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COMMUNITY

ANALYSIS. 1944.



625

MEMORANDUM

Project Head Office - Vancouver

Date October 26th, 1944

From the desk of Mrs. C. V. Booth

To All School Principals

Subject: File No. 625

Kaslo  
Greenwood  
Tashme  
New Denver  
Slocan  
Lemon Creek

I wish to acknowledge receipt of summaries sent in by all School Principals reviewing the reaction of residents in the relocation centres to Premier King's statement regarding appointment of a Tribunal and possible segregation. These reports were extremely interesting, although in some cases I am inclined to believe they represented the attitude of the writer rather than that of the community.

I believe that all the teachers will realize the great advantage of being able to take an objective view of circumstances in which they are placed, and in being able to summarize lucidly the reaction to unusual situations as they arise. In this connection the community analysis reports from the American side are extremely interesting, mainly due to the co-operation of the Nisoi in the various camps, they are of a most reliable character.

I am sending you enclosed herewith a copy of one of the earlier reports which deals with Nisoi assimilation. Although it covers familiar ground, I believe it may be of interest to yourself and the teachers. Possibly they may glean from it certain facts which it might be well for them to pass on to their young pupils. As the children in our schools are almost completely cut off from outside life at the present time, and as some of them will be returning to normal Canadian contacts in the future, discussions of matters which will be of the utmost importance to them at a later date should be encouraged.

C. V. Booth

CVB/hm School Principal - TASHME

I have nothing from Tashme on file. Did you send in your summary?



Copy for the information of Commissioner George Collins.

23-10-44-905  
625

Urgent and Confidential

Ottawa, October 20, 1944.

Mr. F. B. Jolliffe,  
Chief Postal Censor,  
No. 8 Temporary Bldg.,  
O t t a w a.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of two copies of intercepted letter, your file CAN. 8970/44, from K. Shinmoto of Tashme, B. C., to Mr. C. Adachi of Taber, Alta., which letter is dated October 11, 1944 and which is held by you pending advice from this Department.

I believe that this letter should be released and forwarded to the addressee, as it is not felt to be necessary or feasible to prevent the spread of rumours among the Japanese concerning post war policy.

We are very interested however in receiving copies of letters on this subject in order to gauge opinion among these people.

A. MacNamara.

HTB/MB

Later  
to note  
[Signature]



CONFIDENTIAL

Canada

DIRECTORATE OF CENSORSHIP

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

FROM:  K. Shinmoto, Tashme, B.C. CANADA.		TO:  Mr. C. Adachi, c/o Haynes, Taber, Alta. CANADA.				
LIST: NONE		LIST: NONE				
DATE OF COMMUNICATION  October 11, 1944	DATE OF POSTMARK	KIND OF MAIL	MAIL NO.	REGISTER NO.	SERIAL NO.	
LANGUAGE  Japanese	PREVIOUSLY CENSORED BY	STATION DISTRIBUTION		DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION  Held by CFC pending advice from Labour		
PREVIOUS RELEVANT RECORDS  None	FOR INTEROFFICE USE	TO WHOM PHOTOGRAPH IS TO BE SENT		SENT WITH COMMENT TO—		
TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED		PHOTO NO.				
DIVISION (OR SECTION)  General	TABLE	EXAMINER  152 173 - 156	D.A.C.	REVIEWER	EXAMINATION DATE  Oct. 13/44	TYPING DATE  Oct. 12 1944

IRB  
use only

## COMMENT

POLITICAL

From Friend to Friend

Re separating "loyal" and disloyal".

"The authorities charged with the movement of the Japanese are to make a second investigation into the loyalty or disloyalty of our people and it is said that they will collect all the "disloyal" at Tashme and make this town into a concentration camp on the same lines as the Tule Lake camp in the United States. We hear that the government authorities are now perfecting their plans for the separation of the loyal and disloyal ones. According to this story those who vow loyalty will be required to go somewhere to work as the authorities may direct. Those who declare themselves to be "disloyal" will be sent to Tashme to be supported by the government and then sent back to Japan after the war. I suppose this will all be decided by spring and that by that time we will all have to take our baggage and move again. Anyway, 100 men who were cutting fire-wood were discharged and this has caused quite a commotion in this village. Those who, even with this work, were finding it hard to make ends meet, now turn pale (sic) at the idea of being suddenly put out of work. Those in other lines of work must face this possibility sooner or later."

Rest of letter of no interest.

