

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE

PLEASE REFER
TO

FILE No.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

December 23rd, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Frank:

With an assist from the Postman your objective was attained as the special delivery air express letter came to us last night. Your Xmas message is much appreciated and we reciprocate heartily.

This will be the last letter to go out before Xmas as it is well on in the afternoon and orders have come to close the office at 4 o'clock, and one does not like to disobey orders.

As to my health, I am glad to say that since returning to the office the 1st of June it has not been necessary to obtain a Doctor's certificate explaining absence from duty. The poison from the tonsils was arrested by injections of penicillin every two weeks over a lengthy period. Coupled with this instructions were received to obtain plenty of rest and I am in bed before 10 o'clock five nights out of seven. The weight has climbed from 139 to 165 and blood pressure has also improved. This appears to answer the second paragraph of your letter.

As to the office, the happenings have been unusual since September, but were brought to a head last month. The Board decided in mid-summer that we could dispense with the services of 12 employees. Four were notified in August and following receipt of said notices the Administration Board was charged with discrimination, injustice and what have you. The Deputy then ruled that the notices be suspended and that the Civil Service Commission should conduct an investigation. They were here for months and ended up with the recommendation that the services of 11 members of staff be dispensed with the end of this year - one having been transferred to another department of the Government meantime. The four who raised the rumpus were included and the chief instigator, whose services were to be retained to the end of October next, was also included in the list of those to be let out at the end of this month. The Administration Board was up-held all along the line and the allegations made were found to be without foundation. It was a very trying period but all's well that ends well.

My extension is good until August 10th, 1956, and there is reason to hope for another extension as Gordon Beckett is retiring soon voluntarily in order to enter in the practice of Law in Ottawa, with his son. This leaves only one other solicitor in the office apart from myself and there is plenty to keep us busy. One never knows which way the cat will jump but barring ill-health I think that they may allow me to continue for another year.

I did not know about Pat Good's injury but trust that he will steadily improve. Please give him my kind regards when you see him.

We are all delighted to hear that Mrs. Shears is well enough to get about and we trust that she will enjoy better health in the coming years.

Susan Christine

- 2 -

Nov 30

Friday 3 pm

You ask about Douglas whose address is - Defence Research Northern Laboratory, Fort Churchill, Manitoba. The present reports indicate that they are having more than a full share of the Western blizzards. No letters have reached us for two weeks and I expect that this is due to the fact that the planes are grounded. Douglas said in his last letter that Susan is gaining steadily and that they are all fit as a fiddle.

I am sure you will have a grand Xmas with all your children and grandchildren. Doubt very much if we will catch up with you in numbers as you have to much of a head start.

David is at Carleton College taking the Science Course and specializing in Chemical Engineering. He chose the Honour Course and there are not enough hours in the day for him to do all the things he would like to.

Charlotte is keeping well but somewhat tired at the moment due to extra work in connection with the Church Bazaar a month ago followed by the usual Xmas shopping tasks. It is not easy for her to select gifts for sisters, nephews and nieces numbering 28 in all.

We hope your Church will be successful in finding a suitable Minister as I know this entails an extra burden on you. We will be thinking of you Sunday night when you deliver the story of the Christmas Angel.

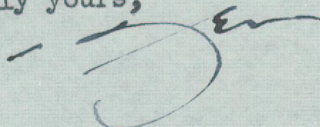
I will look up the Kagetsu file next week and let you have full particulars as to the settlement which was made during the summer of 1954.

Will also be writing you in regard to compensation for your services. Time will not permit me to do so today as by the time this is typed it will be four o'clock and we must get on our way.

Sincerest Greetings to you, Mrs. Shears and the entire household.

Also all Good Wishes for Christmas and the coming year.

Cordially yours,



K. W. Wright.

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FILE NO.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

December 29th, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

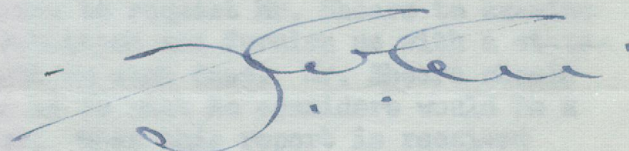
Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Compensation for Services

I have for acknowledgment your communication
of 19th instant.

I enclose herewith copy of minute of the
Administration Board under date of 28th instant. Will you
be kind enough to let me have the required information in
order that I may bring the matter to the attention of the
Board early in the New Year.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encl.

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G

Ottawa, December 28th, 1955.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Re: F. G. Shears
Compensation for Services

The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of Meeting of the Administration Board Wednesday, December 28th, 1955.

Present: Messrs. Wright, Beckett, Arpin and Robitaille.

A letter dated December 19th, 1955, from Mr. F. G. Shears, was read.

The Chairman reported that he had discussed this matter with Mr. Legault with a view to obtaining information in connection with the cases which Mr. Shears has been asked to look into.

The only record of such assignments appear on our individual files and we do not have a list of these. The Board decided that under the circumstances it would be necessary for the Chairman to request Mr. Shears to examine his copies of reports submitted and furnish us with a statement as to the time spent on each case. Mr. Shears should also express an opinion as to what he considers would be a fair charge in each case. When this report is received the Board will give careful consideration to payment of the account.

It was agreed that Mr. Shears is entitled to be paid for the reason that if he had not been retained it would have been necessary for us to engage the services of solicitors or agents. Mr. Shears is familiar with our work and it is doubtful if reports from others would have proved as satisfactory for our purposes.

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G

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FILE NO.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

December 28th, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

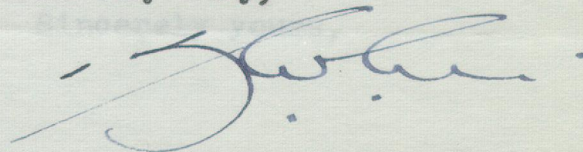
F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Work by Frederick Field & Co.
in connection with Japanese assets.

I enclose herewith copy of my letter of
October 28th, 1955, and would appreciate having a report
from you as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encl.

copy/
Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

October 28th, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Work by Frederick Field & Co.
in connection with Japanese Assets.

I enclose herewith copy of a minute of meeting of the Administration Board Wednesday, October 26th, 1955, together with copy of letter dated 19th. October from Guy Hoult of P. S. Ross & Sons, Montreal, and copy of letter dated 17th October, 1955, from Fred Field.

Will you kindly interview Mr. Field and let us have a report and recommendation as to the appropriate action to be taken.

Will try to get a personal letter away to you sometime next week. Due to pressure of work personal matters are sadly neglected.

Sincerely yours,

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encls.

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FILE No.

BARRISTERS AT LAW, SOLICITORS

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

602 HASTINGS STREET

VANCOUVER 2, B.C.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

December 28th, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

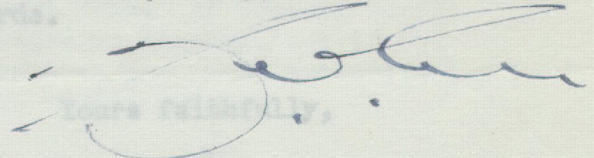
Dear Mr. Shears:

Referring to my letter of December 23rd

I enclose herewith copy of letter dated July 14th, 1954,
from Mr. T. G. Norris, also copy of my memorandum for file
dated July 13th, 1954.

This for your information.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encl.

made to Tomekichi by Justice Bird, appointed
under Part I of the Inquiries Act, re Kagetsu & Co.
Limited. Since this person is considered a Japanese
national, his share of the award is to be retained
by this office under Article 14 of the Treaty of
peace with Japan."

KWW/G

K. W. Wright.

C O P Y

NORRIS & CUMING
BARRISTERS AT LAW, SOLICITORS
BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA BUILDING
602 HASTINGS STREET WEST
VANCOUVER 2, B.C.

July 14th, 1954.

J. C. Osborne, Esq.,
c/o Messrs. Gowling, MacTavish, Osborne
& Henderson,
Barristers & Solicitors,
88 Metcalfe Street,
OTTAWA 4, Canada.

Dear John:

I have your letter of July 12th.

I certainly think that the cheque for
expenses should be sent to Kagetsu direct. Will you
please write to the Custodian's office accordingly?

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

"T. G. NORRIS"

TGN:ej

made to Tomekichi by Justice Bird, appointed
under Part I of the Inquiries Act, re Kagetsu & Co.
Limited. Since this person is considered a Japanese
national, his share of the award is to be retained
by this office under Article 14 of the Treaty of
peace with Japan."

K. W. Wright.

KWW/G

Ottawa, July 13th, 1954.

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

Re: Deep Bay Logging Company Limited
E. Kagetsu

The following is an excerpt from the Minutes of Meeting of the Administration Board Tuesday, July 13th, 1954.

"A communication dated 9th instant enclosing two of our regular Release Forms signed by Eikichi Kagetsu, were presented.

The first covers the release of \$51,440.00 and the second \$483.75 (both in accordance with the awards made by Mr. Justice Bird).

In his letter Mr. Kagetsu asked for \$2,587.50 which was granted by the Minister to cover certain expenses other than legal fees. The Chairman reported that he had talked with Mr. John Osborne of Gowing, Mactavish, Osborner and Henderson, and that Mr. Osborne intimated that he had been paid his fees and was not interested in receiving the cheque. Mr. Osborne promised to write Colonel Norris in Vancouver, to ascertain his attitude and let us have a report in the course of the next week. If Colonel Norris is not interested we will release to Kagetsu, but if the cheque is made to Colonel Norris we must have authorization duly signed by Eikichi Kagetsu to this effect.

The following requisitions were approved:

Cheque for \$51,440.00 - representing the award made to the claimant by Justice Bird appointed under Part I of the Inquiries Act, re Deep Bay Logging Company Limited and E. Kagetsu & Co. Limited. E. Kagetsu is the shareholder of 4.903 shares of Deep Bay Logging and 530 shares of Kagetsu & Co. Limited.

Cheque for \$483.75 - representing the award made to the claimant by Justice Bird, appointed under Part I of the Inquiries Act, in connection with a dwelling and motor car owned by the claimant.

Cheque for \$310.00 - representing the share of the award made to Tomekichi by Justice Bird, appointed under Part I of the Inquiries Act, re Kagetsu & Co. Limited. Since this person is considered a Japanese national, his share of the award is to be retained by this office under Article 14 of the Treaty of peace with Japan."

K. W. Wright.

KWW/G

4615 West 9th Avenue

Vancouver 8 B.C.

