

C O P Y

DOLPH BROWNE LIMITED

Packers & Shippers

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Vernon, B.C.

January 21, 1942.

Honorable Ian Mackenzie,  
Minister of Pensions and National Health,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Honorable Sir:

I wish to thank you for your very prompt reply addressed to me as President of the Vernon Board of Trade in connection with the movement of Japanese of military age from the Pacific Coast.

As advised in our wire, there are three vital projects on which this Japanese labor should be used, namely, the widening of that stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway between Sicamous and Grindrod; the widening and straightening of the Monashee Road - the direct highway between the North Okanagan and the Kootenay; and the construction of the remaining link of the Hope-Princeton Road.

There is no snow on the Sicamous to Grindrod Road; practically no snow on a large part of the Monashee Road, as the entire North Okanagan is completely bare of snow and, in fact, there are only three inches in Revelstoke. I am not in a position to give you any accurate information regarding snow conditions on the Hope-Princeton Road but would imagine that snow conditions might interfere with working on this road immediately, as it is high and there has been more snow in the Coastal area this winter than in the Interior.

As I advised you over long distance telephone, we are facing in 1942 the largest fruit crop ever produced in the Okanagan Valley, the indications being at least 6,500,000 boxes of apples or 50% greater than last year. A very large portion of the help available last season has since joined his Majesty's Forces, and unless 2500 to 3000 additional pickers are available next Fall, there will be a very heavy loss to both the growers and the country. I understand that the growers'

organization have already made representations to the Dominion Government in this connection and feel that they are the proper parties to present this angle of the situation.

If I can be of any further service to you in this connection, do not hesitate to call on me.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours very truly,

VERNON BOARD OF TRADE

SIGNED: Dolph Browne

President.