

Committee

REPORT OF THE CITIZENSHIP DEFENSE TO THE MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1946 AT THE CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS TORONTO

Organization

The Citizenship Defense Committee was formed at the end of 1945 with issei and nisei representation to raise funds for the campaign against deportation and other violations of personal and civil rights.

Financial Campaign

The whole of Ontario was considered the field for the Toronto committee in the financial drive. It was recommended that local areas such as Montreal, Hamilton, London, etc. set up their own committees and carry out similar campaigns. Outside points were asked to send their contributions directly to Toronto.

The people of Ontario and many other parts of Canada have responded whole-heartedly to our appeal. Local committees have obtained good results from their work. The minimum contribution asked was two dollars from each working person, but the average which is well above this amount indicates that the public are thoroughly behind our purposes.

Full details of finances are given in the Treasurer's Report.

Centralization and Co-ordination of Work

The Committee has full representation on the Co-operative Committee on Japanese Canadians which is assuming the major role in the present public campaign. The Co-operative Committee is composed of some fifty Toronto organizations and maintains a corresponding relationship with other citizen's committees in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary,

Lethbridge, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Guelph, London, Hamilton, and Montreal.

The Citizenship Defense Committee

It has also been in close communication with Japanese

Committees throughout Canada. To this end, letters and a weekly news sheet are being sent out from Toronto. This Committee is now acting as the centre for information, guidance and direction, for all Japanese Committees.

This fact of the dependence of other committees for their effective operation, brings us to the proposal that a national federation of Japanese people's organizations be formed. This matter will be given full discussion at this meeting.

Permanent Organization

Toward the close of the financial drive, the Committee discussed the advisability of continuing as an organization. It was decided that the present political situation warranted our continuance. Other matters such as property disposal, travel, etc., could be settled more effectively through the work of the organization.

Other Activities

There were other activities of the Committee. On January 24 and 25 a representative attended the sessions of the Supreme Court and established further contacts in Montreal. News reports have been sent to The New Canadian and other papers and magazines. A number of members have spent considerable time addressing public meetings.