

THE CO-OPERATIVE COMMITTEE ON JAPANESE CANADIANS.
NEWS BULLETIN #4 March 15 1946

A deputation from the Co-operative Committee is awaiting an interview with the Prime Minister to urge that the Orders-in-Council be rescinded. Meanwhile plans are going forward for an appeal to the Privy Council in London to appeal from the decision of the Supreme Court in Ottawa.

Meetings, large and small continue to be held across the country, and telegrams and letters continue to pour into Ottawa.

Here are a few of the Public Meetings and other activities that have taken place during the past six weeks.

FEB. 3RD Bathurst St. Church Sunday Evening Forum, Toronto. Subject: "Dare We Deport Canadians." Speakers: John Fisher, C.B.C. Commentator, Brigadier O. Martin, First Indian Magistrate in Canada, Kunio Hidaka, M.A.

FEB. 14TH. University of Toronto Students Forum. Speakers: Andrew Brewin, Kinzie Tanaka, Lieut. Col. Croll, Federal Member for a Toronto riding.

"Canada signed the United Nations Charter. It should not be necessary for Canada now to write a post-script to the signature denying freedom to a group of her own citizens because of their race." Croll

FEB. 15TH. Regina. B.K. Sandwell addressed 1200 delegates to the Saskatchewan School Trustees Association and The Womens Canadian Club. "Two excellent contributions to the subject of Civil Liberties...Did much in stimulating people to think."

FEB. 24TH Public meeting of 700 people at Carlton St. Church, Toronto. Subject: "Supreme Court Decision." Speakers: Andrew Brewin, Charles Millard, Hugh MacMillan and Rev. James Finlay. The meeting passed a resolution calling for a revision of Government policy,

"so that no Canadian born citizen or naturalized citizen of Japanese origin in any circumstances be sent from this country."

MARCH 1ST. Mass meeting of 1000 students at Queens University Kingston. Speaker: B.K. Sandwell. "Dr. Sandwell's speech was loudly cheered."

MARCH 4TH Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Toronto. Special meeting to hear Mrs. Grace MacInnes of Vancouver speak on Japanese Canadians.

RADIO.

March 2nd. Trans-Canada Broadcast "Canada and her Pacific Neighbours," Hugh MacMillan.

March 5th C.B.C. CITIZEN'S FORUM. Report of discussions across the country on the question "Will the deportation of Japanese Canadians affect our relations with the people of the Far East?" C.K.E.Y. Toronto. Several good talks and news items.

"The man behind the typewriter....world traveller...professor at Columbia University....ardent reader etc." is Dr. Edmund MacDonald.

C.E.N.S. Halifax. Mrs. Anna Dexter. Talks on this subject from time to time. "People of good will must make the government understand that such injustice must not be permitted."

ORGANIZATIONS SENDING RESOLUTIONS TO OTTAWA.

FEB 15TH. Canadian School of Missions. Over 80 missionaries representing countries in all parts of the world signed and forwarded a protest to Ottawa.

"The Government proposal is at variance with what missionaries have been teaching regarding Christianity."
 Other resolutions....Lethbridge Presbytery of the United Church.....
 Feb. 23 Moosejaw and district Labour Council....March 1st. Jewellery Workers Union, Toronto....March 1st. Presbyterian Student Fellowship, Toronto.....March 2nd.National Council of Women meeting in Toronto....
 "We feel that the deportation scheme is breaking faith with those who gave their lives, and the principles for which they fought in the war--the right of the individual to the sacred rights of life and liberty.".....
 March 4th.Canadian Association of Social Workers, B.C. Mainland Branch, Vancouver.....March 4th.University Womens Club, Victoria, B.C.

STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS.

February 25rd. Statement from Tashme by those who have requested repatriation to Japan and who have not cancelled their requests.
 "We, the majority of whom are old, are returning to Japan because we have been uprooted from the foundations which we have laid during the years of our stay in Canada, after having given the best years either directly or indirectly to the basic industries of B.C., and after having endeavoured to live as respectable, peaceful, law-abiding citizens of Canada....Many of us have been in small trades and businesses, or were landowners, farmers, fishermen with our own boats and gears. These means of livelihood as well as our homes have been sold by the Custodian of Enemy Alien Property.....Therefore, it is only for the above reasons and not with any act of disloyalty that we are returning to Japan."

February 24th Slocan Nisei Organization...Petition to the Prime Minister on behalf of parents and others, pleading that "they be permitted to remain with us if they so desire that we all may become useful citizens of this our country"....."Although our parents as a group have shown characteristics common to immigrant groups of other races (although not more than other such groups) such as clannishness, lack of facility in the use of the English language, and an anxiety to succeed in an economic sense, yet they have greatly appreciated the democratic way of life for their children and have urged them to assume the full obligations of citizenship." B.E. Sandwell comments on this petition saying "It is one of the most persuasive pieces of English writing we have seen for some time."

March 1st. National InterChurch Advisory Committee on Resettlement of Japanese Canadians.....letter to 12,000 pastors and priests..."On behalf of justice and fair play to all Japanese Canadians urging that public opinion must be mobilized if a grave injustice is to be avoided."
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MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

"Social Psychological Characteristics of Evacuated Japanese,"
 F.E. LaViolette CANADIAN JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
 U.of T. Press, August 1945....."Racism and Japanese Canadians,
 Kinzie Tanaka, in TO-DAY, March 1946....."Our Opinion" in MAPLE LEAF,
 N.W. European Division, Jany.25/46(They have the right to take their
 places in our nation with full citizenship.To refute that right under
 the guise of willing deportation, is to refute the principles of freedom
 for which Canadians of many racial origins fought.)
 "What Price Citizenship?" TIME, March 14/46.
 - NEW COMMITTEE.....Lethbridge Consultative Committee. Purpose, "To
 educate people on the moral issues involved in the deportation of
 the Japanese Canadians."