SPECIAL NOTICE—The attached information was taken from private communications, and its extremely confidential character must be preserved. The information must be confided only to those officials whose knowledge of it is necessary to prosecution of the war. In no case should it be widely distributed, or copies made, or the information used in legal proceedings or in any other public way without express consent of the Director of Censorship.



## MEMORANDUM

Project Head Office - Vancouver

Date August 29th, 1944

From the desk of Mrs. C. V. Booth

To Geo. Collins, Commissioner

Subject: File No.

I Referring to your memorandum of August 28th, concerning the future programme of administration of the Japanese problem as it now exists, after due consideration of the whole situation I wish to make the following comments and recommendations.

- (a) It is believed that unless the correspondence to the Provincial Governments is to emanate from high authorities in Ottawa, better results could be accomplished by pre-arranged personal interviews with selected Provincial Officials by qualified Commission representatives presenting a well formulated plan; a similar pattern to be followed in interviews with all provinces.
- (1) and (2) Relief and hospitalization, where required, could most certainly remain Dominion responsibilities for even a longer period than 10 years. If the assumption of these charges encourages provincial good will, they might well be guaranteed for the life of all Japanese beyond the age of 40.

Regarding education also, argument and publicity should be avoided. Unless the Dominion Government intends to persuade or force the provinces to co-operate completely, then we should agree to all charges so that every Japanese Canadian child may enjoy the educational facilities available to all other children.

British Columbia alone, of all provinces, should be denied this assistance until such time as resettlement in the other provinces has been completed.

- (3) It is suggested that at least one member of the so-called Provincial Advisory Committee, be either on salary, or be a competent person who would later accept the position of local relocation and placement officer. (The present pattern for relocation is not satisfactory and I shall comment on it later under "Resettlement".)



# MEMORANDUM

Project Head Office - Vancouver

Date August 29th, 1944

From the desk of Mrs. C. V. Booth

To Geo. Collins, Commissioner

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ File No. \_\_\_\_\_

(2)

- (4) Abrogation of present undertaking for removal of Japanese from the provinces at close of hostilities, and relaxation in restriction of movement, appear to be best possible steps in Alberta and Manitoba; also inclusion of Japanese in all educational rights.
- (b) As the resettlement programme affects only those who are Canadian by choice, the Department of External Affairs would, I presume, be interested only as a matter of record.
- (c) Procedure to amend Defence of Canada Regulations, and policy outlined, appears sound and logical step, and should be followed by granting of vote in all provinces outside British Columbia, at propitious time (not in B.C. until resettlement programme is accomplished fact.)
- (d) As decided in (a) (1).

## II RESETTLEMENT

- (1) Reviewing Relocation up to the present time: we have only two methods:-
  - (a) Group Placement of large numbers (Alberta, Manitoba and Northern Ontario.
  - (b) Individual Placement (Mainly Southern Ontario and Montreal)

Both tend to congregation in certain districts, and placement of unsuitable types in designated employment. The first is too conspicuous, and stirs up local public feeling; and the second leaves the prospective employee in too great uncertainty regarding the work, living accommodation, etc.

These faults could be rectified by a middle plan, i.e. small group dispersal centres. These could be located in the vicinity of large and medium sized cities throughout Canada, and should be comprised of from 10 to 25 families at one time; re-



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To Geo. Collins, Commissioner

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_ File No. \_\_\_\_\_

(3)

placements to follow as vacancies occur.

(1)

- (a) Each group should be based on a nucleus of extremely employable persons, and completed by relatives and friends where possible.
- (b) Groups would thus be diversified as to age and employment capabilities, able to accept both urban and rural employment.
- (c) Choice of location should be given where possible.
- (d) Placement would rest with local placement officer and Selective Service official, after arrival. If this form of resettlement is too slow for our purpose, and it is necessary to use larger provincial camps, they could still be better redistributed at a later date through such centres.

(2)

Segregation should take place at the same time as the new relocation programme, and refusal to relocate under favourable circumstances should be regarded as an indication of disloyalty. All should be given to understand that there is no possibility of their returning to the coastal Defense Area direct from Interior Housing.

(3)

The psychological effect of new orders on people who are already disturbed, should be given consideration. They need direction in a humane but definite manner.

- (a) Our program should be clearly defined to the last detail, and rapid in execution.
- (b) All information should be available in a special office or meeting place open at all times with suitable person in charge.