December 19th. 1955

K.W.Wright Esq.,
15 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa 1, Ontario

Dear Ken,

I hope the mailman will deliver this before christmas day so that you will know we have you in our thoughts and wish you the very best seasons greetings.

I still seem to have to write a lot of letters about one thing and another but I am ashamed of my personal correspondence and do neglect this. How are you feeling now? I do hope that in the past months you have both been much better. Is the arthritis still a problem and how is your blood pressure and general health. I am afraid you have both had a pretty strenuous year and we do hope that the New year will be more kind to you all.

How are things going as far as you are concerned at the office. Is that forced retirement still a possibility or are things working out more as you would wish. When you can find time I would like to know how things are going and what help and co-operation you get. I suppose Arpin is still in the picture. Have not heard from him for a long while.

I call in at Pat Good's office occasionally and talk about old times. He seems to be getting on O.K. I am not sure if you knew he got an awful bang on the knee some months ago when attending a fire (Voluntary Brigade) A hose swung around and nearly knocked him out. It is still somewhat stiff but he says it does not trouble him now.

Mrs Shears still has some aches and pains but on the whole keeps on the go in a quiet way. We have had a friend from the Old Country here for three months and we were kept on the go pretty much.

You would be thrilled to have the news of Susan Christines arrival and I suppose you will be planning to go to Churchill or have them come to you next Summer. We cant find there full address; will you please let us have it. Wait until you have- how many is it- Olive has four and Norman four and Frances three and!! which nearly makes twelve. We are all to be at Olive's on Christmas Monday.

How is David. I expect he is still getting scholastic honours, it is certainly nice that he is doing so well. Does he have to study much? The youngsters here are making an awful h~~ol~~ and apparently they have hours of homework night after night.

We are still without a permanent minister at our church; during the year we have called two men but they did not accept; we are hopeful of securing someone after Easter. We need a strong leadership for a church

of the size of ours. Next Sunday evening I am to give a recital of Henry Van Dyke's "The Christmas Angel" The narrative takes 25 minutes so I will have to brush up on my memory work. It is a good story.

In spite of the floods which they had over on the North Shore recently, according to weather reports from other parts of Canada including Ottawa, we are fortunate to be living here! Quite a fall of snow yesterday but to-days rain is clearing it all away! You dont know what you are missing

By the way, referring to the office again I never heard what settlement you came to with the Deep Bay Logging and Kagetsu claim. Did they finally accept or how did it work out.

We do hope you are both feeling well at this time and will have a real good time in your home or where ever you may be spending the holiday and that the New Year will bring a great measure of health and happiness and not more work than it is pleasant to do.

From both of us, with every sincere wish,

Frederick L. [unclear]

FILE NO.
EX-100-10000
PHONE 1-200-1000

JAPANESE EMANCIPATION SECTION
OFFICE OF THE CURATOR
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
CANADA

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1941
JAN 10 1941

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
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FILE NO.....

Victoria Buidling ,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

March 14th, 1955.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

I am sorry I could not reply before this day to your request attached to a letter written by you sometime ago.

You were right being worried about our good Ken Wright as he has not been well since July last, and has been confined to his home at various intervals. He was, in fact, very ill on Christmas and on New Year's Day. He came to the office sometime in January while not completely recovered with the result that he was forced home for three weeks ending March 7th, when his Doctor approved his coming to the office part time only. Apart from arthritis which is the main cause of his trouble he suffers from acute laryngitis and this affected his vocal cords to such an extent that he can hardly speak.

Poor Mr. Wright surely took it on the chin for the past few years.

Mrs. Wright underwent a serious surgical operation and had to have a nurse day and night for a long period.

At a certain time both Mr. Wright and Mrs. Wright were confined to bed for a long period.

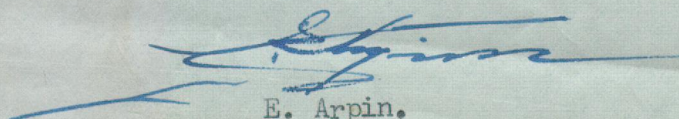
Personally and confidentially I am of opinion that what he has gone through during the past few years caused him so much worries that he could not build up any reserve as he is extremely weak. Another reason why he cannot rebuild his strength is that his sense of duty made him come to work before having completely recovered.

The foregoing sums up the situation regarding our good Mr. Wright.

As for me, I manage to pull away from flue, or other upsets, and I touch wood every day (by wood I mean my head) so that I am able to keep pace with the work at the office. As you know the assets have gone down considerably, but the problems crop up like mushrooms. These problems call for a lot of work, meetings and decisions. We have just completed our 1954 annual report which is to be tabled in the house this coming week. The Auditor General of Canada also completed his audit of the books for the year 1954, and his report will be given to the Minister later. As you can see there remains a lot to be done and as usual I am forced to work evenings, Saturdays and even Sundays.

I hope this letter finds you and Mrs. Shears in the very best of health and that you both enjoy life in the philosophical way.

Sincerely yours,



E. Arpin.

EA/G

KENNETH W. WRIGHT, Q.C.

15 LAKEVIEW TERRACE
OTTAWA 1, ONT.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

July 25th, 1955.

Dear Frank:

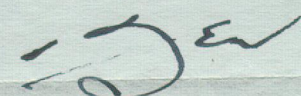
The enclosed copy of letter to Mrs. Douet is self-explanatory. No one in the office knew what Paul was ill and we have no further information than that which appears in the brief obituary notice. I intended to send this copy the day I wrote to Mrs. Douet but it was impossible to write you earlier for two reasons. We were more or less jammed up last week with unforeseen inquiries from M.P.'s who are still holding forth at the House of Commons, and secondly the weatherman turned on excessive heat last week breaking all records for days on end. We were forced to close the office early several days as it was impossible to carry on the work with temperatures in the office ranging from 89° to 95°. With the terrific heat of 98° on Friday several departments closed at 1 o'clock but we carried on until 3 p.m. Relief in the form of a cold wave from the North came Saturday and the temperature today is only 84° which by recent standards is deemed cold in this area. We are promised the return of high temperatures the day after tomorrow, and as we glance at the press notices regarding your 60° we wish that they had located the Capital City nearer the Pacific Ocean.

On Friday Mr. Arpin showed me your brief note asking about my health. I have been coming to the office every day as reported earlier. There has been some increase in weight and some improvement in blood pressure which is very low. I went to the Doctor on Friday afternoon and he found that I had not lost any of the gained weight, but he also found the blood pressure was the lowest yet and touched 104 whereas it should be 140. The result is that he warned me that I go slower in the office particularly during the heat wave. He also gave me 600,000 units of penicillin on Friday and I have to go back for a similar dosage in two weeks time. It is not easy to carry out instructions to go slow in the office for the reason that there is a good deal of back-log in connection with my own work apart from the fact that different other executives are on holidays and Mr. Beckett is away ill. The Doctor has him at home under observation in an effort to clear some rash that has broken out on hands and feet. I am told that he is pretty well bandaged up and just how long this will last is a question. All these circumstances bring more work across my desk at a time when it should be less, but what can you do about it.

Mr. Stein is away on holidays but will return the early part of next week. The rest of our household are in pretty good shape although Charlotte was like many more completely done in with the heat the end of last week. David is at the Experimental Farm and anxiously awaiting results on the Senior Matric Exmas which he tried in June. These results should be published in the course of the next couple of weeks. We expect Douglas and Audrey in Ottawa for their holidays which commence the early part of August. They have not advised us as to precise dates of arrival and departure, but it is altogether likely they will be in the Capital for at least two weeks.

As I have an appointment at the Department of Justice in ten minutes will have to close this hurriedly. We trust that you and Mrs. Shears are both well and will be happy to hear from you when time permits.

Sincerely yours,



Copy for Mr. F. G. Shears.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

July 20th, 1955.

Mrs. A. Douet,
29, Brunswick Place,
Hove, 2,
Sussex,
ENGLAND.

Dear Mrs. Douet:

I have just read the notice in the Evening Citizen concerning Paul's demise at his home on July 7th, and hasten to offer you my profound sympathy for the great grief that has fallen upon you and your household.

As you know, Paul was very highly regarded by our officers and extremely popular with his fellow workers here. On behalf of all members of our staff, I wish to extend to you their deepest, most heartfelt sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWM/G

August 16th, 1955.

Mrs. Helen Rorabeck,
2121 Monterey Street,
San Luis O'Bispo,
California.

Dear Helen:

The weather has been so warm of late that it has not been possible to do much along the lines of personal correspondence.

One or two items in connection with the goings on here may prove interesting and let you know that we are thinking of you.

Douglas and Audrey arrived a couple of weeks ago and I am glad to report they are in splendid health. They find the return to this area a bit irksome for the reason that the temperature has registered in the 90's several days since they arrived. Regardless of this we took in a couple of Exhibition Rugby Matches and although these were not seasonable the fact that they were played at night under the lights made fair diversion and entertainment.

One of the Chaps in the Lab. at Fort Churchill is here and he stayed with us last night in order to get an early start with Douglas this morning. They are going by Bus to Toronto and probably on to Detroit and Cleveland. We expect them to return next Sunday. Audrey did not accompany them for the reason that such a trip would be too much for her having regard for the fact that they are expecting an addition to the family before the end of the year. They plan to leave here on the 26th instant and have a couple of days at the Toronto Exhibition, then go on from there to Fort Churchill. They are to be back in Fort Churchill September 1st.

The other item of interest has to do with David. The Senior Matriculation Examination results were published yesterday and I am happy to say that his name was included in the list of those who were successful. He passed three of the subjects last year and this year took six more so that he has passed nine subjects in all. This year's results were surprising inasmuch as he took First Class Honours in the more difficult subjects, viz. Trigonometry, Geometry and Chemistry. He also had one Third Class Honour and two Second Class Honours. We are elated as it was a very tough year and the examinations were not only difficult but of too great length to answer all the questions in the time allotted. David will go to Carleton College after the middle of next month, and so we enter another stage of his career shortly.

Charlotte is minding the heat the same as everyone else and just now is pretty well tired out. We are planning a brief holiday commencing August 26th and going through to September 6th. These ten days will be spent in and around Madoc, as all our ideas with respect to visiting the Toronto Exhibition have been changed. We believe that a more restful holiday is required than a visit to Toronto. David will go with us as the Experimental Farm have agreed to let him away for the above period. He will likely return to the Farm for ten days or two weeks in September if his services are required. That is all for now we hope you are both well and that we will hear from you soon. Good wishes from us all, as ever.

