

Van Suren
editorial

19/1/42 p 4

"Our people will not stand
for Jap domination in any
industrial activity. The
shortcut may be to send them
all home after the war"

~

Repatriation:

MacKenzie Papers Vol 25 file 70-25(3).

MacKenzie to Wm Douglas, Secretary, Saanich Branch of the Canadian Legion, re resolution to repatriate all Japanese after the war, October 19, 1942.

"I am personally very largely in sympathy with the terms of the resolution but I fear there are many bad days ahead of us all before we can get it implemented."

MacKenzie to F. Howlett, City Clerk, Vancouver City Council re repatriation resolution, October 26, 1942:

"we should make it a direct mandate to whoever represents Canada at the Peace Conference that these people shall not be repatriated in British Columbia. I realize that this goes fairly far in regard to those born in Canada but the main thing is our security in the future. ... I do believe that all parties in British Columbia should unite upon a definite policy when the proper time comes".

Lt. Col F.B.J. Stephenson to Ian MacKenzie Nov. 17, 1942 talks as if MacKenzie had advocated repatriation on the radio in November 1942. Stephenson is connected with the B.C. Canadian Legion.

New Canadian March 6, 1943: Federal and Provincial M.P.'s and M.L.A.'s from B.C. both agitating for deportation of Japanese Canadians.

March 27, 1943, Memo Norman Robertson to W.L. Mackenzie King (King Papers MG26J4 Vol 361, F3850) advocating the segregation of potentially disloyal from loyal Japanese in order to more rapidly abolish restrictions on the others. MacKenzie King indicated his approval on the memo.

In December 1943 the question of repatriation was discussed with American officials in the Department of State with Mr Atherton (? position? presumably Dept. of External Affairs making the inquiry) U.S. reply that are studying the question. Breckinridge Long, Assistant Secretary of State to Secretary of State, Dec. 17, 1943.

*presumably
Cdn
Legation
in Wash
see next
doc*

*U.S.
questionnaire
admin in Feb 1943.*

Ian MacKenzie urging the repatriation of the Japanese in April 1942 (during trip to B.C.) Press Release BCSC Papers RG 36/27 Vol 2, file 40. Taylor to MacNamara April 4, 1942 "If it is humanly possible for a member of Parliament to sabotage the interests of this Commission the Hon. Ian MacKenzie has made a very good attempt."

See Vancouver Sun April 3, 1942.

New Canadian Sept. 5, 1942 p.2. printed the text of the Cornett Exclusion Resolution asking that Japanese be repatriated to Japan after the war.

Sept 12, 1942 New Canadian p. 1. City Council Delays Cornett resolution one month.
p.2. Consultative Council for Cooperation in Wartime Problems of Canadian Citizenship brief printed which urges the dispersal of Japanese Canadians throughout the Dominion.

→ JFV copied with adjusted. The events buffeting them and clung to the hope of a quick return to their homes, businesses (to the life they had known) an idea born in Jan 1941 was slowly maturing, some ideas which would ~~stimulate~~ ^{dash} all hope of a return to prewar normalcy.

JFV Con

Jan 1941 - Kame's idea of selling farmers like fishing boats.
 → JFV Con. → p 62 thesis Sakamoto

Van
 Jan
 19/1/42
 P. 3.

"Kame's
 idea
 will
 give
 farmers
 some
 hope
 as to
 the
 opportunity
 in
 respect
 to
 the
 proposal
 of
 their
 property."

Apr 1942
 → Jan Wpck visited to receive reports
 → P. of JFV farmers again raised
 - value p 7-68. JFVDC.
 - solutions proposed
 - inter JFV or farms
 - fund extracts.
 - sees another use as Wpck RST
 → reconstruction
 → fear of postwar unemployment
 by vets - a deep ~~desire~~ ^{desire} for radicalism
 & an upsurge of radicalism
 as in 1919
 - avoid the bankruptcy of
 vets as post WWI
 → JFV farms here were 100's
 of sm farms, each of which
 had demonstrated its
 fertility
 → route prepared
 → arrange a survey of the
 land's appeal on buying
 until VFA degrades

Survey - criteria
While Antagonized much as had been
also converted to the idea by Syst
report - "conservative" values
to ask that was seeking
best buy for his boys

Creation of compulsion
pressure McFarty for support
city bar }
Office of Cust - McFarty supply the
to a Cust powers. ^{W.M. Act}
arguments would
overcome Cab reluctance

propagate it

Reality is slow to penetrate
- ~~that~~ realize in March
as did the churches
- April before of Cdrs realized
the govt intent.

org protest
- org by the property goes on the block
as org V.A. ^{W.A.}
- ^{W.A.} property subs ^{W.A.}

- organizing
- whitehat proceeds
- whitehat first
- lot of War prop
- sold V.A. money
- public auction
- began
- for over 20
- by organizing
- thousands of
- thousands of
- thousands of

- Court case
- wait - \$1.0 x 10⁶ sold before case gets to court.
- legal hassles
- suspension indefinitely while property sales proceed.
- x x x

- Result - destitution.
- welfare policy - self support
- depletion of funds - refer to old bills in Broadfoot.
- movement of young west - some to act.
- inability of destitute to help themselves

The Arrow Lakes Jews, Makusp BC
ships Apr 16/42 Greenwood Act as it
prepares to receive 1000 Coast Jps

"These Jps are not prisoners nor internees.
They are simply people moved from the
restricted zone at the Coast so as to give
greater assurance of security in the Coast
zone. They are not permitted to go into business
of any kind; those who were in business
were required to quit and get out."

30/4/42 P1

- See Com News Terms on Jps due to be housed in Kaslo
for the Duration
public meeting last Thurs (April 23) Mr. L. E

Boutbee of BCSC explained terms

"In the 1st place it is absolutely nec for national
safety that these people be removed from the
coastal areas; it is the patriotic duty of
every Can to assist the Com in this difficult
work of transplanting thousands of families
to new quarters"

Com looked after schooling, hospitalization
& med services. + subsistence allowance of
\$40. / mo / fam of 4 "all of J will be spent
in local stores."

- 3 man local Comm to be appt'd as a buffer
comm between Jps & citizens.
- Jps subject to curfew, can't hunt, fish, drive
car, own radio, leave city limits; extra
police will patrol streets; a new public
school well open - "Best of all the Comm
covenants to remove the whole party
after the war." (Kaslo Kootenian).

P2 Tolerance & Patience should be granted
Jps. (also from Kaslo Kootenian)

- owners of vacant bldgs being criticized.
writer (A. J. Curle) leased his business eus.
1. it's duty to help govt in its decision
2. Jps not nec'ly enemies "but if were want where
they are eye of them" "if they are not enemies we need
not oppose them"

writes expects to occupy an office in the same buildg.

"If we crush a spirit of hatred in this
get struggle we are sunk! Religion is not
prove this to be true."

- papers contain 2 anti letters
+ an indication of an ambition to get
Jpz labour to build needed roads.

pg 4 extract from the Kaslo Kootenian
reviewing "this Jpz situation"

- says its must grow to judgement
of those in authority
- asks to consider the lot of the evacuees
- notes they were singled out. Her: it - born
still free. Notes property is homes seized
& have been deported to a strange place.
- "The milit men faith is recognized by this
people, and to date there is not a case of
insubord against them"...
- "If they come here they come as wards of the Cdn
Govt. Let us not treat them as alien enemies
until they prove themselves as such."

21/5/42 pl.

Greenwood 812 Jpz, Kaslo 429, Slocan 22.

Sandon 2 but wk crew of 24 carp, plub &
labours has left for it. Rev T Tsuji of
Nompas Temple leading Buddhist evacs to
Sandon. - Greenwood reports the Jpz have
* already settled have formed a committee
to direct affairs in the community.

4/6/42 pl. - Sandon expects Jpz about
June 7. - wkmen repair sunken foundations
broken roofs & chimneys

Alex Macmiller in charge of work.
hospital to reopen c 2 docs, 1 dentist & nurses

25/6/42 200 more Jpz to Sandon by bus to Kaslo
from CPR W Nelson.
Kaslo to Sandon also CPR

Arrow Lakes News 6/11/43 p2

Can. National Comm. on Refugees

Sir Carine R. Wilson chair -
sue petition asking govt to admit a
larger # of refugees to Cda.

Treasurer Sir Ellsworth Flavell
(Industrialist)

"experience shows that this country's
restrictive emp. policy must be
moderated if effective action is to
be taken." (from Revelstoke News)

22/10/42 - Nakusp not anti Jpz.
- taking for granted Nakusp opposed Jpz.
- majority of people never given an opportunity to express selves. - Several have strongly opposed the advent of the Jpz. From this I app it has got abroad that Nakusp is anti J.
"our duty to make it clear that there is no high feeling on the matter"
judgers "untouched & remain entirely complacent on the matter"
- no empty bldgs. did not consider town eligible
- "They would consider it unpatriotic to raise a protest" to nec war measure by govt.

const J. Dowling on holiday in Van (B.C. Police? or RCMP.)
miss Samell of Van has taken up nursing duties at Sloean Community Hosp.

5/11/42 - Mrs McFavist & daughter have arrived to take up residence. (N.D.) Mrs McFavist employed by BCSC.
Mrs Goned who has been employ at BCSC to Van.

Miss Gallie of BCSC staff has left for a visit to Van

10/11/42 Miss Suttie spent a few days in Van

20/11/42 Jpz fish for suckus, squaw fish & wht fish in Whatsan Lake undergnt supervisor (J Roberson fisheries unit).

10/12/42 Comm opens Jpz school Sander
BCSC just completed arrangements
Grade 6 - down in unused section of public school, intermediate in Hunter bldg, high school in old CPR str



Aug 6/42 p2. New Denver Column

- 127 of Jps taking up residence in & around N.D.
Tents; houses are being erected at the Bay

- 30/7/42

Miss Ellingsworth & Miss Hanna - missionaries
for Slovan district (Anglican)

6/8/42 p4 127 Jps arrive for Slovan, Sandox
Wilson 120 7
→ Slovan by train

1/10/42 p1

H. MacInnes speaks on C.F. in Yakus
emphasized that ed of Jps people must be
kept up not only for their own sakes but
for the children of our own people.

p2 ed. on Vantup

- J. F.V. glad Jps are gone
- meeting of Valley men capabilities pithoney
to assist man to sell ^{up state} prop to prevent
their return!
- dairy farms growing corn to supplant Jps labour
in root crops.
- Sawmills; fisheries taking out Jps.
- men complain govt treating Jps too
well in the interior

8/10/42 p1. New Denver ed. Ligin accepts
Jps influx as "one war measure".

22/10/42 p1 Jps have own Committees in Loan
Campaign - organizer H.A. Mathews?
Asst Sean Mann "met nothing but enthusiasm"
"many Jps are ed born; proud of it; they
realize that their response in the campaign
will be watched & close interest... many
of them making the most of the set in which
they are at present, welcomed to opportunity
to show what they can do."

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"our duty to make it clear that there is no high feeling in the matter"
- citizens "untouched" & remain entirely complacent in the matter"
- no empty bldgs. did not consider town eligible
- "They would consider it unpatriotic to raise a protest" to me was measure by govt.

const J. Dowling on holiday in Van (B.C. Police?)
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of public school, intermediate
in Hunter bldg, high school in old
CPR str



7/1/43

Jpz concert staged N.D.

by Jpz Committee

- in hospital bldg (uncomplete)
- ND residents invited tho mostly un Jpz
- Mr Walker - supervisor of S.C.

Mar 1942

- Woods opened to Jpz wkns.

- Apr 1/43 - Bazaar W. Assoc; Sunday School of N. Dav Jpz United Church.

* Mar 27 2-7pm un Legion Hall
to aid church

15/4/43 - Denver Jpz Present Concert.
Jpz Y.P. Society Sat, Sun; morn nights
in Bosun Hall. (Apr 10-12)

22/4/43 - Jpz wedding included in N.D.
social notices Kay Yasui to Tom Okawa

6/5/43 Jpz children stage concert.

27/5/43^p Reports Jpz articles reprinted
from the Creston Review

12/8/43^p - picture of evacuee houses
under construction. Lemmon Creek.

19/8/43 picture road to Slocan
City

* 30/9/43 Sardon items included
last wk 60 men of the Jpz Com left
the wk in wood cutting camp at Summit
Lake
home for Sundays.

