should bring about more satisfactory results regarding this matter.

HOUSING

Some of the rooms are dark and over-crowded, and there is also dampness of walls. Also it takes a long time for changes to be made after these have been promised. On the other hand, it was pointed out by the B.C.S.C. that some of the people were offered quarters in other settlements in order to overcome the crowding of some of the houses at Greenwood, but the people affected pleaded to be allowed to stay at Greenwood. It was further remarked by the spokesmen that nationals and Canadian born and naturalized Japanese should not all be treated alike, but they do not wish the standard of living for nationals to be lowered and cannot suggest a way in which different treatment should be meted out to various groups.

REPATRIATION

About 200 persons would like to return to Japan if given an opportunity.

The representative of the Women's League claims that one medical doctor is not enough. This representative also suggests that freer facilities for visits should be provided, if a son or a daughter are employed in another province.

CLOTHING

The settlers get clothes from the Welfare Department of the B.C.S.C. and would like a little more liberal help regarding this, especially for children. In all fairness I must point out that in this settlement too there was no evidence of children being insufficiently clad.

RADIOS

Radios are allowed in the settlement, but not short-wave, and it is also desired that some of the radio apparatus which had to be submitted to the Custodian for Enemy Property before leaving the Coast, should be returned to the owners.

GENERAL REMARKS

Personally I have the impression that housing in specially built new wooden structures as in Tashme is to be preferred to the housing in old existing buildings, although these buildings have been restored and provided with fire exits and proper sanitary



sanitary conveniences. However, the people of Greenwood are quite content and, as already mentioned, although some have been offered residence in other settlements, they prefer remaining where they are now, and I have no doubt but that when spring comes around, they will have ample opportunity for gardening and the raising of a good part of the vegetables and fruit crops which they need for their own maintenance.

GRAND FORKS, B.C. - January 13.

There are two groups of settlers near Grand Forks, B.C., namely at CHRISTINA LAKE, where 109 Japanese are living in a summer hotel and tourist cabins attached to it. Of these, about ten are Japanese nationals. The spokesman for this group is ISOGAI Sotaro. There are in all 27 families at Christina Lake, all self-supporting, and they have rented the hotel and the cabins for one year. All these families have sufficient means to support themselves, but they hope to be able to make some money raising crops during the next summer.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Grand Forks, B.C., 279 Japanese are settled, of whom about 50 are nationals. They were represented by YAMAZAKI, Hanji, MORINO, Hirozo, SATO Takeshi and TAKASAKI Miyuki. While not receiving or asking for relief, this group too wishes to be self-supporting through farm work. All are living in houses outside the city limits. They were particular in expressing satisfaction at the work done by the B.C.S.C. and the way they have handled the evacuation in general. The Grand Forks settlers work on seed growing farms and raise onion, carrot and lettuce seeds for wholesalers. In winter they cut wood. They get \$2.00 per day from the farmers in the district, or \$2.00 for one cord of wood sawed. The pay is supposed to be monthly, but some of the farmers are behind for two or three months. They are well provided with clothes which they bought before leaving the Coast and they have no complaints about medical care, which they can get if needed through the B.C.S.C. They would like to get some personal message scheme forms for corresponding with Japan.

LEMON CREEK - January 15.

This settlement belongs to what is known as the "Slocan Extension". The population is 1870, of which 447 are nationals for over 16 years. The Spokesman is TANAKA, Jitaro, and the Secretary of the Committee UCHIBORI Shigeichi, whereas the President of the Community is WATANABE Takazo. These men are appointed by popular vote. The Ladies' Representative is Mrs. KAWAGUCHI Tamayi, and the Vice-President of the Committee, Mr. TATEISHI Kakutaro, was also present at the interview. The settlement was opened on August 28, 1942, and consists now of 270 houses with 425 families. The houses are also 14' x 28' for eight persons. Two 2-storey school buildings 24'x80' for 470 children up to the eighth grade are under construction and will be staffed by twenty-two teachers (see photographs 7, 8, 9 - Annex G). The Director of the school is Miss HYODO. There is also a hospital 28' x 28', intended as a field hospital only and staffed by Dr. SAI, a lady doctor from Korea. The committee expresses itself as satisfied with the medical care, although the equipment and medical supplies at the hospital are as yet limited. Other pictures taken at Lemon Creek are #10, showing the general store and some of the residences, and I draw particular attention to the bulletins hung up at the side of the general store with notices for the camp population. Picture #11 gives the rear view of one of the residences, showing the wood pile and three little boys in the act of manufacturing a bobsleigh. No. 12 shows a little Japanese coming out of one of the wood sheds. Please note the high rubber boots and general adequate clothing.



R., Geneva.
Japanese Settlements.

About 102 families are on maintenance relief and now get \$11.00 for the first person, \$11.00 for the second person and \$4.00 for each subsequent person per month. The figures used to be \$15.00 plus \$7.00 plus \$4.00, etc., and it is suggested that \$18.00, plus \$15.00 plus \$9.00, etc. should be paid per person per month. The new rates are suggested on account of the rising cost of living. The enclosed list of retail prices (Annex I) gives a clear picture of the prices paid for groceries and foodstuffs generally at Lemon Creek during the period from January 1 to 15, 1943.

