

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
hkk-jg



January 29, 1942.

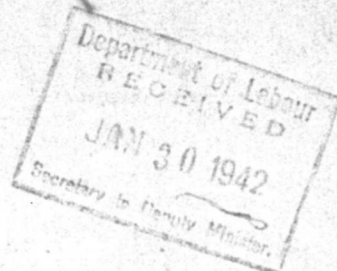
Dear Commissioner Wood,

With reference to previous correspondence regarding the Japanese - Canadian redcaps who were discharged at Winnipeg by the Canadian National Railways, I enclose a copy of a further letter from the Deputy Minister of Transport together with a copy of the communication from Mr. R. C. Vaughan to which Commander Edwards refers. In my opinion Mr. Vaughan exaggerates the likelihood of difficulties arising through the continued employment of these redcaps. However, in view of his attitude, I do not suppose there is very much more that we can do in regard to the matter. I am sending on copies of this correspondence to the Department of Labour and they may be able to do something for the man in question.

Yours sincerely,

Brigadier S. T. Wood,
Commissioner,
Royal Canadian Mounted Police,
Ottawa.

DEPUTY MINISTER OF TRANSPORT
OTTAWA



January 28, 1942.

File 11-2-20

Dear Dr. Keenleyside,

I enclose herewith a copy of the reply which has been received from President Vaughan, of Canadian National Railways, to your suggestion of the 13th instant that the Railway give consideration to the possibility of reinstating the seven Japanese Red Caps formerly employed by the company at Winnipeg Union Station.

Mr. Vaughan points out that only four of the Japanese in question have become Canadian citizens, and regards it as extremely likely that dissatisfaction would develop if these men were to be continued in their former capacity. It would be appreciated if we might have the benefit of your further views in the light of the practical difficulties referred to in the President's letter.

Yours faithfully,

C. P. EDWARDS

Deputy Minister.

Encl.

Dr. H. L. Keenleyside,
Assistant Under Secretary of State
for External Affairs,
Ottawa.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Montreal, January 22nd, 1942.

Dear Commander Edwards,

Replying to your letter of January 16th enclosing a copy of the reply received from External Affairs outlining the policy of the Government in relation to Japanese in Canada and suggesting consideration, therefore, of the reinstatement of the 7 Japanese Red Caps formerly employed at Winnipeg Union Station.

While the equity of the policy enunciated in Dr. Keenleyside's letter as to the treatment of Canadians of enemy racial origin is fully appreciated, it is our judgment that it cannot be safely applied to the case of the Red Caps at Winnipeg. As you know, the employment of the Red Caps brings them constantly into contact with the travelling public, a great proportion of which in these days is composed of military and other active service personnel. It is impossible for a Japanese to hide his racial origin and by continuing to employ the 7 men as Red Caps at Winnipeg it may be concluded that we would inevitably experience some sort of a row. It was for that reason that we decided to suspend them from service and in view of Dr. Keenleyside's letter it would appear that the only prospect of re-employing them would be in positions of another character where they would not come into close contact with the travelling public or fellow employees of Canadian or British origin.

Incidentally, I may say that only 4 of these Japanese have become Canadian citizens and not all 7 as referred to in the first paragraph of my letter of January 5th to the Minister.

Yours very truly,

Commander C. P. Edwards,
Deputy Minister of Transport,
Ottawa.

R. G. VAUGHAN
President