We have instituted a system of *Railway Train Patrols* in connection with the Security Service especially covering such points as Halifax and other important ports.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

Assistant Commissioner F. J. Mead was appointed a member of the British Columbia Security Commission, and the Officer Commanding at Vancouver and the personnel under his command gave valuable assistance to that Commission, especially in the removal of Japanese from the coastal areas. When it is remembered that 19,867 Japanese people have actually been evacuated from the restricted areas, it gives some idea of the large amount of work involved. This was not made any easier by charges against Etsuji Morii which resulted in Mr. Justice Cameron of Ontario being appointed to enquire into this man's services. He (Morii) had helped the R.C.M. Police very materially. The charges made in the *Vancouver News-Herald*, and which were enquired into, were in essence, threefold:—

- (1) That Morii was a gambler and a racketeer and used gangster methods to enforce his will on the Japanese community; that he protected Japanese illegally in Canada; that he was feared by other Japanese; that this was known to the R.C.M. Police and that his services should not have been used in any capacity by the R.C.M. Police or the B.C. Security Commission, and that because of his contact with the R.C.M. Police he was able to levy tribute on other Japanese.
- (2) That Morii was an officer of the Sokoku Kai, a Japanese organization said to be directly affiliated with the Black Dragon Society and that this proved his disloyalty to Canada which should have resulted in his internment.
- (3) That the R.C.M. Police with knowledge of Morii's bad reputation were complacent; that because of Morii's previous services to the R.C.M. Police during which Morii had sold himself to the R.C.M. Police to such an extent the officials believed in him implicitly and did not thoroughly investigate reports as to his bad character.

Mr. Justice Cameron in his report to the Hon. the Minister of Justice dated December 19, 1942, had this to say: ".....It is undoubtedly the right of a newspaper to criticize the policies of Governmental authority even in wartime, but I do question the advisability of a newspaper making statements of a nature which would undoubtedly tend to alarm the public during the war and to discredit Governmental bodies charged with the safety of the State, when such statements are without foundation and the truth or falsity of which could readily be ascertained by competent reporters from those in possession of the facts. This is particularly the case where no public benefit could result from such publication, but rather the reverse." "I find that the R.C.M. Police have not been guilty of any complacency in regard to Morii. I also find that the R.C.M. Police and its officers gave material assistance to the B.C. Security Commission in carrying out the evacuation and that throughout, the R.C.M. Police, in regard to this matter, have been vigilant and efficient and have lived up to the high standards which the Canadian public expects of that Force."

Only a small proportion of these Japanese have been confined in internment camps. In connection with the Japanese evacuation, we opened a temporary Sub-Division at New Denver and five temporary detachments in British Columbia.

Disposal of Japanese Property.—The disposal of the Japanese fishing fleet was placed in the hands of the Japanese Fishing Boat Disposal Committee, and they have completed their work and sold these boats and related material to an

1943

accumulated value of one and one-half million dollars. In February, 1943, arrangements were entered into by the Custodian of Enemy (Japanese) Property, the Commissioner of Japanese Placement and the Federal Government to arrange for the disposal of all property owned in the Protected Area by Japanese. Two committees have been set up by the Federal Government for this purpose.

SPECIAL WAR REVENUE ACT

This Act has made it necessary for the R.C.M. Police to ensure that the Amusement Tax Act is being properly enforced and in most big cities this has added materially to our work. Night Clubs and theatres and other places of amusement have to be visited from time to time to ensure that no infractions of the Act are committed.

NEW LEGISLATION

There has been no new legislation which has required extended service from this force during the past twelve months, but, as already intimated, the enforcement of existing federal statutes and war regulations has become a very important part of our work. Some of the Government Departments might well increase their own inspectors and preventive officers and relieve us of some of the investigational work. The large number of enquiries necessary across the country respecting the rationing of various articles, the heavy work involved in the enforcement of the orders and regulations of the various controllers governing oil and fuel and various other matters, does not decrease but on the contrary has enlarged. There are a number of Acts and Regulations which we have had to continue to enforce especially the National Selective Service Regulations which requires thousands of investigations. The Merchant Seamen Order at the different ports and the regulations of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, Department of Munitions and Supply and the Defence of Canada regulations have all added to our innumerable activities during the past twelve months.

FEDERAL DRIVEWAYS, OTTAWA

I am glad to be able to report that on the Federal District Commission Driveways at Ottawa, we now have a motorcar patrol equipped with two-way radio.

OTHER DUTIES

- (a) I shall refer to such matters as the registration of firearms, the Preventive Service and other "continuous" duties in another Section.
- (b) In addition to the large scope of duties already mentioned, there are a number of duties of lesser importance, such as the enforcement of the Canada Temperance Act in Beauce County, Quebec, and similar new ones of that nature which have fallen to this force during the past year.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND YUKON

In the Northwest Territories and Yukon much development is under way, and this has added to our responsibilities, and has necessitated an increase in the number of our detachments there. It is not in the public interest to dwell to any great extent on this matter.

5. Health

I have pleasure in again reporting that during the year under review the health of the Force on the whole has been good. Very few infectious or contagious diseases occurred among the members of the Force. Those discovered or reported were "Measles" and "Mumps".

Several cases of "Whooping Cough" "Measles" and "Mumps" were also reported among the families of members of the Force.

W.M.S.

United Church
Archives
U.B.C.

18th Annual Report 1942/43 p 67.

Community Missions West.

Lethbridge - ^{miss} Hedwig ^{DH} Bartling Commissioned 1933

McWilliams = superintendent of schools in this division
- survey evacuees fall 1942

- Now organized X.B.C. Society at Taber & few
W.J. Collett of Taber - intended originally as
a study group -> "found chief need of these
young folk was not for study but for
recreation ... had for several months been
doing heavy manual labour ... they were
physically, mentally & spiritually weary.
They wanted social contacts & renewal
of faith in the kindness & sincerity of their
yellow men."

Shaughnessy - a mining town - a problem
W.R.T. Jpg.

Oriental p. 109.

Dr. Bl. Rev. Olivia Lindsey at East Lethbridge & Budget River
+ 8 returned missionaries & 3 Home missionaries

Alta. Rev. Kobayama & Hedwig Bartling at Leth
Victoria Oriental Home children -> Assiniboia
School Home in Sask. + 2 weeks 18 girls 1 boy p. 110

Miss Florence Bird in Art & Que.

houses 16 x 26'

p. 112 - Greenwood Report: Madeline Black
- conc on story of Yoshi Takasugi organizer
& head of Sloan Hospital
product of Oriental Home School Vic.
United Church Hosp at Lamont
Mission Work among Indians at
Port Simpson

> comments on their "patient submission
and desire to be with their people
rather than taking a better job in the
east"

Kaslo BC @ Sadie @ Tant

p113 Jan from New West & neighbor com.
practically moved as a grp to Kaslo & 900 Jps in
a community of 400 (w/nt residents) Jps
280 of 900 are Xtan
Rev & Mrs Armitage most everyone most welcome
"majority of the members of congr. were
cordial & helpful".

June 3 - Kindergarten 3 Nisei teachers

p113 (Women's Assoc) in August 2 officers & 2 equal
representatives from the 3 centers of
* New West, Stevenson & Van on all comm.
Leader Mrs Shimotakahara

p114 Nov meeting ladies of "local Cdn church"
invited to meet Jps Womens Assoc.

CBIT = 30 in 3 groups V.P.S. = 40

Rev Shimizu

② Mita Sadler reports p115.

MS
"On the 1st morning that a grp arrived
by boat the Cdn citizens met them with
cars & helped the old people & the
women with children. The ladies of
the Red Cross served sandwiches & coffee"

Lemon Creek p115 Helen R. Hurd
2000 of 7000 in Sloan area in L.C.
mid Oct - most of the cabins built & occupied

Mikomiya Union College Grad arrive Nov 15⁺
Sunday school = 100 C Nisei teachers

* org a school for grades 1-7. Teaching themselves
& help of a normal school grad 200 students
kindergarten already begun before Oct. 16 studied

Gilhoist BC ^{Rev} Olivia C. Lindsay

- Had whed in Mission City Spaulshovers -
sugar beet in early May.

- biggest problem in E. Hill in dunking H₂O
"well" to do families maintain selves.

Gwen Suttie New Denver

P¹¹⁸ Board of local United Church "generous & cooperative in their attitude to J's"

Sunday School in Sept + Bible study training for Sun School teachers

P¹¹⁹ Study group of ex uni studs & grads
"The open-minded facing of facts as they are, without bitterness or sentimentality should be surprising to anyone unacquainted w J's youths in Cdn."

Lashme: Ester Ryan

"By far the her # of the 23000 evacuated J's spent anywhere from a few days to 6 months in Hastings Park, Van."

1943-44

Greenwood: Madeline Bock p. 150

* schooling an "uphill pull of wk"
- volunteer teachers → go to paying jobs elsewhere

- spent summer trying to get children enrolled in Greenwood school.

succeeded by Sept because of "intensive efforts of Mayor McArthur & the Sec of the School Board." prejudice slowly being overcome.

J's Cdn elected Pres of St Council of High School. (only 2 high school teachers)

CBIT - uniforms different as "J's fans have not the money they were accustomed to have before the evac." paid for a concert.

Karlo BC: Meta Sadler.

74 church members → east in year.

Sadie O. Gair.
public school savvied from a store

153 9 classes. + library & teacher's room.
Nisei High School grads teach 200 primary school kids

154 Social do between local Cdn Women's Assoc
& Jps W.A.

Lemon Creek: ~~Hamilton~~ ^{Winter} (1942-43)
Gertrude Hamilton

"Until the rigours of that unusual winter were safely past, my chief daily duty was homemaking, fire & food requiring most of my time."

- High School ?

- 60 or so ^{HS} students → Hamilton → vic in March to see Director of High School Cores. Instruction Dept → opens in June lgly successful.

→ Strong interest of Advisory Comm in Vancouver & response of Home Mission Committee → funds + 1 teacher & coop of BCSC

→ open school Sept 7 for 73 HS students. Mr Donald Ewing, Mr Kentaro Ebisuzaki (Commercial) & Miss Mrs John Lowe of New Denver school also help.

Heleen Kuid.

"The gun clapboards & of the cabin was sealed, slightly warmed by our best efforts to create heat out of sizzling green wood, exuded a sticky ~~moisture~~ moisture. This in turn whitened into powdery frost & hung, chill & cheerless, on the walls & windows."

- notes building of gardens (removing tree stumps first).

sm cabin = 14 x 28'

Lillooet B.C. Alvin Lindsay p158
- conc on employment of the crew
Tomato growing at Budge River (1000 tons
lost to frost (48 freight cars shipped to
Van) cons started 2 wks late
sawmills at Minto
Taylor Lake - Logging for pulp.
- ^{only} a few H.S. studs admitted to Lillooet - ~~rest~~ must use
New Denver B.C.: Gwen Suttle ^{corresp.}

March Bazaar by W.A. → standing room only
700 meals → profit \$160.

April concert packed → \$850.

Sept 15th 45 students in "Lakeside Collegiate"
used United Church bldg. + a hall
2 blk away.
Mrs. McFadden Osterhout, Tahiri, teacher
wrote "for what the budget could bear."
Helen Lawson, John Rowe (science &
math → Lemah Creek, Fri & Sat.
- 20 students from Roseberry walk,
4 miles to school.

- English Class for Essie going east.

Lashme B.C.

May Mrs. Lachlan - returned on ^{Gripsholm} Gripsholm
after 6 mos as an extremely able and good

Opened H.S. classes in Jan classes in public
school classrooms after hours; in evening
"those who could afford it"
some require Coris. Instructor → sharing
materials between 80 students
another teacher (Annet Best) in Sept.

Arthur L. Ryan
- stayed in Hope hitchhiking rides from
delivery trucks until a cabin (#401) in
1 ASHWE made available.

Art 9 Quebec
Florence Bird

p172
reiterates the idea of the early Niseias
"pioneers" with its attending responsibilities.

p173
In London the Presbyterian President, while
acknowledging the prevailing hostility toward
all peoples of Jp. origin, challenged the
members of the congregation to give a
Christian welcome to these new arrivals
in their city.

notes need to "interpret them to as many
people as possible".

"These social events helped to keep up the
morale of the young men; women living
under a cloud of suspicion".

* - promote assimilation - warn against
congregating together but join churches
in both districts

"While the ministers were sympathetic
& often concerned about the Jp. & the
average church members were not
ready to receive them into their
Christian fellowship."

1944-45

Lebbidge Bartley

Reports one J.C. acknowledging "Now I can think
of home once again" finally able to
think back & ahead.

p172 BCSC eventually set up schooling to grade IX

Kaslo

- farms moving east continually
Sandon closed summer 1944
Kaslo to close in fall. - Cadron Kaslo
object want them to stay until permanent

resettlement worked out p 148.

New Denver.

Sept 1943 WMS with list of secondary schools

* 4 schools 1 lg in Lemox Creek
1 very lg in Gashme
1 sm in New Denver
a branch at Rosebery

p 153. "Some of the Jp in relief centers are finding
voluntary cooperation rather difficult
just now."

* - computing school run by R.C.'s.
better equip
lg staff

Ant. : Florence Bird

"PM statement that loyal J.C.'s will be permitted
to remain in Canada after the war allayed
the fear of repatriation, expulsion, going a
degree of security."

Gashme May MacLellan

p 161 - speaks of the growing despair among J.C.'s.
- futures & out quarters in Cdn.

"fearful & defensive attitudes" of young
people in camps contrasted to those
of a Jp Cdn who had returned visiting
his parents for camp for the first time

1945-46.

p 155. Helen Hurd, Report on Lemox Creek
- summarizes tensions of choice X.

- argu of who is very evident
WMS
N.D. Ella Leclair

p 158. "Another year of uncertainty & unrest."

O t t a w a
February 13, 1942.