WAGES

The wages are 40¢ per hour for foremen, etc., less 2 1/2¢ per hour for shelter, wood and fuel; in other words, the net pay for this group of men is 37 1/2¢ per hour and they get their houses, fuel and water free. The corresponding rates for other groups are 32 1/2¢ net for carpenters and other skilled laborers, 27 1/2¢ net for loggers and 22 1/2¢ net per hour for common labor. It is claimed that supplementary allowances for children were cut off in December, 1942, and that this constitutes a hardship on some families.

12 Another point raised concerned the dampness in houses, which have not enough weather insulation and this, combined with the shortage of heaters, caused the mattresses and palliasses to be damp. Palliasses should all be replaced by mattresses for reasons of health and comfort. Regarding the heaters, these are supplementary to the stoves supplied by the B.C.S.C. and a large number of the houses have already been provided with heaters, but not all.

The houses are constructed of shiplap, with tar insulation paper and 1 1/2" x 2 1/2" studding. The dimensions of a standard house as shown in picture #11 (Annex G) are given on the sketch Annex J. The type and size of windows are also shown on this picture and these windows may be opened for ventilation if so desired. Sometimes two houses may be joined by a wood shed as shown on photograph #3 (Annex G). This, however, is put up by the settlers at their own risk and no more than two houses may be joined in that manner, in order to exclude fire hazards. A typical outhouse for four families (two houses) is also shown on picture #3 (Annex G) and the toilets for men and women are separated and marked with the number of the house to which they belong.

Lemon Creek is seven miles from Slocan City.

SLOCAN CITY - January 15.

Committee: RIKIMARU K., Bay Farm, national, representing Bay Farm;
SHIOMI Ken, Canadian born, representing Bay Farm;
SHIMAZAKI Y., naturalized Canadian, representing Slocan City;
KITAMURA M., " " " " "
BALLARD, K., " " " Popoff Farm;
TSUCHIKAWA O., " " " " "

POPOFF FARM:

This too belongs to Slocan Extension and comprises 155 acres of arable land. It is populated by 945 people, representing 96 families. Besides 95 standard construction family houses, there are 6 bunkhouses with 24 rooms on two floors, where mainly unattached males are housed. The small houses are again 14' x 28' for eight people, but there are also some 14' x 24' for families of four people. Of the total population there are about 200 nationals.

BAY FARM:

This consists of 100 acres of arable land and is populated by 1365 people, of whom about 250 are nationals. There are 184 houses of 14' x 28' on this farm. Both Popoff Farm and Bay Farm are intended to be used extensively for the raising of farm crops, so that the population will be more or less self-supporting regarding vegetables and farm

farm produce. A general view of Popoff Farm is shown on picture #13 (Annex G), from which can be seen that the houses are fairly widely spaced, leaving enough room between the houses for gardens, but besides that there are large tracts of land in the immediate neighbourhood. Another view of Popoff Farm is shown on picture #14 and this incidentally also gives a few more details of the construction of the family houses.

13
SLOCAN CITY:

This settlement is tenanted by 557 Japanese, of whom about 200 are nationals, living in old existing houses. A hospital with about 200 beds and a nursery for newborn babies is also available at Slocan City. Dr. KAMITAKAHARA H., a graduate of Edmonton, Alberta, and two trained nurses and other help staff the hospital, and Dr. MIYAKE is the dentist. According to the spokesmen he is very good. He uses his own equipment, which is complete in every detail.

SCHOOLS

There are two schools under construction at Bay Farm, but it is felt that a school at Popoff Farm is also needed. The distance from Popoff Farm to Bay Farm is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile and from Bay Farm to Slocan City also $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, and the distance from Popoff Farm to Slocan City $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The populations of the three settlements can freely visit amongst each other and the whole scheme is known as the "SLOCAN EXTENSION".

COMPLAINTS

The complaints are the same as at Lemon Creek and concern mainly the amount of relief that should be given. The suggestion is made here that a relief scale of \$18.00 plus \$18.00 plus \$10.00 per person per month be given. It is also complained of that travel outside Slocan Extension is allowed only with special permit, although they are outside the Protected Area. It is also pointed out that no cameras are allowed and no fishing is permitted anywhere. Radios and electric grammophones, also newspapers, are allowed freely. The same complaint exists regarding the dampness of the houses, where the mattresses along the walls are cold and damp, and a second stove in the new houses is desired. It is also claimed that medical supplies and medicaments are available only in limited quantities, but no deductions are made for medical or dental care. The Committee also expressed a desire that the prices in the local stores be looked into and checked up by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

January 16, 1943.

Due to the impossibility of travelling by motor car on account of the roads being blocked by snow drifts, I am taken up the lake between Slocan City and Rosebery on a small railway car ferry tug, the S.S. ROSEBERY, a distance of about twenty miles. This car ferry on a special trip leaves shortly after midnight and owing to a high wind the Captain of the tug refuses to put in at New Denver, our intended destination, but instead goes to Rosebery, three miles further up the lake. We arrive there about 3 a.m. and are taken by car back to NEW DENVER, B.C., where a settlement of 1200 Japanese is placed, of whom 800 are Japanese nationals. The representatives are KONDO D. #00123, MIZUNO S. #11286 and NAGATA H. #13513. The hotel at which I stayed and the general scenery is shown on picture #15 of ANNEX G., while picture #16 gives a general view up the lake towards Rosebery.