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(4)

- (c) As far as possible actual transfers should be handled by the Provincial authorities and our officials in the field. Duplication and contradiction from head office results in confusion in the centres and consequent insecurity on the part of the Japanese.
- (3) Individual placement along present lines in Ontario and Quebec should be continued and extended to other large cities in the Dominion, but
  - (1) Housing must be considered a major problem and hostels are absolutely necessary for transition period.
  - (2) Our administration should increase the present resettlement allowance based on the monthly maintenance rate, to two or three months maintenance in the case of indigent families proceeding to low salaried employment.

C. V. Booth

CVB/lm



MEMORANDUM TO: MR. EASTWOOD, MRS. BOOTH, MR. DESBRISAY,  
MR. LISTER, MR. SIMMONS, MR. BROWN,  
CONST. DAVIDSON.

FROM: COMM'R. COLLINS - AUGUST 28, 1944.

1. As a result of the Honourable the Prime Minister's statement in the House of Commons relative to his Government's policy in regard to the administration of the Japanese problem as it now exists, officials of the Department of Labour have asked me to submit a carefully thought out programme which must be developed immediately by conferences between myself and all Commission employees who have had experience in handling Japanese during the evacuation period, resettlement period and who are also familiar with the maintenance of the Japanese in the Interior Settlements as well as those who have been responsible for the issuing of permits, restrictions of travel, etc.

2. It has been suggested that the following points be considered:

(a) Write to the Provinces and say that we would like their co-operation in the relocation of Japanese. While we do not consider it practical to endeavour to proceed on a quota basis, we propose to continue, for the present, the existing control of movement and property purchases so as to prevent undue concentration of Japanese in any area. The Dominion will be prepared to reimburse the Province for a period of ten (?) years for:-

(i) Relief disbursed through the provinces and municipalities for maintenance at standard provincial or municipal rates applicable; and

(ii) Unpaid hospital accounts for indigent Japanese admitted to hospitals as indigent patients to the amount otherwise recoverable from the municipality. This also to apply in cases of mental institutions and T.B. Sanatoriums:

(iii) We propose to set up a Provincial Advisory Committee on which the province would be represented to assist in measures for relocation.

It is not proposed, at the present time, to provide financial assistance to individual Japanese in relocation except in matters of transportation and temporary maintenance grant pending the taking of employment. The general pattern to be followed will be to find employment through the Japanese Placement Officers and Selective Service with the co-operation of local and provincial committees before movement into the province.

(iv) In the case of the provinces of Alberta and Manitoba, ask that the undertaking with respect to removal of Japanese now in the provinces after the war be abrogated but that in the case of both provinces say that it is proposed to relax the restriction on the movement of Japanese now concentrated in certain areas of the province so as to enable wider dispersal either in the province or outside.

(b) Draft of letter to be submitted to External Affairs for consideration.

(c) Prepare submission to Council to amend Defence of Canada Regulations so as to place authority for the issue of licence to purchase property in the hands of the Minister of Labour, copy of this submission to be sent forward for preliminary approval to External Affairs and the Minister of Justice. The policy to be followed would be not to grant licenses until an initial clearance as to loyalty is given by our own office and the R.C.M.P. at Vancouver. In doubtful cases, no licence to be granted pending clarification of the status of the applicant by the Commissioner.



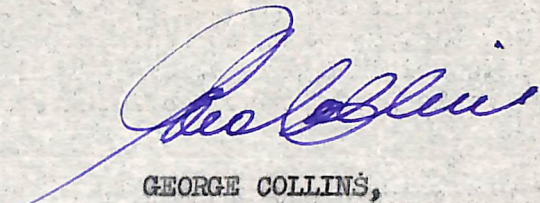
(d) Authority to be obtained from Council to give undertaking to provinces with respect to Dominion responsibility for maintenance and welfare of Japanese for a specified number of years.

3. In order that I may form an agenda for an immediate conference kindly let me have your written personal views at once.

4. This is a very large field for you to make an analytical survey of your past experience and to make constructive recommendations for the future programme.

5. This field covers all aspects of human relationship, Dominion-Provincial relations, intra-Provincial relations, Civic administration between the Commission and the towns, cities and municipalities and Law enforcement bodies. Naturally each person will deal specifically with aspects with which he is most familiar.

6. Kindly let me have your personal views in the form of written comments not later than Wednesday of this week. Give this matter your preferred attention.



GEORGE COLLINS,  
Commissioner.

GC/DS



625  
Material for.

## COMMUNITY ANALYSIS.

Reaction to Prime Minister's Announcement  
re Loyalty, segregation, etc.



EXCERPT from Hansard, Friday, August 4, 1944.

