

C O P Y

Saddlemount,
Cobble Hill, B.C.,
Jan. 16th, 1942.

Personal

Hon. Ian McKenzie,
Minister of Pensions,
Ottawa.

Sir:-

You may remember that a few years ago, I had some correspondence with you, as Minister of National Defence, regarding the Japanese problem on the Pacific Coast, and especially the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Now, War has brought this problem to a crisis, and it is useless to dwell on what might have been, if some of my suggestions to the Governments had been acted upon in earnest.

And the responsibility of finding adequate solutions for interning some 23,000 Japanese and providing for as many more wives and children has been largely placed upon your shoulders. You have my well wishes, interest, and sympathy in this grave task.

My visits to Japan and my residence in interior China and Tibet have developed an aptitude for always thinking out plans and possible development for the improvement of the people and the lands, in which I visited and although I am now 70 years young I cannot resist the urge to try and do something useful and practical in finding solutions. I have 3 sons in the active foreign service of the Canadian Army and Navy, and as I was a missionary abroad retiring to Canada some years ago, I think my integrity of character might be of some value to the administration and disbursement of Government funds in connection with the internment of Japanese and other aliens, and also in planning or supervising works of improvement; by interned labour.

During my last few years in China I was in charge of building operations, when much money passed through my hands, and last year, on my own place here, I cut out a roadway on the hillside dug a foundation and built an 8 x 12 ft. cement water tank by my own labour with garden and other projects besides, requiring pick and shovel strength.

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I believe I could serve Canada and the war effort better by some active service of this nature than by doing nothing at home but draw a monthly pension.

It is my opinion that internment could be made interesting and less irksome or resentful to those interned if real projects of improvement to the country was the daily employment given to Japanese, etc.

Right beside us here there is a potential project of development which would open up a rich new district; while connecting up the west coast with the east, for defence before the last war the roadbed had been cut and the rails and equipment assembled on the spot; to end the present C.N.R. from Youbo on Cowichan Lk. to Barclay Sound Alberni Canal, thus opening the railway line between Cowichan Bay on the East Coast, through to Nitnat Lake and Barclay Sound on the West Coast; with a shipping port at each end much timber between This now needs only to be constructed from Youbo the present C.N.R. terminus to Barclay Sound and it might be done by voluntary internment labour, with good lasting results.

Apart from that, I think there should be developed a new shipping town and port at Cowichan Bay, for which I have also been planning development of land sales and settlement as a post war measure.

Trusting this letter may not be without results

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) James Moyes.