14
In ROSEBERY (January 16, 1943) there is a Japanese population of 400, of whom 250 are nationals; the representatives are WAKABAYASHI J. #10034, KODAMA D. #00039 and NAGANO H. #00902. The settlement consists of 225 new two-family houses in New Denver and 75 in Rosebery. The rest of the people are living in old existing residences.

SCHOOL

Classes are being held in residential houses, i.e. in new wooden structures measuring 14' x 28' and holding one class each. 18 teachers up to eighth grade are available. High school courses by correspondence under a coach are being arranged



in this community too and the papers have to be sent to Victoria, B.C. for examination by the B.C. School Commissioners.

MEDICAL CARE

Dr. Arnold Francis is in charge of medical care and he has at his disposal the so-called Slocan Hospital in New Denver and will also shortly have the use of the 200-bed T.B. Hospital which is under construction in New Denver and which has been mentioned before. Dr. Francis has the assistance of Dr. Uchida (University of Toronto), plus seven trained nurses in Slocan Hospital and he as well as his assistant are also visiting in the homes. There is a Japanese dental doctor in the village of New Denver.

WORK

Of the able-bodied male population 85-90% are engaged in remunerative work. The pay is the same as elsewhere, also the relief allowance, which is \$11.00 for the first and second persons in a family and \$4.00 for each subsequent person, up to a maximum of seven persons per family. The maximum relief allowance for any one family, i.e. comprising seven people or more, is therefore \$42.00 per month. The usual working hours per week are 48 and 54, resp., depending on whether the men are working in lumber camps, cutting firewood, or are engaged in the construction of houses. A logger working 54 hours and receiving 27 1/2¢ per hour is making \$14.80 per week plus shelter, wood and water. A pricelist of the groceries at New Denver is enclosed herewith (Annex K).

COMPLAINTS

It is complained of that no first-aid kits are available at either Rosebery or the camps where firewood is cut. This situation, however, is being remedied immediately. It is also claimed that the relief rate and children's allowances are not sufficient, and a request was made for special buildings for schools and public halls. A question which also was asked referred to insurance policies. The settlers would like to know what happens to their insurance policies if the present income does not allow for the premiums to be paid. They also would like to know if the Workmen's Compensation Act does apply to accident cases. This last question was answered in the affirmative by the Superintendent of the B.C.S.C.

RELIEF

15
In November, 1942, a family of three persons paid for groceries \$34.71 and for miscellaneous articles \$10.50, making a total of \$45.21 per month. The relief cheque, however, was for \$23.92 only. In December, 1942, the same figures were: groceries \$49.60 and miscellaneous \$12.00, a total of \$61.60, and the relief cheque was \$26.00. It was also mentioned that clothing is now given out to needy families by the Welfare Association of the B.C.S.C. and it would be preferred if cash was supplied rather than the goods.

GENERAL
REMARKS

Generally speaking, New Denver is in a very beautiful setting on the sunny bay of the lake, amidst a park-like wooded section, and I have no doubt but that it will be a very desirable place to live in once the spring weather sets in (see pictures #15 and #16 of Annex G).

The new sanatorium for tubercular cases will be a showplace when finished. I do not think that it will be ready for patients before spring, i.e. sometime the beginning of May, but its location is certainly ideal and no expense is spared in its construction and appointments. On the way out of the village we visited the Diesel electric power plant which serves the village of New Denver and which contains two engines and two generators, serviced by Japanese attendants. A view of this power plant is shown on picture #17 (Annex G).

B.C. - January 16, 1943.

Representatives of the Japanese nationals at this settlement are:

Rev. TOSHIO Katatsu
 OTOKICHI Onishi
 IWAZO Sugiman
 TADAZUKE Takebayashi
 and Miss TERUYO Sugiura, who acted as interpreter.

Sandon is an old ghost town, having been a mining center at one time, and is situated on a mountain road about eight miles from New Denver. It is also the end of a freight railway running from Rosebery, which is 1818 ft. above sea level, to Sandon, which is about 2600 ft. above sea level. The road leading up to the village is very dangerous, having sharp turns and steep grades, and reminded the writer of some of our Swiss Alpine roads. The temperature on the day of the visit was minus 25° F and snow was lying deep in the valleys.

The Japanese population in Sandon is 930, of which 90% are Buddhists. 266 are nationals, all living in old established houses since the settlement was opened in June, 1942. There is a hospital, with KOWABARA E.H., Dr.med. of Manitoba University, in charge, and one registered nurse and other help to look after the twenty-bed institution, which gives the impression of a particularly clean and well appointed place. The dental care is also under a Japanese dental doctor, who holds office once weekly.

Only a small percentage of the population is engaged in paid labor, the vast majority is on relief.