15 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa 1, Ontario.

June 20th, 1955.

Dr. R. W. Brouls,
Sharon House,
Sharon, Ontario.

Dear Bob:

You may wonder why this letter has been so long delayed but the going has been so rough of late that personal correspondence has gone by the board. My relatives write and say that they cannot understand my failure to communicate as heretofore but I refrained from advising them as to the reason in the hope that a report might be sent indicating that all is well.

I had a very bad dose of flu during February and was absent from the office for some time. Close on the heels of the flu germ, came a more severe attack of arthritis than I had in '54. You will recall that the left hand and arm were affected in '54 but this time it hit both left and right arms and hands as well as the left leg. I had to remain away from the office from 1st May to June 15th and now only go down half days i.e. in the afternoons. The Drs. gave me 600,000 units of penicillin about a month ago and this was followed by a similar dosage ten days ago. Continued to lose weight even after leaving the office and got down to 139 pounds from around 175. This is a far cry from 195 pounds which I flipped the scales at when I came here from Vancouver. Guess I should have stayed there!

This loss has been checked and I have stepped up to my present 143 pounds and that is something to be grateful for. You will full appreciate the serious handicap having both hands crippled. Hot wax treatments at the hospital three times each week only provided temporary relief. The pain is much greater than a year ago causing loss of sleep and it aint funny McGee. Well there you have the reason for my seeming neglect of friends so far as letters are concerned.

We were so glad you enjoyed your holiday in the South. The Reads have been in many times since their return and they were more than pleased that I put them in touch with you people and enjoyed their visits immensely. They are going back in November and will stay about 5½ months according to present plans.

You indicated that you were looking for a house there and we have been wondering how you made out in your search for same.

Charlotte is well and spends all her spare time in the garden. The flowers are coming along nicely and we should have a good showing in a couple or three weeks.

David is writing his Senior Matric. Has had 5 papers already and 3 more follow including one today. The heat has been terrific for most of their sessions and we will be glad when the last exam is out of the way. So far a couple of the papers proved very hard and much too long for time allotted that criticism came from numerous pupils who have been at our house during the course of the ordeal.

Douglas and Audrey will be here for their holidays in August but have not furnished us with the exact date. They want to go to the Ex. in Toronto therefore it will be at least the middle of August before they arrive. Copy of this last letter enclosed. On previous fishing trip they had great luck in addition to fish consumed, they picked out 35 fine specimens to take home. They were cleaned and put in what they thought was a good spot. Upon return to camp - no fish - bear located their prizes and have had a good feed. This trip was marred by drowning of three Fort Churchill men including principal of Fort Churchill school. No doubt you read about this in the paper and heard radio reports. We were very worried for a time as we knew this corresponded to time and place they were ~~just~~ planning to go. Douglas sent us a message that he was O.K. and they were

searching for the missing men. They have not been found and search by plans &c. was discontinued. He wrote and told us they had given up all hope of finding them.

Douglas and Audrey plan to go back for another year. Their two year term which they signed up for is nearing complete. I hoped they would stay here or at least in a civilized area but apparently they like it up there so have decided to return.

David goes to the Experimental Farm next week and will be fully occupied this summer in the Entomology Department. He is lucky to have this job as many boys have not yet landed summer employment.

We plan to go to Madoc over the 1st July week end as I have many things to attend to up there.

When are you going to Alexandria? Let us know and as previously indicated - our door is wide open.

Sorry this note has been so long delayed but you will understand the delay was unavoidable.

We hope all of you are in good health. You are lucky to be in Sharon instead of Ottawa. The Heat and humidity have been might bad here.

The best to you all from Charlotte, David and myself.

As ever,

KWW/G

K. W. Wright.

June 16, 1955.

Dear All:

Thurs. morning again and no letter written as usual. However, I'll ramble on and see what comes up.

We received Pop's letter on Tues. and are very happy to hear that he is at last putting back some of that weight. Thank you for your sympathy in regard to our loss of fish. We are accepting your suggestion and going back this week end to catch some more. This time we bring them in to the tent for storage! Yes, we received a copy of Ken's last letter thank - he usually sends one along so there is no need for you to do so. The weather has been exceptionally miserable here lately, that is, too hot!!! On Saturday the high temperature was about 80°. On Sun. it was 50°. Then on Mon. & Tues it was 87° and 88°. Wed. back down to 60° and today around 45°. You can't win! The bugs are starting now so guess we've had all the enjoyable summer we can expect this year.

Last night D.R.B. put on a "Monte Carlo" nite at the theatre - games of chance, etc. and we cleaned up quite a bit from the suckers -- all in aid of the Boy Scouts etc. I am now a full-fledged gambling operator.

Do you by chance remember the name of the tourist home beside the C.N.E. where you usually stay -- Dave's girl friend's place etc. We thought we might drop a line to see if we could get a reservation for a couple of days the end of August, as I want to go to the 'Ex.' Could you also phone Dr. McCartney and see if he will be available for an appointment between the 22nd and 25th of Aug.

Seems to be it for now. I'll let you know how all those fish we are going to get tasted.

Love,

Doug & Audie

15 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa, Ontario.
November 14, 1955.

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas F. Wright,
Defence Research Northern Laboratory,
Fort Churchill, Manitoba.

Dear Ma and Pa:

A great many residents (majority being relatives) were thrilled when I relayed the message contained in a telegram received from Susan Christine, which read as follows:

"Churchill, Man. Nov. 12, 1955. K.W.Wright, care of Walter Francis,
R.R.1, Crookston, Ontario. Dear Grandma and Grandpa & Uncle Dave.
Arrived Churchill Friday 3 P.M. Mother and Father fine. Love.
"Susan Christine"

Admittedly we were amazed that one so young was capable of forwarding a telegram so soon after her arrival. However, no doubt she takes after her parents and we may look forward to many accomplishments in the future.

We left for Madoc last Wednesday and returned late last night (i.e. late for grandparents to be out). It was a case of leaving between 5 and 6 p.m. Wednesday or 5 a.m. Thursday, as David wanted to have a full day in the bush, the deer season having opened on Wednesday. It was necessary to avoid the Carling Avenue jam caused by the Simpson-Sears opening of their new store on Carling, and we headed out the other highway and reached no 15 highway at Bells Corners. The traffic was not as heavy as it was last night on our return journey and, fortunately, there were no delays similar to the one encountered last night just this side of Stittsville, which I will refer to later.

The boys spent Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the bush, but unfortunately, did not succeed in bagging a deer. The weather was very good Thursday and Saturday but quite miserable, due to a cold and continuous rain, on Friday. David did get one fair look at a buck but missed the target, as it was some distance away. Their experience this year did not measure up to last year when they bagged four deer, but I think this was largely due to the fact that their success last year was known to the whole community and it seemed to me there were more hunters about than chipmunks, also that the hunting north of No. 7 was better this year than in the district south of No. 7.

I planned to have a few hours in the bush with the boys, but there were so many matters to attend to in Madoc that I had to spend most of my time in the Village, ~~etc~~ including Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A report on this will go forward before the end of the week, if time permits.

I saw Ray Grant on Friday, following a funeral which he had charge of at White Lake Cemetery. All the folks around Madoc are fine, but Aunt Ethel was down with a cold and not well enough to accompany Ray for a visit with the clan on Friday.

We enjoyed the delightful change during the long weekend and, as heretofore, our good relations went all out to make the brief visit pleasant.

Our departure from Madoc was delayed yesterday, as Archie Pitt was away hunting and did not return until late Saturday night and I had to see him yesterday. He met with considerable success on his trip and bagged his count, with the result that he insisted upon our accepting a very nice piece of venison and we will have this before the week is out.

Our return journey was marred by a blow-out (rear tire) just this side of Stittsville last night. The soft shoulders of the highway made it impossible for us to use the jack which we have, and David had to walk back to Stittsville for a man, who brought the necessary equipment from the Stittsville garage. We eventually got under way and reached home without further mishap. We were just going in the front door at home and the phone rang, and Audie's mother was on the line, so the grandmothers had a great chat concerning the arrival of the granddaughter. We will await your further letter with a complete report as to the young lady, and we hope your letter will bring additional news that both Father and Mother are doing well.

This is all I have time for to-day, but as intimated, a detailed report covering the Madoc situation will be sent to the co-owners as soon as possible.

Our best and affectionate greetings to all three of you from all three of us.

As ever,

KENNETH W. WRIGHT, Q.C.

15 LAKEVIEW TERRACE
OTTAWA 1, ONT.

April 11th 1956.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 W. 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

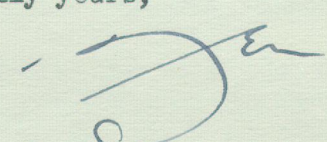
The enclosed will furnish an up to date report on our family doings and explain the reason for my failure to write and thank you for the letter to Susan which we all enjoyed so much.

It was more than kind of you to send her the eating utensils and I hope the kids did not fail to express their gratitude to you in writing.

There are still signs of winter in our back yard where snow from the roof accumulated but a few more days like today will cause us to wonder if the lawn mower requires an overhaul.

We hope that both Mrs. Shears and yourself are enjoying the best of health and that the children and grandchildren are in fine fettle.

Cordially yours,



K. W. Wright.

KWW/G

Mr. Shears

April 11, 1956.

- 2 -

He is taking a Science course at Carleton College and it is quite exciting on the 23rd instant he will go to the Experiment Station for the summer, and plans to take a special course at Sharon, Ont. during the summer months by attending night classes.

Dear Bob:

Douglas, Audrey and Susan returned to Ottawa a few weeks ago and since arrival he purchased a car, a house and a limited amount. Repeated attempts have been made to get a letter off to you in answer to your letter of 12th ultimo, wherein you stated you would be back home for Easter. All such attempts have failed as, since the first of the year, we have been under heavy pressure at the office and, unfortunately, I encountered a flu germ early in March and had to remain away from the office about twelve days, eight of which were spent in bed. Our office staff was reduced by 25% the end of the year and for some unexplainable reason, more work has come to us during the past three months than during any corresponding period last year. I was very tired in February and, if I could have afforded to do so, would certainly have spent ten days or two weeks in Florida and avoided the constant grind and disagreeable weather.

We received many cards from Edgar T. and his reports of the high temperatures and wonderful climate made us envious. He also advised about the enjoyable visits they had with you and I certainly would have liked to join the parties. The last card from the Reads indicated that they would be returning to Ottawa next Sunday, so we will hear more about your visits when they call.