MR. MACKENZIE KING:

..... Now may I speak of persons of Japanese origin in Canada. On several occasions the view has been expressed by residents of British Columbia that the rest of Canada does not appreciate the Japanese problem, and that it has been left as virtually the sole responsibility of their province. The fact that in 1941 of the 23,149 persons of Japanese race in Canada, 22,096 lived in British Columbia, undoubtedly made the people of that province particularly aware of the problem, and I can equally say it made the people of other parts of Canada less aware of how great the problem was. It cannot be said that during the war the government of Canada has left the question on the doorstep of British Columbia. It has taken primary responsibility. I should like now to say, and to emphasize the statement, that the government recognizes that the problem is one to be faced and dealt with not merely by British Columbia but by the whole country. The provinces have their particular sphere of responsibility. I wish to make clear, however, that the government does recognize that the problem is one to be faced by the whole of Canada as a Canadian problem. It is on this basis that the matter has been approached.

The government has had certain basic principles before it in formulating the policy which I wish to present today. In the first place, it recognizes the concern felt by British Columbia at the possibility of once again having within its borders virtually the entire Japanese population of Canada. In the past that situation has led to acrimony and bitterness. That the feeling is made evident not only by the remarks of hon. members from that province but also through representations received from many west coast organizations and individuals. In view of that concern, it is felt that it must be accepted as a basic factor that it would be unwise and undesirable, not only from the point of view of the people of British Columbia but also from that of persons of Japanese origin themselves, to allow the Japanese population to be concentrated in that province after the war.

Secondly, account should be taken of the fact that for the most part the people of Japanese race in the country have remained loyal and have refrained from acts of sabotage and obstruction during the war. It is a fact that no person of Japanese race born in Canada has been charged with any act of sabotage or disloyalty during the years of war. For the future protection of those who have remained loyal, as well as to eliminate those who have shown that their true allegiance is not to Canada but to Japan, the government is of the view that persons of the Japanese race, whether Japanese nationals or British subjects by naturalization or birth, who have shown this loyalty to Canada during the war, should not have the privilege of remaining in Canada after the struggle is terminated. That is a second principle that is considered to be fundamental.

Thirdly, the government is of the view that, having regard to the strong feeling that has been aroused against the Japanese during the war and to the extreme difficulty of assimilating Japanese persons in Canada, immigration of Japanese into this country should not be allowed after the war. It is realized, of course, that no declaration of this type can or should be attempted which would be binding indefinitely into the future. Nevertheless, as a guiding principle in the years after the war, it is felt that the migration of Japanese should not be permitted.

Finally, the government considers that while there are disloyal persons to be removed, and while immigration in future is undesirable, and while problems of assimilation undoubtedly do present

(meaning lack of loyalty)



themselves with respect even to the loyal Japanese in Canada, nevertheless they are persons who have been admitted here to settle and become citizens, or who have been born into this free country of ours, and that we cannot do less than treat such persons fairly and justly. The interests of Canada must be paramount, and its interests will be protected as the first duty of the government. It has not, however, at any stage of the war been shown that the presence of a few thousand persons of Japanese race who have been guilty of no act of sabotage and who have manifested no disloyalty, even during periods of utmost trial, constitutes a menace to a nation of almost twelve million people. Those who are disloyal must be removed. That is clear. Surely, however, it is not to be expected that the government will do other than deal justly with those who are guilty of no crime, or even of any ill intention. For the government to act otherwise would be an acceptance of the standards of our enemies and the negation of the purposes for which we are fighting.

These are the principles that have seemed to the government worthy of acceptance as the basis for a reasonable and equitable policy in disposing of this vexatious problem. The exigencies of the future may dictate modifications or alterations.

I should add that in handling the Japanese problem we shall attempt, in so far as it seems desirable, to maintain a policy that in a sense can be considered as part of a continental policy. The situation in the United States in a great many essentials is the same as our own, and to the extent that it seems desirable we shall endeavour to ensure that our policy takes account of the policies which are being applied south of the border. There is no need for an identity of policy, but I believe there is merit in maintaining a substantial consistency of treatment in the two countries.