I checked up here also on the prices charged in the stores for necessities of life and found that 10¢ is charged for the 24 oz. loaf of bread, 45¢ for 1 lb. of butter, whereas eggs were 59¢ per doz. for large and 56¢ per doz. for medium grades. Rice sold at 12¢ per lb. and meat from 32¢ to 45¢ per lb., rump meat being sold at 28¢ per lb. Fish was 35¢ to 40¢ for fresh dog salmon; 29¢ for salted dog salmon and lettuce sold for 27¢ per lb., cabbage 5¢ per lb., potatoes 4 1/2¢ per lb., spinach 24¢ per lb., celery 20¢ per lb., apples 9¢ per lb. for eating apples and 6¢ per lb. for cooking apples, while oranges were 60¢ per doz. for the 200 per case size; 65¢ for the 176 per case size and 55¢ for the 225 per case size. Toilet soap sold for 15¢ for two cakes.

COMPLAINTS

It was complained of at this camp that letters from the Japanese civilian internees in Canada (Camp 101) take up to two and three months and sometimes even four months to reach the settlement. Ordinary mail delivery is three times per week, namely on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There is a government post office in the settlement. It was also complained of that no answers have yet been received to the postal message forms which have been sent to Japan by way of Geneva. Another request voiced was that of 75 elderly single men, who expressed a desire to return to Japan at an early date.

I visited the Buddhist temple which accommodates about 150 people, and spoke to one of the Buddhist priests, who complained that he had no means of supporting himself and no means to travel between the parishes.

I also visited the old men's home, a former hotel, where the men live in comparative comfort, having their own mess facilities, with dining room, etc.

Electricity in this town is abundant. Most of the Public buildings, including the hospital, are heated by electricity which is generated in an old existing power plant operated with water power. A river, from which electricity is obtained, runs right under the main street of the village, which is shown on picture #18. The motor car in the foreground, also the men on the sidewalk, are actually standing on a wooden structure bridging the river which runs the full length of Main Street. Another view of this settlement is shown on figures #19 and #20.

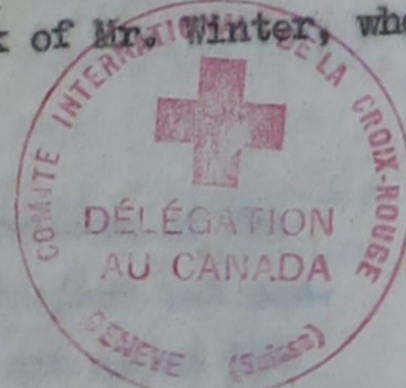


Settlements.

Although the houses at this settlement are more primitive than in others and although this settlement is more remote from a larger white city, the population at SANDON is very happy and content, mainly due to the work of Mr. Winter, who is the local supervisor.

17
KASLO, B.C. - January 17, 1943.

Representatives: SHUTO Masaki, #08971,
MIYASHITA Iwao, #11263,
UYEDA Bunjiro, all Japanese nationals.



I have described the settlement at Kaslo in my former report when I visited there in July, 1942, and owing to difficult roads I did not on this trip visit Kaslo but interviewed the above named deputation at Nelson, B.C., which is 45 miles distant. At Kaslo there is a population of 976 Japanese, of whom 210 are nationals. They would like their relief allowances, which are the same as in other settlements, raised, and another request concerned funeral expenses which they would like to have paid by the B.C.S.C. There have been about ten deaths since this settlement started in May, 1942. It was pointed out too that boys under sixteen years, who occasionally work, are paid 10¢ per hour. This group also wishes to know if workmen's compensation does apply if a person is hurt in the course of paid work. This question was answered in the affirmative by the Supervisor of the B.C. Security Commission. Another point raised was the fact that aged persons in the hospital who have no income whatsoever, and therefore no means to purchase tobacco and other incidentals, should receive these comforts. It is for this reason that I have suggested that a small fund be placed at our disposal in order to occasionally supply such comforts to the aged and sick. It was also complained of that a letter to the representative of the Protecting Power may take two weeks, but upon questioning it was admitted that telegrams may be sent at any time, if necessary. The spokesmen also complained of the fact that the use of the telephone is not permitted.

Mrs. TOSHIKO Minamide, whose husband is at the Mental Hospital at Esson-dale (New Westminster), B.C., would like to have definite information about his state of health from time to time, and Mrs. TOMIKO Minamimai #05228, whose husband is at Kelowna, would like to be reunited with him at an early date. The same applies to Mrs. MIDORI Sasaki, whose husband is near Schreiber, Ontario. These cases have been brought to the attention of the B.C.S.C.

The relief is handled much the same as in other settlements, whereby the first person receives \$11.00, a family of two persons \$22.00, three persons \$26.00, four persons \$30.00, five persons \$34.00, six persons \$38.00 and seven persons (maximum) \$42.00 per month. Families of five, the spokesmen figures out, receive 6¢ per meal, which is considered insufficient and which should be raised, in the opinion of the spokesmen, by 40%.