The Rt.-Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King,
Prime Minister of Canada,
O t t a w a

My dear Mr. King:-

The surprising strength that recent events have disclosed that Japan possesses in the Pacific compels me to supplement my letters to you of November 20th, 1941 and January 10th, 1942.

I for one, as a representative for British Columbia, do not wish to over-emphasize the danger, yet when we realize what has happened to the defences of Hong Kong, the Phillipine Islands, the Malayan Peninsula, Burma, Singapore and several islands in the Dutch East Indies and also Islands of the Australian Commonwealth, it would be absurd for us to blind ourselves to the weakness of our position in Western Canada.

For the purpose of clarification, may I enumerate the existing dangers:

- (1) The Japanese Fifth Column on the Pacific Coast: I do not believe that any member of the Japanese race in our midst can be trusted. Consequently steps should be taken to remove all Japanese from our Pacific Coast and railway areas.
- (2) Our Coastal defences are wholly inadequate. They should be supplemented by air strength, sea power and equipped mobile land forces far in excess of the numbers now on the Pacific Coast.
- (3) Our highways and railways are wholly inadequate to sustain military operations in British Columbia. They should be extended and improved up to the requirements of effective military operations.

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Ht. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King - 2.

(4) We are wholly lacking in effective naval bases on the Pacific Coast. Both Esquimalt and Prince Rupert should be improved to overcome this deficiency.

In alying these broad general proposals before you I appreciate the demand that exists for co-operation elsewhere. But I cannot help but feel that it is neither wise nor safe to ignore the danger of leaving the Pacific Coast of Canada in its present pitifully weak condition.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

C.C. McGEER

RA27
Vol 174
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(COPY)

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAM

VANCOUVER, B.C.,
March 4, 1942

Hon. Ian Mackenzie,
Minister of Pensions and National Health,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Situation appears to British Columbia Security
Commission as follows:-

1. Protests from interior points are such that without Government intervention for necessity of cooperation from them it will be practically impossible for us to evacuate Japanese to any of these points. Apart from community protests one of our most influential papers advised the Chairman today they had been requested by a Government employee to send reporter and photographer to Jasper area as conditions were such that it was only question of time before complete sabotage of C.N.R. line would be complete. Rightly or wrongly such rumours are increasing and areas for possible evacuation becoming increasingly more difficult. Undoubtedly it is only question of time before Government will be forced by public opinion to move present evacuees to some other place. NB

2. At moment we believe we have cooperation of Japanese community who will work with us and facilitate our efforts. However we can only expect this amicable situation to continue providing there is no hostile feeling towards evacuees in localities in which they are placed. Government appeal and education of interior citizens may correct this hostile element but we question possibility.

3. Government is faced with the following:-

- (a) Correcting hostile element;
- (b) Making it compulsory for districts to accept evacuees;
- (c) Cooperation of other provinces;
- (d) Wholesale internment

4. If compulsory internment or further restrictions be placed on Japanese we will lose present cooperation and create an element of distrust and complete lack of confidence which will add tremendously to our present problem.

5. There are in such places as Greenwood, Kaslo, Minto, Shalalth, Lumberton and other points in province sufficient unoccupied accommodation which for nominal expenditure can be made habitable in short time to accommodate three thousand males or one thousand families. If males are evacuated to these areas first and given sufficient building material and placed to work with reasonable supervision we believe this accommodation can be increased in short time by evacuees themselves to perhaps double this number. However, we again have to consider community protests that will be forthcoming in event this plan adopted.

6. Other alternative is road camps when we would have to provide accommodation and undoubtedly be faced with continued complaints from districts in approximate area and also criticism and possible sabotage such as is now emanating from Jasper.

7. Only other alternative which we request your serious consideration for is establishment in isolated crown grant areas of communities where these families can re-establish themselves on land and in minor and restricted industrial effort. Needless to say this will be considerably more expensive than if possibility of paragraph 5 is adopted. However this re-establishment deserves your very serious consideration. // NB

We respectfully request your serious consideration to the above immediately.

Failing definite policy to be laid down by you we request Honourable Ian Mackenzie, Honourable Humphrey Mitchell and Honourable Louis St. Laurent arrange to meet this Commission here on ground so that they can have first hand knowledge of conditions demanding immediate action.

(Signed) Austin C. Taylor

(COPY)

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

Ottawa, 5th March, 1942

Major Austin Taylor,
555 Burrard Street,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Your telegram fourth received. Have discussed contents this morning with Honourable Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, who is responsible Minister under Order in Council. We have taken all matters mentioned into complete consideration and suggest that B.C. Security Commission take complete responsibility and act in the premises as you see fit remembering that first consideration is the security of our people on the coast and public clamour outside protected areas should be secondary consideration. Personally consider that press should not interfere by way of over publicizing by pictures or otherwise conditions of evacuees which must be somewhat difficult for a little while. Shall personally be very glad to go out there soon as possible if required but please consider Commission has complete power to act. Regards.

(Signed) Ian Mackenzie.

(COPY)

CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPHS

Ottawa, 5th March, 1942

Major Austin Taylor,
555 Burrard Street,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Further to my previous telegram my own personal suggestion is that individual movement of Japanese from coast should cease thus allaying interim opinion. That all motor vehicles should be taken up without delay. That male Japanese of adult years should be assembled immediately using any available buildings on coast and transferring as soon as practicable to interim points. From such points to organize distribution to work camps farm colonies or whatever type of enterprise decided upon. Do not see any reason for objection to their employment on road projects of important nature provided there is proper supervision. These are purely personal opinions not at all mandatory but suggestive and cooperative.

(Signed) Ian Mackenzie.

Ottawa, April 14, 1942.

My dear Colleague:

In connection with the evacuation of the Japanese from the protected area on the Pacific Coast, several hundred Japanese berry farmers are being compelled to abandon their properties. For the most part, these are well developed properties with good dwellings on them. They are providing a living, in each case, for a Japanese family.


The berry industry is an important part of British Columbia's agricultural life. During the war, in particular, large quantities of jam and processed berries have been required for Great Britain.

The abandonment of these farms raises a problem of the conservation of the continuity of production in the berry industry.

The British Columbia Security Commission has no authority to deal with the properties, excepting such items as motor vehicles and radios which are ordered confiscated. The Custodian of Enemy Alien Property has no authority to touch these properties unless and until they have been actually abandoned. In practice, the Japanese are endeavouring to lease and sell, often at sacrifice prices. The canneries and market agencies are greatly concerned, lest there be little or no crop on the Japanese farms this year, which will seriously disturb the whole economy of the Fraser Valley.

.....

The Honourable T.A. Crerar, M.P.,
Minister of Mines and Resources,
OTTAWA.



I am impressed with the thought that these excellent small farms would be most suitable establishments for soldier settlers under the pending Veterans' Land Act. This Act will confer upon the Director, when he is appointed, the right to buy farms and hold them for prospective settlers. He has authority to enter into agreements for leasing such properties, in order that they may be conserved and developed during any interregnum between their purchase and the arrival of a prospective soldier settler.

Unfortunately there is no prospect of the Veterans' Land Act becoming law in time for the Director appointed thereunder to deal with these properties. It seems unfortunate, however, that the opportunity should be missed.

I should appreciate your considering the advisability of an Order in Council under the War Measures Act, authorizing the administrator of the Soldier Settlement Act, or some other appropriate official, to step in at once and buy any of these Japanese farms that commend themselves as suitable for soldier settlers. They can be administered meantime exactly as the Director under the Veterans' Land Act would administer them and can be turned over to him when he is appointed. The submission to Council can follow the language of the Veterans' Land Bill with respect to the powers which it would be necessary to confer upon the official selected for this purpose.

The Custodian's representative in Vancouver is already in touch with a committee of white farmers and cannery men who know the properties intimately and who have already brought in a number of white farmers to take over some of the properties. They are of the opinion that they could obtain a suitable number of tenants to maintain these properties, pending their disposal to soldier settlers.

.....

The vital consideration in this proposal is that we act immediately; otherwise the properties will have been disposed of in various unsatisfactory ways and the opportunity to develop sound soldier settlement in that area will be lost.

I should be glad to be associated with you in a joint submission to Council, and I may say that we have in the Department, in connection with our A.R.P. organization, Mr. H.G. Eakins, who is one of the two or three best informed men in British Columbia with respect to the berry industry.

Yours sincerely,

(I. A. MACKENZIE)

WITNESS: R. St. Claire Carter, Chief Motor Mechanic, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, Official No. A.3162 - CALLED:

7. Q. How were these boats moored, as far as you remember?
- A. About 25 of the larger vessels were moored on the Annacis Island side of the dyke from the light up to about a point abreast of Shoal Point. About 125 of the gill-netters and the collector type (small vessels) were moored from the upper dolphins opposite Robson Island, fore and aft, with the dyke, in rows up to 15 or 16 abreast, which meant that about 6 or 7 boats were on the Robson Island side of the dolphins. The inner boat was the only one that was secured and that was secured to the Annieville Dyke. All the other boats abreast of this, 14 or 15 in number, were secured to the next boat to it.
8. Q. On your arrival with Lieutenant Draney, and after having looked over the situation, did you consider these boats were moored in a safe position and in a safe manner?
- A. No, sir, I did not.
9. Q. What do you mean by that?
- A. Firstly, sir, the way the boats were moored. The mooring lines of the boats were very light and the boats were not moored on a systematic basis or in a seamanlike manner. They were brought in and just moored together, one moored to the dyke and the next one moored to it, and so on.
10. Q. It would appear from your statement, therefore, that each boat that arrived was moored up rapidly without any consideration for the safety of the boats in that group. Is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir. I might add that the boats were brought in by the Japanese themselves, in some cases, and they would come up river in groups of 4 or 5 abreast already moored together. They would bring their boats in and moor them to the best holding ground they could find, irrespective of where the other boats were, as long as they could get their own before the dolphins. The boats were not in a definite line and more or less jumbled up.
11. Q. Was there any Naval officer or rating in charge of the mooring up and supervising of these vessels when you arrived?
- A. No, sir, I do not believe there was. I believe that was carried out by the Naval vessels which were towing the groups in.
12. Q. Did you take any action for the safety of these boats when you saw the condition they were in?
- A. Yes, sir. I commissioned two small boats from the group and we immediately proceeded to run lines fore and aft to the dolphins from various points in the lines. That was the first thing we did.
13. Q. Did you do that on your own initiative, or did you receive any orders from the Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver?
- A. I did not receive any orders, sir.

WITNESS: R. St. Claire Carter, Chief Motor Mechanic, Royal Canadian
Naval Reserve, Official No. A.3162 - CALLED:

14. Q. Did you have anyone to help you?
- A. Yes, sir. I had Murray Smith, Chief Motor Mechanic, and two days later we received a draft from H.M.C.S. "DISCOVERY" I believe about 20 men. They were just new entries, and not very competent.
15. Q. What were your orders when you were sent there?
- A. To dismantle and immobilize these vessels as they were received.
16. Q. As this Board understands it, then, you and one or two of your motor mechanic assistants were all alone from the 12th to the 14th December, 1941, when the guard party arrived from H.M.C.S. "DISCOVERY" and had no special orders other than those to immobilize the engines of the vessels. Is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir.
17. Q. To your knowledge, were any vessels sunk when you arrived on the 12th December, 1941?
- A. Yes, sir. There were three vessels on the beach at Annacis Island when I arrived there and one of them was under water. The boats could not be repaired as they were rotten. They were towed in under water and beached when they arrived.
18. Q. Do you know if any boats were sinking at their moorings?
- A. Not at the time we arrived, sir, although some of the vessels had water in them.
19. Q. Do you know if any arrangements had been made for the pumping of them?
- A. No, sir.
20. Q. No vessels had actually sunk at their moorings, then, on your arrival, or become damaged?
- A. No, sir, although there were several vessels that were damaged and presumed that it was through towing.
21. Q. To your knowledge, when did the first vessel at the dyke mooring sink?
- A. I went out on Christmas morning and found that one boat had sunk. It was a boat in a group of about 14, and about in a line with the piling. This had sunk during the night.
22. Q. What, then, was it's condition and the condition of the remaining vessels in it's group when you arrived on the scene?
- A. The vessel that was sunk was all right and the vessels moored alongside were all right at that time. It was a small boat and it was moored to a collector - that is about a 40 foot boat - on one side of it. They all went aground when the tide failed. The tide rose and this large boat had fallen over on the small one. The small boat, therefore, could not rise.