I might now mention the tentative measures which it is proposed to put into effect in order to carry out a policy based upon the principles I have indicated. The first and, in a sense, the fundamental task is to determine the loyal and the disloyal persons of Japanese race in Canada. The entire policy depends upon this being done. To some extent, of course, the task has been carried out through the examination and internment of suspicious or dangerous persons. It cannot be assumed, however, that all those who have been interned are disloyal. Some may have merely misunderstood their dispossession from their property in the protected zones and, as peaceful and honest Canadian citizens, may have striven to protect and retain what they considered to be rightfully theirs. Undoubtedly some of these cases exist. Misunderstanding is not the same as traitorous intent, and a stubborn defence of one's own property is not necessarily disloyalty. On the other hand there may be persons who have committed no act to justify their internment but who are in fact disloyal. What is clearly needed is the establishment of a quasi-judicial commission to examine the background, loyalties and attitudes of all persons of Japanese race in Canada to ascertain those who are not fit persons to be allowed to remain here. The commission I have referred to should, I think, be established in the fairly near future, in order that it may begin what will be a large and important task. The result of the work of the commission would be to establish a list of disloyal Japanese persons, some of whom will be Japanese nationals, some British subjects by naturalization, and some British subjects by birth. The Government's intention would be to have these disloyal persons deported to Japan as soon as that is physically possible. Prior to deportation British subjects falling within this class would be deprived of their status as such. By the terms of the peace, Japan can be compelled, whether she wishes it or not, to accept these persons. There may also be some persons who will voluntarily indicate a desire to proceed to Japan. For these no further examination would be necessary. Whatever their national status, they would be allowed and encouraged to go as soon as they can.



Once the examination has been carried out, there will be established a list of Japanese persons who are loyal to Canada. Those persons, if they have been properly admitted to this country, and wish to remain here, should be allowed to do so. However, as I have said, they should not be allowed once more to concentrate in British Columbia. To prevent such concentration, measures of two types can be taken - a maximum can be set on the number of persons of Japanese race to be allowed to return to British Columbia, and persons of Japanese race can be given encouragement to move and remain elsewhere. It would be most undesirable, I believe, to establish a permanent barrier to the movement within Canada of persons who have been lawfully admitted to Canada or who are nationals of Canada. That would raise the possibility of discrimination and restrictions on movement to and from provinces which might have most unfortunate consequences in the future. Even the establishment of a temporary limitation would be undesirable in principle, but as a practical question of policy it may well be inescapable.

There is little doubt that with cooperation on the part of the provinces it can be made possible to settle the Japanese more or less evenly throughout Canada. They will have to settle in such a way that they must be able to pursue the settled lives to which they are entitled, and that they do not present themselves as an unassimilable bloc or colony which might again give rise to distrust, fear and dislike. It is the fact of concentration that has given rise to the problem.

The sound policy and the best policy for the Japanese Canadians themselves is to distribute their numbers as widely as possible throughout the country where they will not create feelings of racial hostility.

It is not my intention at this time to enlarge further on this matter. There are questions of detail still to be considered. There may also be modifications of policy which further investigation will show to be necessary. However, the lines of development to which the government will endeavour to adhere will be in general those which I have outlined. We must not permit in Canada the hateful doctrine of racialism which is the basis of the Nazi system everywhere. Our aim is to resolve a difficult problem in a manner which will protect the people of British Columbia and the interests of the country as a whole, and at the same time preserve in whatever we do, principles of fairness and justice.

In respect to this particular matter may I add that I have just given hon. members figures showing the numbers of Canadian nationals who are under the control of the Japanese in Japan at the present time. Having in mind that fact, the fact that a number of our Canadian soldiers are interned in Japan, it has seemed the part of wisdom to me to be very guarded in what I would say on this subject of Japanese nationals in this country. I am sure hon. members will see the necessity of keeping that essential feature very much in mind. Until the war is over there are possibilities of all kinds of cruel recriminations as a result, if not of actions, possibly of statements or suggestions. I think therefore it would be in the interests of all that in discussing this matter further - if indeed it is necessary to do so - that particular fact be kept very much in mind.



1116



LEMON CREEK SCHOOL

Oct. 2, 1944

TO: MRS. C.V. BOOTH

RE: Reaction of families toward the announcement  
of the Prime Minister

I have held several staff meetings to discuss the above matter but have <sup>had</sup> no opinions expressed. This is due to the fact that the teachers do not speak or understand the Japanese language adequately to make a report of this nature. Moreover an inquiry of this type is very touchy in this community and the teachers do not want the <sup>x</sup>people to feel that they are prying into their private affairs.

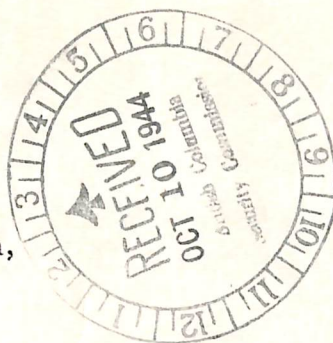
Also, Mr. King made no statement as to what policy would be used for dispersal, whether a family would be given an option to relocate as they wish or otherwise.