18
It is also pointed out that although radio is permitted, they are not allowed to have short wave sets; no cameras are permitted and no fishing of any kind is allowed. They would also like to have a report from time to time from the Custodian of Enemy Property as to the condition of the properties left on the Coast, and such a report is desired every three months.

They have their own Japanese medical doctor, viz. SHIMOTAKAHARA Kozo, and the Canadian doctor is Dr. Gibson, who has charge of a hospital of fifteen beds and a staff of three nurses. They have also a Japanese dentist.

From what I have seen of Kaslo last July, this settlement will be ideally suited for raising garden and field crops, and the people there should be to a large extent self-supporting with regard to fruits and vegetables.

No complaints whatsoever were voiced about the treatment which the Japanese population is getting at the hands of the executives of the B.C.S.C. or on the part of the white population.



LETHBRIDGE, Alberta - January 19, 1943.

There is a population of 2632 Japanese under the supervision of the B.C. Security Commission in this district, known as the Alberta Project and consisting mostly of beet growers. Of this total population there are about 558 Japanese nationals. Mr. A.E. RUSSELL is the local Supervisor and D.C. ARCHIBALD the Assistant Supervisor for the B.C.S.C., while Mr. A. WRIGHT is the Relief Administrator put at the disposal of the B.C.S.C. by the Provincial Government of Alberta. The names of the main centers where Japanese are found are PICTURE BUTTE and RAYMOND, which two places both have modern sugar factories. The other villages and towns are: TABER, TURIN, IRON SPRINGS, DIAMOND CITY, COALDALE, BARNWELL, STIRLING and McGRATH.

Japanese who are on relief receive \$20.00 per month per couple and \$5.00 each per child, plus coal and clothing. A single man or a single woman receives \$10.00 each, but where two families live together, one couple only gets the \$20.00 per month.

23 acres of sugar beets are under cultivation, looked after by five grown-ups who also have one five year old child amongst them and who receive \$27.00 per acre plus \$27.00 bonus, making a total of \$648.00 for the year 1942. The house is rent-free, but coal and light must be paid for. The coal is about \$4.25 per ton delivered at the house, because this settlement is amidst the Alberta coal fields. The house is of wooden frame construction, the same as the house occupied by the owner who lives next door. Two girls of 18 and 19, who went to High School and first year University of British Columbia, respectively, are now also helping on the beet fields. This family gets along particularly well with the owner of the farm and they receive favors there, such as 1 quart of milk free every day and eggs at 30¢ per doz. at present and 20¢ per doz. in summertime. No complaints were voiced here about treatment or working conditions.

19

The second farm visited was that of Mr. TANAKA Soshichi, of DIAMOND CITY, 12 miles from Lethbridge, where ten grown-ups and two children (2 years and 5 months, resp.) work 46 acres of sugar beets. They were paid \$2.30 per ton and had 749 tons = \$1720.00 in cash for last year's crop. No deductions of any kind were made except for goods (foodstuffs) purchased. They also had 6 acres of potatoes on half-share and from this \$500.00 net were realized. They also have fairly large crops. A picture of this farm is shown on figures 21 and 22, which show that the buildings are of brick construction, which is rather unusual for the district. This family pays \$3.75 per ton of coal at the mine, which is four miles away. They claim that their expenses are about \$180.00 per month. They pay 10¢ for a 24 oz. loaf of bread; rice is difficult to get, but they still have a quantity which they brought from British Columbia. Meat is 35 to 40¢ per lb. and eggs are 35¢ per doz. Milk is obtained from the farmer at 10¢ per quart and no chickens or livestock are permitted by the farmer who, according to Mr. Russell, is not too good as a "boss". However, there were no complaints about the treatment from Mr. Tanaka or any members of his family.



PICTURE BUTTE:

Rev. Y. KAWAMURA, the Buddhist Priest, Japanese national, operates a branch of the cooperative store run by the Japanese population, with head office in Raymond, Alberta. The profits from these stores go to the Cooperative Japanese Society and the priest gets an indemnity for his work. He also has a Buddhist Temple attached to his store and has a church membership of about 130 people. I met a number of representatives at Rev. Kawamura's place, which is shown in Figures 23 and 24 (Annex G). Figure 24 shows the priest and his family.

Amongst the representatives was Mr. YAMADA, who, with a friend, works on a sugar farm where each one is responsible for $11\frac{3}{4}$ acres and where last year they harvested 157 tons of sugar beets, receiving \$368.95 or \$2.35 per ton. Mr. Yamada has a wife and two children, 11 years and 22 months old, and he considers the rates entirely insufficient. He maintains that commodities have gone up 20% and the rates should be adjusted to suit. He also suggested that a cooperative committee of Japanese be appointed to consult with the Commission and to go around on the sugar beet farms in the various localities to check up on working and living conditions, and the group headed by Mr. Yamada thinks too that if a mixed committee of the B.C.S.C. and the Japanese would visit each family periodically, say monthly, conditions would be much better.

