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THE JAPANESE-CANADIAN SITUATION TO-DAY

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On January 1, 1947, the new Canadian citizenship law came into effect. By it for the first time in history Canadian citizenship was established, and anomalies that existed to the handicap of Canadians were corrected. It means, among other things, that no longer can there be two classes of citizens in Canada. Regardless of race or religion, either a man is a Canadian citizen, owing political loyalty solely to Canada, and enjoying all privileges that other Canadians,—other things being equal—enjoy, or he is not. If he is, he must be allowed to exercise the franchise—municipal, provincial and federal—to travel, to do business, or reside anywhere in Canada without let or hindrance.

THE PRIVY COUNCIL'S DECISION

On December 2, 1946, the Privy Council ruled that the Canadian Government's Orders-in-Council authorizing the deportation of certain groups of Japanese-Canadians were valid, thus upholding the Supreme Court's judgment of last February. This decision has disappointed those who looked to the Privy Council as the legal guardian of the rights of minorities within the British Commonwealth. The judges ruled that under the War Emergency Powers Act the Government could legally do anything it considered necessary for the safety of the Dominion, and made this significant comment: "It is not pertinent to the

judiciary to consider the wisdom or propriety of the particular policy which is embodied in the emergency legislation. Determination of the policy to be followed is exclusively a matter for the Parliament of the Dominion and those to whom it has delivered its powers."

Thus, by ruling that the Canadian Government has the power to do anything it sees fit, regardless of the right or justice of such actions, the Privy Council has, in effect, thrown the case back to the people of Canada. The decision merely underlines the fact that we can never depend upon laws or constitutions to defend our rights: eternal vigilance is still the price of liberty.

Although the legal battle has been lost, it is generally believed that the widespread public protest against the Orders-in-Council has gained its end. The Government has not yet made any definite statement, but reports from Ottawa indicate that it is now unlikely that any Japanese-Canadians will be deported against their will. However, we should not be overconfident. The matter will certainly come up for debate in the forthcoming session of the House. Lovers of liberty in Canada should watch the newspapers to see that the ultimate disgrace of forcibly compelling Canadians to leave their homeland is not to be charged against us.

However, already some 4000 persons of Japanese origin (over half of them Canadian-born) have gone to Japan. That these persons should have chosen to go to a starving and devastated land rather than to remain in Canada is a severe indictment of

the treatment they received in this "democratic" country. Can we blame them if, after being treated as enemies and herded into camps simply because of their racial origin, after seeing the work of years destroyed overnight through no fault of their own, they felt unable to start over again, in the face of continuing hostility and unceasing prejudice? Though it is probably true that a certain number of the Japanese-born who have returned always intended to go back to Japan at some time, we believe that this number is very small.

It is now too late to make restitution to those four thousand, who, in despair, have given up the struggle to obtain justice in Canada. We must insist, however, that those Canadian-born sons and daughters who felt obliged to accompany their parents to Japan as a filial duty, shall retain their Canadian nationality and shall be free to return to the land of their birth whenever they choose to do so.

TOSHIKO SASAKI

Among the 15 persons of Japanese ancestry who boarded the C.N.R. coach at Winnipeg to catch the fourth repatriation ship for Japan was Toshiko Sasaki, youngest daughter to Mr. and Mrs. K. Sasaki of Letellier, Man.

Eighteen-year-old Toshiko is on her way to Japan, but she doesn't like the idea. She had to accompany her old parents who have determined to return to their native country. Toshiko wants to return to Canada as soon as she gets them to Japan but doubts if either government would allow her to come back.

"I'm the youngest in the family," Toshiko said. "My father decided he wanted to spend his last years in Japan and told me I was to accompany mother and him there.

"I could do nothing else. I was born in New Westminster, B. C., and know no other country. I'm hoping all the time that I can return."

Toshiko lived in Letellier, Man., for the last five years. Along with several other Japanese-Canadians she attended school in that town. She has three older sisters at Letellier and one brother. "Two of my sisters are engaged and will be married soon," she said. "I'll miss their weddings."