Due to the above reasons it is impossible to give you a general impression or reaction of the people here.

*M. Nagai*  
.....  
School Principal



Popoff,  
Slocan City, B.C.  
October 2, 1944



Mrs. C.V. Booth,  
Education Department,  
B.C. Security Commission,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mrs. Booth:

Some time ago, we were asked to send in a short essay on the reaction of the people regarding the Prime Minister's announcement. My staff and I discussed this pretty thoroughly and we all feel that with our very poor Japanese, we cannot talk on such an important subject, adequately, with the first generations. Also, as the majority of us are new to Popoff, it is difficult for us to go around asking their views and opinions. Therefore, if you wish to obtain correct information on this problem, I think it would be advisable to ask the local Japanese Committee. As far as our meetings are concerned there is absolutely no discussion on this topic and I think people in general have taken the attitude of "wait and see what happens".

What about the second generations? Well, many have said that it depends on how Canada is going to treat them. The question is "If we, the loyal Japanese Canadians are accepted as loyal, why can't we decide where we want to go? Why should they tell us where to go? After all it is a matter which is going to decide what kind of a life we're going to lead for the next fifty years." This is the kind of attitude I think we all have when asked our opinions regarding the announcement. Yet I think deep down in their hearts many are thrashing out their ultimate solution with their own problems before they take the final step, and I think you will agree with me that each individual has his own little case, which does not concern anybody else. Nobody wishes to express his own feeling, or tell of his plan, as nobody knows what will happen tomorrow.

I am sorry that I cannot present you with definite cases but with the hope that this will be of some help, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Tessie Sugura*  
Principal  
POPOFF SCHOOL

*COPIES*



In order to present a vivid picture of the visions of the people under the present circumstances, it is necessary to turn back the pages of history nearly a half a century ago, and trace the ideals, embraced by the people, up to the present moment. Only in this way, can a clear picture be shown, for the vicissitude of these fifty years have shaped the outlooks of the Japanese race in Canada.

.....

Nearly fifty years ago, the first of the Japanese immigrants arrived on Canadian soil. These adventurous youths had escaped from a little world of their own in which they saw no future hope. They could see nothing beyond the little, lean block of land, they tilled, and their humble cottage, which had been the contended abode of generation before. They yearned for adventure. They wanted money and education and luxury and happiness.

Those that arrived in Canada found jobs waiting for them at every turn of the road. Some were immediately successful in pursuit of those things they dreamed. In the course of few decades, few returned to their native village with their pockets full of riches. Others were not so fortunate and were compelled to remain until they had acquired enough money.

Still others seriously considered staying here. They became naturalized. They made friends with the Canadians. When the World War I broke out, a large number enlisted in the armed forces and some did not return from the battlefields of France.

As time wore on, those that had left families back in Japan were filing applications for bringing them over, while those who were young were asking their aged parents to send brides over to them. Thus they found themselves with their families. Children were born. They grew and attended local schools. How different they thought, these children



with black hair and brown eyes,-their children with Japanese blood-were not addressing them "honourable father and mother"-no, they were calling them "mom and dad". Moreover, they were adopting the ways and customs of other Canadian children. Nevertheless, it was their children. They were determined to give their children the very best of everything- all those things which circumstances had denied them.

And so they were to live finding comfort and happiness in their sons and daughter. At the village celebrations they found themselves proudly admiring their children, dancing with fair and red haired boys and girls before the May Queen. When the crowd cheered, they clapped and clapped and applauded with the greatest of joy.

These sons and daughters grew.

A strange feeling came over them. The cheery blossoms, the annual festivals, the sounds of the wooden clogs, and all those things representative of their native village were now dim and remote and far back in the misty past. Instead different things thrilled and fascinated them. Acres of British Sovereign strawberries in full bloom, or the successful catch of salmon glistening silver in the moonlight, mountains of towering firs, the wind whistling through the branches-these were the things that made their hearts beat faster and filled their souls with music.

They had come to love this land of adoption - Canada.

On the ~~disastrous~~ Sunday of December Seventh-the bombs fell on Pearl Harbour.

Events moved fast. Radios, Cameras, fishing boats, cars, homes lands, all were to be reported and left behind for the mass evacuation of the people to the East, the Prairies and the Interior Towns.