20 Another farm visited was the one of I. MATSONE on Smith Farm, 4 miles from Lethbridge on the highway to Taber, Alberta. On this farm are one man, two women and seven small children. This Japanese lives in a particularly good house which he built himself, and although it was minus 20° F at the time of the visit, the people were obviously quite comfortable and Mr. Matsone was busy putting in embellishments to the interior of the house. I noted that this family had a couple of chickens which were kept in the kitchen, because it was too cold outside. There are a number of Japanese occupied on this farm and all are very happy about the treatment which they receive.

RAYMOND, Alberta:

This is a Mormon settlement and has had a small Japanese population for twenty-five years. It is a center of the sugar beet growers and, as mentioned before, has a sugar refinery. The Buddhists have been worshipping for years in a temple evacuated by the Mormons and this church has large halls for public meetings, classes and social gatherings. Mr. FUOIKI was the spokesman and he came from the Pacific Coast on April 22, 1942. The Japanese population before the war consisted of about fifty families and to this has been added a population of about 140 families - evacuees from the Defence Area. The houses are provided by the farmers, but it is claimed that some of them are not suited for families in the sub-zero winter weather. It is also pointed out that some of the houses are not large enough for the number of people who have to live in them. This group also points out that the remuneration for beet growers is not enough. They are paid \$2.75 per ton, provided the yield per acre is nine tons; \$2.65 per ton if the yield per acre is ten tons, and \$2.30 per ton when the yield is fifteen tons or more. The average for the 1942 crop was about ten tons per acre, the lowest being 7 to 8 tons only and the highest 14 tons per acre. It is held that one man can handle 6 to 7 acres.

The treatment by the farmers varies. Some farmers are good bosses, some are indifferent and some are not so good. They pay 10¢ for a standard loaf of bread (24 oz.), 10¢ for one quart of milk, 11¢ for a large tin of condensed milk and - as mentioned

Settlements.



mentioned above,-- they have a cooperative store operated by the Japanese. However, the stocks in this store are depleted and it is claimed that new stocks are difficult to obtain.

The spokesman, who is a single man, is a sheep herder in winter and gets \$50.00 per month plus board and lodging. He was emphatic about the fact that he himself is well off, has an easy job and no complaints whatsoever.

21 There is a very small Japanese group consisting of only three or four families at HILLSPRINGS, Alberta, which is just west of the Indian Reserve, and the average crop per acre is claimed to be as low as 4 to 5 tons per acre. Living conditions between seasons are very hard. It has been found that the soil in that neighbourhood is not well suited for beet growing and the Supervisor for the B.C.S.C. assured me that the families which still remain in that area will be removed to better localities before the spring season begins. The representative of this settlement also would rather prefer to be paid by acre of beet crops than by tonnage.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I wish to point out that the visits to the Japanese Settlements and the beet growing district was made throughout under sub-zero weather conditions and an unusually heavy snowfall for British Columbia and Alberta. This winter has probably been more severe than normally and as exhibits 25 and 26 (Annex G) I am showing two pictures which will give an impression of the car used in making the rounds in British Columbia; on several occasions the party was marooned in the snow or had to turn back due to blocked roads. There is, however, an abundance of firewood in British Columbia and consequently there is no suffering due to cold even during these unusually cold days. The clothing of the Japanese population throughout was adequate for the weather conditions prevailing.

As mentioned in former reports, the Japanese on the whole are very clean and are good providers for the families. In all settlements they have installed Japanese style bath houses for men and women, and with the abundance of water and firewood which is general in British Columbia, it is not difficult to keep the houses clean and do the family washing, which seems to be a pastime for Japanese women. I personally hold that the British Columbia Security Commission must be commended for the work which they have done in the difficult task of evacuating such a large population in such a short time, and even if separations of families during the time of the evacuation were inevitable, they have with very few exceptions all been reunited and I have the definite promise that the few families which are still living separate, will very shortly be brought together again.

It is practically impossible to evacuate on short notice such a large section of the population without incurring a number of hardships on certain individuals, but on the whole the entire process was done without harsh treatment and in spite of the long distances over which the population had to be brought by railroad and often by motor and trucks, not one single accident to men, women or children has occurred.

22 Now that the evacuation is complete, the Canadian Government has effected a slight change in the administration of the B.C.S.C. and it is to be hoped that under the new management the Japanese population will be as happy as they have been during the first 6 to 9 months of their enforced residence outside their former places of habitation.

The relief rates given to the Japanese population are identical with those

va.
Settlements.



those given to the civilian Canadian population in British Columbia and Alberta, respectively, and it lies in the nature of relief schemes as such that the appropriations can hardly suffice to provide for those comforts of life to which modern people are accustomed, but it can be stated truthfully that nobody has been going hungry and nobody has been lacking warm clothing. The care for the sick on the whole is adequate and no supervisor is permitted to remain in office if he is found to be antagonistic towards the Japanese population. The people who have come from the fishing centers around the Pacific Coast naturally are longing for the sea and no doubt will flock back to the Coast if they are permitted to do so after the war.

An interesting diagram is shown on Exhibit L, giving the incoming and outgoing mail at Tashme, where the Christmas rush is clearly shown, and in order to give you an idea of the location of the settlements in British Columbia, I am also enclosing as Annex M a diagram of the area.

MONTREAL, P.Q.,

Signed:

E. L. Maag
Delegate in Canada of the C.I.C.R.

February 19, 1943.

