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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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Department of Commerce

January 13, 1942

PERSONAL

Dear Angus,

The situation of the Nisei bothers me, as I know it will your. So long as these youngsters behave themselves they are in a tough spot; particularly in view of the Hurrah being created by irresponsible people.

The problem of absorbing the Canadian-born generation is of long term and it has worried me ever since I took on responsibility for placement of commerce graduates. I had intended asking assistance from Sir E.W. Beatty or C.H. Carlisle as soon as I had a sure-fire Nisei graduate available for recommendation to a job in the East. The present situation precipitates matters and I wonder if it would be possible to effect on a large scale what I had planned to do gradually and for selected men.

Now, surely, we shall turn off the tap of Japanese immigration and be left with the straight task of absorption. The only solution I can see is a process of dispersion, so as to get away from the genesis of the problem, viz., the economic impact of a massed hard-working racial group on the white labouring population. I know that the more intelligent of the Nisei feel dispersal to be the only answer.

Will it be feasible to offer diversified jobs in the East to competent Nisei at going wages? It would offer them the chance to move from West to East with an outlook of opportunity and advancement rather than under the stigma of disloyalty. Farmers in Ontario need farm labour - factories require artisans, etc. etc. While certain groups, such as the fishermen, may not be subject to such treatment, I feel that in this way substantial numbers of the Japanese can be moved from the Province - to our advantage and to theirs.

The Japanese are personable and likeable. Given the opportunity to avoid the handicaps of racial concentration they will make their way without great difficulty.

I have particularly in mind Oyama and Sasaki, two absolutely first-class men. Others, less able perhaps, will be hard-working

and will give their best. You are in a key position. Can you do anything to help me with my problem? As a quid pro quo, can I do anything to help in the larger problem?

Incidentally, I would like your advice on this. Today I was approached by one of the more responsible leaders of a veterans' organization, who is evidently uneasy over the antics of his crowd. He broached the possibility of forming a representative "Citizens' Committee" to act with the veterans, to advise and to temper the wind. During the summer I had acted on such a committee in the matter of "conscription for overseas service" and was of considerable use. Obviously I am expected to join the new committee - but the Japanese issue is so explosive that I wonder if the "Citizens' Committee" won't eventually be saddled with actions beyond their control. But if I can be useful I feel I should do my best. What do you think?

Many thanks to Mrs. Angus and yourself for your Christmas greetings - they were appreciated.

With all the best to you both from May and myself.

Sincerely,

E.H. Morrow

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