The three sisters were at the train to see their parents and sister start for Japan. They all wished Toshiko could stay and sobbed heavily when train time drew near.

One sister fell alongside the train when it was leaving. Despite pleadings of the R. C. M. P. corporal accompanying the Winnipeg Japanese party, the girl would not move. She was carried away.—"The New Canadian", Sept. 21, 1946.

WARRANT OFFICER TATSURO SUZUKI

"Buck" Suzuki was born in British Columbia 30 years ago. After war was declared on Germany Suzuki made three attempts to enlist in the Canadian armed forces, once before Japan entered the war, twice after, and was rejected each time on racial grounds. He finally enlisted in the British Army in January, 1945, and was transferred to the Canadian Intelligence Corps in February. He went to England shortly after that, and served in India and Malaya till October, 1946.

Suzuki owned seven acres of excellent farming land in the Fraser delta, near Sunbury, all cleared, with a house which he remodelled at a cost of \$4000. The property, unencumbered by any mortgage or debt, was taken over by the Custodian of Japanese Property, and sold without Suzuki's knowledge or consent for \$1963.

"The Ladner Optimist" of April 6, 1944, said that land in this district was priced at \$300 an acre. There was insurance of \$3000 on Suzuki's house.

Suzuki's father, Gennosuke, a naturalized Canadian citizen for 33 years, owned 10 acres in Gibson, B. C., at the corner of Oliver and River Roads, adapted for subdivision and building, for which Suzuki Senior paid \$800 in 1939. This was sold by the Custodian for \$96.

O. KAMACHI

I am a returned veteran. My farm at Langley Prairie, B. C., a berry farm, consists of strawberries, 15 acres of land, with house, barn, and packing house. This was valued at \$3,000 but was sold by the Custodian for \$980.

My fishing net and net twine valued at \$700 were sold at \$292. My fishing boat, 28 f. long by 7 ft. wide, with a 6 H.P. Palmer engine, was sold for \$86. Because of the shameful low prices I refuse to accept the money, and it is still in the hands of the Custodian.

(Signed) O. Kamachi.

RESTRICTIONS ON PERSONS OF JAPANESE RACE

A year and a half after V-J Day, the Government still has extraordinary and arbitrary powers over all persons of Japanese race. Legally, all Canadians of Japanese ancestry are still required to obtain R.C.M.P. travel permits before crossing any provincial boundary or changing their place of residence. No Canadian citizen of Japanese extraction may settle in the British Columbia coastal area, or travel more than fifty miles within British Columbia—except those who served in the Canadian forces in World War II, and these may do so only with a police permit. Because of this ruling, three Nisei who won University of British Columbia scholarships have been unable to use them.

Another order prohibits all persons of Japanese ancestry from fishing in British Columbia or the Pacific coastal waters without a permit from the Commissioner, and up to the present no such permits have been granted. Only a short time ago applications of two Nisei war veterans for permits were refused.

Still another regulation requires all persons of Japanese ancestry to secure a license from the Department of Labour before they can purchase property. While such licenses are usually granted—except in British Columbia—nevertheless they can be

SERGEANT Y. SHOJI

Mr. Shoji was a machine-gunner in the Princess Pats in World War I. He was wounded twice, promoted to be sergeant, and honourably discharged. In 1931 he purchased 19 acres near Whonnock, B. C., under the Soldiers' Settlement Act. He cleared and cultivated 9 of his acres, built a two-storied house, and 4 well-equipped chicken houses and a hatchery. The property was sold by the Custodian. After certain deductions for taxes and other payments were made, Mr. Shoji was sent a cheque for \$39.72 by the Custodian.

refused without any opportunity for appeal.

Such restrictions upon the liberty of Canadian residents who have been guilty of no crime or even of any ill intention were unjustified even in time of war. Today, when the excuse of war emergency is far behind us, it is difficult to imagine upon what pretext they are retained.