There is an old Japanese saying that time flies swiftly like an



arrow shot through the air. Indeed time has passed with rapid speed.

It has been over two years since they have settled in Slocan. Upon their arrival they discovered so much to do. The improvement of living quarters, the pressing need of a central community organization, the solution of innumerable personal and communal problems--these activities occupied all their time and thoughts. Two years have elapsed and they have remarkably managed to grope their way through the mist, only to find a denser fog waiting for them ahead of the little clearing of light.

All of them realize the necessity of traversing this dense fog to reach an ultimate solution to their problems but the old and weak have given up hope. They would rather spend what remains of their life in this clearing, recalling the memories of yesterdays, than to venture forth in another endeavour.

Some of the middle aged group, with children still in schools are willing to escape from the abnormal conditions for the benefit of their young ones. Others with sons and daughters in the east would like to rejoin them but they think it is impractical because of the immediate problem of housing.

Some have definitely made up their minds to return to Japan. "At least we know where we stand," they state.

After the war, whither? "That is another question," they say. "Up to the time of the war we were masters of our own destiny. But, war has changed everything. With one clause in the law, we can be completely stripped of our rights. What if we did make good in the East? Will our honest, hard working qualities mean anything?"

Thus the column of question marks stretches down the long road of tomorrow.

But there are a few - philosophers, they would be called, embracing a vision that can be beautifully seen beyond these countless columns.



They remark emphatically, "The state of war between Canada and Japan will not forever exist. It must not. When formal peace is declared, <sup>a day will dawn</sup> for all the common people of the world to rally forth in the greatest task mankind has undertaken- <sup>that of</sup> healing ~~of~~ the wounds of war inflicted upon the friendship of all the people of the world. This task can only be accomplished when the common people of all the nations are conjoined in mutual understanding and friendship. We shall remain in Canada if permitted to, and shall consider it a privilege to contribute even our humble efforts toward the realization of this great ideal."

Theirs may just be a dream. But they still have enough faith in the goodness of humanity to cherish this fond hope. If they will constantly strive towards this ultimate goal, they will not have hoped in vain. The day will surely come, when Canada and Japan will be united again in a warm friendship. And they, the common people, will have made a little contribution towards keeping the waters, that separate these two great nations, forever as its name signifies.

End

*Slocan.*  
*Tak Teriji*



EDUCATION DEPT.



New Denver, B.C.,  
Sept. 30th, 1944.

Mrs. C.V. Booth,  
Education Dept.

Re-action to Announcement of Dispersal Policy

Perhaps we do not live on the right side of the creek, but it appears as if the people are not perturbed about the Prime Minister's recent announcement. Usually after an announcement that will effect a change you get a good cross section of opinion by being with any group or individual. But this time there does not seem to be any of the furore that have preceded and followed other announcements. Those with resettlement intentions hope to trekk eastward as soon as something suitable turns up; those with faint leanings in that direction need a little push and they'll join the other members of their family already there; and of the rest, there are those who will sit back and wait to see what happens next. This policy of dispersal is what they have understood to happen in time.

I have been interested in opinions expressed on this question of loyalty. There may be a definite number who are sure they wish to be repatriated - and make known to all that they feel so inclined. At one time this was a large group. If there has been any change of heart among these members, it has been due to the prospective outcome of the war in the Pacific. I have tried to sound out my family regarding the attitude among the Isseis in Kaslo, are they as keen about repatriation as they used to be. Their comment was something that I had not heard previously, that they could not return unless they had some thing (meaning property) to return to and some means to carry them through the years to come. This would depend largely upon the settlement of property by the Custodian, as well as what they had prepared for themselves in the years prior to the outbreak of the war.

Up to this time this group used to think in terms of selecting the palmiest palm on the choice Pacific isle to sit under after the war. Now they feel that the choice of the isle is limited, and that perhaps it was an illusion. They think in terms of economic reality and a way of living that may be somewhat cramped.

Regarding the loyalty of Nisseis, the majority of them in this area have loosened themselves off the apron strings that have been attached to them and are in the position to influence their parents. But there are still a woeful few who are influenced by their parents and huseconfused.

T. Hidaka  
T. Hidaka





*Analysis*

03746  
New Denver Orchard School,  
New Denver, B. C.,  
Sept. 27, 1944.

Re Re-action to the Prime Minister's Announcement.