You refer in your letter to our old Flossie, and may be surprised to know that we had an excellent opportunity to dispose of it, regardless of Douglas' suggestion that we should pay some one to haul it away. The tires were completely shot and the engine required an overhaul and all of this would have run into considerable money. A friend of ours who is chief mechanic at the Ottawa Motors informed us that a 1954 Chrysler was being turned in and he was well versed with the history of the car, which belonged to the President of a large Ottawa corporation. A deal was made and we drove to Madoc good Friday and spent the Easter holiday with my sister-in-law at the farm. David acted as chauffeur both coming and going as Charlotte and I have not yet had an opportunity to learn to drive the new bus. The weather was somewhat disagreeable one of the three days, but the trip did us all good and the change of air proved helpful in getting rid of the flu germ.

Since then, David has been up to his ears preparing for exams which are now being held and will end next Tuesday.

He is taking a Science course at Carleton College and it is quite a grind. Commencing on the 23rd instant he will go to the Experimental Farm for the summer, and plans to take a special course at Carleton during the summer months by attending night classes.

Douglas, Audrey and Susan returned to Ottawa a few weeks ago and since arrival he purchased a car, a house and a limited amount of furniture. We went out to see them on Sunday afternoon and found that they were pretty well settled. They had to buy a new stove also washer and living room furniture, with the result that funds are running low and they will have to get along without many things for a time. I stressed that they are better off than most young people of their age, and it will only be a matter of time before they can secure additional required articles for the home. Their home is just outside the City limits and, incidentally, their address is Box 476, City View P.O., Ontario. I think they were fortunate in securing this bungalow, which was built three years ago and is in excellent shape. The owners required a larger house due to recent additions to the family, and I was better satisfied to have them buy a house that has been lived in a few years, for the reason that numerous new houses are built of inferior materials and cracked walls result from settling. There is not a sign of a break in any of the walls in this house, and the builder enjoys an excellent reputation.

Believe I informed you about his work at Atomic Research and that they are now engaged in the new work of making atomic power available for industrial purposes.

Susan, of course, is the most wonderful grand-child ever, and we are, as you suggest, having a grand time spoiling her. She has gained steadily since leaving the Arctic and as they are out in the country she will have lots of fresh air and sunshine.

Charlotte has been extremely well all winter but we have to counsel her not to overdo things as even yet she tires somewhat readily. We are sure that with the finer weather and the opportunity to work in the garden, her health will further improve.

I trust that you found everything in good order when you returned to Sharon House, and will look forward to hearing from you regarding the trip home with the new 400. We are also looking forward to a visit when you come to Ottawa in the very near future. Please remember that we have a spare room and there is no occasion for you to go to one of the leading hotels or motels, even if our accomodation and meals do not measure up to the highest standards.

- 3 -

It would be much more enjoyable to have you under our roof and Douglas and Audrey will certainly want you to come out to see them when you are here. It takes about fifteen minutes to drive from our place and we do want you to see their new quarters.

With the very best to Mary, Mabel and yourself from each and every one here.

As ever,

K. W. Wright

KENNETH W. WRIGHT, Q.C.

15 LAKEVIEW TERRACE
OTTAWA 1, ONT.

October 11th, 1956.

Personal

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Frank:

Very glad to have your recent personal note and to hear that you had a real good summer with the children and grandchildren at Roberts Creek. I sent you copies of correspondence covering our trip to the Maritimes, but found it a bit difficult to settle down to regular and continuous hours of work since the holiday.

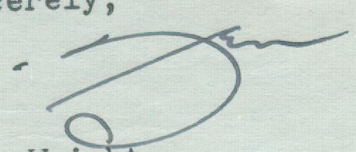
We left for Madoc last Friday night and spent the Thanksgiving weekend at my sister-in-law's farm. I had a great deal of work in connection with the Madoc property, so did not get a chance to go hunting though, apart from the exercise, I did not miss very much. The boys invariably get their quota of partridge, but this year it was a different story. David was in the bush Saturday, Sunday and Monday with no less than six in their party on Sunday. He shot his one and only partridge about 5 o'clock Monday evening after hours and miles of plugging through the bush.

Douglas, Audrey and Susan came down on Saturday but Douglas was so disgusted with the luck that he returned home Sunday evening.

I enclose two official letters - one covering the matter of destruction of records and the other, your account. It will be necessary for you to fill in a lump sum amount at the end, otherwise, the Auditors will object to payment. I suggest you insert a figure that you believe to be reasonable and, as indicated, I will submit same for the Board's approval, without delay. It should be easier for you to give us a lump sum figure than to detail the charges for attendance, etc.

With best wishes to you all from everyone here.

Sincerely,



K. W. Wright

KWW/K
encls

COPY
Mr. Shears

Robert Wilson Breuls
Physician
Toronto, Ont.

September 20, 1956.

Dear Ken,

We hope you got home in time for the snow! We had it here this A.M. After we got your letter it became mislaid while I could write to you at Stanhope Beach and of course turned up when it was too late. I was about to write you about when you were coming up here when I received it. You might have had a five some in both cars if you had. However, I am surely keeping your itinerary- for future reference. Will probably get an addenda.

The weather here has been miserable since mid-August and we have been nowhere. But the screens are coming off soon and we are going to get ready for the South, end of next month. I do hope you people had decent weather because you need a good holiday and that was surely a swell trip. We were up to Elliott Lake past our old hunting grounds on the new uranium highway. Went to Sudbury on 69 past the key, and then to Espanola 1st day. Then west of 17 and turned north just east of Jack Campbell's farm and went north on the new highway which covers our old 12 mile walk (10 miles by speedometer). Saw where I shot a lot of deer as far as the dam at Depot which was the end of our grounds. North of it they are making new towns, many mining shafts and mills at Elliott, Quirke and Nordic Lake, all Big Uranium. We should have stayed and staked eh! Then back to Espanola down around Manitoulin Island, took the boat from South Bay Mouth to Tobermory had dinner on the boat - a 3 hrs ride. Stayed all night at Tobermory - many fine hotels, came down home the next day. You can motor- from here to our old camp in one day. I saw no evidence of our old camp and the road is closer to it than our old "turn off". We have been to Peterboro a few times. Mary's brother and wife and two boys leave for California to live right away. Now, she and one of the boys have asthma and Fred has only one kidney. He was operated on last summer. We may go from Florida out there on the Southern route before we come back here. I have had enough cold weather all ready. We expect to take it easy going down this time. Also, we were over to Buffalo for a weekend a couple of weeks ago with brother-in-law Geo. Pitts and wife of Richmond Hill. We hit it off good and Geo. liked to drive my car.

Let us hear about your trip. Kindest to all

Sincerely,

"Bob"

NOTE:

Twenty-two persons (Doctors, lawyers and business men) were members of our Hobel hunting camp. Dr. Breuls and I are the sole survivors. This dates back as far as 1916. after forty years - is it any wonder we like to get together as often as possible,

K.W.W.

15 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa, Ont.
September 28, 1956.

Dr. R. W. Breuls,
Sharon House,
Sharon, Ontario.

Dear Bob:

More than pleased to receive your letter of 20th instant with an account of your trip to the North country. I had not realized that the authorities selected the road we frequently blessed (remember the sore feet on the inward journey) for the Uranium Highway. Looked up a road map and found that No. 612 appears to be some distance east of Elliott Lake, but the map may not be up to date. Did you notice any odors along the road from the spots of rum Fergie used to hide as emergency rations for the return journey? Note that your speedometer read 10 miles, but still adhere to the view that the distance on foot is all of 14 miles.

Are you planning a trip to Alexandria in order to visit your Aunt before leaving for the South? Sure wish you would do so and arrange to spend a weekend with us as we could talk for an hour about your trip and then turn to the subject of our Maritime holiday. We will be going to Madoc and Belleville a week from tomorrow for the Thanksgiving holiday and I do not see how it will be possible for us to get away after that for the suggested visit to Toronto before you leave.

The coloured pictures which David took during our holidays have nearly all been returned from the developers and these could also be shown.

We were very fortunate to run into a supply of good weather throughout the journey and, as a matter of fact, only encountered rain for two hours of the driving time. It invariably rained at night but cleared up in the morning, though on certain days it was very cloudy and not the best for taking pictures.

We were more than favourably impressed with Prince Edward Island, and the itinerary compiled before we left was followed almost to the letter and proved very satisfactory. Accommodation along the way was excellent and one cannot go wrong by sticking to the AAA selections which appear in all the literature furnished by the various Tourist offices of the Provinces.

as After leaving Perce' we did not drive as far as Matapedie, we found some 70 miles might be saved by taking a ferry from a point east of Mapapedia to Dalhousie. This permitted our going beyond Bathurst and we stopped in a place near Chatham which did not measure up to previous motels. About the only other change one might make has to do with the avoidance of the Point after leaving Gaspe. We followed the typewritten sheet, but some people who were at Gaspe met up with us at Perce' and they stated that the road around the Point was excellent, whereas the cut-off which we took proved very rough in spots.

The recommendation to spend a day at Perce'

was.....

copy for Mr. Shears

15 Lakeview Terrace,
Ottawa 1, Ontario

January 30th, 1956.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Francis,
R. R. # 1,
Crookston, Ontario.

Dear Martha and Walter:

We wish you to be parties to and share the joy that results from receipt of Douglas' last letter, copy of which is appended.

You will recall that upon our return from your place Labour Day Douglas surprised us by stepping off the front verandah when we drove up. The R.C.A.F. had flown him down Labour Day, he was here all next day and returned to Fort Churchill by R.C.A.F. plane a day later. At that time we could only disclose that he was here on a confidential mission but our hands are no longer tied to that extent altho for the time being at least, the news will be limited for the most part to members of our families.

The knowledge that they will soon be leaving the far North is a treat and the thought that in a few weeks we will have our first grandchild under our own roof affords immeasurable pleasure.

Coupled with the above is a pardonable pride in the fact that the Atomic Research Commission has called Douglas to join their forces in the development of atomic power of peaceful purposes. This is a challenge that will entail long and arduous study as they begin to explore the possibilities of what might be termed "a virtually unknown field".

Believe you will agree it ^{must} be reasonable to suggest that Douglas in his quiet and uncommunicative way ^{must} have "something on the ball" or he would not have received the call first from National Research Council to Defence Research Board and second after three years with them, a summons to the Atomic Energy Commission.

