

Miss Fox
4th yr. Sec.



McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

October 15, 1946

Dear Kunio:

Before your letter of October 2 was delivered, I had intended for some days to write to you as the Far Eastern Survey has asked me to prepare an article for its publication. Since I have been home only 3 weeks after a summer of Indian field work, I have not had an opportunity to consider it very carefully. And since the arrival of your letter, we have had not a 3 but a 5 ring circus here while trying to get the University started this fall.

Last week I spent 3 days in Ottawa, chiefly on Indian business. While there I did have a long visit with Pammett and with Brown. And I went through the clipping files of the Dept. of Labor Library, but this material has not as yet suggested what should be done in the way of writing a paper.

Since returning from Ottawa I have learned that I shall be in Toronto on October 31 and a few days afterwards for some committee meetings, and I thought that I might possibly see you at that time to talk over the whole of the problem with you.

With respect to your specific inquiry, I do not recall that there is any of the materials in the MSS which would be of help to you with respect to property claims. I did talk with a large number of property owners who claimed to have lost as a result of enforced liquidation. I could not at that time get access to records which would have made possible for me to make any important contribution to the discussion at the time. I talked over the plan with the Office of the Custodian in Ottawa and Vancouver. If I could secure written permission from the owner involved, they would have permitted me to examine the records involved. This was a complete research job in itself, requiring considerable time to secure permission, and then a long task of going through documents. While in Vancouver Mr. Shears showed me a number of dossiers on individual cases, and I was appalled at the amount of work which would have been involved. I considered trying to do it on a sample basis but finally decided that in view of the time limit which CIIA had sort of set on trying to get something done, this was a job which I could undertake only to the extent of setting down 1) conditions which gave rise to the policy and 2) the reaction of the Japanese, including the Exchequer Court case.

Before the repatriates sailed for Japan, and I saw the Meiggs sail, they filed with the government a mimeographed form of alleged losses, indicating that this was a claim which they hoped to press at a later date. There are, of course, items included which probably would never be considered but there are also claims of losses through enforced liquidation. The task of verifying these

losses is extremely difficult, for in some cases there were joint ownerships, mortgages, etc., and with the policy of paying off all creditors and returning the net proceeds to the owner with the attitudes of persecution manifested by owners, along with politically fearful administrators and others probably trying to get away with something, it is certainly a wilderness of charges and counter-charges, requiring documents to clear each case.

Canadians Japanese and World War II went to press last June, and I have no notion how soon it is likely to become available. For some ten months publication has been more difficult than during the war, and I would not be surprised if it were another ten or twelve months before it was finished.

Last week we walked over to see Kazuko and Ewald. They looked very well and seem to be surviving the strain of married student life quite well. I hope that I shall be able to see Terry while in Toronto as I have not seen her since the summer of '44. Best wishes for now.

Cordially yours,

Garrett L.