Clarifications in the following fields are necessary. (a) What happens to the old-age pensions and allowances of those on relief? (b) What should be the proper remuneration to professional workers - graduate nurses, public health experts, etc.?

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS
JAPANESE GRIEVANCES

In a situation like those under consideration, where racial problems are to the fore, it is all the more essential that all staff appointees shall be people not only of good training and ripe experience, but shall also be free from any trace of race superiority or snobbishness. In the case of new appointments, the question of proper attitude should be given careful enquiry. Any present staff member, no matter how brilliant his business or organizational abilities, whose attitude is liable to stir up animosity or resentment, should be quickly transferred to some other position where his contacts with those of a different racial inheritance are not matters of daily occurrence.

SETTLEMENTS OF A TEMPORARY NATURE

The settlements themselves should be considered by all concerned as of but a temporary nature, an expedient designed to constitute a sort of half-way house between the past and the future. They should be progressively diminishing quantity as final plans for the solution of the Canadian-Japanese problem are worked out. For the writer's view of these final plans, please see the concluding paragraph of this report.

RANDOM UNSUITABLE

Of the four Settlements selected by the Commission, I consider Greenwood, Kaslo and Slocan City eminently suited to the purposes the Commission had in mind at the time. There is ample play and recreational space for the children and young people, there are areas suitable for cultivation near by, the scenery is good and opportunities for development many. I was, however, seriously disappointed

in Sandon. The place consists mostly of a slanting street in a narrow valley with but little outlook and with but meagre possibilities for the making of a normal community life. My recommendation is that the evacuees sent there be among the first to be transferred elsewhere as opportunity arises.

B. THE LABOUR CAMPS

There is no doubt but that the majority of the Japanese in the labour camps feel themselves grievously misused. The first groups voluntarily offered to go to the camps as a means of helping to solve the problems incident to the evacuation orders of the Government. Their story, whether true to the facts or not, is always the same: They were promised the removal of the Coast restrictions, no curfew, even light work. To most of them the transfer from Vancouver to the B.C. hinterland was almost in the nature of an adventure. Their disillusion was sudden and great. They found they were under the supervision of R.C.M.F. special constables, one of whom with gun on shoulder constantly guarded the railroad track as if against criminals bent on destruction. They were forbidden to approach the railroad tracks. The box cars in which they lived were boarded up on the railway side - for their protection. Snow was still deep on the ground. While the white employees might walk to camp on the tracks, the only place cleared of snow, the Japanese workers must plug along the side in snow up to their knees and beyond.

Then the ordinary services went wrong. Letters from Vancouver took anywhere from two weeks to a month for delivery - some were never delivered at all. Telegrams took days to arrive. The immediate cause of one of the strikes was the non-delivery of a wire which a wife spoke of in a

JAPANESE
GRIEVANCES

INADEQUATE
PAY

WORK
MEANINGLESS

POSTAL
DELAYS

July 1st
1942

Report
to the
British Columbia Security Commission

VISIT TO CAMPS AND SETTLEMENTS OF
JAPANESE EVACUEES
BY G. ERNEST TRUUMAN

| |
|----------------------|
| EXTERNAL AFFAIRS |
| File No. 3464-AN-400 |
| Sent _____ |
| By _____ |
| Filed _____ |

PRODUCTION

In response to a telegram from Mr. F. J. Mead asking me to come as soon as possible to make a survey of the Japanese camps and settlements in British Columbia, I arrived in Vancouver about two o'clock on Monday, June 8th.

Unfortunately, on that evening Dr. Lyall Hodgins and Mr. Mead both had to leave for Calgary and Edmonton on Commission business. Because of their departure I was unable to see Dr. Hodgins except for about twenty minutes. It was agreed, however, that when he returned on the following Saturday we would have ample time to talk matters over, particularly as to the definite nature of my assignment.

Being unable to return on the following Saturday, Dr. Hodgins made a request that I meet him in Kaslo, from whence we would both set out to visit the camps. On reaching Kaslo, however, I found his departure from the East had again been postponed, so it became necessary for me to continue my tour of visitation among the camps without any definite instructions from the Commission.

RETATION
CTION

I interpreted my function as a double one: (1) To visit the camps and note the actual conditions under which they were operated from the standpoint of one whose long sojourn in Japan, working with the Japanese people and knowing their language, should entitle ^{him} me to make an impartial judgment as to the present evacuation scheme; (2) To make a report on the above, with recommendations.

PO
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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS
File No. 3464-A-40
Sub. 20 Chron. 20 Filed

copy 2998 40
May 26, 1942.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my previous letter concerning the proposed visit by the representative of the protecting power and the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee to camps and settlements in British Columbia, where Japanese subjects evacuated from the coastal districts are now located, I think it may be useful to you to have the following information.