Atomic Energy selected a site in a nearby area known as Tunnys Pasture and are spending millions in the erection of buildings and plant to carry on the new work. They advised Douglas that they would not have facilities ready till spring altho he was shown all the works as far as they had advanced at the time of his visit. We assumed there would be the usual delays and that it would probably be early summer before anything transpired. This is one time we are happy to have come to a wrong conclusion.

You will appreciate that time does not permit my writing individual letters therefor it will be in order for you to show this to the children and others you know will be interested in the news from the North.

Mom is busy as usual keeping pace with the household demands which, of course, include the satisfying of our appetites four times each day. We put the car away the latter part of December and will leave it on stilts till towards the end of March. The Lasalle is missed for transporting food parcels but Mrs. Hamilton and son Donald take Mom to the super markets every Friday after school and they load up for both families which is a real assist.

You have been kept fairly well posted on David's activities & there are not enough hours in the day to allow for all so they spread far into the night more often than not.

He is President of the Young People's Supper Club at the Church this year and they meet every Sunday at 5:30 for a variety of

programmes. The National Film Board have been very generous in supplying them with excellent films and they also have guest speakers on occasions to discuss current affairs. Their recreational meetings during the week include bowling and last Saturday night ~~after bowling~~ we had fourteen at our home for eats following the bowling session. To indicate their full enjoyment I might add that they did not leave until after 1:30 A.M. The way the plates of sandwiches, bottles of olives, pickles, pots of coffee and Mom's homemade cookies disappeared reminded us of what happens when we go to your place and eat ourselves out of shape. Their appetites were a treat to behold and a grand time was had by us all.

We were glad to have letters from Aunt Ethel, Belleville, Ethel and Dorris last week also Karen's picture which is on our mantle in the living room. We would like to see a little more color in her cheeks, so this for Harold and Dorris - "do not allow her to overwork at school. Chase her out for more play and we will expect to see her a picture of health on our next visit.

We notice that Grant had his picture in the Review last week. Roy and Gladys must be very happy that he measures up to Championship calibre. Our hearty Congratulations. The Madoc hockey team is not keeping up to the record set by the baseball team according to reports we see in the Review.

It is good to hear that Frankie and Bessie are recovering. We trust that rapid progress will continue and that future letter will contain good news about them.

We are always glad to receive letters from you good people with complete coverage concerning the health, welfare and goings on of all you Hastings folks in whom, needless to say, we have a deep and abiding interest.

With the very best to you all from everyone here.

As ever,

K. W. Wright.

Douglas' letter.

January 24, 1956.

Dear All:

Just a short note to enclose these pictures so that you'll know we are still alive. However, the pictures are not really necessary as you will be seeing our lovely daughter in person in less than 4 weeks. Yes, we are coming out at last, and I start work at the Atomic Energy Co. around the first week in March. We hope to leave here on Feb. 16th via plane to Winnie and then by train to Ottawa. This is not confirmed yet but should work out. Hope you will have a spare room for a few days while we look around for a car, a television set, and a house (in that order).

Thanks for all the letters, magazines, etc. of the past two weeks, we were particularly interested in the Consumer's Reports.

It certainly is nice to hear that all your hard labour on the Estate is paying off and I only hope there are not so many headaches in this year for you. Lots of clearing up work to do now so bye for a while & see you all soon.

Love,

Doug, Audie, Susan.

Mr. Shears

April 24, 1956.

The Hon. Mr. Justice F. A. Sheppard,
Law Courts,
Vancouver 1, B.C.

Dear Fred:

The complete file re S. Tamura dec'd was sent to Vancouver last February and our Associate Counsel, Mr. Robitaille, has just brought me our dummy file and made me feel just that way. Attached to it is your letter of 18th inst. stating that you were appointed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal. Permit me, at this late date, to extend to you my heartiest salutations and congratulations. Local press announcements must have appeared when the Doctor had me virtually tied in bed with a rather severe attack of influenza, although I cannot understand how such a notice escaped my attention when perusing the Canadian Bar Review.

It is also a wonder that Frank Shears did not mention this to me in one of his letters, but evidently he is far too busy trying to save some of those Vancouver Baptists and has no time to think of Judges or lawyers.

I was articulated to Charlie Millar of Toronto who, you may recall, allowed his sense of humour to go too far and left a fool will. This included a clause which provided a very substantial sum for the woman who bore the most children within ten years following his death.

Millar was largely responsible for the appointment of several Ontario Judges including the late Frank Denton (Senior). When I was a student, Millar showed me a letter that he was sending the day the item appeared in the press. This read - "Dear Denton - I see by the morning paper that you have been elevated to the Bench. Remember-as you sit upon the stage, you were once in the pit. Yours. Millar".

You do not require this sort of advice but you may find it possible to whisper the message to one of your fellow Judges if you feel some budding counsel is being given too rough a ride.

Please give my kindest regards to your brother Justice Bird and say that Wilf Parry was asking for him a short time ago but I had no news to convey - good or bad.

Again, my very best wishes and Happy Judging.

Cordially yours,

K. W. Wright

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver B.C.

K.W.Wright Esq Q.C.
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building
Ottawa.

re Work-Frederick Field

Dear Mr Wright,

I have been in touch with Mr Field on one
or two occasions however it is largely my fault that we have not
got together. Unfortunately I have to be out of the city for
about ten days but I will definitely pursue this matter very soon
after I return.

Yours very truly,

F.G.Shears

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXX

4615 West 9th Avenue

Vancouver B.C.

January 21st 1956

M.W.Wright Esq., Q.C.
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building
Ottawa

Dear Mr Wright,

Thank you very much for your letter of Dec. 29th
enclosing copy of Administration Board minute of December 28th.

I have not yet looked into the matter of making
an analysis of work done on behalf of the Custodian but I will be pleased
to do so and let you have a statement in due course,

F.G. Shears
Yours very truly,

F.G. Shears

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

PHONE PACIFIC 6131
PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO. _____

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
VANCOUVER B.C.

4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver
February 21st 1956

K.W.Wright Esq., Q.C.
Office of the Custodian
Ottawa.

Dear Mr Wright,

Enclosed is a letter received from M.Maehara and copy
of my reply. "Just receiving" a letter written in 1950 is 'one for
the book'

I think that you will find there is a credit of \$146.92
in Jiro Maehara's account but I don't know about the other two. It may
be necessary to look at the microfilm of these files. You will note
I have told him not to expect any reply for about a month as I thought
this would give someone in your office to look into this matter at
their convenience.

Yours truly,

F.G.Shears

File 4652	Masumi Maehara	394.58
X1 376	Jiro "	146.92
9588	Mrs Kiyoko "	699.10

Asking for cheques to be sent
to him

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

PHONE PACIFIC 6131

PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.
XXXXXXXXXX
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
VANCOUVER, B. C.

~~4615~~ 4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver B.C.
February 21st 1966

Mr M. Maehara
41 Lappin Avenue
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 13th. in which you refer to correspondence written from Vancouver in 1950 has been delivered to me. The Vancouver office was closed several years ago and the records sent to the Office of the Custodian at Ottawa. I have therefore forwarded your letter on to them.

Locating and reviewing the records dating back so far may take some time so I do not think you should anticipate any immediate reply. However, in about a month if you have not heard from Ottawa you might then address a letter to

K.W.Wright Esq., Q.C.
Chief Counsel
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street
Ottawa.

Yours truly,

F.G. Shears

Former Director
Vancouver Office.

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXX

4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver 8 B.C.

K.W.Wright Esq., Q.C.
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building
7 O'Connor Street
Ottawa.

Deae Mr Wright,

Since my return I have contacted the office
of Frederick Field & Co and discussed the matter of their Custodian
Files with Mr Nicholl.

Have just received letter as follows,-

"Further to our recent conversation we have have discussed
the matter of clearing the files and would prefer that this
be left until some time in June or July when we will have
more time to spend reviewing the various documents with you.
We would appreciate your writing to Ottawa to this effect and
will contact you some time later in the year"

As this matter chiefly concerns Frederick Field I take it that you
will have no objection to this and at the appropriate time I will
revive this matter with them.

They do have a lot of material but frankly I
feel that quite a lot of it will have little value at the present time.
By the way, the actual "Books" of the various companies they handled
I believe were sent to Ottawa. At you convenience you might have this
checked and let me know. Those Books together with the "Reports" of
P. S. Ross & Sons might well cover all the information which it might be
necessary to preserve. However when they are ready I will check over
the material they still hold, with them.

Yours very truly.

PHONE PACIFIC 6131

PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN
JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
VANCOUVER, B. C.

4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver B.C.

K.W.Wright Esq Q.C
Chief Council
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building
Ottawa

Dear Mr Wright,

I enclose herein brief statement of matters which
I have dealt with on behalf of the Custodian during the past three
years. Will you kindly have this considered by the Administration
Board and arrange for payment to be made at your convenience,

Yours very truly,

F.G.Shears

XXXXXXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

4615 West 9th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
July 30th 1956

K.W.Wright Esq., Q.C.
Chief Counsel
Office of the Custodian
Ottawa.

Dear Mr Wright,

Since you were in touch with me at the beginning of the month I have been away at Roberts Creek. Returning to-day I have your several letters and thank you for the information contained therein. I can only say that the letters written to Mr Jones and Mr Regier should give very satisfactory answers to the questions asked.

Your memorandum to the Deputy Custodian is indeed an achievement of "Multum in parvo" giving as you do so much precise information in a few pages and at so short notice. For the purpose required, no particular addition occurs to me and I only hope that you have now been able to write 'Finis' to this matter, in regard to which, none know better than ourselves the conscientious effort which was given in carrying out the task assigned to us, even to the point of evoking commendation from those Solicitors who were acting on behalf of their Japanese clients.

I find a touch of humour in the reference to a warehouse broken into and furniture stolen. While we were up against this difficulty as you indicate to Mr Regier, I rather think the most outstanding example of this would have been in connection with a warehouse in which Japanese effects were stored and left in the care of their own agent, and Solicitor Mr J.A. MacLennan!!

Yours very truly,

F.G. Shears
F.G. Shears.

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
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TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE

PLEASE REFER
TO

FILE NO.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

July 23rd, 1956.

Dear Mr. Jones,

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

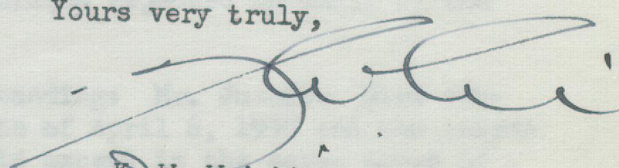
Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Japanese evacuee claims dealt with
by the Bird Commission.