WITNESS: R. St. Claire Carter, Chief Motor Mechanic, Royal Canadian Naval Reserve, Official No. A.3162 - CALLED:

23. Q. Your answer indicates that there was insufficient water for mooring these vessels and that the mooring was unsafe except at certain states of the tide only. Is that correct?
- A. Yes, sir.
24. Q. Did you report this incident to the necessary authorities?
- A. Yes, sir.
25. Q. To whom did you make your report?
- A. Lieutenant Draney, sir.
26. Q. What did your report consist of?
- A. I stated that if we did not move these vessels down from the shoal water that by the time we had a few more in we would be having a lot of trouble. That was on the 26th December, I believe. This was a verbal report.
27. Q. Did Lieutenant Draney indicate to you that he would make the necessary arrangements to overcome this unsatisfactory situation?
- A. Yes, sir, I believe he did. At the time there was a discussion regarding putting the boats around Shoal Point up on the Island. We went over there at this time and checked the Island for this purpose. Lieutenant Draney said we were going to put all the boats up anyway, and that was the way it was left.
28. Q. To your knowledge, were any steps taken to prevent a recurrence of this sinking, due to the boats being moored on shoal ground, and which had already caused the sinking of one vessel?
- A. Well, sir, these boats were coming in at about 125 a day, from about 1600 on, which meant that myself and the small working party of about 8 men - 8 to 10 men - were kept hard at work sometimes until about 0100 the next morning, mooring them up in the deeper water adjacent to Annieville Dyke running out on Shoal Point. Some of them, however, had to be moored on the Robson Island side of the dolphins, notwithstanding that it was known to be shallow water, as there was such congestion at the entrance to this backwater, the entrance had to be kept clear and it was considered that even though these were moored on foul ground, as we now had a party we considered that we could prevent further sinkings. However, we ran kedges out to hold the boats apart and hoped that this would avoid any further sinkings. At this time, there were about 950 vessels and the river froze. This condition prevented us from getting these boats away from the foul mooring, where they had only been put as a temporary measure before moving them to a better place. This was about the 6th January, 1942, as far as I can remember.
29. Q. Is the Board to understand, then, that this ice condition which occurred about the 6th January, 1942, was the cause of a great number of sinkings?
- A. Yes, sir.

WITNESS: R. St. Claire Carter, Chief Motor Mechanic, Royal Canadian
Naval Reserve, Official No. A.3162 - CALLED:

30. Q. Prior to this, however, the Board has only been told of one sinking?
- A. Yes, sir.
31. Q. Is it correct that until this ice condition set in that there had been only this one sinking?
- A. No, sir. About 10 other boats had sunk in the meantime, due mostly to an unseaworthy condition on arrival.
32. Q. Do you consider, or not, that the foul mooring ground was partially responsible for these other 10 sinkings?
- A. Yes, sir, I do. If it was not for that foul ground we probably would not have lost these boats.
33. Q. Will you tell the Board, then, what had been done from 12th December, 1941, when you arrived, until this ice condition set in about the 6th or 7th January, 1942, to alleviate this danger?
- A. Practically nothing, sir.
34. Q. To your knowledge, had reports been made as to the danger of doing nothing?
- A. I believe that the difficulty was realized, sir, but as the boats were arriving so quickly all that could be done was to safely moor the new arrivals and no time was left to re-moor the other vessels that were moored on the foul ground originally.
35. Q. During the period up to approximately the 7th January, 1942, when this ice condition started, you state there were about 10 or 11 sinkings. To your knowledge, were any inspections carried out by the Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver, or any of his staff?
- A. Yes, sir. Lieutenant Commander J.M. Smith, R.C.N. (Temp.) arrived out nearly every day.
36. Q. To your knowledge, did the Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver, come out to make any inspections?
- A. Not that I can recall, sir. He was, however, out later on.
37. Q. Did Lieutenant Commander Smith leave any orders for the safety of these vessels that you know of?
- A. We discussed what we were doing and he seemed to be satisfied, and suggested that we carry on as we were doing. He also inferred that he would get more men out. I may say, sir, that from the first day I arrived out there I requested that portable pumps be supplied. However, these pumps were not supplied until the 18th January, 1942. This meant that all the vessels had to be bailed by hand until these pumps were provided, which of course also meant that my working party were limited in their work.

WITNESS: R. St. Claire Carter, Chief Motor Mechanic, Royal Canadian
Naval Reserve, Official No. A.3162 - CALLED:

38. Q. Do you know why these pumps were not supplied to you until the 18th January?
- A. I was in touch with Chief E.R.A. Murray Blannin at the Naval Officer in Charge's office on several occasions and I was informed that all was being done and that we would get them just as soon as possible. I called in at the Naval Officer in Charge's office myself and saw several signals about them, trying to hurry them up. On about the 16th or 17th January I informed them that the condition would become so serious that it would be beyond repair. The vessels were going down faster than we could lift them. The ice had set in then. We had to break the ice and bail out the boats with buckets.
39. Q. Were you placed in charge of these salvage operations?
- A. Yes, sir.
40. Q. On whose authority?
- A. I do not know, sir.
41. Q. Did you not receive any direct orders from the office of the Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver?
- A. No, sir. I never received any definite orders, but Lieutenant Commander Smith and everybody else came to me to ask what I was doing. I assumed, therefore, that I had been placed in charge.
42. Q. Did you at any time receive any definite instructions or orders in writing?
- A. Not during the bad time, sir. Lieutenant Commander Smith would come out and anything that he wanted done he would ask me. However, I would not say that I had NEVER received any written orders as some days when Lieutenant Commander Smith did not come out I would receive a note as to what to do.
43. Q. Will you explain briefly to the Board what salvage operations you gave orders for?
- A. Yes, sir. When these boats first started to go down about Christmas time, we proceeded to clear the line away from the sunken boat and put a line on that boat, if it was not too deep water and would make it fast at night. Then on the flat tide we would put 2 or 3 boats on to it and pull it on to the shallow flats where it would go aground at night. We would bail out and then float it and put it back in line.
44. Q. Did you get assistance from the New Westminster Public Works Salvage Vessel for this?
- A. Not at that time. Mr. Reed, who is I believe an M.P. from New Westminster, came out to see us in operation one day and mentioned the conditions under which we were working - I mean the ice conditions. He asked me if there was any way the Public Works Department could help us and I asked him for the "SAMSON" as at that time the boats were sinking alongside the dyke. Mr. Reed said that we could have the "SAMSON" and that he would be pleased to render any other assistance - would, in fact, be glad to do so.

WITNESS: Sub-Lieutenant S.F. Ross, Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve,
(Temporary) - CALLED:

116. Q. Were these suggestions of yours acted upon?

A. They were acted upon as soon as it was possible for us to do so, owing to the limited number of ratings available and the weather conditions prevailing. Orders were received on approximately 7th or 8th January in a signal from Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver, that we were to catalogue all vessels and that this was to be carried out as soon as possible. This meant that I had to reduce the number of my pumping parties and mechanics to carry out this work which took about three or four days. However, I was instructed to carry on with the purport of the signal as soon as possible and as I anticipated a number of vessels sank during this period through lack of care and maintenance and bailing parties.

117. Q. Did you have an adequate pumping equipment to cope with the number of vessels under your charge?

A. No, sir.

118. Q. Did you make representation to Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver, to provide better pumping facilities?

A. No, sir, because I had been given to understand on my arrival that pumps had already been ordered.

119. Q. When did these pumps arrive?

A. Two pumps arrived approximately 8th or 9th January. One arrived about the 12th and two additional pumps arrived about the 22nd January. Many times during this interval I requested information as to when these pumps might be expected and was given to understand that Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver's office was doing everything within their power to expedite the supply of these pumps.

120. Q. What, in your opinion, was the primary cause of these sinkings and eventual damage to these Japanese fishing vessels?

A. In my opinion, sir, it was because a large majority of these vessels were moored on unsafe ground.

121. Q. Were there any other major causes, in your opinion?

A. Yes, sir.

122. Q. What were they?

A. Peculiar weather conditions prevailing during the first and second weeks in January. Lack of sufficiently large working parties with adequate motor pumping facilities. Also, that some of the vessels were in an unseaworthy condition on arrival. Insufficient care had been given to the safe mooring of these boats on their arrival from down river. The securing alongside the dyke without vertical stringer pieces permitted the inboard vessel to foul the horizontal stringers on the ebb and flow tides, with the result that this inboard vessel canted over and fouled the boat adjacent to it. As a number of the outside boats were on foul ground and in some cases submerged and grounded, they were, in most cases, not in a position to free themselves.

BOARD OF INQUIRY HELD ON SHORE IN THE NAVAL BASE AT VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AT 0900, ON FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1942, TO HOLD A FULL AND CAREFUL INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING THE SINKING OF AND DAMAGE TO, JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED AND IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY AT ANNACIS ISLAND AND TO ASCERTAIN WHAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE NAVAL OFFICER IN CHARGE, VANCOUVER (A) FOR THE SAFE CUSTODY OF THESE VESSELS (B) THE REMEDY AND REPORTED SINKING AND DAMAGE TO VESSELS.

FINDING OF THE BOARD

The following is the Finding of the Board of Inquiry ordered by the Commanding Officer Pacific Coast's Memorandum dated 2nd March, 1942, to hold a full and careful investigation into the circumstances attending:-

"The sinking of and damage to Japanese Fishing Vessels seized and in protective custody at Annacis Island, and to ascertain what measures have been taken by the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Vancouver -

- (a) For the safe custody of these vessels
- (b) To remedy and report sinking and damage to vessels

The Board, after due consideration of all the evidence given by the various witnesses, finds that:-

(1) The principal cause of the majority of the sinkings and damage to the Japanese vessels seized was due to the fact that boats arrived in greater numbers than Naval Officer-in-Charge, Vancouver, was capable of having moored in a safe and seamanlike manner; yet he made no representation to reduce the numbers arriving, or to increase the Naval personnel carrying out the operation of mooring.

(2) The Naval Officer-in-Charge, Vancouver, failed to appreciate the magnitude of the operation for which he was responsible, in that:-

- (a) He delegated the selection of this mooring ground to Lieutenant Cdr. Smith;
- (b) He did not cause the area to be surveyed for the purpose required of it;

BOARD OF INQUIRY - JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS - FINDING
(Continued)

- (c) He delegated the responsibility of so mooring the boats on their arrival to Lieutenant Commander Smith without firstly providing Lieutenant Commander Smith with full instructions and adequate personnel to carry out this work.

(3) The Naval Officer-in-Charge, Vancouver, having received verbal reports of sinkings and damage failed to make a thorough personal survey of the situation, or to issue necessary instructions to better the situation, and he failed to keep his higher authority informed of the situation, in that:-

- (i) Though the situation deteriorated rapidly after January 7th or 8th, chiefly due to unexpected weather conditions, the extent of the damage sustained would have been much less had more ratings and better pumping facilities been available;
- (ii) Chief Motor Mechanic Carter on his own initiative asked for and obtained assistance from the Public Works Department;
- (iii) No report was made by Naval Officer in Charge, Vancouver, to Commanding Officer Pacific Coast until 3rd of February, 1942, when called for by Commanding Officer Pacific Coast.

B.R. Spencer
.....
(B.R. Spencer)
A/Commander, (e)
Royal Canadian Navy.

J. McCulloch
.....
(J. McCulloch)
Acting Commander,
Royal Canadian Navy (Temp.)

W.B.L. Holms
.....
(W.B.L. Holms)
Acting Captain,
Royal Canadian Navy.

[Box 7 W.L.M. King]
Crew Papers
(Queens)?

O t t a w a,
April 21st, 1942

Personal and
Confidential

My dear King,

I understand that you are making your final broadcast on the plebiscite on Friday evening. May I make a few suggestions which, if you do not think well of, you may consign with my full approval to the wastepaper-basket.

On my recent trip West I heard frequent adverse comment on Quebec, some of it from people who have a sensible and sane outlook usually upon public affairs. The tragedy of the whole thing is that the people of Quebec do not understand the people from the other provinces, and the people from the other provinces do not understand Quebec.

I would tell the people bluntly, with a special reference to our French-Canadian friends, that the United Nations are not winning the war - and that it is quite possible that we may lose it. I would pose the question: "What is our position if Germany triumphs in Europe and Britain is crushed, and Japan conquers Australia, as she undoubtedly would?" As I see it, the British Commonwealth and Empire disappear and Canada, one of the richest prizes in the world, would have to fight against overwhelming forces. I think I would ask our French-Canadian friends bluntly where Quebec would be in this picture. Could they retain those things which they prize so highly in the Confederation? You could not say perhaps that our future would be linked inextricably with that of the United States under these circumstances, but undoubtedly that is what would take place. St. Laurent in his broadcast last night put his finger on it when he asked his compatriots what place three and an half or four million Frenchmen would have in a continent of one hundred and fifty million non-French. They could not hope to maintain the privileges they

The Rt. Honourable W.L. Mackenzie King, P.C., M.P.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
O t t a w a

P.T.O.....

Continued from overleaf --

now enjoy, although I am well aware that you could not state it in this fashion. The fact is that no part of our country should be more interested in the successful outcome of the war than should be French Canada.

Quebec will listen to strong words from you and their effect upon the rest of Canada could be nothing but good.

I hope you will pardon my making these suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

DISTRIBUTION OF FISHING VESSELS SOLD

to JUNE 30th, 1942

<u>To PRINCIPAL FISHING CO</u>	<u>No. of Vessels</u>	<u>% of Fishing Companies</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
British Columbia Packers Ltd.	204	34	26
Canadian Fishing Coy Ltd.	147	24	19
Anglo B. C. Packing Co. Ltd.	96	16	12
Nelson Bros. Fisheries Ltd.	62	10	8
J. H. Todd and Sons	27	4	3
F. Millard and Sons Ltd.	25	4	3
Great West Packing Co. Ltd.	22	4	3
Cassiar Packing Co. Ltd.	13	2	2
North Shore Packing Co. Ltd.	7	1	1
Queen Charlotte Packing Co. Ltd.	5	1	1
Total Fishing Companies	608	100	78
Total Individual Purchasers	177		22
Total vessels sold to June 30th	785		100

ANALYSIS OF SALES TO JUNE 30th, 1942

TYPE AND AVERAGE VALUE

	<u>No. of Vessels</u>	<u>% of total vessels</u>	<u>Average value per Vessel</u>
Seiners	33	4	\$6,181.39
Trollers	47	6	1,468.11
Gill-Netters	581	74	638.14
Packers	87	11	2,342.50
Misc.-60 boats, etc.	37	5	894.90
(X) TOTAL	785	100	\$ 1,121.88

(X) Does not include 5 vessels sold by Custodian of Enemy Alien Property
 These were 5 Seiners of the average value of \$6,335.29.

MEMORANDUM

RE THE DISPOSITION OF THE
REMAINING JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS

The fishing industry now has a sufficient number ^(July 42) of the Japanese fishing vessels to warrant that the production of the industry will not suffer by reason of the immobilization of the Japanese fishing fleet.

Japanese owners of these vessels have been given every opportunity, over the past five months, to sell their vessels through the offices of the Committee and as it now seems clear that the markets for these vessels are about exhausted or very soon will be, the problem of disposing of those now remaining is principally that of storage.

Of immediate urgency in this respect is that of relieving Naval personnel from custodianship of the Fraser River boats.

INVENTORY OF VESSELS

The following is a synopsis of the vessels concerned in the impoundment action:

Vessel Type Symbols

- A - Seiner
- B - Troller
- C - Gill-Net
- D - Packer
- E - Misc. (Cod Boats, Etc)
- F - Total

(July 11th, 1942)	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>
Total Impoundment	57	102	829	150	129	1267
Requisitioned R.C. Services	10	14	8	12	-	44
<u>R.C. Mission</u>	-	-	-	17	3	20
Released to Owners	8	3	118	5	29	163
<u>Sold</u>	37	48	616	90	45	836
Total Releases	55	65	742	104	77	1003
Total Inventory July 11/42	2	37	87	26	52	204

Breakdown of Inventory of July 11/42

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>
At Prince Rupert	-	-	14	1	1	16
Custodian of A.S. Property	2	2	8	4	4	20
<u>J.S.V.B.C. - Fraser River</u>	-	33	65	21	47	166
Total Inventory	2	37	87	26	52	204

Of the 16 vessels at Prince Rupert, 5 only are in floating storage and in good condition. The others are beached and said to be in leaky condition. These vessels will probably be sold but are of secondary concern to the disposition of the Fraser River boats.

The Custodian of Alien Enemy Property proposes to remove his 20 vessels from Naval custodianship, so that the immediate and pressing problem is to find disposition of the 163 vessels remaining in the Fraser River fleet, under the release jurisdiction of the Committee.

FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION
IN RELIEVING NAVAL SERVICE OF CUSTODIANSHIP

To relieve Naval Service with the least possible delay, the Committee has explored various methods whereby this might be accomplished. Consideration of these factors are involved:

1. Agencies Available for Acceptable Custodianship.
 - A - Fishing Companies which have the necessary facilities and which have a future interest in these vessels.
 - B - Governmental Departments.
 - C - Private Companies.
2. Methods of Storage
 - A - Wet or Floating Storage such as at present employed.
 - B - Dry Storage.
3. Cost of Guarding and Maintaining Vessels.
4. Availability of Vessels in case they may be of future use in the Fishing Industry.
5. Responsibility of the Government to the Owners.

ALTERNATE METHODS

The Committee initially endeavored to follow the simplest and most effective method of disposal; that is, a proposal was made to the larger fishing companies which had purchased 65% of all vessels sold through the office of the Committee, and which contemplated their taking over all the

remaining vessels under a bailment plan. After a period of negotiations the plan was rejected.

These negotiations led the Committee to consider a new approach to these companies, which contemplated separating the fleet into two classifications:

1. These vessels in good to fair condition and immediately usable for fishing.
2. Older vessels and those in a poor state of repair, which have outlived their usefulness or have nearly reached that state.

To maintain all remaining vessels at their present moorings over a long period, would represent a greater expense than warranted. A most responsible private company whose regular operations would enable them to carry out this added responsibility at a minimum of cost, quoted a flat rate of \$4000. per month for the service. Considering the liability involved, our calculations indicate that this quotation is not unreasonable.

The organization of an equivalent service by Government Service would cost a minimum of \$3000. per month, without consideration of the liability for extraordinary expense in the event of damage to vessels at their moorings.

Assuming that 150 vessels were so stored, the cost would be \$26.66 per month per vessel, under the private company proposal, or a minimum as estimated of \$20.00 per month per vessel. As the total number of vessels were reduced by sales, the cost per vessel would increase as economies possible in operation would be disproportionate.

Dry storage would probably reduce these costs to about 1/3 of the above figures, but the deterioration of vessels would be rapid, and it is probable a large part of the vessels, so stored, would be permanently lost to the fishing industry.

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qualify in the second classification referred to herein; that is, "older vessels of low value." One of the larger companies which has ample dry storage facilities for this number of vessels, has tentatively agreed to store this residue of the fleet on the same compensatory basis as in the case of that of other companies for the other part of the fleet.

Should the Committee succeed in consummating these plans, Naval Service will be relieved of their custody more promptly than any other way, and the Government will have avoided setting up a new organization to accomplish this.

Immediate Procedure to Secure Progress in these Plans shall be:

1. Fishing Companies to complete their selection of Vessels.
2. Joint Survey of Selected Vessels (Surveyors of Fishing Co's., J.F.V.D. and Naval Service).
3. Delivery of Vessels taken at present moorings by Fishing Companies.
4. Preparation of appropriate Bailment Agreement and Execution thereof.



A.E. McMaster,
Executive Assistant.

J.F.V.D.C.
VANCOUVER
July 13/42
AEM/PH.

Ottawa, 12th May 1942.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL:

The undersigned have the honour to report:

That persons of the Japanese race ordinarily resident in the protected areas of British Columbia have been required by Orders of the Minister of Justice, under Regulation 4 of the Defence of Canada Regulations (Consolidation) 1941, to leave such protected areas;

That many of such persons of the Japanese race were engaged in agriculture and have been compelled to abandon lands owned by them or by companies which they control;

That unless measures are taken to control the disposition of such lands, such persons of the Japanese race may be exposed to undue exploitation;

That it is in the public interest to provide for the control of the disposition of such lands.

The undersigned have, therefore, the honour to recommend that Your Excellency in Council, under and by virtue of the powers conferred by the War Measures Act, Chapter 206 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, be pleased to make the following regulations:

1. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Director" means the Director of Soldier Settlement of Canada;
- (b) "Japanese Company" means any corporation of which the majority of the shares issued by it are owned by persons of the Japanese race, or of which the majority of the directors are persons of the Japanese race;
- (c) "Agricultural land" means land and any real or immovable property and any interest, legal or equitable therein, and the right to possession thereof, situated otherwise than within the boundaries of any incorporated city or town;
- (d) "Minister" means the Minister of Mines and Resources;
- (e) "person of the Japanese race" means any person wholly of the Japanese race;
- (f) "protected area in British Columbia" means any area in the province of British Columbia, now or hereafter declared, pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 4 of the Defence of Canada Regulations (Consolidation) 1941, to be a protected area for the purposes of such Regulation.

2. Except with the approval in writing of the Director and in accordance with any terms or conditions therein set out, no person shall, after May , 1942,

- (1) purchase, lease or otherwise acquire or agree to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, or
- (ii) either for himself or on behalf of the owner, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of or agree to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of,

any agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia, owned by any person of the Japanese race or by any Japanese company.

3. The Director may, in his sole discretion, refuse to approve or approve, either unconditionally or subject to such terms or conditions as to him seem fair and reasonable, the purchase, sale, lease or other acquisition or disposition, or any agreement therefor, of any agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia owned by any person of the Japanese race or by any Japanese company.

4. The Director shall cause an appraisal to be made of the fair present-day value of all agricultural lands in any protected area of British Columbia owned by persons of the Japanese race or by Japanese companies, and shall report thereon to the Minister.

5. Any person authorized in writing by the Director to act as an inspector under these regulations may, for the purpose of making any appraisal under the last preceding section, or for the purpose of ascertaining whether any person of the Japanese race or any Japanese company is the owner of any agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia, or for the purpose of determining whether the provisions of these regulations are being or have been complied with,

- (i) enter at all reasonable times and inspect any agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia, owned by any person of the Japanese race or by any Japanese company, or which is reasonably believed by such inspector to be or to have been owned by any such person or company;
- (ii) examine orally any person occupying or having any interest in agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia, which is reasonably believed by such inspector to be or to have been owned by a person of the Japanese race or a Japanese company;
- (iii) require any person occupying or having any interest in agricultural land in a protected area of British Columbia, which is reasonably believed by such inspector to be owned by a person of the Japanese race or a Japanese company, or having in his possession any documents relating to any such land, to furnish any information in his possession or such documents to such inspector.

6. The production by any person of any document purporting to be signed by the Director and purporting to authorize such person to act as an inspector under these regulations, shall be evidence of the authority of such person to act as an inspector.

JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

Committee:

THE HONORABLE MR. JUSTICE SIDNEY SMITH
CHAIRMAN
COMMANDER B. L. JOHNSON, D.S.O., R.C.N.R.
KISHIZO KIMURA
A. E. MCMASTER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1528 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.

May 20, 1942



AIR MAIL

The Honourable Mr. J.E. Michaud,
Minister of Fisheries,
OTTAWA.

Sir,

21017

FORCED SALES OF VESSELS

Up to the present all vessel sales have been consummated through free negotiation between Japanese owners and purchasers, but in these 600 transactions obstinate owners were generally avoided.

A large percentage of the vessels remaining unsold, belongs to a recalcitrant class of owners, who obviously desire to avoid selling their vessels by any means. }

The Committee's policy has been to use every reasonable means of persuading these owners to sell their vessels, but currently when this means has proven futile, it was decided to sell the vessels at a price considered fair and reasonable.

The first three cases of this kind have just been completed, and the Registrar of Shipping of Vancouver has been good enough to grant a clearance through the medium of the enclosed form of letter, which is self-explanatory.

It is recognized that this is a temporary expedient, and that a recognized Bill of Sale must replace the temporary document; therefore, the Committee recommends that authority be granted to the Committee to give permanence to this procedure through Order in Council or through some other approved method. The point is not immediately pressing and could be left for later consideration, if desired.

Investigate
Letter to Justice
to 7/6/42

Respectfully submitted.

AEM/PH.
Encl. 1.

A. E. McMaster,
Executive Assistant.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE

JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

Committee:

THE HONORABLE MR. JUSTICE SIDNEY SMITH
CHAIRMANCOMMANDER B. L. JOHNSON, D.S.O., R.C.N.R.
KISHIZO KIMURA

A. E. McMASTER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1525 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.TO THE REGISTRAR OF SHIPPING,
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Sir:

Re Ex-Japanese Fishing Vessel: _____

Length: _____ Breadth: _____ Depth: _____

Engine: _____

The owner of this vessel, _____
declines to sell at a reasonable price._____, whose signature, for
identification purposes, appears below, has offered to purchase
the vessel for the sum of _____
_____ (Dollars (\$ _____)), which sum is considered rea-
sonable and has been accepted as the purchase price by this Com-
mittee, and is being held in trust by the Committee, pending
completion of Bill of Sale.You are requested to permit the purchaser, _____
_____ to operate this boat until the
presently licensed owner, _____
completes the execution of Bill of Sale, or some other provision
has been made.This letter is issued in duplicate, one copy of which is
to be retained in your files, the other to be in the possession
of _____ for clearance and navigation
purposes.

Yours faithfully,

JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

A. E. McMaster,
Executive Assistant.

SIGNATURE OF:

Rm 27
Vol 175
File 614.02: 11-1 Vol 7

File

A meeting of the B.C. Members of the House of Commons including Hon. Ian Mackenzie, and in addition Hon. J.G. Gardiner and Hon. George Black, was held in the office of the Hon. Humphrey Mitchell in the House of Commons on Tuesday, July 21st, when there was a general discussion of the steps taken to evacuate the Japanese from the vulnerable areas of B.C.

1942

Mr. A. MacNamara, Associate Deputy Minister of Labour, was present.

The private members in attendance comprised:

Hon. G. Stirling
T. J. O'Neill
A. W. Neill
G. A. Cruickshank
H. C. Green
A. MacInnis
T. Reid
R. W. Mayhew
G. E. L. MacKinnon
O. Hanson
W. K. Esling
J. G. Turgeon

A statement of the situation as of July 9th was distributed to each person present, as per attached.

Mr. Reid said figures showed that there were thousands of Japanese still in Vancouver.