The National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, which extended the War Measures Act under which these Orders-in-Council were passed, is due to expire on March 31, 1947. The regulations in question will then lapse unless new legislation is introduced to extend them. We may hope that no such legislation will be introduced, and that instead the Government will announce a definite policy towards Japanese-Canadians based on the recognition of their rights to full citizenship.

S. KOYAMA

On December 8, 1942, the day following the declaration of war in the Pacific, I was ordered to report to the outer wharf of Victoria with my boat. For four days I was compelled to remain in it. I was not permitted to communicate with either my family or with the other men detained on their boats, in the same situation as myself, with very little food on board. On the fifth day, we were ordered to leave for Steveston where our boats were confiscated. From there we had to return to Victoria at our own expense.

At a later date, I was informed by the authorities that my boat was sunk near New Westminster. To this I have been unable to receive further information or any reimbursement.

(Signed) S. Koyama.

PROPERTY LOSSES SUFFERED BY THE JAPANESE-CANADIANS AT AND SINCE THE EVACUATION

When the Japanese-Canadians were evacuated from the Pacific coast in 1942, they were given verbal assurance that their property would be protected by the Custodian. It is common knowledge in British Columbia, however, that after the hasty evacuation was completed, fishing-boats were robbed of their gear, houses broken into and robbed, and in many cases furniture and personal effects, that were loaded on to trucks to be stored in warehouses for the Custodian, never reached their destination. The Custodian need not be blamed personally for this, but Canada remains responsible to see that restitution be made for these losses.

Some months later, by Government

MR. HYAKUZO TSUBOUCHI

Before leaving my home at 28 First Avenue, Duncan, B. C., I wanted to get in touch with the Custodian and give him the list of property that I was leaving behind, but evacuation was so sudden I could not do this. At this time was allowed only one suitcase and one clothes bag.

After being in the Hastings Park Manning Pool for one month, I communicated with the Duncan police to ask information concerning my property. They informed me immediately that the house was ransacked and that the property was a total loss.

(Signed) Hyakuzo Tsubouchi.

order, the Custodian proceeded to sell by public tender the house and land, and, by auction, the personal effects and furniture of the evacuated Japanese-Canadians. The owners were not consulted, and, as the cases printed in these pages disclose, the property was often sold at far below the market value. The owners have been told that "independent valuations were obtained from established real estate brokers, and in many cases the accepted offer exceeded the valuation."!! When a Vancouver lawyer, on behalf of his client, asked how this valuation was made, he was told: "The advice supplied to us by the Advisory Committee is given for the confidential information of the Custodian and, under the policy laid down by the Committee, this information is not to be disclosed. The same applies to the actual valuation reports which are obtained from our appraisers."

We are reminded of Humpty-Dumpty's remark in "Through the Looking Glass": "When I use a word it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less What I say three times is true."

Other and intangible losses were suffered by Japanese-Canadians—the loss, for instance, of good-will in a business built up over long years. Justice demands the appointment of a Commission to examine and make good losses suffered by the Japanese-Canadians through the evacuation.

Y. KOSAKA

My residence at the time of the evacuation was at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Columbia Street in Vancouver, B. C.

The house was worth approximately \$2000. The Custodian sold it for \$1250. My household chattels, worth \$1100, were sold for \$227. These sales were made without my knowledge or consent. I have received none of the proceeds of these sales.

(Signed) Y. Kosaka

No. 12, Sixth Ave., Bay Farm, Slovan, B. C.

March 7, 1946.

RETURN TO THE COASTAL REGIONS of BRITISH COLUMBIA

One restriction noted above calls for special comment. With the exception of veterans of World War II and their dependents, persons of Japanese race are not permitted to reside in what is called the "protected area" of British Columbia. This is the cause of astonishment to American visitors, who have seen thousands of Japanese-Americans return to their homes in the Pacific states since January 1, 1945. Apart from a few local incidents which in no case assumed serious proportions, this return occasioned no trouble, and the Japanese-Americans have now been re-integrated into American life.