I enclose herewith copy of letter
dated July 11th, 1956, from the Honourable Roch Pinard to
O. L. Jones, Esq., M.P., also copy of letter addressed to
R. Regier, Esq., M.P.

This for your information.

Yours very truly,


K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW*G
Encls.

Ottawa, July 11, 1956.

Dear Mr. Jones,

In the course of the discussion of the estimates of my department in the House of Commons last week you asked for the following information with regard to the claims made some years by persons of Japanese origin in respect of the disposal of their property by the Custodian of Enemy Property after their evacuation from the Pacific Coast of Canada:

"..... the total amount of claims made by Japanese in British Columbia, the total amount paid on those claims, the amount of the claims refused and the amount of the claims still outstanding" (House of Commons Debates of July 4, 1956, p. 5655).

I undertook to give you those figures at a later date and I am now pleased to do this.

1. The total amount claimed before the Bird Commission of Inquiry was \$3,814,000.
2. The total amount of compensation awarded by the Bird Commission was \$1,318,622.- Out of that sum a total of \$1,317,481.37 has been paid, leaving \$1,140.63 unpaid because the seven claimants whose awards make up this amount have refused to accept payment.
3. The total amount of the claims rejected in whole by the Commission is \$313,426.
4. There are no claims outstanding: Mr. Justice Bird submitted his report under date of April 6, 1950 and the awards recommended by him were paid except in the seven cases of refusal above referred to, involving a total sum of \$1,140.63.

O. L. Jones, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

I am informed that the total number of claimants involved was 1434 and that the majority of these claimants files multiple claims in respect of various types of real and personal property which had been vested in the Custodian and disposed of by him under the authority of orders in council of 1942 and 1943. The claims wholly dismissed, i.e. with respect to which no compensation was awarded, number 71, I understand, and, in addition, 31 were withdrawn by the claimants.

As I think you know, the Commissioner was the Honourable Mr. Justice Bird, of the Appeal Court of British Columbia.

I am sorry that I was not in a position to give the above figures in the House when you asked the question.

As Mr. Regier, member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, also expressed an interest in the matter on that occasion, I am taking the liberty of sending him a copy of this letter.

Yours truly,

ROCH PINARD

Roch Pinard.

18/G
Ottawa, July 11, 1956.

Dear Mr. Regier,

I enclose herewith a copy of my letter
of today to Mr. O. L. Jones, member for Okanagan-Boundary,
which I think you will find self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

ROCH PINARD

Encl.

E. Regier, Esq., M.P.
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

July 26, 1956.

Mr. Shears:

This for your information.

K. W. Wright

July 20, 1956.

the Custodian of Enemy Property that your letter to Mr. Jones did not include the information that I asked for, and lest it may have missed your attention, may I repeat my question:

"Were any prosecutions launched against those people who collaborated with one another to deprive their fellow Canadian citizens of what they owned? I have in mind even such things as forest holdings. Was any legal action taken against anyone for any of these proceedings in those years?"

At the time, you felt that you could obtain this information for me from the Department of Justice and of course you may still be in the process of getting this answer.

Again, thank you for the co-operative attitude you displayed when we had your Estimates before us in the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

"E. Regier"
E. Regier, M.P.,
Burnaby-Coquitlam.

ER/ai

Ottawa, July 25, 1956.

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE DEPUTY CUSTODIAN

Re: Property of Japanese Evacuees

In compliance with instructions contained in your memorandum of 23rd instant, I enclose reply to Mr. E. Regier, M.P., for the Minister's signature.

I also attach extra copy for your file, and return Mr. Regier's letter, addressed to the Minister under date of 20th instant, with copy for your file.

encls,
KWW/K

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

House of Commons
Canada

July 20, 1956.

Dear Mr. Regier,

Hon. R. Pinard,
Secretary of State,
House of Commons,
Ottawa.

Dear Mr. Pinard,

Thank you for your letter of July 11th and enclosure of copy of the letter that you sent to my colleague, Mr. O. L. Jones, M.P., on the subject of claims of Canadians of Japanese origin against the Custodian of Enemy Property. I regret, though, that your letter to Mr. Jones did not include the information that I asked for, and lest it may have missed your attention, may I repeat my question:

"Were any prosecutions launched against those people who collaborated with one another to deprive their fellow Canadian citizens of what they owned? I have in mind even such things as forest holdings. Was any legal action taken against anyone for any of these proceedings in those years?"

At the time, you felt that you could obtain this information for me from the Department of Justice and of course you may still be in the process of getting this answer.

Again, thank you for the co-operative attitude you displayed when we had your Estimates before us in the House of Commons.

Yours sincerely,

"E. Regier"
E. Regier, M.P.,
Burnaby-Coquitlam.

ER/ai

Ottawa, July 25, 1956.

MEMORANDUM

FOR THE DEPUTY CUSTODIAN

Re: Property of Japanese Evacuees

In compliance with instructions contained in your memorandum of 23rd instant, I enclose reply to Mr. E. Regier, M.P., for the Minister's signature.

I also attach extra copy for your file, and return Mr. Regier's letter, addressed to the Minister under date of 20th instant, with copy for your file.

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

encls,
KWW/K

Ottawa, July 25, 1956.

Dear Mr. Regier,

I have for acknowledgment your letter of 20th instant and regret that the question of collaboration was overlooked in my last letter.

I am advised that there was no evidence at any time to indicate that persons collaborated with one another to deprive their fellow Canadian citizens of what they owned, hence there were no prosecutions.

In regard to the liquidation of property (which would include forest holdings) I wish to refer to the following comments which appear on pages 18, 23 and 25 of Mr. Justice Bird's Report. This was tabled in the House of Commons on June 13, 1950:

Page 18 "Qualified appraisers, approved by the respective Advisory Committees, were selected by the Director from well qualified persons of long experience who had carried on business for many years in the areas for which each was appointed."

"Each parcel of real property was inspected and appraised by one or more of the Appraisers so appointed."

"The Urban Advisory Committee (i.e. Greater Vancouver) on many occasions declined to approve the appraised price of one Appraiser, and called for one or more additional appraisals. In respect of some properties, this Advisory Committee fixed a minimum price at a figure in excess of the appraisal. Some members of this Advisory Committee made numerous personal inspections of various parcels."

Page 23 "I have had before me certain of the appraisers employed by the Custodian, and have knowledge of most if not all others engaged on this work. I have examined a very large number of the Appraisal Reports which provided the foundation for sale prices finally approved by the Advisory Committee. The Qualifications, experience and integrity of the Appraisers employed by the Custodian, in my opinion, are beyond question."

Page 25 "The evidence satisfied me that all reasonable efforts were made by the Director of the Custodian's office, as well as the Rural Advisory Committee, to realize the fair market value on the sale of these properties."

You informed the House on 4th instant that a warehouse was broken into and furniture stolen. My information is that a list of Japanese properties which appeared to need special attention was supplied to the Chief Constable of Vancouver and he stated that he was prepared to co-operate in every way possible. The police, however, seemed powerless to deal with the situation and apart from property in which the Custodian was interested, the public press at this time contained many reports of a general crime wave of breaking and entering and safe cracking. Frequent reports were made by our Vancouver office to the police and were acknowledged as receiving their attention.

In a few isolated cases the police recovered articles that were stolen and some juveniles were caught.

I understand that two former members of the Vancouver staff attended Police Headquarters several times in order to examine chattels believed to have been stolen but it was next to impossible to link the goods with articles removed from buildings used by the Custodian for storage.

Erhart Regier, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.

I might also point out that Mr. Justice Bird, recommended that compensation be paid for stolen goods. This is dealt with on pages 58 and 59 of his Report in part as follows:

- "1. Chattel property declared, but not found.
2. Chattel property recorded but now missing.

Group 1 and group 2 comprise chattels declared to the Custodian by the owner either at the time of or soon after his evacuation. Those in group 1 could not be found by the Custodian's inspectors; those in group 2 were found by an inspector and recorded, but were found to have disappeared before sale.

I am satisfied on the evidence that the property included in each of these groups was left in a protected area by the respective claimants, and that the same vested in the Custodian as of the date of the evacuation of each claimant, by virtue of Order-in-Council P.C. 1665 of March 4th, 1942. The evidence of extensive pilferage of chattel property of evacuated persons, to which reference is made earlier in this Report, in my judgment justifies the conclusion that the property included in these two groups was stolen after the same had vested in the Custodian.

Consequently I consider that compensation should be made to claimants in respect of missing goods included in Groups 1 and 2."

The awards for missing chattels amounted to \$108,541.43.

I trust this is the information you require.

Yours truly,

Roch Pinard.

KWW/G

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
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FILE No.

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

July 10th, 1956.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver, 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Property of Japanese Evacuees.

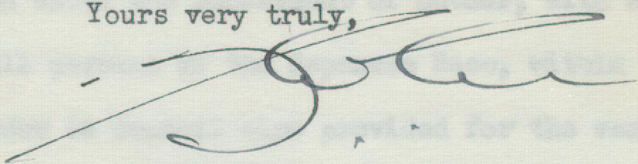
With further reference to my letter to you of 6th instant and your telegram under date of 5th instant, I enclose copy of a memorandum forwarded to the Deputy Custodian today.

I should explain that Mr. Stein advised me that the Minister wanted a memorandum covering arrangements for evacuation, control of property by the Custodian and a review of the Commissioner's investigation. It was not easy to cover such a lengthy period in a comparatively short memorandum, but I found the annual reports from Vancouver were very helpful in summarizing our activities.

On Friday last I was asked to have this in the Minister's hands by noon today, and you will understand that with frequent interruptions and carrying on of day to day work, some items of importance may have escaped attention.

There was no time to submit this to you but in event that I have omitted certain items your comments would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,


K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encl.

By Order in Council P.C. 469, passed on the 19th day of January, 1943, provision was made for liquidation of the Japanese property. (Copy attached).

Extreme difficulty was experienced in dealing with the large number of substandard buildings and the vast quantity of inferior personal property which the Japanese possessed.

It being well known that the property belonged to Japanese, there were many cases of breaking and entering which resulted in thefts, e.g. plumbing and lighting fixtures. In addition to this, there were a considerable number of fires.

Ottawa, July 10th, 1956.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY CUSTODIAN.

Re: Property of Japanese Evacuees.

Reference is made to your memorandum of the 5th instant and to our telephone conversations when you requested me to submit a report outlining the procedure adopted when the Japanese were evacuated from the West Coast, the control and administration of their properties by the Custodian and the establishment and awards of the Royal Commission appointed to investigate complaints that the Custodian disposed of their vested property at less than fair market value. You also asked for answers to certain questions which appear on pages 5655 and 5659 of the House of Commons Debates of 4th July, 1956.

Early in 1942, the Government decided to evacuate some 23,000 persons of the Japanese Race from an area in British Columbia, the boundaries of which were defined by Government Notice of February 27, 1942. To implement supervision and direct the evacuation from this area, Order in Council P.C. 1665, dated March 4, 1942, (copy attached), was passed, establishing the British Columbia Security Commission under the Department of Labour, with wide powers in regard to the movement of all persons of the Japanese Race, within and without the Protected Area. The Order in Council also provided for the vesting and control by the Custodian, as a protective measure, of all property delivered up or which upon evacuation was left in the Protected Area. (See Section 12).

The section referred to was amended by Order in Council P.C. 2483, dated 27th March, 1942. (Copy attached).

By Order in Council P.C. 469, passed on the 19th day of January, 1943, provision was made for liquidation of the Japanese property. (Copy attached).

Extreme difficulty was experienced in dealing with the large number of substandard buildings and the vast quantity of inferior personal property which the Japanese possessed.

It being well known that the property belonged to Japanese, there were many cases of breaking and entering which resulted in thefts, e.g. plumbing and lighting fixtures. In addition to this, there were a considerable number of fires.

The Custodian did not know how long the war would last, nor did he know whether the Japanese would ever be permitted to return to the Protected Area. It was therefore impossible to determine if there would be any equity if he continued to hold the properties during the enforced absence of the Japanese.

As a result of a year's experience, a report was made to a special committee of the Cabinet and the Custodian was instructed to proceed with the liquidation.

Two independent Committees were established. One was known as the Advisory Committee on Greater Vancouver Properties. The following members were appointed to the Board on the 8th of March, 1943: Chairman, Honourable Mr. Justice Sidney Smith of the Appellate Court of B.C.; Alderman Charles Jones; Mr. Kishizo Kimura (resigned 20th of July, 1943).

The other Committee was known as Advisory Committee on Rural Properties. The following members were appointed on the 15th of March, 1943: Chairman, His Honour Judge David Whiteside, New Westminster; Messrs. D. E. MacKenzie; J. J. McLellan; Hal Menzies; Yasutaro Yamaga. Mr. McLellan resigned almost immediately and Mayor W. Mott of New Westminster was appointed in his stead. Mr. Yamaga resigned on the 26th of May, 1943, Mr. MacKenzie died on the 11th of October, 1944.

The Committee^{was} asked to report on the method of liquidation and they recommended that Catalogues be prepared listing the properties, that the properties be individually appraised by Agents approved by the Boards; that parcels be not sold for less than the fixed value and that public notices be published in the press calling for tenders. The policy, as outlined, was adopted and followed apart from sales to D.V.L.A. hereinafter referred to. All offers for land were referred to the Advisory Committees and their approval obtained before any were accepted.

Both Mr. Shears and I attended all meetings of the Advisory Committees and have personal knowledge of the careful consideration that was given before decisions covering sales of assets were handed down. During certain periods the Committees met every week or ten days and minutes were kept in order that the records might be complete.

The only exception to sale of real estate by tender had to do with the transfer of Fraser Valley Lands to The Director, Veterans Land Act. This was a bulk sale of 741 parcels of farm and residential land concluded after lengthy negotiations carried on between representatives of the D.V.L.A. and the

Rural Advisory Committee during May and June, 1943. I well remember Mr. G. W. McPherson, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of State, coming to Vancouver and instructing us that the Government had decided to make this deal in order that small farms might be made available to returned soldiers. The properties were valued by the Soldiers Settlement Board and I recall the arguments Mr. Shears and I had with the Regional Director of V.L.A. about these values as we felt they were too low. Mr. Barnett, Regional Director, said they had "the best valuers in Canada" and I suggested that "some day he might be called upon to prove that statement".

The initial D.V.L.A. offer was \$750,000. and subsequently increased to \$825,000. The Advisory Committee rejected this offer. By letter to the Custodian under date of May 29, 1943, Mr. G. Murchison, Director of V.L.A., Ottawa, increased the offer to \$850,000. and declared his position in part as follows:

"Advice from Mr. Barnett at Vancouver indicates that your Vancouver Committee considers these particular lands are worth approximately one and one-quarter million dollars, and I may advise you frankly that the D.V.L.A. is not interested in these lands at that figure.

.....

This (\$850,000.00) is the final offer I am prepared to make for these particular properties in bulk."

Incidentally, in connection with the parcels included in this bulk sale, 507 claims were made for a total of \$1,838,162 and the Bird Commission recommended awards in the sum of \$632,226.61 which is slightly more than one half of the total amount of the awards granted. Your attention is directed to this for the reason that Mr. Regier stated "There are actually a number of cases where Canadian citizens obtained property at prices that everyone knew to be out of line." The awards left no room for further criticism of the D.V.L.A. deal.

Chattels were sold on the basis of recommendations made by the Committees, that is by public auctions conducted by licensed auctioneers, except in those cases where chattels were essential to the operation of farms, in which case the tenant or owner of the farm was given an opportunity to buy at an appraised value.

On January 24, 1947 the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable William Lyon Mackenzie King made the following statement:

"With respect to the property of persons of Japanese origin who were removed from the Pacific Coast, and whose property was sold by the Custodian, the government is of the opinion that the sales were made at a fair price. In all cases a complete appraisal was made before disposition. To ensure, however, the fair treatment promised in 1944, the government is prepared in cases where it can be shown that a sale was made at less than a fair market value to remedy the injustice."

As a result of discussions in Parliament, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts were instructed to examine the whole set-up of the Custodian organization. As far as the Vancouver office was concerned, a record of those hearings is to be found in the Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence -

No. 4 - Thursday, May 8, 1947
No. 5 - Friday, May 9, 1947
No. 6 - Monday, May 12, 1947
No. 7 - Tuesday, May 13, 1947
No. 8 - Tuesday, May 20, 1947
No. 9 - Thursday, May 22, 1947
No. 10 - Tuesday, May 27, 1947

The recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee is recorded in Votes and Proceedings in the House of Commons dated 17th June, 1947 -

"In view of the evidence adduced and in order that more information may be obtained as to the desirability of adjusting any apparent discrimination or loss which may have resulted from the taking over of property of any kind your Committee recommends that a Commission be appointed under the provisions of the Inquiry Act to inquire into and report upon the claim of any person of the Japanese race now resident in Canada for alleged loss which resulted from the amount received by him being less than the fair market value of his property at the time of sale or loss."

A Committee of the Privy Council recommended that the Honourable Mr. Justice Henry Irvine Bird, Justice of the Court of Appeal, British Columbia, be appointed a Commissioner pursuant to the Inquiries Act, Chapter 99 of the Revised Statutes of Canada 1947.

Order-in-Council P.C. 1810 approving this appointment was passed on the 18th of July, 1947 for the purpose of inquiring into claims of all persons of the Japanese race evacuated from the protected area who were residents in Canada at the date of the Order.

Claims were received from over 1,400 claimants. In many cases the same claimant filed claims for both real and personal property. The majority of claims were reduced at the time the claimant presented his evidence and practically all claimants were represented by Counsel. A considerable number of the claimants were unable to speak English and interpreters were provided by the Commission.

Mr. Regier said in the House of Commons that the findings of the Commission were "nothing more or less than a white wash of the actions of the Custodian." This is a serious charge to make against a Judge of the Appellate Court of B.C. (even in his role as Commissioner) and as there is no foundation for the statement, my view is that these remarks should not be allowed to go unchallenged. I have no hesitation in saying that the Government was particularly fortunate in the appointment of the Honourable Mr. Justice Henry Bird

as Commissioner. He had an intimate knowledge of conditions as they existed in the Protected Area for many years. He made himself thoroughly familiar with the workings of the Custodian's office and appreciated the difficulties which were faced in the course of our administration. Every opportunity was provided for the Japanese claimants to present ^{their} case in the fullest possible manner and ample freedom allowed in cross examination of Custodian witnesses.

As a result of a recommendation made by the Commissioner to the Minister of Justice, eight County and District Court Judges were appointed to act as subcommissioners in order to avoid the long delay which would have ensued if the Commissioner had presided at all sessions. The investigation was opened at Vancouver on December 3, 1947 and was carried on into March 3, 1950. The Commissioner submitted his report on 6th of April, 1950. It was his opinion that all available means had been adopted for the protection of property left under our control and that the procedure adopted and carried out under the policy of liquidation, was sound and business-like. He stated that this onerous task had been competently performed and in his opinion, the fact that in certain respects fair market value had not always been realized, in no sense reflected on the work of the Custodian's organization. In this connection, the Commissioner in making his recommendation, commends the procedure adopted by our office and stated that it would have been impracticable to adopt any other method.

For your further information on this phase I attach excerpts from the Commissioner's Report.

Authorization for the carrying out of the recommendation of the Commissioner was made under provisions of the following Order in Council:

P. C. 3027

Certified to be a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Committee of the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 20 June 1950.

The Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, advise that the Custodian of Enemy Property be authorized to carry out all the recommendations of the Commission appointed by Order in Council P.C. 1810 of 18th July, 1947 to inquire into claims in connection with the disposition of the property of persons of the Japanese race evacuated from the Protected Area of British Columbia in World War II, and to make the payments recommended by the said Commission out of the Custodian's Administration Account, including the reimbursement to claimants of expenditures made by them, exclusive of legal fees, on the presentation of their claims to the Commission.

The Committee further advise that the Custodian be authorized to pay out of the said Account the expenses of the Japanese Evacuee Section of the Vancouver Office of the Custodian.

(Signed) H.A. Robertson
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honourable
the Secretary of State.

Since that time we have paid 1,317 claims amounting to \$1,258,904.23. As of July 1, 1956, seven Japanese evacuees have refused to accept their awards. The total amount of these unaccepted awards is \$1,140.63.

Frequent protests have been lodged against the awards and both the Secretary of State and the Minister of Justice have expressed themselves in no uncertain terms as to the Government's attitude in this matter. The following letter from the Minister of Justice to one R. Obata under date of December 22, 1950 is typical:

"Minister of Justice

Ottawa, December 22nd, 1950.