Mr. Mackenzie agreed and said they were driving taxis all over town. He was afraid of mass meetings of protest unless drastic action was taken.

Mr. Cruickshank said he got a copy of the Vancouver Sun with pictures of Japanese working in the Sound.

Mr. Turgeon produced a clipping of an editorial from the Vancouver Sun dated July 15th blaming the Federal Government at Ottawa and not the B.C.S.C. for the fact that there were still many Japanese in Vancouver in the vulnerable areas.

Mr. Mitchell said that in spite of all that was stated in the Press and elsewhere, he felt that a very good job had been done.

Mr. Mackenzie said "I think you have done a good job".

Mr. O'Neill said that the newspapers apparently believed that the Government had not done a good job.

Mr. Mitchell referred to the delay in getting the large tents for the accommodation of the Japanese in the interior of B.C. Once all the tents were secured family units would be transplanted to the new area. (Kaslo, Greenwood, Slocan City, and Sandon).

Mr. O'Neill spoke of the Blue River area and strikes by Japanese nationals there. He remarked that the situation with respect to the Japanese located between Sicamous and Revelstoke was all right. The report that the people in the Blue River area wanted the Japanese removed was not correct. They wanted them to remain but under more adequate police control.

Mr. MacNamara said that while there had been strikes in the Blue River camps none had occurred since the announcement was made that Japanese men and women would be reunited. The cause of the strikes was the fact that the men were separated from their wives and families. However, the demand was that they should be moved from the Blue River because it was felt that their presence there was a danger to the railway systems.

Mr. Turgeon voiced an objection to moving the Japanese families into Cariboo. This section was fast becoming a defence area. In Lillooet there were Japanese controlling the P.G.E. right of way. If Cariboo was used for the Japanese from Blue River it meant that the worst elements would be in there.

Mr. Green said "Yes, and they are all Japanese nationals".

Mr. Mackenzie agreed with Mr. Turgeon that they were the worst elements.

Mr. MacNamara said that the suggestion had been made by the B.C.S.C. that a thousand Japanese be put along the Cariboo highway. That suggestion had not been approved.

Mr. Mackenzie suggested the abolition of the B.C.S.C. and that there would be an improvement if Mr. MacNamara was sent to B.C. to handle it.

Mr. MacInnis suggested that the Japanese in Vancouver mainly were women and children and that they were not a factor to be feared.

Mr. O'Neill said "The women are the dangerous ones".

Mr. MacNamara said in addition to getting 1,000 tents, small houses were being erected at a cost of \$300 each. Japanese families which had not been moved from the towns to farms by autumn would be moved into these houses.

Mr. MacInnis asked if fruit growers in the Fraser Valley had requested the services of the Japanese.

Mr. Mackenzie said he understood about 1,000 Japanese had been asked for but there had been strong objections.

Mr. Stirling said a small number of Japanese had been requested for the other end of the Oakanogan Valley if under military supervision.

Mr. MacInnis said it all came down to the fact that all Japanese had to be interned or the people had to cooperate with the Government in a solution to the problem.

Mr. Mitchell said he questioned the wisdom, taking the long point of view, of putting the Japanese in other provinces than B.C.

Mr. Gardiner expressed the fear that if the Japanese were allowed to get into the vegetable growing country around Windsor that there would be nothing but Japanese in that area in the next twenty-five years.

Mr. Cruickshank asked why the Japanese should be left in B.C.

Mr. Gardiner suggested that they were allowed into B.C. many years ago and welcomed there as cheap labour.

Mr. Stirling denied this. He said the Japanese had started to come to Canada when the Japanese Government had changed its policy and permitted them to leave their country.

Mr. Gardiner said if it was desired to get away from all problems in the matter, then the only thing was to intern all the Japanese.

Mr. O'Neill said he had received a wire (the same wire that was received by Mr. Mitchell) from Revelstoke urging that the Japanese working between Sicamous and Revelstoke should not be moved away. He feared that if the Japanese were moved from the Blue River area and the Japanese between Sicamous and Revelstoke learned that this had taken place because the others had gone on strike demanding that they be reunited with their families, then they could expect that the Japanese between Sicamous and Revelstoke would want to be moved.

Mr. Green thought a good way to handle the problem would be to build a town solely for the Japanese, the same as has been done in United States. He thought this would be an improvement over having several places filled with Japanese. He suggested that there were many Japanese in Vancouver whose past livelihood had been through dry-cleaning establishments. These men could not be put in the road camps to do the hard work there.

Mr. MacNamara pointed out that there were Japanese in four formerly abandoned towns now.

Another suggestion by Mr. Green was that a town site be erected in Wainwright Park, Alberta, and all the Japanese in Vancouver cleared out and put there.

Mr. Mitchell said he did not think the Canadian people would stand for the construction of a town solely for Japanese. They would not approve of the cost of servicing such a town. It would mean having a place as big as Brantford. He repeated that the B.C.S.C. had done a good job under difficult circumstances.

Mr. Neill said all the trouble could be settled by announcing that when the war is over all the Japanese in Canada would be sent back to Japan.

Mr. Mackenzie said "Yes, I think all should go back if we win the war." *

Mr. Stirling asked if Canadian Nationals would be included.

Mr. Mackenzie replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Mitchell held ^{out} for handling the matter in the best and most decent way. He thought there would be trouble if the Japanese were concentrated in one large place.

Mr. Gardiner asked why ^{all} Japanese should be moved out of Vancouver.

Mr. Mackenzie replied to this that there was danger of sabotage. Vancouver today is on the front line. He expressed the view "I think we will have to intern them before we are through".

Mr. Cruickshank said the Japanese "are running us instead of us running them".

To Mr. Cruickshank's criticism of the B.C.S.C. and his demand that the Commission be fired, Mr. Mitchell said "We are not going to do that".

JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

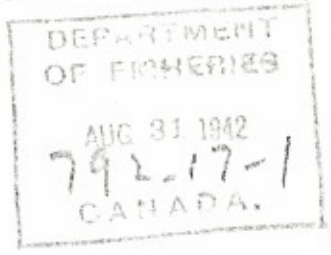
Committee:

THE HONORABLE MR. JUSTICE SIDNEY SMITH
CHAIRMAN
COMMANDER B. L. JOHNSON, D.S.O., R.C.N.P.
KISHIZO KIMURA
A. E. McMASTER, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

1528 MARINE BUILDING
VANCOUVER, B.C.

23050

August 26, 1942



Mr. A. J. Whitmore,
Department of Fisheries,
OTTAWA.

Dear Mr. Whitmore:

Referring again to your letter of August 3rd, File 792-17-1, in respect to "forced sales" of Japanese vessels.

I have had a most difficult time in having this matter considered by the Custodian's office. Mr. McPherson has a tremendous task, and it is extremely hard for him to consider any problems like this. I have discussed the matter several times with Mr. Edgar T. Read, who is General Manager of the Custodian's Office, and we have reached the conclusion that the best way to handle this matter, is to continue our efforts in persuading Japanese owners to regularize the transactions by signing the bills of sale, and then transfer those remaining outstanding to the Custodian when this office is closed. The Custodian can continue to deal with the remainder just as we are doing, for a short time and finally clear the matter up, by the issuance of bills of sale. Actually, this will not work out so badly in that we are getting the completion of documents more freely than I thought possible under the circumstances. Up to date, of the 147 vessels involved, we now have bills of sale for about 50%.

In the matter of audit at the completion of the Committee's work, Mr. Read and Mr. McPherson are of the opinion that we should have an audit made by Price Waterhouse & Co. While I have not the benefit of the Chairman's authority, I concur in this policy inasmuch as a substantial sum of money has passed through the office, and Mr. Chapman's work has merely been a check of our monthly report with the ledger. I expect Mr. Justice Smith will return next week, and if he also concurs with this view, we shall arrange accordingly.

AEM/PH.

Yours very truly,

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMMITTEE Executive Assistant.

Letter to McPherson 10/9/42

Memo to Treasurer's Office
Do 10/9/42
E. Street - made for 792-17-6

(COPY)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT
O t t a w a, Canada

September 8, 1942

Memorandum -

Mr. Crerar

Japanese Lands

Pursuant to the authority contained in Order in Council P.C. 5523 dated June 29th last, an inspection and appraisalment has been made of the Japanese held lands in the defence area of the province of British Columbia, with the exception of certain urban and other properties which will be briefly referred to in a separate memorandum.

Detailed examination and appraisalment has been made of 939 properties and appropriate reports made on each of them. I attach hereto a summary which places the present day value at \$1,059,419.84.

Considering the fact that the 939 properties contain an average of only 13.9 acres each and an average of only 5.3 acres cleared, it might seem at first glance that the valuation for land only of \$472 per unit, or approximately \$33 per acre, is high, but having regard to the type of operations for which these lands are adapted and their location as to market, climate, and land scarcity, the figures for land are in my opinion conservative.

The replacement value of the buildings totals out to \$871,680, which is practically double the aggregate value of the lands alone. Our appraisers have allowed approximately 70% of the aggregate value of the buildings as value which is added to the land, and having regard to the specialized nature of the bulk of these holdings and their residential value, I am of the opinion that the total values have been soundly placed.

The appraisalment of these properties represents expert opinion as to their value at the present time. It does not necessarily represent values at which some of the properties might sell for speculative purposes in the near future, nor can it be stated that these properties will realize our appraised values some time hence because there are very definite problems of deterioration in the value of improvements and in the state of cultivation and development existing at the time the appraisalments were made; reference need only be made to greenhouses (with an aggregate of 450,216 square feet of glass), poultry houses with accommodation for 191,101 laying birds, and the 1,348 acres used in the production of specialized crops which require the constant care of large numbers of skilled and unskilled labour working for wages which cannot hope to compete with wage rates prevailing in war industries.

Of the total of 1,848 acres used for the production of small fruits, rhubarb, asparagus, hops, approximately 50% is in strawberry plantations and judging by the manner in which these strawberry plantations have been operated this year, the probable dearth of experienced growers in the future, and the basic weakness of having such plantations operated on a tenancy basis, it does not seem unlikely that

these strawberry plantations will pass out of existence within the next couple of years so far as an important source of supply to the local canneries is concerned.

The situation with regard to greenhouses, while not involving the investment or potential tonnage of strawberry and other small fruit production, appears to be even more acute, and it seems doubtful at the moment if these greenhouses will operate at all during the coming winter. The absence of expert labour and the cost of fuel appear to be the main deterrents to profitable operation, and of course it goes without saying that if these large greenhouses are left idle deterioration will be very rapid.

With regard to the units equipped for poultry farming, it is worth noting that in the municipality of Delta which fronts on the south bank of the Fraser River and Gulf of Georgia there is accommodation for 65,000 laying birds. It appears to our inspectors that approximately one-half of these poultry houses have been erected during the past year or two, and many of them have never had a bird in them. One wonders where the Japanese got the money for this new construction at a time when the average white man was having pretty tough sledding in the poultry business. Located as they are in relation to the Fraser River, there may be some justifiable suspicion that these buildings were not erected without an eye to their use for purposes other than poultry.

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The administration of these lands is not going to be a simple matter by any means and I am quite frankly of the opinion that if an attempt is made to have them operated on a tenancy basis from year to year for an indefinite period there will be quite a wide variety of claims to be settled if, as and when the Japanese people are permitted to return to their properties. It seems to me, therefore, that in simply justice and equity to the owners who have been obliged to leave their lands for an indefinite period, consideration should be given to compensation on the basis of values established by this recent appraisal, and that the disposition of the properties be placed with an agency empowered to administer them with the objective of their sale to approved persons as soon as possible, under best terms possible. In making this suggestion I am not unmindful that there is an annual tax bill of \$40,190.83 assessed against these properties by the local authorities.

** Hyatt*

I shall be glad to discuss these matters with you at your convenience if you so desire.

(Signed) G. Murchison
Director.

(COPY)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT
O t t a w a, Canada

September 8, 1942

Memorandum -

Mr. Crerar

Japanese Lands

In my special report to you of today's date covering Japanese lands in the defence area of British Columbia I stated that the appraisalment did not cover certain urban and other lands. I may say that these properties consist of 77 lots in the town of Steveston occupied by certain business properties and many houses of very poor type, which lie between the main street of Steveston and the dyke on the main channel of the Fraser River. These properties carry an assessment of approximately \$160,000 and annual taxes amount to \$2,270.

In the village of Duncan on Vancouver Island there are 34 parcels of land held by Japanese, with an assessment of \$11,305, and annual taxation of \$267.

In the village of Port Moody the Japanese hold about 12 town lots on which there have been a total of 6 houses erected.

In the municipality of Burnaby there are also a number of lots held in the name of Japanese.