Visits by representative of the protecting power to prisoner of war and internment camps

The following, while it specifically refers to internment camps and is not wholly applicable to the evacuated Japanese, may be of interest as giving an idea of the type of question in which the representative of the protecting power is likely to be interested during his visit:

(1) Camp conditions

- (a) The layout of the grounds; general type and construction of buildings; drainage; water supply; heat; etc.
- (b) Food and rations - both as to quantity and quality. He may be expected to enquire how far the special dietary needs of the Japanese are met.
- (c) Clothing - whether issued by the camp authorities or purchased by the individuals.
- (d) Sanitation - bath houses, wash rooms and sanitary equipment.
- (e) Medical attention - hospital and equipment in relation to the number of internees, doctors and attendants, sickness and accidents.

The B.C. Security Commission,
Vancouver, B.C.
Attention Mr. F.J. Mead

Mail

Correspondence with Japanese; regularity of postal service, etc. (Not applicable as it is assumed that there are no restrictions on the receipt of letters. For correspondence with Japan--- the personal postal message service may be used.)

(3) Work and Pay

- (a) Type of work being done.
- (b) Working conditions generally and hours.
- (c) Rates of pay.

(4) Recreational Facilities

- (a) Indoors.
- (b) Outdoors.
- (c) Library.

(5) Religious and Devotional Facilities

- (a) Denominations represented.
- (b) Religious facilities. Attendance by priest or clergyman, etc.

(6) Canteens

- (a) Articles of clothing, etc. available for sale; adequacy of inventory.
- (b) Foodstuffs and refreshments.
- (c) Articles to meet the particular needs of Japanese.

During these visits the representative of the protecting power will receive numerous complaints from the internees or their spokesmen. It will be left entirely to the representative of the protecting power to decide which complaints he shall receive and take note of, and which he shall reject. He will bring these complaints to the attention of the officer of this Department and the representative of the British Columbia Security Commission on the spot, and endeavour to settle as many as possible and avoid drawn out correspondence. Any complaints relating to the interpretation of the relevant international conventions, to practice and international law, or to questions involving reciprocal treatment of enemy aliens as between Canada and Japan, will be dealt with by the Department of External Affairs.

When the visit has been completed the representative of the protecting power will make a report for his government,

copy of which he will submit to the Department of External Affairs and will give the Department an opportunity to make any comments on the contents of the report before it is transmitted to the Japanese authorities.

In addition to questions arising out of camp and working conditions, the representative of the protecting power will probably wish to take up the following subjects during or immediately after his visits to the camps:

(1) Relief assistance for Japanese subjects in Canada

- (a) Families of internees.
- (b) Others.

(2) Disposition of the property of Japanese

In this connection he may wish to visit the office of the Custodian of Enemy Property at Vancouver.

(3) Conditions of employment of Japanese not transferred to the work camps.

Visits by the Delegate of the International Red Cross

With regard to the functions of the Delegate of the International Red Cross, the following are the major items of his interest. As before, this list is drawn up on the Delegate's work in internment camps and is not wholly applicable to the Japanese in British Columbia. However, it may be of assistance to you. It will be noted that, roughly, the responsibilities of the Delegate parallel those of the representative of the protecting power, except that he is not authorized to receive complaints as such. Except as regards the sick and injured, he is interested rather in general conditions than in individuals. The following points are given in order of their probable importance:

(1) Health and sanitation

- (a) General sanitary conditions.
- (b) Hospital facilities.
- (c) Patients in hospital. The provision of special invalid comforts.

- (d) Reports on individual patients. His interest in health and sanitation is likely to be much more complete than that of the representative of the protecting power whose visit to the hospital will probably be perfunctory, and who *will* depend on the Delegate to supply him with the information which he needs for his report.

(2) Recreational facilities

Games both indoors and outdoors and books may be supplied by him, and he may therefore wish to enquire what games and sporting equipment are needed, as he may like to send supplies after his visit.

(3) Educational and avocational facilities

Provision of text books, lecture courses and facilities for hobbies. (This is important in prisoner of war and internment camps but it is not known whether it has any importance in work camps and settlements.)

(4) Reports on individuals

It is the practice of the Delegate to answer enquiries about individual prisoners and internees, especially those who have been sick or injured. (It is not known whether he will wish to exercise this privilege among the Japanese.)

(5) Canteens

The Delegate will share the interest of the protecting power in the arrangements made whereby the Japanese can purchase at different canteens or retail stores, or can order from town articles or supplies which they may wish to purchase.

It might be mentioned that the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee has been authorized to carry a camera and take pictures of prisoner of war and internment camps, the life in the camps, pictures of prisoners of war or internees at work or play, and any other pictures which he feels illustrate camp conditions. Under the arrangement with him no restriction is placed on his taking of pictures, but in the case of prisoner of war and internment camps, the films before development are turned in to the Commissioner of Internment Operations who arranges for their development and

he decides which pictures may be released to the Delegate. This arrangement has been found to work very well. The pictures released to the Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee may be put into either of two categories : those which he is free to use in any way he wishes whether for sending to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission to enemy countries or for publication in Canada; those which may be sent to Geneva but which may not be issued or shown in Canada.

I am writing you in a separate letter of today's date concerning the facilities which may be provided to the Delegate for the taking of pictures in Japanese camps and settlements during his tour of inspection.

Yours sincerely,

ALFRED RIVE for

N. A. Robertson
Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs