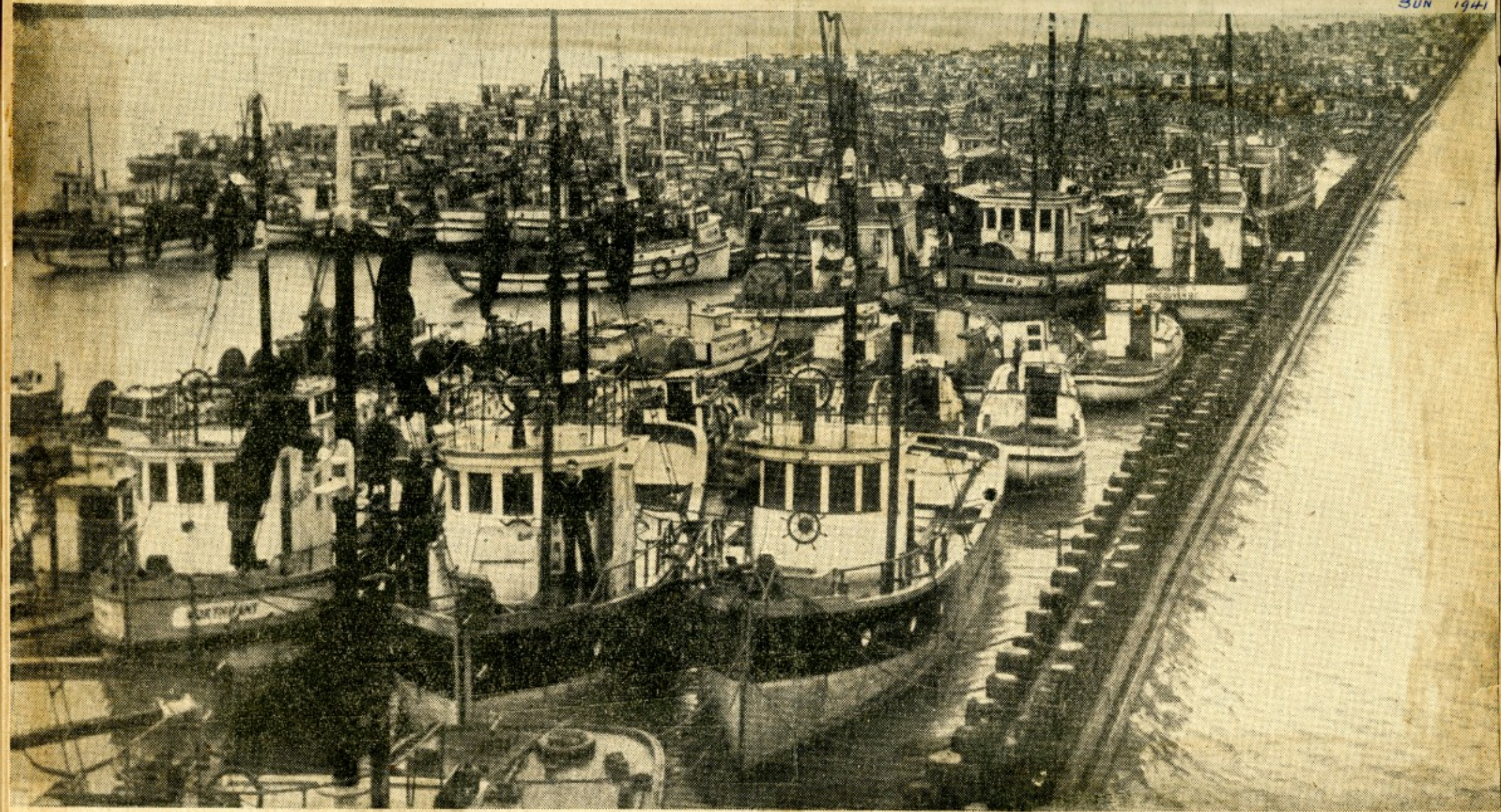


British Columbia's Nippon Fishing Fleet Held 'for Duration'

Dec.
23?
"SUN" 1941



Here is the Jap fishing fleet, or most of it.
At this jetty . . . "somewhere on the British Columbia Coast" . . . are moored hundreds of fishing vessels which only a few weeks ago were bringing full cargoes of salmon, cod, herring and other fish to market.
These hundreds of vessels, seiners, packers, gillnet boats and trollers, are under naval guard, and will remain in port for the duration or until the authorities decide that they shall be put to some other use. They were called in a few hours after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Now they are immobilized. Engine parts have been removed so that they cannot be operated.

Ordered to Hold Up Jap Fishing Licenses

12/31/41

Major Motherwell's Instructions From
Ottawa; 'Issue Licenses to Indians
And Whites Only for Time Being'

By DON MASON

Second move in the direction of complete elimination of the Jap element in British Columbia's great fishing industry was made by the Department of Fisheries in Ottawa today. First move was the seizure of the hundreds of Jap boats on this coast.

Today Major J. A. Motherwell, chief supervisor of fisheries in Port of Vancouver, received instructions to "ISSUE NO LICENSES TO OTHER THAN WHITE OR INDIAN FISHERMEN UNTIL RECEIPT OF FURTHER ADVICE FROM THE DEPARTMENT."

In other words, "no licenses to Jap fishermen, at least for the time being."

But some fishermen in Vancouver fear that Ottawa is still considering issuing licenses to certain Jap fishermen after careful investigation by Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

A storm of protest—from fishermen, last war veterans and scores of organizations throughout the province—followed first word from Ottawa that some Jap licenses would be restored.

I believe that today's news from Ottawa indicates that the authorities have decided against allowing any Japs to fish while we are at war with Japan. I hope so.

Regarding the question of what to do with the Jap fishermen if they are not allowed to fish, perhaps the statement promised for Friday by the Standing Committee on Orientals in B.C. will furnish the answer.

Jap Fishermen Out—Perhaps For Good

1/14/42. "SUN"

Many Problems to Be Solved;
Mortgages; Unpaid Engines;
Three-Man Committee

By DON MASON

News from Ottawa Tuesday and today spells finish for Jap fishermen on this British Columbia coast for the duration . . . and perhaps for all time.

Yesterday Ottawa said that no fishing licenses could be issued to Japanese. Today's news said that the Jap fishing fleet, now tied up, will be operated by whites and Indians.

But, until Tuesday, the Japanese were still hopeful. They refused to talk about selling, chartering or leasing their boats to white fishermen. They still thought that Ottawa might relent, might re-issue fishing licenses to Japanese who could prove their citizenship and loyalty.

More than one white fisherman has tried to negotiate with a Jap for a boat, but the Japanese would have none of it.

Now that Ottawa has made up its mind, the Jap boats will be taken over by whites, but there are many problems to be ironed out first.

Some of the Jap fishboats . . . a good percentage of them, in fact . . . are wholly or partly owned by cannery companies. Some are mortgaged to banks, some have new engines that are not paid for.

All these claims must be settled before the boats can be sold, or even chartered.

Commander B. L. "Barney" Johnson, named a member of the three-man committee to supervise the distribution of the Jap fishboats, will arrive in Vancouver from the east on Monday.

In Ottawa, in his capacity as a naval intelligence officer, he sat in with the Standing Committee on Orientals during their conferences with government officials.



COMMANDER B. L. JOHNSON



MR. JUSTICE SIDNEY SMITH

On Federal Board to arrange disposition of Jap fishing fleet

COMMITTEE POST IS SURPRISE TO KIMURO

1/14/42

It was from newspaper reports that Kishizo Kimuro this morning got the first word of his appointment to the three-man committee which will supervise the transfer of the Japanese fishing fleet to non-Japanese operators.

He expressed surprise, but said that if the news were true he would feel honored to act alongside the two other members, Mr. Justice Sidney Smith and Commander B. L. Johnson.

He is a well known and respected member of Vancouver's Japanese business community and is well spoken of by the fishing and cannery trade with which his interests lie.

For years he has been active in the export and import trade, and for the past many seasons has been a representative on the joint salt herring marketing board that was set up to control the export of salt herring to Japan and the Orient.

Born in Japan in 1899, he came to Vancouver at the age of 11 years, and after three and a half years in Vancouver schools, entered commercial life, where he has been active ever since.

Vancouver fishermen are pleased but cautious about Ottawa's decisions regarding the Japanese fishermen and their boats. But they want to know:

1. Will individual fishermen be given priority over fishing companies when the boats are placed on sale?

2. Is the Ottawa order compulsory, or can a Japanese decide that his fishing boat shall remain idle for the duration?

The inference drawn here is that the Japs must sell their boats if a buyer is available.

K. Kimura, Japanese member of the Ottawa-appointed committee, is well known in British Columbia. Since 1920, he has been general manager of the Canadian Salt Herring Exporters.

Mr. Kimura has not been officially informed of his appointment.

His only hope is that Ottawa will give the committee a definite plan of procedure.

s, All Enemy Aliens, to ve From Defense Zones; ites to Run Fish Fleet

Three-Man Board to Sell, Charter or Lease Boats; Labor Battalions Planned

Jan. 14th 1942
(Wed.)

By C. R. BLACKBURN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

"SUN"

OTTAWA, Jan. 14.—*Japanese aliens and enemy aliens of whatever origin, except those holding police permits to remain, are to be removed from the defense areas of British Columbia, it was announced today.*

The decision is directed mainly at Japanese and authorities said 23,428 Japanese in British Columbia are affected.

Earlier today the government announced that a committee of three had been set up to charter, lease or sell 1100 Japanese fishboats immobilized by government order.

A civilian corps of Canadian Japanese will be organized to provide opportunities for service by those Japanese who have expressed a desire to assist Canada's war effort.

These measures, announced by the interdepartmental committee which has been considering the problem for several days, are designed, the announcement said, to guarantee just treatment to the Japanese while at the same time safeguarding Canada's national interest.

The announcement added that the areas from which the Japanese and other enemy aliens are to be removed were not yet defined.

The statement was issued on behalf of Prime Minister Mackenzie King.
Mackenzie King (See Page 10 for text of the Prime Minister's statement.)

Details of Program

The full program, of which details are being worked out, is as follows:

All Japanese fishing operations on the Pacific coast have been prohibited and the fleet of 1100 vessels immobilized pending negotiations for their transfer to Canadian operators.

For the duration of the war, sale of gasoline and explosives to persons of Japanese racial origin will be controlled by the RCMP.

Japanese nationals will be forbidden to possess or use short-wave radio receiving sets, radio transmitters, and cameras.

Intensive surveillance of Japanese nationals will be continued and the Defense of Canada Regulations strictly enforced.

A civilian corps of Canadian Japanese will be organized to utilize services of various groups who have indicated a

At a date yet to be fixed all enemy aliens of whatever racial origin except those holding permits from the RCMP, will be required to move from "protected areas" on the Pacific coast, and accommodation will be provided by the federal government where necessary.

Three-Man Committee

A separate organization will be set up to provide opportunities for the employment of adult male enemy aliens outside the protected areas on work of national value.

A committee of three, representative of the judiciary, the defense department and the Japanese owners, has been set up to facilitate the transfer of the Japanese fishing fleet to Canadian operators, with assurance of proper compensation to the Japanese.

Hon. J. E. Michaud, fisheries minister, today announced approval of an order-in-council setting up the committee to supervise charters, leases or sales of these vessels to non-Japanese operators.

The following committee has been named:

Mr. Justice Sidney A. Smith, puisne judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, Vancouver;

Cmdr. B. L. Johnson, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, Vancouver, representing the Defense Department, and Kishizo Kimura, Vancouver, representing the owners.

The fleet, owned by persons of Japanese origin, is valued at between \$2,000,000 and \$2,500,000. Some 980 units are impounded near New Westminster and the remainder at Prince Rupert and other Pacific ports.

They were immobilized after the outbreak of war in the Pacific and the government ruled Tuesday that fishing by those of Japanese racial origin would be prohibited in all Canadian waters. The order banned Japanese from serving on any fishing vessels.

The production of the Japanese fishing fleet contributed largely to the food supplies of the Empire. This led to the decision that action must be taken at once to get the fleet back into operation.

SPEEDY ACTION

Special consideration will be given those Japanese who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the First Great War.

In making this announcement the government statement continued:

Please Turn to Page Twelve
See "B. C. Aliens"

Continued on Next Page

B.C. Aliens

"The government is of the opinion, and in this it has the concurrence of its technical advisers, that the arrangements outlined above, combined with the steps already taken, are very much in the interests of the Japanese residents of British Columbia themselves.

"It is believed that they will provide adequate safeguards against possible subversive activities, however fomented, in British Columbia. The government proposes, therefore, to carry through its program with the utmost expedition and thoroughness.

"It avails itself of this opportunity to reiterate what has already been said by the prime minister that while the utmost precautions will be taken to see that no illegal acts are committed by Japanese or other enemy aliens resident in Canada, those who conform loyally to the regulations set out for their guidance will be given protection both for themselves and their property."

Mayor F. J. Hume of New Westminster, chairman of the standing committee, were present at the press conference at which Hon. Ian Mackenzie, pensions minister, chairman of the interdepartmental committee, issued the statement on behalf of the prime minister.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Mayor Hume said the committee has received written assurance from the Japanese committee in British Columbia that large numbers of their nationals are anxious and willing to assist Canada's war effort anywhere and in any capacity.

Opportunity will be given them to serve, Mayor Hume said, but it will be at points well removed from the Pacific Coast areas although not necessarily outside British Columbia.

Immobilization of the Japanese fishing fleet comes at the height of the herring run and the potential catch has already been sold to Great Britain.

Mayor Hume said there are ample Canadian fishermen avail-

able to operate the fleet and that its transfer will be carried out with the least possible delay.

Many of the Japanese owners of the vessels are British subjects either by naturalization or birth, and their equity, in all cases, will be safeguarded.

Fishermen Here Seek More Information

Vancouver fishermen are cautiously pleased with Ottawa's action in setting up a three-man board to supervise charters, leases or sales of Japanese fishboats to white or Indian operators, but they want to know two things:

- 1—Will individual fishermen be given priority over fishing companies when the boats are placed on sale?
- 2—Is the Ottawa order compulsory or can a Japanese decide that his boat shall lie idle for the duration?

The inference drawn here is that the Japanese must sell, charter or lease their boats if a buyer is available.

George Miller of the United Fishermen's Federal Union suggests that a list of the 1100 vessels be made available.

K. Kimura, Japanese member of the committee, is well known in the British Columbia fishing industry. Since 1920 he has been general manager of the Canadian Salt Herring Exporters here.

He hopes that Ottawa authorities will give the committee a definite plan of procedure to be followed.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are ready to proceed immediately on removal of designated Japanese and enemy aliens from the defense areas of British Columbia when instructions are received.

But no such instructions have yet been received, it was stated by Assistant Commissioner C. H. Hill.

Formulation of the instructions at Ottawa will probably take some time, Commissioner Hill thinks.

Premier Hart Pleased By Action on Japanese

By Sun Staff Reporter

VICTORIA, Jan. 14.—Satisfaction at the Dominion government move to evacuate enemy aliens and numbers of Japanese from coast defense areas was expressed today by Premier John Hart.

"I am very glad that action has been taken," the Premier said, "and I feel sure that when all the details are made known, they will be satisfactory to the public."

Premier Hart's statement follows:

"It is indeed gratifying to learn that Ottawa authorities have taken action on the very disturbing situation in connection with aliens on the Pacific Coast, and more particularly Japanese.

"It also is noted with satisfaction that measures to deal with the situation will be enacted immediately and that the authorities will act swiftly to remove any danger to our shores.

"The government of this province made strong representations to the Dominion government in connection with the Japanese resident in British Columbia. Attorney-General Maitland and myself took the matter up personally when in Ottawa before Christmas, and since our return further representations have been made by letter.

"This was supplemented further by the sending of Hon. George S. Pearson and T. W. S. Parsons, commissioner of the B.C. Police to attend a conference held on this subject in Ottawa following the representa-

tions made not only by the provincial government but by coast defense authorities; the Oriental Affairs Committee in British Columbia; various public and semi-public organizations and the press."

to set up a commission headed by Mr. Justice Smith and Captain Barney Johnson to administer two million dollars' worth of fishing vessels and gear which officers recently took over from the Japanese owners.

The Sun has already given at considerable length the reasons why it advocated the policy of taking the Japanese out of the areas of Vancouver, Prince Rupert and other concentrations on this coast. Some time this year we are likely to be attacked from seaward. For reasons that have become obvious to responsible officials of the military district and in the government at Ottawa, it is better for our protection and for the safety of the Japanese themselves that they should be removed from our coastline.

The provincial government will co-operate with Ottawa to initiate road-building and other activities to provide employment and food and shelter for these aliens. The Hope-Princeton Highway may be finished as a "war casualty."

The Sun wishes to congratulate the governments involved and the civilian and military authorities who have taken a calm and common-sense view of the situation, with the results attained today.

(Editorial)

Here Was a Common-Sense Decision

Jan 14/42 "SUN"

Under advice of Mayor Hume's Standing Committee on the Japanese, endorsed by the unanimous opinion of Premier Hart and the provincial government, and backed by informed public opinion roused by editorials in The Vancouver Sun, the federal government has taken a firm step in dealing with the Japanese problem of this coast.

There will be hearty public commendation for this action. All Japanese and other enemy aliens are to be removed out of the defense area of British Columbia to some other country. Active steps have been taken

FOR SALE, LEASE OR TRANSFER—THESE

TUES.

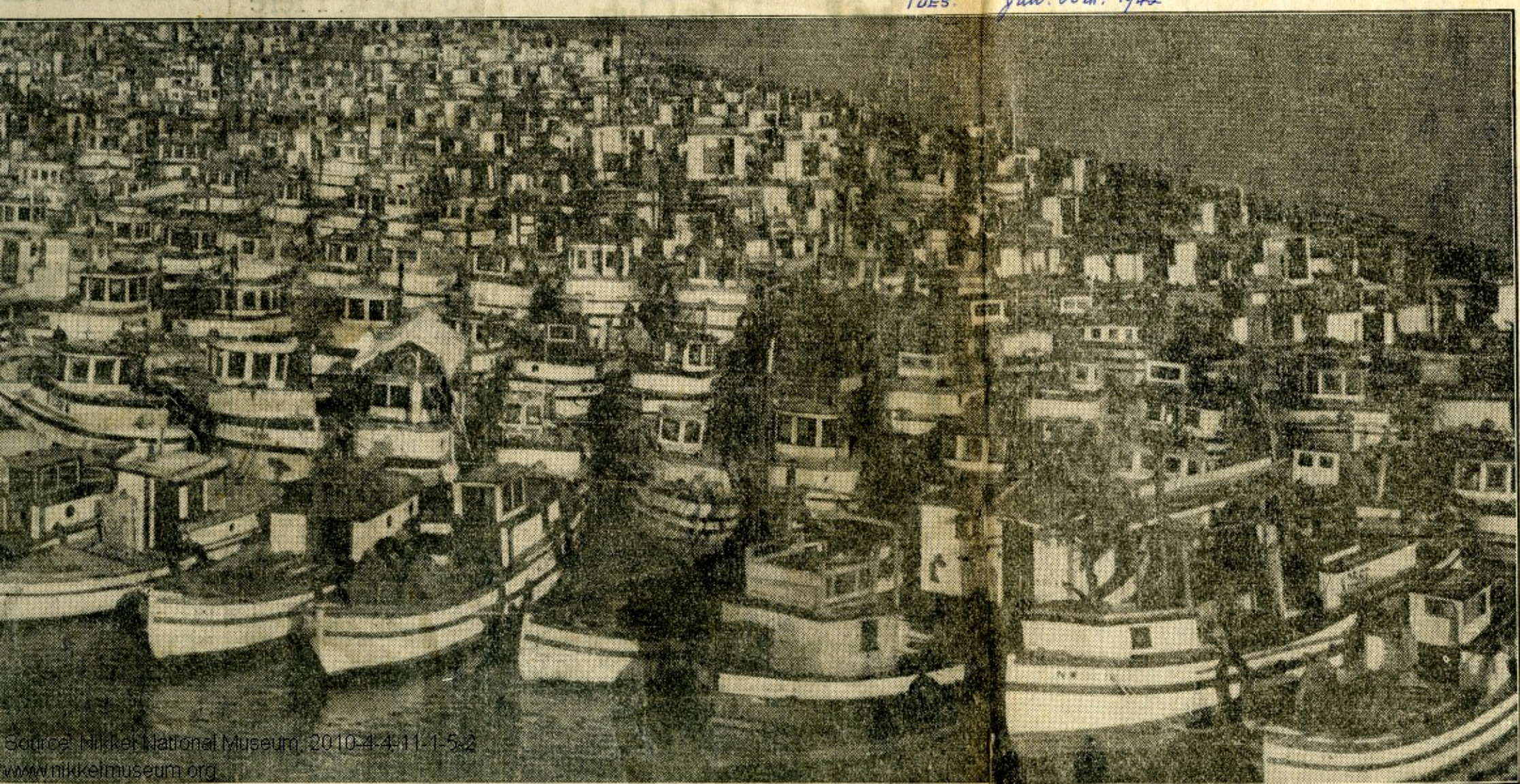


There are nearly 1000 fishboats in this historic picture. They are the vessels seized by the Federal Government from Japanese owners and operators when war broke out and now under naval guard in the Fraser River.

Ottawa has appointed a board of three to dispose of this enormous fleet to white fishermen and other white operators.

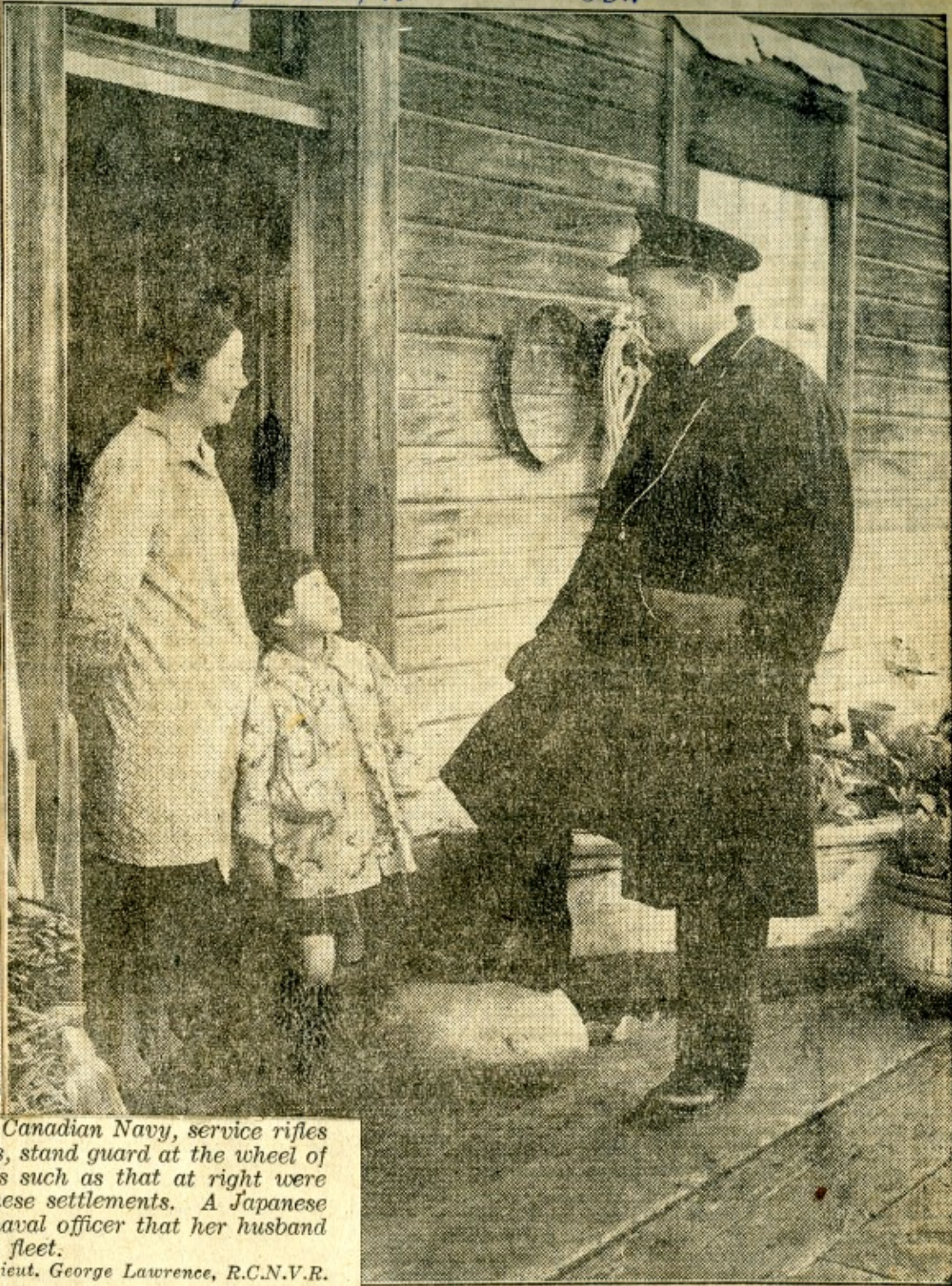
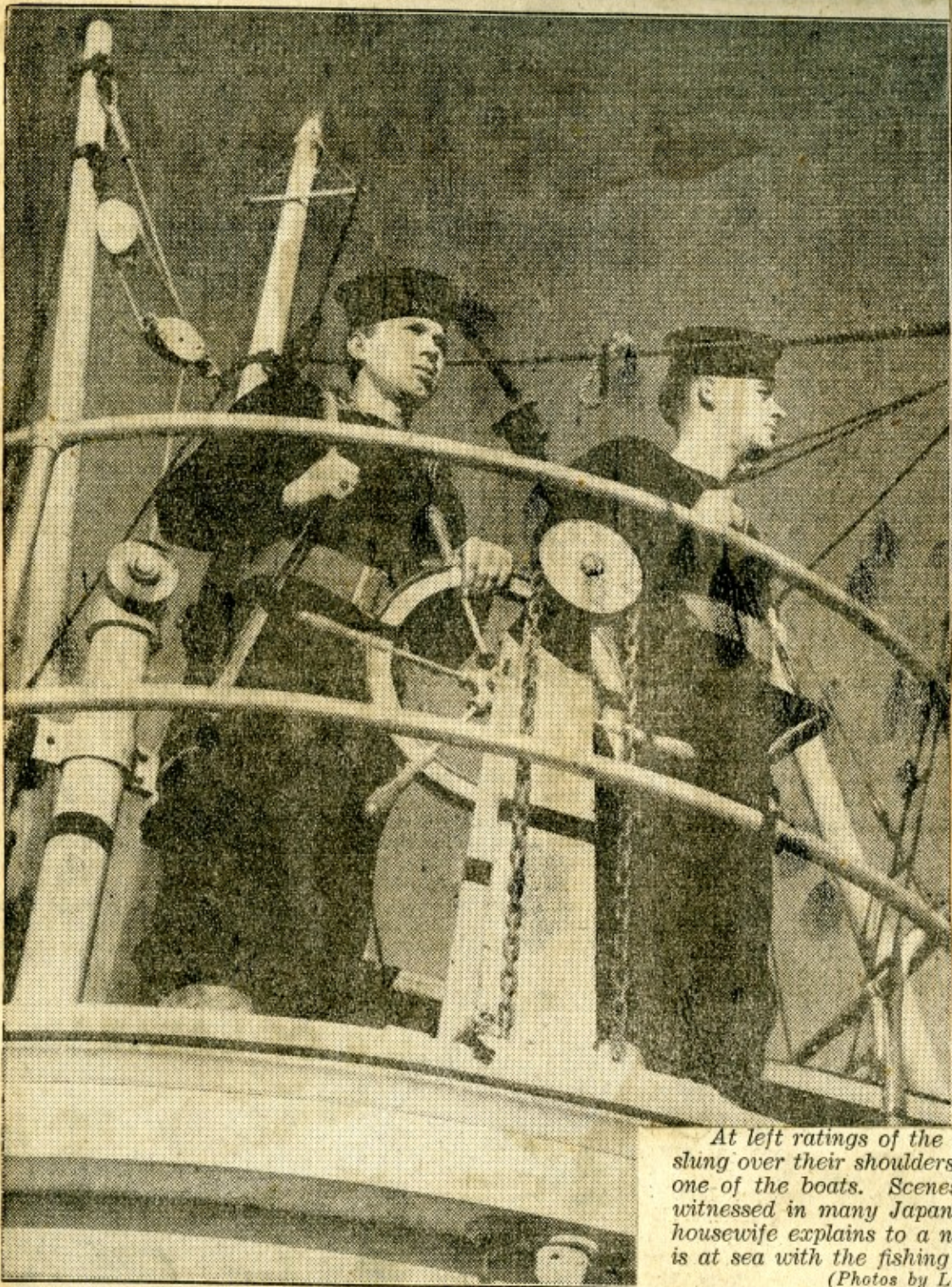
SE OR TRANSFER—THESE 1000 JAP BOATS

TUES. Jan. 30th. 1942



Jan. 20th / 42

"SUN"



At left ratings of the Canadian Navy, service rifles slung over their shoulders, stand guard at the wheel of one of the boats. Scenes such as that at right were witnessed in many Japanese settlements. A Japanese housewife explains to a naval officer that her husband is at sea with the fishing fleet.

(Photos by Lieut. George Lawrence, R.C.N.V.R.)

Jap Board Going Ahead

1/21/42
Disposal of the \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 worth of Japanese fishboats tied up in British Columbia waters will get underway in a few days.

All members of the committee appointed by Ottawa to handle the sale, charter or lease of the boats are now at the Coast, following arrival of Commander B. L. Johnson from the Dominion capital today.

Commander Johnson, Mr. Justice Sidney A. Smith and K. Kimura, Japanese member of the committee, conferred today and it is understood that they will open an office in Vancouver Thursday.

The job of the three-man committee is to make such arrangements as will make it possible for the present owners of the detained vessels to freely negotiate for charters, leases, or sales of such vessels as they own to other persons other than those of Japanese origin, provided that the committee approve of such charters, leases or sales.

Scores of white fishermen and men who are deciding to enter the fishing industry for the first time have been applying to naval authorities and others during the past few days, asking where and how they may negotiate for one or more of the Jap boats.

Ottawa to Aid City In Fireboat Plan

1/21/42
Confidence that the Dominion Government will contribute financially toward fireboat protection in Burrard Inlet, was voiced today by Mayor Cornett on his return from Ottawa.

His Worship's belief was based on a favorable interview with Hon. Angus Macdonald, Minister of National Defense for Naval Affairs.

"The minister was heartily in accord with the local plan to mount pumps and monitors on two Japanese fishing vessels," the mayor reported. "He has no objection to the city taking possession of the boats if it can be arranged through naval authorities and the committee in charge of putting the Japanese craft back into useful occupation."

Mr. Macdonald explained to the mayor that the government has provided a fireboat for Halifax on an arrangement by which the city pays \$12,000 per year and the government puts up the remainder of approximately \$50,000 per year.

AT MAYOR'S CONFERENCE

The mayor was given to understand, however, that Vancouver should not expect the same generosity. The Halifax fireboat was primarily intended to protect merchant vessels in convoy whereas the Vancouver vessels are required for protection of waterfront property, the mayor was told.

Contrast between swift action taken in the United States

and slow progress made in Canada on civilian protection problems was apparent in statements made by the Mayor who attended the U. S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D. C.

He would draw no comparisons but he praised the speed with which U.S. leaders are grappling with ARP organization. That was the main topic at the conference, he said, and officials

Fishboat Board To Operate Soon

1/23/42
The Japanese Fishing Fleet Commission is the official designation of the three-man board appointed to handle Japanese fish boats now interned in coast waters in the custody of the Navy.

A. E. McMaster, whose appointment as executive assistant to the chief commissioner, was announced Thursday, states that the board will get down to active business as soon as arrangements can be made.

For the present the board will function in the offices now used by Mr. McMaster in his private business. They are 1528, 1529, and 1530 Marine Building and will probably be used permanently.

showed a firm grasp of the situation.

He was unable, however, to gain much definite information on Vancouver's problems when he called at government offices at Ottawa on his return journey.

He was told by Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health, that he must look to the British Columbia provincial committee for answers to all questions dealing with financing, policy and direction of ARP activities in Vancouver.

The Mayor said he was glad to have had the opportunity to acquaint Ottawa with the local situation and that he is awaiting an early statement from Victoria on arrangements for ARP work in all vulnerable areas of B.C.

Royal City Hears Jap Ships Damaged

NEW WESTMINSTER, Jan. 26.—New Westminster waterfront today is seething with reports of extensive damage to the Japanese fishing fleet now impounded in the Fraser River. Concensus is that a court of inquiry should be held or at least a public statement issued by the naval authorities to either

1. Prove that the reports and rumors of damage are false;
2. To ascertain the exact amount of damage, if any, and place the responsibility.

Reports of damage to the fishing fleet during the cold spell last month have circulated in Vancouver and New Westminster during the past few weeks.

Jap Fishboat Edict Hard On Fireboat Plan

1/26/42
British Columbia Fishing Industry Must
Be Taken Care of Before Vessels Can
Be Sold for Other Purposes

By DON MASON

The Port of Vancouver fireboat picture changes again. . . . Two weeks ago, a committee of civic officials and members of the new Vancouver Waterfront Protective Association had the problem well in hand. Early provision of two fireboats for Burrard Inlet seemed a sure thing. We had firefighting equipment and two suitable boats had been picked out.

CANT HAVE SEINERS

Now, I hear that the committee must look for other boats. They had chosen two 61-foot Jap seiners — part of the impounded Jap fishing fleet. Fire Chief J. H. DeGraves said that they would be suitable as emergency fireboats.

Then the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Commission, set up by Ottawa to supervise transfer of the boats to white fishermen, stepped into the picture.

This commission rules that the fishing industry has first call on the Jap boats. There is little chance that any of the larger vessels will be left over for use as fireboats when fishermen and packing companies get through buying.

I checked this report with A. E. McMaster, executive assistant to the Japanese Fishing Vessel Disposal Commission, today, and he said:

"The fishing industry must be fully taken care of before any other interest will be allowed to purchase any of the \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 worth of Japanese fishboats on the coast."

He said that the Disposal Commission has already turned down a number of applications for boats to be converted into pleasure craft.

START AGAIN

Since the beginning of this week, the fireboat sub-committee headed by Carl Halterman of the Union Steamship Company, has been looking for other craft which might be used for waterfront protection.

In other words, after everything seemed on the way to completion, the fireboat committee has had to start from scratch again.

More delay . . . and still we have NO FIREBOAT.

Previously the local committee showed interest in a 55-foot steel hull tied up in Coal Harbor. Installation of powerful engines and a bit of fixing up would turn this hull into a mighty efficient fireboat. It might even prove more valuable than two converted nine-knot seine boats. The old boat in the former towboat Topaz. It has twin screws, and thus would be very manoeuvrable.

Let's get a fireboat before the Japs decide to pay us a visit.

Limited Market for Japanese Fishboats

Disposal Commission May Be Left With Hundreds of Smaller Vessels When First Rush of Buyers Is Over

1/26/42

By DON MASON

When the first scramble for Jap fishboats is over, the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Committee set up by Ottawa will probably find itself with several hundred boats on hand and no takers.

There will be a rush at first, and scores of the best boats will be sold during the first few days.

SMALL BOATS

Then the reaction will set in. This is not only my opinion, it is the opinion of fishermen, too.

More than 900 of the boats in the seized Jap fishing fleet are small craft—trollers and gillnetters. Many of these are in very poor condition. There will be a rush to buy the seiners and packers. In fact that rush has already started.

A dozen members of the United Fishermen's Federal Union are already negotiating with owners of Jap seiners.

But most fishermen who could use the trollers and gillnetters already have boats as good as, or better, than those they could buy from the Japanese.

NEWCOMERS

And men who plan to buy boats because they see this as a good time to get into British Columbia's fishing industry will find it somewhat difficult to obtain suitable fishing gear after they have a boat, one fisherman told me today.

The Japanese still have the gear taken off their own boats, but most of the nets are two or even three years old . . . not in very good condition.

And while there is no desperate shortage of nets, there is also no abundance.

The Disposal Commission—composed of Mr. Justice Sidney Smith, chairman; Commander B. L. Johnson; K. Kimura, representing the Japanese, and A. E. McMaster, executive assistant—has already given fishermen the go ahead signal.

It is planned to let would-be buyers negotiate directly with the Jap owners. When the two parties reach agreement, they will take their case to the commission for final approval. As little negotiation as possible will be carried on in the office of the commission, which is on the fifteenth floor of the Marine Building.

LIST TO COME

Even in the case of Jap fishing vessels which cannery or other organizations hold liens or mortgages against, the individual fishermen will be given an opportunity to make a satisfactory deal with the vessel's owner.

A list of the boats and their owners is being prepared for distribution among prospective buyers.

OTTAWA TO PAY BOAT DAMAGE

NEW WESTMINSTER, Jan.

28.—Any Japanese fishing boats that have been damaged since Ottawa authorities immobilized the fleet will be taken care of by the Dominion Government, Mayor Fred J. Hume told members of the Kiwanis Club at a meeting Tuesday in Hotel Russell. Mayor Hume is chairman of the standing committee handling the problem of Japanese in British Columbia.

Mayor Hume did not go into any detail regarding damage to the boats but unofficial reports have been numerous that extensive damage has been caused, particularly during the recent cold snap from river ice and frost.

BOAT WASH.

One gillnet boat is stated to be lying waterlogged on the river bank and awash at high tide. Near the same spot it is claimed a troller sank but later the vessel was raised and towed to the location where about 900 of the Japanese boats are being held.

Similar commissions to the one already appointed to handle the sale or lease of the Japanese boats will be arranged for Japanese berry farms, Japanese stores as well as to find a solution for those Japanese engaged in mill work, poultry industry and other occupations, the mayor

Board Reviews Valuations on Eight Vessels

1/27/42

At the first public meeting of the Dominion Advisory Board on requisitioning of Pacific Coast boats by the navy for defense purposes the value of eight vessels was reviewed. Values ranged from \$217,000 down to \$4860.

Seventeen other ships expropriated by the navy have yet to be considered and a further session of the board may be held next month.

The board is headed by Mr. Justice Sidney A. Smith. Other members are George E. Housser and H. G. Robinson.

20 PCT. RATE

Capt. W. Crawford's yacht Fifer headed Monday's list, the owner agreeing to a valuation of \$217,100 placed on the ship by Robert Rennie, surveyor for Lloyd's Registry in British Columbia.

A charter rate of 20 percent, based on five percent on the investment, five percent depreciation and 10 percent for loss of earnings, was suggested for the Fifer and seven other ships.

These, with Mr. Rennie's valuation, were Amarillis, tug of William P. Armour, \$35,550; Canfisco, towboat and fishery tender of Canadian Fishing Co., \$27,050; Camcolim Two, American Can Company's service boat, \$67,400; Howe Sound, Howe Sound Fisheries Ltd. packer, \$21,000; Smith Sound, C. Nakamura's seiner, \$14,100; Tordo, Peter Ambrose's seiner, \$15,640; New America, owned by T. Charlton, \$4860.

JAP PARTNERSHIP

Iwakichi Sugiyama appeared as president of Howe Sound Fisheries and told the board that the company is owned by himself and a Japanese partner. Both were naturalized in 1921.

Wilfred M. Martin represented C. Nakamura, owner of the Smith Sound, 21-ton seiner, who was naturalized in 1921.

Fishing Companies May Get Priority

1/28/42

Fishing interests have been given to understand that the Japanese Fishing Vessel Commission will propose to give first priority to fishing companies holding mortgages against the Japanese vessels and second to bona fide fishermen.

It is understood that a large majority of the gillnet and troller craft, the smaller type of boat, are under mortgage to various companies. The same situation exists with regard to a number of the large seiners and tenders.

The companies, it is said, have expressed a desire to see as many of the big boats turned over to independent operators. Consequently.

Machinery Ready For Transfer of Jap Fishboats

1/29/42

Japanese fishboat owners are requested to register details of their vessels at the office of the Japanese Fishing Vessel Disposal Committee, 1528 Marine Building, immediately, says the first official statement issued by the committee set up by Ottawa a week ago.

The committee is ready to start its task of supervising transfer of the Jap boats to white men. Here is the plan, in brief:

"Prospective purchasers of Jap fishing vessels should negotiate directly with the owner of the boat they wish to buy, or his representative.

"If an agreement is reached, the details of the transaction must be submitted to the committee, and if approved by the committee, the transfer can be promptly completed.

"If an agreement cannot be reached, the committee will arbitrate the difference."

The telephone number of the committee's office is Pacific 9331. Aim of the committee is to get every Jap fishboat possible back into the British Columbia fishing industry as soon as possible. A list of the some 1200 Jap fishing vessels is being compiled.

Jap Fish Boat Committee Advises Intending Buyers

Jan. 29/42

The Japanese fishing vessel disposal committee is nearing completion of its organization, and the executive assistant, A. E. McMaster, has issued the following statement destined to facilitate negotiations toward bringing the fleet back into production.

This committee was constituted by order-in-council PC-288 January 13, 1942, for the purpose of implementing an effective plan to transfer impounded Japanese fishing vessels to new owners who must be other than those of Japanese origin.

Prospective purchasers of fishing vessels should negotiate directly with the owner of the ship they wish to buy or his representative. If an agreement is reached, the details of the transaction must be submitted to the committee, and if approved by them, the transfer can be promptly completed. If an agreement can not be reached, the

committee will arbitrate the differences.

Prospective purchasers who have not contacted an owner will be assisted in making that contact.

Japanese owners are required to register the details of their vessels at the office of the committee at 1528 Marine Building, Vancouver, B. C. Telephone information desk, Pacific 9331.

The department, under Mr. McMaster, is organized with the view to do anything possible to obtain the end of getting the vessels back in operation by legitimate white fishermen, and be fair to the Japanese owners and part owners.

When the committee is assured any proposition is legitimate, as to ownership and transfer, then the deals will be approved.

Jap Fishboat Sales To Start in Week

Committee Ready to Start Supervision of Sales As Soon as 'Go-Ahead' Signal Comes From Naval Authorities

1/31/42

By DON MASON

First sales of Jap fishboats, under supervision of the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Committee, will be completed before the end of next week, A. E. McMaster, executive assistant to the committee, assured me today.

"We are ready to start as soon as the navy gives us the "go-ahead" signal. By this he means the "go-ahead" signal which will permit inspection of vessels tied up on the British Columbia Coast.

MEASURES TAKEN

A statement by Mr. McMaster today was aimed at rumors and uncertainty prevalent among those who want to buy the Jap fishboats. It has been said that some Japanese would refuse to sell their boats, and if they did sell they would refuse to sell the nets and gear that go with it.

"There has been some propaganda spread among the Japanese, but we have taken measures calculated to defeat it," Mr. McMaster told me.

He believes that there will be no difficulty in prevailing upon the Japs to sell their boats and gear to bonafide fishermen.

The committee is most interested in outright sale transactions. When the committee was appointed by Ottawa, it was announced that there would be

There may be some leases and charters later on, it is understood.

Although actual sales have not yet begun, the committee is moving as fast as possible by stimulating negotiations between Jap owners and prospective buyers. When the "go-ahead" signal comes, Mr. McMaster believes that scores of transactions will have already been completed and will require only approval of the committee.

LIST NEARLY READY

The list of Jap boats in the fleet, coupled with the owners' names and addresses, is being drawn up. It will be ready in a day or two.

In connection with nets and gear, much of which has been taken off the boats by the Jap owners and stored at Steveston and other points, the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Committee has no authority to

However, the matter is to be taken up by the committee, and it is possible that Ottawa may extend the committee's powers in that direction.

When the committee is ready to go, next week, any fishboat buyer may get in touch with an owner by inquiring at the committee's office in the Marine Building.

* * *

A fisherman told me today that some Japanese fishboat owners will refuse to sell their boats.

Someone has told them that if they hang on to boats and gear they may yet get back into the fishing industry in British Columbia," he said.

He also declared that Japanese fish collectors in Steveston are planning to keep their businesses, and let white men "dummies" handle collecting for them.

I don't think the Japs will get back into the fishing indus-

try ever, and I am sure they will not get back for the duration.

And I think that any such Jap collection plans will be properly handled by the authorities.

Reid Charges MacMillan Over Boats

By Daily Province Staff Correspondent

OTTAWA, Feb. 2.—Tom

Reid, M.P., charged in the course of an address this afternoon that "no sooner had it become known that the Japanese fishing fleet was being taken into custody and that no fishing licenses would be issued to the Japanese for the duration of the war than representations were made by certain interested parties asking for the release of the boats to the Japanese again."

"What interests?" demanded some members.

"Well my information is that one of them was the head of the Canada Fishing Company and also chairman of the Wartime Shipbuilding Ltd."

H. R. MacMillan holds the latter position.

ON THE WATERFRONT

Prospective Purchasers Find It Hard to Inspect Jap Fleet

2/2/42

Some protest is being voiced by prospective purchasers or charterers of the Japanese fishing boats, because of the strict naval regulations in effect.

The 900 or more vessels interned on Fraser River are under the care of the naval authority and it is difficult to obtain permission to inspect the craft.

In fact, no one is allowed to visit the interned boats until he has reached an agreement with the owner. A man can not look over two or three or even one boat, with a view to getting an idea of its condition and equipment, before opening negotiations with the owner.

In order to see any particular craft a prospective purchaser or charterer must first reach a tentative agreement with the owner. Only then is he allowed to see the individual craft in which he is interested.

Every assurance is given by the authorities, it is said, that when the boat is finally sold or chartered, it will be turned over to the new holder in good condition.

* CONTINUED



Acme, Wide World

Netted: As Canada went to war against Japan, this huge fleet of fishing vessels owned by Nipponese at Vancouver, B. C., was confiscated by the government.

After operators had been seized and questioned, up went the Union Jack on the little boats. From now on, white fishermen will skipper the flotilla.

NO INFLUENCE USED

M'Millan Denies Reid Charge

2/3/42

In a telegram from Montreal to the editor of The Vancouver Daily Province this morning, H. R. MacMillan, president of B. C. Packers and director of Canada's war shipbuilding program, says: "On my return from Washington this morning, I learn that Mr. Tom Reid, member for New Westminster, stated in the House of Commons yesterday that certain British Columbia fishing interests had asked that the fishing boats now seized be returned to the Japanese fishermen. In making this statement he so used my name as to cause you to give

prominence to my name in connection with Mr. Reid's statement in such a manner as to lead your readers to believe that I had asked that the fishing boats be returned to the Japanese.

"I am hereby denying all such reports or inferences and am stating positively that neither directly nor indirectly have I asked that the Canadian Government's decision respecting the Japanese be modified or changed in any respect nor have I in any way asked or used any influence to have fishing boats returned to the Japanese." (See Page 21.)

BC Cannery Deny Tom Reid's Japanese Fishboat Charges

2/3/42

The Fisheries Institute of British Columbia, representing 93 per cent. of all fisheries operations in the province, has telegraphed Hon. Ian Mackenzie, Canada's senior representative in the House of Commons, asking him to deny the statement by Tom Reid, M.P., to the effect that British Columbia fisheries interests had sought release of

seized fishing boats to Japanese. The original report of Mr. Reid's statement referred to "the head of the Canada Fishing Company and also chairman of the Wartime Shipbuilding Ltd.," but Mr. Reid is said to have changed Hansard to make the reference to "the head of B. C. Packers and also chairman of Wartime Shipbuilding Ltd. (H. R. MacMillan).

The charge was denied not only by the Fisheries Institute but by Mr. MacMillan himself and by John M. Buchanan, general manager of B. C. Packers.

The Fisheries Institute, consisting of B. C. Packers, Canadian Fishing Company, Anglo-B. C. Packing Company, J. H. Todd & Sons, Nelson Brothers Fisheries, and Nootka-Bamfield Company, declares in its message to Mr. Mackenzie that it has not made any representations to anyone in favor of re-issuing fish licenses to Japanese and has consistently co-operated with the authorities.

"The great fish packing companies of British Columbia," adds the institute, "have assured the authorities that a reduction in fishing licenses need not hamper a maximum catch provided departmental fishing restrictions are appropriately relaxed.

"The companies are also co-operating in the national effort by releasing some of their largest and most modern boats to the Naval Reserve and the Western Air Command.

"Under these circumstances they feel that they should not be exposed to false and injurious statements." (See also Page 1.)

PRICES ASKED FOR JAP BOATS TOO HIGH

2/4/42

Members of the United Fishermen's Union who have been trying for three weeks to negotiate deals for Jap fishing vessels are puzzled and a bit angry about the whole thing.

Their opinions are aired in an article in this week's union paper, *The Fisherman*, which says the Japs are asking prices far above the actual value of the boats.

"We believe that the companies have most of the big Jap boats lined up already," says W. T. Burgess of the UFFU.

Here are a couple of figures quoted on boats of the Matsuyama fleet, as taken from the article in *The Fisherman*—Chamis Bay, built in 1928 for \$25,000, now asking \$18,500; Otter Bay, built in 1929 for \$14,000, now asking \$8000.

Other prices have been quoted in similar ratio.

Navy 'Sorts' Jap Fish Boats For Purchasers

Impounded Japanese fishing vessels will be sold only to "bona fide fishermen" and will be in good condition on delivery, E. B.

McMaster, spokesman for the Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee said Tuesday. Full facilities of the commit-

tee's office, where Japanese owners are required to register details of their vessels, are open to prospective buyers to enable them to contact owners.

in such order that they can be selectively inspected," he said.

Minus Red Tape

"The objective of this committee is to get the vessels into the hands of bona fide fishermen as soon as possible and without red tape so that they can contribute to the output of Pacific Coast fishing."

"But until the boats are sorted and classified more fully, it is difficult to handle the man who comes in and wants to see the 'Mary Jane' out of the 950 vessels."

He recommended that fishermen with definite vessels in mind, contact the owners and start negotiations for purchase.

"If he knows the vessel he wants but does not know the owner, we can help him."

R.C.M.P. officials were unable to comment on reports of damage to impounded vessels.

Repair Work Starts On Jap Fishboats.

2/4/42

Six battered fishboats—part of the fleet of nearly 1200 Jap vessels seized at the outbreak of war in the Pacific, and now to be sold to white fishermen—are on the ways of the B. C. Packers' Celtic Shipyard, Fraser River, for repairs.

They were turned over to the yard by naval authorities, with orders that the engines be put in working order and the hulls made water-tight. So far there is no order that other general repairs be made to the vessels.

The Celtic yard is to overhaul a total of 24 of these damaged Jap fishboats.

Engines of the six Jap boats now on the ways at the Celtic yard are not seriously damaged, it is understood. They suffered from being under water, and are covered with rust and dirt.

It is a cleaning job rather than repairing, as far as the engines are concerned.

In some cases there is damage to railings and superstructure.

As announced Tuesday by A. E.

McMaster, executive assistant to the Japanese Fishing Fleet Committee, the Jap fishboats are to be in good condition when delivered to white buyers.

He declared also that all facilities of the committee's office, fifteenth floor of the Marine Building, are open to prospective buyers to enable them to contact owners of Jap vessels.

Mr. McMaster said that reported difficulties of buyers—said to be unable to view specific boats before reaching a purchasing agreement—are largely due to the lack of time to sort and classify the 950 vessels in the Fraser River.

First actual sales are expected to be approved by this weekend.

Time Problem

"The vessels are in charge of naval authorities, so I cannot comment on reports of damage to them, but they are undoubtedly greatly exaggerated," he said.

Reported difficulties of buyers, who are said to be unable to view specific vessels before an agreement is reached with the owner, are largely due to lack of time to sort and classify the 950 vessels interned in the Fraser River, he said.

"We are exploring our way. There are over 950 vessels, all brought in there before this committee was set up. The naval authorities are sorting them out

FOG, ICE HAMPER ROUNDUP

Navy Denies Japanese Fish Boats Were Badly Treated

By Vancouver Daily Province Staff Correspondent.

VICTORIA, Feb. 6.—Japanese fishboats have definitely not been sabotaged, or damaged any more than abnormal conditions would warrant since being taken over by the navy late in December.

This statement has been issued by naval authorities at Esquimalt to disprove rumors that the seized ships have been badly treated while in navy custody.

"Very little more damage has been done to the ships than would be experienced in the ordinary layoff season," Commander James McCulloch, commanding officer of auxiliary vessels at Esquimalt, declared.

PROUD OF RESULTS.

"Considering the speed with which the ships were rounded up, and the particularly bad weather, I think we can be proud of ourselves that it was only less than 5 per cent. of the boats that received any injuries," he said.

Fog, ice floes and the Fraser River and the fact that a number of the ships had to be taken off grids before their seams were tight, accounted for the major portion of the damage.

The authorities point out, however, that whatever the damage suffered by the boats, it is now being made good by the government.

Stories that thieves have

stripped many of the boats of moveable equipment are also branded as lies.

OBSERVERS MISLED.

"Many Japanese when told to leave their boats were given word that their personal effects could be removed," Commander McCulloch said.

"Unintentionally, I suppose, many of them took tools, compasses, charts and other items, and left the boat with the appearance that it had been stripped. This fact probably gave rise to the untrue report that stealing was going on in the ships."

The navy declare that their record of rounding up the Japanese ships is one to be proud of.

"Within 48 hours of the battle of Pearl Harbor, every Japanese ship on the coast was accounted for," they state.

Increased fishing in the Nanoose Bay area Wednesday netted another 800 tons of herring, bringing the total catch since the recent 10,000-ton extension of the herring quota to over 3000 tons.

Dispose of Part of Seized Jap Fleet

Fishboats Leased to Japanese Returned To White Owners; Fireboat Committee Inspects Four More Jap Seiners

2/9/42

By DON MASON

An unstated number of the nearly 1200 fishing vessels seized from Japs at the outbreak of war in the Pacific have already been turned over to whites, I learned today.

But no sales have been completed as yet.

Units of the impounded fleet so far released by the navy are boats the Japs never did own. They were owned by whites and leased to Japs. There was no distinction when the navy rounded up the fleet. Every boat operated by a Jap was seized.

Now, following an investigation of each case, the boats have been returned to their white owners.

The office of the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Committee is one of the busiest in the city. Since it opened two weeks ago—on the fifteenth floor of the Marine Building—it has averaged more than 100 visitors per day, all seeking information concerning purchase of a Jap fishboat.

Scores of deals between Jap boat owners and prospective white buyers have already been tentatively completed, and wait only committee approval or naval permission to inspect the boats in question.

Until now the inspection procedure, in charge of the navy, has been necessarily slow, but now the boats are reportedly segregated by types, making inspection much more simple.

From Boats Sale

CONFISCATION COST DEDUCTED

OTTAWA, Feb. 14.—(CP)—

One per cent. of the money involved in transactions for disposal of Japanese fishing boats and equipment impounded on the Pacific Coast after Japan's entry into the war will be set aside to meet expenses of the committee headed by Mr. Justice Sidney Smith of Vancouver which is handling such disposal, it was disclosed tonight in the Canada Gazette.

The provision for the fund was made by order-in-council. The order said Kishizo Kimura, Japanese representative on Mr. Justice Smith's committee, had reported that the Japanese owners of boats and equipment were willing to subscribe to expenses incurred.

DAMAGE CLAIMS.

The committee made the proposal for the 1 per cent. charge on all money involved in disposal operations, whether by charter, leases or sales, "having in mind that the expenses of the committee will be substantially greater than originally estimated, due to the large number of claims for damages to vessels while in custody, necessitating additional expenses for service of competent marine surveyors."

More than 1000 small boats owned by persons of Japanese racial origin have been impounded.

Mr. Justice Smith's committee has authority to make arrangements for the owners of such boats to arrange for their sale, lease or charter to persons of non-Japanese origin, and to arbitrate disagreements on prices between owners and intending purchasers "with a view to preventing advantage being taken of duress."

First of Jap Fishing Boats Sold This Week

Between 25 and 30 Vessels of Seized Fleet Taken Over by Navy and Air Force to Be Used in Patrol Work

2/13/42

By DON MASON

First sales of vessels from the impounded British Columbia Jap fishboat fleet to white buyers were approved by the Japanese Fishing Fleet Disposal Committee and completed this week.

Fifty-seven of the seized boats have been released to date . . . some sold to white fishermen, some handed back to white owners who had chartered them to Japs before the Pacific war started, and between 25 and 30 taken over by the navy and air force.

PATROL BOATS

Both the navy and air force needed patrol vessels—more vessels than they could take from the white fishing fleet without jeopardizing the industry. For the most part they took Jap seiners and packers, but the air force took some trollers for inside work.

After some unavoidable delay, the Fleet Disposal Committee has now really got going. During the next two or three weeks, the turnover of Jap boats to whites should be very heavy.

Worst delay has been in the business of boat inspection by prospective buyers. But it was a big job to get the hundreds of boats segregated by classes. This has now been done.

Procedure is as follows:

'PROMOTERS'

When a white buyer and Jap owner have negotiated a satisfactory deal, the Disposal Committee communicate with the naval authorities in charge of the vessel. The boat in question is picked out and brought alongside the dock where it can be inspected.

If the buyer is satisfied, the Disposal Committee approves the deal, and the sale is completed.

"This committee is really a body of sales promotion managers," says A. E. McMaster, executive assistant.

\$43,800 Total Value Put On Two Jap Boats

2/23/42

The value and earnings of the sister fish packers, Kuroshio & Arashio, were reviewed today by Mr. Justice Sidney Smith, Capt. Samuel Robinson and G. E. Houser, the committee named by federal authorities to report on ships commandeered by the Royal Canadian Navy.

The Kuroshio and Arashio were built here in 1939 for Chosuke Nakamura, who has been in the province 31 years and was naturalized in 1921 at Prince Rupert. He valued them at \$24,000 each.

A representative of Lloyd's Registry put a value of \$22,000 on the Kuroshio and \$21,000 on the Arashio.

The Japanese owner told the committee he netted from \$20 to \$25 per day on each boat when he operated them himself and received \$30 and \$25 daily when they were chartered for the salmon and herring catches.

The committee will sit next week to consider six other commandeered vessels.