On Vancouver Island we have obtained the following particulars of timber propositions operated by Japanese interests:

	<u>District</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Taxes</u>
N.S. McNeil Trading Co. Ltd., c/o the Office of the Custodian, Vancouver, B.C.	Comox Rupert	25,195	\$5,907.23
Kagetsu, Eikichi Fanny Bay, B.C.	Comox Newcastle	3,890	474.58
Deep Bay Logging Co., Fanny Bay, B.C.	Newcastle	1,859	215.73
Royston Lumber Co. Ltd., Royston, B.C.	Comox	5,415	3,648.90
Cameron Lake Logging Co., 744 W. Hastings St. (Parksville) Vancouver, B.C.	Nanaimo Cameron	4,405	1,444.85

(Signed) G. Murchison

Director



OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR OF SOLDIER SETTLEMENT
OTTAWA, CANADA

September 16, 1942.

Memorandum -

Mr. Crerar.

Japanese Lands.

In his letter of the 14th instant your colleague, the Honourable Mr. Mackenzie, Minister of Pensions and National Health, expresses agreement with the substance of my report to you of the 8th, but suggests that I might submit confidential comment as to the suitability of these lands from a Soldier Settlement standpoint - meaning, of course, their use under the provisions of the new Veterans' Land Act.

At the present time there is no one in addition to yourself who can speak authoritatively so far as operations under the Veterans' Land Act are concerned, and I can only advise you in my capacity as Director of Soldier Settlement that it is my opinion there are 336 parcels considered suitable for purely land settlement; 214 suitable as home sites for industrial workers; and 22 suitable for use in connection with commercial fishing establishments. In other words, approximately 60% of the 939 parcels examined would appear to merit serious consideration from the standpoint suggested by your colleague. Those not deemed suitable include those where the present day value is well beyond the financial ceilings in the Veterans' Land Act and certain highly specialized enterprises which are distinctly hazardous in the hands of anyone not an expert in specialized operations.

But even assuming that approximately 572 of these properties could eventually be used for veteran land settlement, there is little prospect that such establishments could take place at an early date. Many of these places require the erection of suitable homes or substantial repairs or alterations to existing buildings, and with the war in its present stage I quite frankly fail to see how this could be consistently done. It seems to me that if the Director of the Veterans' Land Act acquired these properties it would be purely for the purpose of holding them for future use. This would entail certain administrative costs, including taxes, which would probably be taken into account in arriving at the price which should be paid for them, because the cost price under certain conditions is passed on to the veteran settler.

I am convinced from my close association with this problem and study of the reports received that the most clean cut and equitable arrangement so far as the Japanese evacuees are concerned would be acquisition of title by the Dominion authorities at once on the basis of the appraisal just completed and the deposit of the compensation moneys with the Official Custodian in trust for the Japanese concerned. Any other costs or losses would then become a matter of Dominion concern.

All of which suggests to me that the decision which may be made by the Government with regard to Japanese lands should not be influenced very much by the suitability or otherwise of these lands for post-war settlement of Canadian veterans but on such wider questions concerning the public interest in relation to this matter.

G. F. Mackenzie

Director.

THE CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION IN WARTIME PROBLEMS OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP

505 WEST 13TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, B. C.

*Burnt Papers
VTCCL - LUBE
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REV. HUGH M. RAE
HELEN HURD
CARLETON ST. C. CLAY
NORMAN F. BLACK, M.A., D.PAED.

MEMORANDUM OF REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR and VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL.

Wednesday, September 9, 1942

Function and Constitution of the Consul- tative Council

While everyone recognizes that in time of war some of the peacetime rights and liberties of Canadian citizens must necessarily be curtailed or suspended, it remains one of the duties of the good citizen to protect these rights and liberties from undue invasion or permanent cancellation. Consequently the Consultative Council, of which we are delegates, was organized to provide for co-operative study of wartime problems of Canadian citizenship. That Council consists of representatives chosen by or coopted from numerous organizations likely to have special interest in citizenship and problems relating thereto. The "wartime problems of Canadian citizenship" which in recent months have engrossed most of the attention of the Consultative Council are those relative to Canadian residents of Japanese origin.

The Delegates of the Consultative Council appear as representative citizens concerned for the welfare & honor of Canada

Though many members of the Consultative Council have intimate friends in the Japanese community, it is not as their spokesmen or champions that we appear before you. We are here because we believe that certain policies, the approval of which by this City Council is being urged in some quarters, are contrary to the interests and honour of Canada and subversive of rights inherent in Canadian citizenship. We refer especially to proposals for the wholesale compulsory evacuation to Japan of Canadian citizens of Japanese ancestry.

Let us not go to the enemy for precedents and leadership

It is now all but universally recognized that we are engaged in a war of ideologies. In so far as we allow ourselves to be governed by the ethics of the enemy rather than by those traditional to us as British people, we are adopting the ideology which we have taken up arms to destroy. To commit ourselves to policies embodying the characteristic evil features of fascism and Nazism would be a spiritual surrender involving shameful and ruinous consequences. We protest against the proposed exile of Canadian citizens because we believe it based upon the characteristic Nazi concept of race, which, we submit, is contrary to British tradition and to the facts of science and experience.

Should be no room in Canada for fascist racial doctrines

Nazism rests upon blatant exaltation of racial arrogance and animosities, the development of which would be fatal to the British Empire. In that Empire people of the White race (so-called) constitute a numerically very small minority and policies of violent exclusion and expulsion directed against residents of another colour, or blood, would be likely to have dangerous reactions in other parts of the Empire.

Expulsion would complicate relations with colored races within the Empire

The Canadian residents of Japanese origin constitute only approximately one fifth of one percent of the population of the Dominion, and those who are Canadian citizens by birth or naturalization one per thousand of the people of this country. If they are wisely dispersed, so as not to constitute a bloc of serious size in any province, and if they are allowed and encouraged, perhaps required, to engage in an indefinite variety of ordinary occupations, like other citizens, they will cease to provide a problem beyond the wit of the Canadian people to solve. Capacity for good citizenship does not depend upon complexion.

Punishment except for breach of law is un-British

It is a basic principle of British institutions that no man shall be dispossessed of his property or otherwise subjected to public punishment and humiliation unless convicted of an offense against the laws of the land. The Prime Minister of Canada, the officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and many other official representatives of the Canadian people have been at pains to make clear that against the overwhelming majority of the Canadian residents of Japanese origin no charge of disloyalty or other criminal activity exists, but we are nevertheless being urged to treat them all as public enemies.

Expulsion would complicate the making of durable peace.

We believe that the proposed policy of expulsion would seriously complicate the problem of reconstructing and maintaining a peaceful world when the war is over. Indeed we are convinced that the policy which Vancouver City Council is now considering would be a further contribution toward the most terrifying danger that has ever threatened humanity, namely, the alignment of nations on the basis of colour. The military implications of another world war ensuing from such an alignment of the peoples are too dreadful to be contemplated with equanimity.

Proposed policy would undermine the economic prosperity of Vancouver.

To force back into Japan thousands of people who would nurse in their hearts a justifiable antipathy to the country that had treated them with such indignity would be to create centres of irremediable disaffection to all things Canadian. That this would have a disastrous effect on trade relations, upon which the prosperity of Vancouver so largely depends, is not open to question.

Certainly this is not the time for crucial decisions involving violent clash of opinion and relative to conditions and events belonging to comparatively distant future. Let us not cross our bridges prematurely. Policies relative to repatriation will be matters for co-operative study by great international conferences to which the problems of racial and national minorities will no doubt be entrusted by the Free Nations.

Proposed policy would violate the Christian conscience and the ethical principles of many non-Christians.

Many other reasons could be raised in opposition to the proposed policy of indiscriminate exile but we must content ourselves with only one further basis of protest. We feel that the expulsion of thousands of Canadian citizens would be a violation of the basic principles of the Christian religion and of the ethics of a multitude of good citizens who are not identified with any organized Christian body. Let the authorities go very slowly and be very sure of their ground before committing themselves to action that so many of the not least thoughtful members of the citizen body will feel to be shameful and wicked beyond defense.

We can encroach upon your time for nothing but the briefest reference to the arguments embodied in the preamble of the resolution that is under advisement. "The constant irritation" which the resolution imputes to the presence of persons of Japanese race prior to the war

certainly did not involve the whole population and was quite as much the fault of the Whites as of the Japanese; and it is undeniable that many Japanese Canadians enjoyed the goodwill and respect of large circles of occidental friends and neighbors.

In recent decades very great progress has been made in assimilation of Canadian outlook and modes of life, especially on the part of second generation citizens of Japanese stock. The suggestion that the economic welfare of Canada would be bettered by the expulsion of a few thousand industrious and law-abiding workers seems to us absurd. Finally, the assumption that we are going to perpetuate in times of peace the unreasoning animosities incidental to the strain of wartime conditions and events ill-befits the sons and daughters of a nation that has justly prided itself on its traditional magnanimity toward former foes.

We have thus candidly expressed our solemn convictions in the belief that the members of this honourable body will approve candor in a great public emergency and that the views which we have presented are shared by a section of the citizen body that is very large though not ordinarily as audible as some others.

For the foregoing and other reasons we respectfully petition the Mayor and Council of the City of Vancouver to withdraw the Resolution that has occasioned this protest, and to consider the substitution of a resolution requesting the Federal authorities (1) to lay and implement plans for the dispersion throughout Canada of residents of Japanese origin; and (2) to provide for the compulsory post-war repatriation of any Canadian residents of Japanese nationality who may have manifested disloyalty to Canadian institutions, and the voluntary transfer to Japan of such other Japanese Canadians as may desire it at the close of the war.

October 16th, 1942.

TO: MR. G. W. McPHERSON

FROM: MR. K. W. WRIGHT

Re: REAL ESTATE

Notices have been received from various Departments of the City of Vancouver relative to the condition of properties owned by Japanese internees and evacuees. In the majority of such cases we have little or no money, and in order to have first-hand information Messrs. Shears, Milson, Messenger and the writer visited several places yesterday afternoon as follows:

1810 Burrard Street: A large frame apartment on a lot approximately 150 ft. by 100 ft. - well located.

Notice was received from the City Electrician as follows: "I wish to draw your attention to my letter dated September 29th, 1942, re the defective electrical wiring in the above-mentioned building, and which to date has not received attention. You are hereby notified that unless the required application for a permit is filed in this office, and the work installed to the satisfaction of this Department, on or before the 20th day of October, 1942, we shall immediately take Police Court proceedings against you as provided for in the By-law."

This property is owned by a man in Japan and another Japanese whose whereabouts are unknown. The net receipts from May, 1942, to September, 1942 amounted to \$220.75. A general estimate of the probable cost furnished by the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association Limited ranges from between \$500.00 to \$1,200.00. As such figures were not satisfactory, I asked Mr. Walker, Manager of Pemberton's, to recommend an electrical contractor and in accord with his advice will get an estimate from Lucas Electric Company. Evidently they are reasonable in their charges and reliable. We are trying to keep closer tabs on all such work instead of leaving these matters in the hands of agents. I anticipate no difficulty in arriving at an expenditure in keeping with our credit balance that will meet the requirements of the City.

No. 1652 and No. 1658 West 2nd Avenue. This place is boarded up

from top to bottom and was opened with some difficulty. No. 1652 has been rented by Pemberton Realty Corporation and No. 1658 is vacant. A rear room is securely fastened and we are advised that groceries are stored there valued at \$2,000.00. These goods are owned by an evacuee and following examination will be sold. There are at least 46 rooms in this building and we used three searchlights while going through but could not find a bath. Some amusement was provided in the course of this inspection when the retired tenant of No. 1652, busily engaged rolling a cigarette, asked me to keep his wife in mind when the job of cleaning up next door was decided upon. Some men are still thoughtful of their wives. The building at the rear has been condemned and will be demolished. No. 1661 West 2nd Avenue has been condemned. There are eight suites and as a matter of interest when you visit the area, kindly notice our usual trespass sign and beside it the poster placed by the City condemning the premises.

Several other buildings on this street believed to be owned by Japanese have been boarded up.

No. 334 Fifth Avenue West. We next visited this address in response to a letter from the Chief Sanitary Inspector as follows: "The above premises have been inspected by the District Inspector and found to be badly infested with cockroaches.

Will you have the necessary order given to clean up this condition." This matter is being attended to.

343 West 5th Avenue. Will you be good enough to look at 343 West 5th Avenue, just across the street from 334. A fire occurred there a couple of weeks ago and we have settled the damage at \$300.00. Unfortunately, the firemen arrived too soon and the building to the East remains standing untouched by fire and condemned. Your attention is drawn to numerous industries in this locality as it is our intention to advertise this property for sale. We have an idea that Bingham and Hobbs Equipment Company next door may be interested.

160 West 4th Avenue - the Okura Laundry. This was the next port of call. You are aware of the difficulties which we have met in this case due to lack of co-operation on the part of Mrs. Okura. She has carried on the business, including the operation of a laundry depot on Powell Street. We had a Chinaman interested and he made an excellent offer, but we could not guarantee peaceable possession. The wife of our internee and two grown-up daughters were determined to carry on pending evacuation and the policy of protection was applied to the Chinaman and local war averted by calling off the deal. Miss Okura informed us that they had not received notice of evacuation but on checking with R.C.M.P. today we find written orders were delivered several days ago, requiring them to leave on the 23rd instant.

The Okuras live in a house just around the corner from the laundry at No. 1934 Columbia Street and this will be rented. There are arrears of taxes on all these places.