Dear Mr. Obata,-

I received today your letter of December 15th, 1950, in which you protest against the award which was made to your mother.

All responsibility in connection with these claims has now been transferred to the Custodian under the Department of the Secretary of State to whom I am therefore forwarding your letter.

The purpose of the Government in appointing a Royal Commission was to ascertain what would be fair and just to the claimants and to the Canadian public generally under all the circumstances. The Commission recommended that a certain sum of money be paid as compensation. The Government concurred in the recommendation and funds have been made available to meet the claims. In carrying out the recommendations of Mr. Justice Bird, the Government considers that it has discharged its obligations to those most directly affected and to the general public.

Yours very truly,

"S. S. GARSON"

Minister of Justice. "

R. Obata, Esq.,
346 Merton Street,
Toronto 12, Ontario.

With all due respect, I suggest that Messrs. Jones and Regier study the Commissioner's Report in order to gain more knowledge of the subject than is evident from their statements to Parliament. I would welcome the opportunity of interviewing these gentlemen in order to furnish them with more information as to the magnitude of the task that confronted us virtually over night.

May I assure the Minister and yourself that those of us who were charged with the responsibilities of control and liquidation (without precedent in Canadian history) went far beyond the line of duty in our efforts to maintain Government prestige in circumstances almost certain to leave the Government (particularly the Custodian) open to criticism.

Finally as to the questions incorporated in your memorandum of the 5th instant the following replies are presented:

Question 1. The total amount claimed by the claimants in question.

Answer: \$3,814,000.00

Question 2. The total amount awarded and the total amount paid to such claimants.

Answer: $\$1,260,044.86$ awarded.
 $\$1,258,904.23$ paid.
 $\underline{\underline{1,140.63}}$ (7 claimants refuse to accept)
 $\underline{\underline{\$1,260,044.86}}$

Question 3. The total amount of the claims rejected by the Commission.

Answer: $\$313,426.00$

Question 4. The total amount of the claims still outstanding, if any.

None.

Respectfully submitted,

K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/EMM

CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

PHONE PACIFIC 6131

PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
VANCOUVER, B. C.

4615 West 9th

July 5th.1956

Dear Ken,

I had only been in the house a short time before you called having been at Edmonton for a week and am leaving tomorrow for Roberts Creek.

Since you 'phoned I have been trying to see if I had anything here which would be helpful. You evidently had before you the Commissioners Report and were looking at page 5 I have a copy of this and in pencil I had the notation that Justice Bird's figures were not quite correct. It reads 7086 parcels were sold for \$2,591,456.00 but the sale price for these was \$4,149,954 and it was on about 2420 parcels on which claims were made that had been sold for \$2,591,456.00 and the number of claimants was about 1400. He speaks of a tabulation of all sales made by the Custodian in giving these figures, but I have nothing here in that regard that I could refer to.

I was able to find a copy of a memorandum I sent to Mr Stein Sep 26th 1949 in which I stated that the claims at the time of hearings had been amended and the claims placed before the Commissioner were

V.L.A.	1,790,000.00
Greater Vancouver	573,000.00
Other than Vancouver	540,000.00
Personal Property	911,000.00
	<u>3,814,000.00</u>

I can only assume that this was correct and that somewhere there is the tabulation to which Justice Bird refers. It was on these claims presented to him at the time of hearings that he awarded the figure you mentioned of \$1,318,000 or thereabouts, the largest part of which was of course in connection with the V.L.A. claims.

I have no list of the claims withdrawn or rejected stated as 102. I presume that you were able to locate the Appendix to the Commissioners Report bound in blue paper which lists all the case numbers, the Japanese names and File numbers and the amount awarded. You will see that in 71 cases no award was given and on the last page these case numbers were listed but you would have to go to each individual file (microfilm) to see if there was any reference to the claim and its withdrawal or rejection. I believe also that about 30 claims were for boats that had been sold by the Fishing Vessels disposal committee and these were also thrown out.

Sending separate
cover in case
you cannot
locate your
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CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

JAPANESE EVACUATION SECTION

506 ROYAL BANK BLDG.
HASTINGS AND GRANVILLE
VANCOUVER, B. C.

ONE PACIFIC 6131

PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO.

In regard to Canadian born &c, as you know apart from those who were interned, all the rest regardless of whether they were nationals, naturalized or Canadian born were treated alike and we kept no record in regard to this concerning the claimants although each File would show on the J.P. Form whether he declared himself to be naturalized &c., but for the purpose of the Commission it had no bearing.

I wired as follows-

Commissioners report should read 7086 parcels Real & Personal sold for \$4,150,000 and claims by 1424 claimants covering 2420 parcels were sold for \$2,591,456. (stop) Claims amended by Japanese at time of hearing and the claims before the Commissioner were Veterans Land \$1,790,000 other Real property \$1,113,000 and personal property \$911,000 a total \$3,814,000 stop Sorry no record 102 withdrawn (stop) Commissioners recommendations for payment in appendix to report indicate names 70 cases no award given and believe about 30 cases of boats sold by Fishing Vessels committee also rejected. Not sure if microfilm would give information on each file (stop) At time evacuation B.C. population 5900 Nationals 3100 Naturalized and 14,000 Canadian born but no distinction made or kept concerning claimants.

Hope you got this O.K. although I am afraid it would not be too much use. Surely the Commissioners investigation and report should have written "Finis" to this whole matter.

Kind regards

Yours very truly,

Frank G. G.

K.W.Wright
Chief Counsel
Office of the Custodian
Victoria Building
7 O'Connor Street
OTTAWA

Commissioners report should read 7086 parcels Real and
and Personal sold for Four million one hundred fifty
thousand and claims by 1424 claimants covering 2420
parcels sold for Two million five ninety one thousand
four fifty six (stop) Claims amended by Japanese at time
of hearing and claims before Commissioner were Veterans
Land One million seven ninety thousand other Real property
One million one thirteen thousand and personal property
nine hundred eleven thousand Total Three million eight
hundred fourteen thousand on which Commissioner awarded
One million three hundred eighteen thousand (stop)
Sorry no record 102 withdrawn (stop) Commissioners ~~recommendation~~
recommendations for payment in appendix to report indicate
names 70 cases no award given and believe about 30 claims
of vessels sold by Fishing vessels committee also rejected.
(stop) Not sure if ~~microfilm~~ microfilm would give
information on each file (stop) At time evacuation B.C.
population 5900 Nationals 3100 Naturalized and 14,000
Canadian born but no distinction made or kept concerning
claimants

F.G.Shears

Night Letter collect.



Canadian Pacific

TELEGRAM

WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATIONS

"The filing time shown in the date line is STANDARD TIME at place of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at place of destination"

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29

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F H SHEARS 225

4615 WEST 9TH AVE VANCOUVER BC

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WHAT I MAY EXPECT

K W WRIGHT

Conservative, Quebec West who said he would support Mr. St. Laurent for the post if the Prime Minister resigned immediately.

Tom Goode target for CCF'er

OTTAWA — (CP) — Erhart Regier, CCF Commons member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, charged with M.P. Wednesday with

which examined the claim Japanese-Canadians whose property had been seized was "nothing more or less than a whitewash for the actions of the custodian."

HE WANTED INFORMATION as to what action, if any, had been launched against those who "shamefully" took the property of the Japanese-Canadians.

In one case, he said, a warehouse full of furniture simply disappeared.

Mr. Pinard said any prosecutions would be the prerogative of the justice department but he would make inquiries.

B.C. M.P.s attack Oriental evacuation

**'Shameful' property settlements
criticized by Jones, Regier**

OTTAWA — (CP) — British Columbian O. L. Jones said Wednesday there is still dissatisfaction in his province over the deal Japanese-Canadians there received when the government "in panic" moved them inland during World War Two.

Governor-general exchange urged in Commonwealth

OTTAWA (CP)—An Opposition member suggested Wednesday that Canada should exchange governors-general with other Commonwealth countries, even if it meant some future resident of Government House would be a man of a different color and religion.

The proposal came from Wallace Nesbitt, Conservative, Oxford.

But he found opposition from party-mate J. Wilfrid Dufresne, Conservative, Quebec West who said he would support Mr. St. Laurent for the post if the Prime Minister resigned immediately.

Tom Goode target for CCF'er

OTTAWA — (CP) — Erhart Regier, CCF Commons member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, charged

The CCF Commons member for Okanagan-Boundary said their property, seized by the custodian of enemy alien property, had in many cases been sold "for a song" and there had been a number of claims for compensation.

"I'M SATISFIED to this day they got a rotten deal."

Mr. Jones asked State Secretary Pinard to produce figures showing the total of claims by B.C. Japanese-Canadians and the amount paid, refused and outstanding. The minister said he would get the figures.

Erhart Regier (CCF-Burnaby-Coquitlam) said a commission which examined the claims of Japanese-Canadians whose property had been seized was "nothing more or less than a whitewash for the actions of the custodian."

HE WANTED INFORMATION as to what action, if any, had been launched against those who "shamefully" took the property of the Japanese-Canadians.

In one case, he said, a warehouse full of furniture simply disappeared.

Mr. Pinard said any prosecutions would be the prerogative of the justice department but he would make inquiries.

From Sue Ono
No. 101 Echizen-machi,
Kochi City, Japan.



AEROGRAMME

3880 W 12
Custodian of Enemy Property.

~~675 West Hasting Street,~~

Vancouver, B.C. Canada.

PAR AVION

航空

~~4615-W-9~~

DIRECTORY 3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

ADDRESS ALL
COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE
CUSTODIAN'S OFFICE

PLEASE REFER
TO

FILE NO.....

Victoria Building,
7 O'Connor Street,
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

October 11th, 1956.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,
4615 West 9th Avenue,
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Compensation for services

The statement outlining matters which you have dealt with since August 1953 was presented to the members of the Administration Board yesterday.

The Board requested me to return the statement and ask you to send it back to us with a notation at the end as follows:

Certified correct

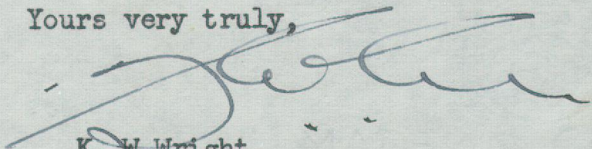
Fee for above services

\$ 150

F. G. Shears

Following receipt the Board will give the matter of payment immediate attention.

Yours very truly,


K. W. Wright,
Chairman of the Administration Board
and Chief Counsel.

KWW/G
Encl.