Yet we find Mr. Howard Green declaring in the House of Commons on April 5, 1946, that there would be bloodshed if the Japanese were allowed to return to the Canadian coast to resume their former occupations. This fear would be justified if there were a mass migration to the coast.

What, however, would happen? We can be sure that proportionately fewer Japanese-Canadians than Japanese-Americans would return to the Pacific coast. Their homes and land have been sold, whereas the property of the Japanese-Americans was held for them by the Custodian. But even with property to return to, only one-

half of the Japanese-Americans who were evacuated from the Pacific states have returned. Furthermore, the Japanese-Canadians have stayed in the localities to which they were removed two years longer than did their American cousins, and are therefore better established and more thoroughly absorbed. Few will leave any tolerable position in a community relatively free from anti-oriental prejudice to return to nothing at all in British Columbia!

Some, however, definitely will want to come back. Their return will not be along the lines suggested to us by certain politicians. Actually the few who still wish to return will come in twos or threes, and concentration in one locality or occupation will not take place.

Would there be "bloodshed"? Surely we recognize the old appeal to panic and hysteria! Since when have Canadians been more lawless than Americans? The peaceful return of Japanese-Americans to the Pacific coast can surely be paralleled in Canada. . . . When the law permits Japanese-Canadians to return, public opinion, and, if necessary, the police, should deal with anyone who incites or resorts to violence.

* * * * *

We have by no means exhausted the recital of the injustices that have

S. KOBAYAKAWA

Prior to being evacuated from the Coast, I had two row boats valued at \$126. The cannery manager there sold them at the above amount and forwarded the money to the Custodian. I wrote to the Custodian asking him to forward the proceeds to me, but to date, have not received the sum.

The boat-building machinery was left in the care of the Custodian. I enquired numerous times what they had done with my machinery, but they have not even answered my letters.

Also there was a box of tools valued at \$200. Since I was not able to bring that to Slocan, I deposited the box and its contents at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. At a later date, through the B.C. Security Commission here, I asked for my tools to be forwarded, as they were required, but as yet they have not complied with my request, nor given me any satisfactory answer.

(Signed) S. Kobayakawa,
A-2, Bay Farm, Slocan, B. C.
March 7, 1946.

been suffered by a minority, who have, on the word of our highest authorities, been guilty of no acts of sabotage or disloyalty against Canada during the war. We are thoroughly aware of other injustices within and beyond Canada, and the great problems of peace and adjustment that press in upon us. We know that the discrimination suffered by 20,000 Japanese-Canadians is not comparable with sufferings in other parts of the world. Nevertheless these things are exceedingly important, and call for prompt action because:

The discrimination against the Japanese-Canadians was born of wartime hysteria, but is not yet erased from our statute-books; it causes unnecessary anxiety and humiliation to Canadian citizens; it is racial; and it reflects on the justice and honour of Canada and all Canadian citizens.

MRS. M. KITAMURA

On March 29, 1942, my husband was served orders to leave for a road camp. Since our business establishment—a rooming house—and household goods, which were taken over by the Custodian, were not disposed of, he did not go. For this reason, at a later date, he was sent to internment camp.

After I was evacuated to Slocan, I lived on maintenance. Upon the sale of my house by the Custodian, without my consent, the total amount of 13 months' maintenance which I received prior to the time of the sale, was deducted from the proceeds. Since then, as I have no source of income, I have had to depend solely upon maintenance which is deducted from the proceeds of the sale of my property.

(Signed) M. Kitamura,
No. 5 First Ave., Bay Farm,
Slocan, B. C.