711 Keefer Street was our next stop, and there is a cleaning and pressing plant at the rear and a store in front. Some of the rooms behind the store are now occupied by a tenant who took possession a couple of weeks ago. The present occupant pleaded with us for immediate possession regardless of the condition of the building, for the reason that his worldly goods and his family were all packed and parked on a truck with no shelter in sight and it was nearly six p.m. This man works in a shipyard and is doing minor repairs himself. He paid us three months' rent in advance in order to get this place. If you have time to walk down the lane, you will find proof that one half of the world does not know how the other half lives.

We drove from Keefer Street to Powell Street and if you go there you might read the signs posted by the B.C. Security Commission that all Japanese were required to register before 10 a.m. yesterday. The Registration Bureau was doing a thriving business when we called and it was nearly five p.m. I do not feel that there is any need to detail the arrangements made on Powell Street in regard to numerous rooming houses etc., as you

are familiar with a number of cases. We are making some progress with our problem there, and the City acknowledges that we are doing the best that may be expected under the circumstances.

I spent more than an hour with Mr. Jack Walker, Manager of Pemberton Realty Corporation, this afternoon and we discussed many real estate problems. Mr. Walker is recognized as one of the best real estate men in Vancouver, and we have had the benefit of his advice frequently. This is pointed out in order that you may know that we avoid snap decisions except in cases of emergency.

A meeting was held this morning in my office with Mr. Reid of the Municipal Building Department and Mr. Rogers of the Municipal Health Department. I quote Mr. Reid: "We sympathize with you. You have a collection of sub-standard buildings and the Government has no idea of the condition that these are in. We do not wish to add to your problems and are willing to co-operate, but remember Coroners' Juries are embarrassing."

An arrangement has been made whereby all applicants for leases on questionable properties will be sent by us to the City Hall in order that they may ascertain the requirements as to improvements. The properties will be rented "as is" on terms that tenants meet the City's demands regarding installation of baths etc. We will protect ourselves as to Mechanics' Liens by having deposited with us an amount sufficient to cover the expenditure.

Accounts will be paid and payments credited to rent, and we hope in this way to at least meet the carrying charges.

On the subject of Baths, may I remind you that we have places on Powell Street and in other districts containing as high as 40 to 50 rooms without a bath of any description. The Jap had three Public Baths on Powell Street and they gathered their families and neighbors together and mixed bathing was the order of the day, with no thought of privacy. These places were gossip centres and is the answer to the question as to how they lived in congested quarters without thought of the convenience recognized as an absolute necessity by the white man.

Cases will arise with only one course open, namely to demolish the buildings. Orders will be obeyed and application made in each case for reduced assessment. It is possible to arrange with contractors to do this work in return for the salvage and on more than one occasion, we have removed plumbing units and fixtures prior to the contractor taking over. Our work was made easier in a recent case when we found that already trespassers had loosened the fittings, and by taking them out around 8 o'clock in the evening the plans of the trespassers were upset. Their program probably called for removal around midnight.

We plan to forward copies of all notices received from the city to internees and evacuees, as they may be in a position to provide funds from sources unknown to us. If they fail and funds here are insufficient, there will be no ground for complaint. Permit me to assure you that we are doing everything possible to avoid future criticism from the City, the Jap owner and the man on the street.

K. W. WRIGHT

I concur

* contradicts
his testimony
before the
Bird Commission!!

F. G. Shears.



CANADA
MINISTER
OF
MINES AND RESOURCES

O t t a w a,
December 4th, 1942

My dear Ian,

The enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written to Norman McLarty relating to the disposition of Japanese property on the Pacific Coast. It will explain itself.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Ian A. Mackenzie, K.C., M.P.,
Minister of Pensions and National Health,
O t t a w a

Enclosure



OTTAWA, November 30, 1942.

The Honourable Norman McLarty,
Secretary of State,
OTTAWA.

My dear Colleague,-

Included with the persons of the Japanese race evacuated from the defence area of the Province of British Columbia were the owner occupants of 939 small farm properties, practically all of which are located in the lower Fraser Valley. These properties, in addition to their use as homes or working headquarters of the Japanese families, were used mainly in the production of small fruits - strawberries, raspberries, and other cane fruits; asparagus; early rhubarb; hops; cucumbers; hothouse tomatoes; and poultry. There are 19 of these properties equipped with greenhouses having a total of 450,216 sq. ft. of glass, and other properties equipped with housing accommodation for approximately 190,000 laying birds.

The evacuation of these Japanese people gave rise to a variety of problems in the care and administration of their properties, such as the shortage of efficient labour and the serious decline in the volume production of soft fruits, with attendant difficulties from the standpoint of the berry industry as a whole. The position of the Official Custodian in this matter was one of great difficulty because no action could be taken by him until the Japanese concerned were actually moved out of the defence area. You will also recall that the movement of these people extended over a considerable period of time, and I understand was not completed until quite recently.

In order to safeguard against abuses during the period of evacuation, and in order that the Government might ascertain the number and present values of the properties concerned, Order in Council 5523 was passed on June 29th last, under which the Director of Soldier Settlement was placed in control of the sale, lease, or other disposition of these lands, and was authorized to carry out an appraisal of them.

The appraisal of the lands was reported to me on September 8th by Gordon Murchison, Director of Soldier Settlement, whose officers placed an aggregate value of \$1,059,419 on the 939 properties, the identity of which he was able to establish as being owned by Japanese. There may be several additional properties where actual ownership is somewhat obscure. However, the important fact is that the value of these properties at the time the Japanese were evacuated has been reported on. In Murchison's opinion the values placed are conservative, having regard to the type of agriculture for which they are adapted, their location as to market and climate, and the local land scarcity. Since the enactment of the above Order there have been only two applications for the sale of land submitted to the Director for approval, one of which was declined. It can be said, therefore, that the Order in Council very definitely checked any local tendency there may have been toward exploiting the circumstances under which these Japanese people were placed.

The situation with regard to leasing these Japanese properties has presented some difficulties and has given rise to local criticisms, but the main difficulty relates to a state of affairs which originated before the Official Custodian or the Director of Soldier Settlement were vested with any authority in the matter. As I understand it, the Official Custodian had no powers to act until a Japanese person had been actually moved out of the defence area, and the authority of the Director of Soldier Settlement dates only from June 29th last. The following is an outline of the situation I refer to:

Some 224 of these Japanese farmers are members of a co-operative marketing and shipping agency known as the Pacific Co-operative Union, whose central warehouse is located at Mission City. The majority of the share capital of this co-operative is owned by these Japanese farmers, and under the terms of their membership agreement with the co-operative there is a clause by which they are bound to deliver their total product to the co-operative. It appears that immediately following the decision to evacuate the Japanese, the management of the Pacific Co-operative Union - by arrangement with its Japanese shareholders - took immediate action to rent Japanese owned farms to white people under rather novel terms, as follows: The co-operative borrowed funds from the bank and after arriving at the rental consideration in each case the Japanese owner was paid one-half the rental consideration in cash and a post-dated cheque for the balance. In turn, the tenants gave the Pacific Co-operative Union promissory notes for the total amount and these notes were endorsed by the Japanese owners. The rental agreements contained a clause obligating the tenant to deliver all his 1942 and 1943 product to the Pacific Co-operative Union. (I understand most if not all these leases were for a two-year period.) Because of the inexperience of some of these tenants, or because of some misrepresentation or misunderstanding as to actual acreages in productive crops, or because of the unfortunate climatic conditions which occurred during the crucial growing and marketing period, considerable dissatisfaction resulted among the tenants.

I am advised that the Official Custodian has placed a supervisor in charge of the Co-operative Union and has investigated its financial affairs. There are said to be current liabilities of \$173,000, consisting in part of outstanding cheques for \$72,000 (of which \$34,000 is payable to evacuated Japanese), an overdraft of \$17,000 at the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and demand loans of \$34,000 with the same bank. The assets are stated to be worth \$200,000 if the Pacific Co-operative Union can collect the money owing to it. Obviously, the financial affairs of this co-operative appear to be shaky, and according to all the advice I have received it appears doubtful if the production of soft fruits by tenants of these Japanese lands will reach a volume that will place and keep the co-operative on a sound financial basis. The indications are that both the farms and the co-operative are going to deteriorate in value.

The Director of Soldier Settlement, acting under Order in Council 5523, takes the stand (and I think quite properly) that while he has no authority over lease agreements entered into prior to the date of the Order (June 29th, 1942) he declines to approve any new leases on lands in which the Pacific Co-operative Union or any other marketing agency claims a contractual interest which contains a clause obligating tenants of these lands to deliver their total product to any specified marketing or

processing agency. According to recent reports it appears that a number of the tenants who entered into these agreements with the Pacific Co-operative Union in the spring of 1942 have vacated the farms and left them in a state of neglect. Doubtless the wages available in war industries on the Pacific Coast are more attractive than the operation of these small places, and the securing of efficient tenants already presents difficulty and probably will become more difficult as time passes and these properties continue to deteriorate.

The Director of Soldier Settlement assures me that there is no lack of understanding between him and the Official Custodian, but it would appear that so long as there is divided responsibility for the administration of these Japanese lands there is always room for third parties to criticize, and in my view the present arrangement is a cumbersome one. It seems to me that this can be corrected by cancellation of Murchison's responsibility or by enlarging his authority to include the documentation of leases and the collection of rentals which would, of course, be remitted to the Official Custodian. Personally, I am not anxious to have Murchison and his local staff in British Columbia burdened with this responsibility in addition to those already carried or otherwise in prospect. On the other hand, I am not unmindful that the Official Custodian has a heavy and continuing responsibility in connection with the administration of a wide variety of Japanese properties other than these farm lands. Perhaps Dr. Coleman and his local representative would welcome an enlargement of Murchison's assistance in connection with these farm properties.

The foregoing deals with immediate problems of administration, but future administration of these lands will be considerably simplified depending upon what decisions are contemplated with regard to the return or non-return of the Japanese people to the Pacific Coast area, and the basis upon which the Dominion Government may have to consider claims for reparation. As stated above, these farm properties were carefully inspected and appraised early last summer, and therefore the Dominion Government is in a position to determine the equity of the Japanese owners at the time they were evacuated. If they are not going to return to these farms, the administrative programme should provide for the disposition of the farms in an orderly manner rather than continued attempts to lease them. If this course were followed monies received from such sales could be deposited with the Official Custodian. If the sale price realized were less than the valuations made last summer, consideration would have to be given to the final basis of settlement with the owners. It appears to me that the principle should be accepted of compensating these Japanese people on the basis of values which were believed to exist when they were evacuated from their farms.

If it is not decided to proceed along the foregoing lines, the future administration of these lands must contemplate the ultimate return of the Japanese owners. Great difficulty is going to be experienced in maintaining these properties in reasonable repair and productiveness, due to the scarcity of skilled tenants and labour, and the impracticability of arranging leases for periods which will encourage a tenant to carry out the rotations, replantings, and fertilization which must be methodically followed in specialized farming operations of this character. There is an annual tax bill of approximately \$40,000 to be provided for, and unless these taxes are paid there will doubtless be constant friction with local taxing authorities. Here again

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it seems to me that careful consideration should be given now to the principle that the Government recognizes a given value for each property when the Japanese owner was evacuated, and if and when he does return he should have the choice of resuming operation of his holding without further claim on the Government, or accepting as full settlement from the Government the value of his holding at the time he was obliged to leave it.

There is a third point which I believe merits some consideration at this time. I refer to the probability of some of these Japanese farmers and their families not earning enough during their absence from their homes to support themselves and as a consequence relief grants will be necessary. The question arises as to whether the Canadian taxpayers as a whole are entitled to insist that these Japanese people live as long as they can on funds that can be derived from the liquidation of their property holdings, or if because of all the circumstances surrounding their evacuation relief grants should not become a full charge against their properties.

Summarized, it is my view that because of (i) the inevitable deterioration of these Japanese farm properties; (ii) the fact that the great majority of this group of Japanese people are British nationals; and (iii) the uncertainty as to the time and circumstances under which these people may ever return to their homes; it is desirable from the standpoint of the Government that decisions be reached on the various matters discussed herein.

Yours faithfully,

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

OTTAWA, December 5 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: MR. MACNAMARA

I discussed the plan for reorganization of the Security Commission with Commissioner Mead, as you suggested.

Mr. Mead considered the plan in its final form as a wide long-range policy, based upon the cardinal principles of:

- (a) Dispersal and assimilation of Japanese across Canada.
- (b) Employment for every employable Japanese as an instrument of dispersal and as a means of maintaining morale.

He suggested January 1, 1943, as the best date for the change-over to the new administration, and stated that the Vancouver staff might be considerably reduced without decreasing efficiency, now that the evacuation part of the programme is practically complete.

On the personnel of the new Commission, he stated confidentially that great care should be exercised in choosing the member from the Dept. of the Secretary of State, as several of the men connected with the Custodian's Department are "Jap-haters" who have given the B.C. Sec. Commission considerable trouble. Among those who should not be chosen he mentioned MacPherson, Spain, and Alexander.

H. T. Hammett

WB

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