

FINAL MEETING OF THE TORONTO CLAIMANTS COMMITTEE

After giving public notice, the final meeting of the Toronto Claimants Committee was held at the Tairiku Hall on Thursday, May 17, to wind up the committee's business.

The chairman, S. Takashima, reported that a detailed outline of the work performed by the committee since its appointment in December, 1949, was issued to claimants in Toronto and elsewhere where possible during April.

Highlights of the Claimants Committee's report were as follows:

- (1) The Toronto Claimants Committee was formed at the request of the National JOCA Executive Committee and was elected by the claimants in Toronto.
- (2) The purpose of the committee was to assist the National Executive Committee in implementing an evacuation claims program which was favorable to claimants.
- (3) Numerous meetings during the course of several months were spent in research, discussions and conferences with the National Executive Committee in an effort to reach an agreement on policy regarding evacuation claims.
- (4) Three attempts were made by the Toronto Claimants Committee to consult claimants across Canada in order that they (the claimants) may have a voice in determining the policy, but on each occasion the National Executive Committee and the Co-operative Committee refused to co-operate. The list containing the addresses of claimants was not made available.
- (5) The Toronto Claimants Committee advocated a wide-spread public campaign for three specific reasons; they were as follows:
 - (a) To bring to the attention of the Canadian public the injustices of the evacuation and the tremendous economic losses which resulted therefrom.
 - (b) To show to the public the total inadequacy of the awards recommended by Mr. Justice H.I. Bird in his report of the inquiry.
 - (c) To show the injustices resulting from exclusion of a group of evacuees from substantial and justifiable compensation; i.e. properties not handled by the Custodian.
- (6) The Co-operative Committee refused to endorse this plan and the National Executive Committee fell in step with this decision for the following reasons:
 - (a) The Co-operative Committee was anxious to wind up the whole business of evacuation claims.
 - (b) Adoption of the plan of the Toronto Claimants Committee would mean a complete reversal of their policy, and loss of face for both the Co-operative Committee and the National Executive Committee.

(7) The result of the policy adopted by the National Executive Committee and the Co-operative Committee has been to close the whole evacuation claims issue with the meagre payments recommended by Mr. Justice Bird.

(8) The signing of the Release of the Custodian has closed for all time any opportunity for making further claims, and has made the position of excluded claimants practically hopeless.

Issued by the Toronto Claimants Committee
67 Rose Avenue, Toronto

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