Persons of the Japanese Race in Canada Distribution As At October 31, 1946

| Province | Japanese Nationals | Naturalized Canadians | Canadian Born | U. S. Citizens | Married to Whites and their Offspring | Totals |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| British Columbia . . . | 1783 | 1152 | 4083 | 2 | 40 | 7060 |
| Alberta | 874 | 478 | 2910 | 2 | 12 | 4276 |
| Saskatchewan | 117 | 81 | 294 | — | 8 | 500 |
| Manitoba | 276 | 150 | 887 | — | 6 | 1319 |
| Ontario | 1258 | 638 | 4473 | 8 | 28 | 6405 |
| Quebec | 209 | 145 | 807 | 1 | 10 | 1172 |
| Nova Scotia | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| New Brunswick | 2 | — | 8 | — | — | 10 |
| Prince Edward Island | 2 | — | 4 | — | — | 6 |
| Yukon and North-West Territories | 6 | 9 | 16 | — | — | 31 |
| | 4528 | 2653 | 13482 | 13 | 104 | 20780 |

Persons of Japanese race who returned to Japan in 1946 up to December 23, 1946:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|-----|------|---|---|------|
| Adults | 1236 | 572 | 605 | — | 3 | 2416 |
| Children | 10 | 1 | 1244 | — | — | 1255 |
| | | | | | | 3671 |

300 persons sailed from Vancouver for Japan on the "Marine Falcon" on December 24.

In the registration of Japanese-Canadians, the authorities classify all persons 16 years or over as "adults".

The largest number of aged, infirm, or unemployable persons of Japanese race in Canada are among the 7000 in British Columbia.

(These figures were obtained from the Department of Labour, Japanese Division.)

DR. M. UCHIDA

Dr. Uchida owned property in Vancouver at 2725 East Seventh Avenue, consisting of five lots and originally costing \$1750. The grounds were terraced, landscaped and planted with shrubbery at a cost of \$3095, in addition to considerable labour on the part of Dr. Uchida. The house was built in 1927 at a cost of \$6000. **In 1943 the Custodian sold the entire property without the owner's consent or knowledge, for \$4500.**

"One firm of Canadian-Japanese held timber limits containing a quarter of a billion feet of some of the finest lumber on the coast and operated a saw mill into which they had put \$70,000. The whole of their output was being bought by the British Government at the time they were forced to close down. This whole concern was sold for \$10,900, lock, stock and barrel."

H. D. Dawson, Nelson, B. C.

"Saturday Night," Jan. 12, 1946.

(The Consultative Council is indebted to Miss Edith Fowke for passages in this pamphlet from a manuscript written by her which has since appeared in the "Canadian Forum" of January, 1947).

It should be remembered that the individual cases printed on these pages are typical of hundreds of others. No doubt some Japanese-Canadians obtained a fair price for their property. We have records of cases where a lawyer, entrusted with the property of evacuees, refused to allow the Custodian to sell until a fair price was given. There is no doubt, however, judging from documents in our possession that the majority of Japanese-Canadians received quite unfair prices for their property.

SEIZABURO MIYAKE

My former residence was at Hyde Creek, B. C. At the time of evacuation from my home at Hyde Creek, I was given only a two-hour notice. Therefore I could do nothing with my household and immovable property.

During evacuation I was allowed only one suitcase and one clothes bag to take with me. The rest of my belongings were left as they were.

Some time after evacuation, I was informed by the Custodian of Enemy Property that my property was sold. The prices for these have been exceedingly low. The list of property sold by the Custodian included very little so I knew that a greater part of my property had been lost.

(Signed) S. Miyake.

BUNSHIRO IWASA

My family was given only 24 hours' notice to evacuate from New Westminster, on March 28, 1942. My family was split in three: I (father) was sent to Jasper Road Camp, my eldest son (Canadian-born) was sent to Ontario road camp, and my wife and children to Hastings Park Manning Pool.

On May 12 of the same year my family was evacuated to Kaslo. There they were placed in a room 12 ft. by 12 ft. with another family—total number of occupants in that single room being 12.

Moreover, for four months they were denied maintenance, even though they had no source of income. All the savings were thus used up.

My personal effects and shop equipment valued at \$960 were sold for \$320, with a loss of \$640.

My oldest son, Canadian-born, had a house valued at \$2800 at 1020 Queens Ave., New Westminster, B. C. This was sold by the Custodian for \$1500.

(Signed) Bunshiro Iwasa.

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TO.....