Dear Mrs. Booth:

My personal opinion on this question is that the re-action is so slight as to be hardly noticeable. The reason for this is that the Japanese do not realize the importance of this first official announcement. To them, it is merely a re-iteration of an oft-rumored and fairly well settled fact. Since the first days of evacuation, there have been so many wild rumours, and so many contradictory statements following one on another, that they have come to take everything with a philosophical grain of salt. Of course they knew that the furor about everyone of Japanese ancestry being shipped back to Japan was but the raving of a few fanatics. The majority of families have not, at any time, evinced any considerable desire to leave this country.

I believe my family to be a typical one. My father and mother are naturalized Canadians, and have lived in this country for some 35 years. Not once have they gone back to Japan. In their prosperous younger days, they had no desire to leave this easy life. As the family increased, they submerged their interests in the best interests of us children, and as we gradually absorbed Canadian ideals and customs, so did they. When evacuation was new, we, the younger generation, were rather eager and curious about moving to the interior of B. C. Now my parents are settled in Lemon Creek. They have no desire to go east particularly, because they feel that they cannot start afresh at their age. But my brother went to Montreal a year ago, and I am hoping to go next year. It will just be a matter of time until the family is together again in the east.

Please understand that this is just my personal opinion. I have not even discussed it with the family, because I understand how they feel. The teachers on my staff have nothing new to add. In their cases, the family situation seems to parallel ours. They say, "Father says he's too old to move, but we want to go". Being new to the school and the community, I have not had much opportunity to go about among the people. I do believe, however, that had there been any considerable amount of discussion about the matter, I should have heard about it. Therefore my own conclusion is that re-action is almost nil.

Yours truly,

*Yoshiko Tanabe* ✓



Rosebery School,  
Rosebery, B.C.  
Sept. 29, 1947.



B.C. S.C. Education Dept.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Mrs. Booth:-

In reply to your memo of Sept. 19 regarding the reaction of local families towards the announcement of our Prime Minister, I am submitting to you a summary on this subject.

As you already know, practically the whole of the day of us school teachers is spent at school and although we do live right in the community (September being an extra busy time in getting the school organized) we have had very little chance to visit neighbours or mingle with local people during evenings or weekends and I do not know whether the following report will prove satisfactory to you or not but I have done my best to give you some idea by summarizing local comments heard by the staff and myself on this matter.

#### I General attitude towards the policy

One of indifference as far as we can see.

- Possible reasons
- (1) Since the announcement, no definitely <sup>big</sup> steps have been taken to carry out this policy in our towns.
  - (2) The majority have hardly any knowledge of English and therefore do not have access to news directly. What news they have from hearsay is not taken so very seriously.



2. Comments when the subject is brought up.

(a) Majority of workers on Comm. Payroll. (usually with relatively large families, school age children, age group around middle-age slightly above or below, both Nationals & Naturalized Can.)

- In most cases not anxious to relocate.

- Steady job & income here at present.

- They feel more than one in the family should be working to meet the higher costs of living if they relocate.

- Housing difficulties for their families.

(b) Families with older children relocated. (usually with a few younger children here.) age group (past middle age, some past ability to do hard labour.)

- Would like to be with children but they feel they would be a burden to them and so are reluctant.

(c) Younger couples with or without children.

age group 25-35 Canadian Born in most cases.

If no employment is available here they are prepared to find it elsewhere.

(d) Other general comments from the various above groups.

Since it is wartime, it is best to follow orders and go where we are told to go.

3. Ultimate Solution.

No one has definite comment on this.

However their desires are 1) To be with the family (if they are separated at present.)

2) To be able to return to their former homes at the end of the war.

Yours respectfully,

K. Achia

Principal, Rosebery School.



Kaslo School  
Kaslo, B. C.  
October 2, 1944

Mrs. C. V. Booth  
Education Department  
B. C. Security Commission  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mrs. Booth:

I hereby submit a brief report on my findings regarding the reaction of the Japanese in Kaslo towards the Prime Minister's announcement.

Generally speaking, the great majority of the families have no desire to leave this country after having spent most or all of their lives here. They seem to be willing to re-locate under fair conditions, but think that an even distribution among the provinces would not be feasible as, for instance, not all of the families are adaptable to life on the prairies. They hope to move to a location where there will be a satisfactory, suitable means of livelihood and where there will be opportunities for furthering the education of the young children.

The older generation, especially those without families seem to wish to stay in a settlement such as Slocan or Tashme.

Some of those who still have their own property here in B. C., hope to return again to their former homes and do not want to be dispersed to any of the others provinces.

Yours truly,

*Amy Yamazaki*

Amy Yamazaki  
Principal