



# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

## World Wide Communications

W.D. NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

RAA181 41 DL

OTTAWA ONT 31 1102A

F G SHEARS

212

Rec'd AUG 31 1944

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

Referred \_\_\_\_\_

1944 AUG 31 AM 9 00

CUSTODIANS OFFICE 506 ROYAL BANK BLDG VANCOUVER BC

AIR MAIL STATEMENT MADE BY J W ANDERSON RE STEVESTON SHORTAGES STOP

HAVE WRIGHT EXAMINE BOND AS TO TIME LIMIT TO NOTIFY COMPANY AND

INCLUDE IN LETTER STOP ALSO INCLUDE WHETHER OR NOT WE SUPPLIED LIVING

ACCOMMODATION RENT FREE FOR ROBINSON

G W MCPHERSON



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

## DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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FILE NO.....

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Victoria Building,  
70 Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

October 25, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

I sent you a note earlier in the day acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant and indicated that I planned to leave here for Vancouver on the 19th of December. For your private and confidential information I wish to point out that even this is subject to change and depends to a large extent upon how fast External Affairs function.

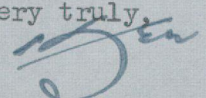
You are probably aware that the German Government had consular assets across Canada and these were controlled by the Protective Power, Switzerland. There is no longer any German Government and it has been decided that the Government of Canada should take over these assets and these are now to be placed under the control of the Custodian. Conversations during the past few days lead to the conclusion that the task will be assigned to yours truly and will likely take several months if a policy of liquidation is followed. Apart from the German Government assets there is much in the way of personal belongings of officials connected with the Consulates and these, too, must be taken under our wing. I have today submitted a lengthy recommendation relative to the procedure to be followed and have suggested that consideration be given at this time to the assets of the Japanese Government for the reason that if these are to be taken over, we may as well do so now and, so to speak, kill two birds with one stone. The German Government had some property in Vancouver, likewise the Japanese, so why not clear the two slates at once.

The Spanish Consul controlled the property of the Japanese which included a house in Shaughnessy situate, I believe, on Crescent Road. You will recall complaints were received by the office relative to the vacancy of this house at the time when dwellings were short in supply. The last we heard was that Bernard had relinquished control and the Red Cross was in charge but nothing official came out in this connection and I would not vouch for this. This is something we would have to look into if we received instructions to take over.



For my own satisfaction will you be good enough to have the Titles Department search the title to the Japanese property in Shaugnessy and let me have a report.

Please treat this as very confidential as no word has come from any source relative to the transfer of the Japanese assets to this office. An early reply would be very much appreciated.

Yours very truly  


KWW/FC.





# CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

*World Wide Communications*

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER, MONTREAL

WNA64 14 COLLECT

OTTAWA ONT 20 907A

1948 AUG 20 AM 6 34

F G SHEARS

CUSTODIAN OFFICE ROYAL BANK BLDG VANCOUVER

COLEMAN REQUEST YOU MEET ME TORONTO BRINGING YOUR REPORT

CONTACT ME THROUGH ROSS

G W MCPHERSON



# CANADA

## DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN.

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FILE NO. ....

Victoria Building,  
7 O'Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Canada.  
20th January, 1943.

Legal Section  
GWM/DI

Dear Mr. Shears:-

Re: Custodian Matters.

While I have not actually a copy of the Order-in-Council, I have a copy of the recommendations, and am advised that an Order-in-Council based on these recommendations has been passed.

There are three principal questions of policy determined:

(1) The Soldier Settlement of Canada are entirely removed from the picture of agricultural lands as of January 19th. This means that they will not have any authority to approve or disapprove of leases or sales by the Custodian, but the Custodian will have to assert complete authority in so far as the control of such lands is concerned and will refuse to permit any person to deal with same without his permission. I would refer you to my remarks below in Paragraph 3.

(2) In so far as the fishing vessels are concerned, the Custodian's position is clarified, and all actions by him in completing documents or making sales after August 1st are approved. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of P.C. 6247 have been repealed, and two new paragraphs substituted. Paragraph 3 ratifies the Custodian's actions, and Paragraph 4 transfers to him all unfinished business of the committee, without restricting it to the unfinished business relating to vessels and equipment undisposed of on August 1st. This is what I had hoped to obtain in this regard.

(3) This section of the Order-in-Council interprets the words "controlling and managing property" as including the power to liquidate, sell or otherwise dispose of such property, and on the basis of this, the



Custodian will adopt a policy of liquidation of all Japanese evacuee real estate.

I do not think it is desirable to make any statement to the Press or the public in any way, but for your information and for the Organization's information, so that they may conduct themselves accordingly, it is the intention of the Custodian to liquidate the farm lands by sale and the city property

The Custodian intends to set up an advisory committee of three to advise him on the best methods of liquidation and to protect the Custodian as to the price obtained. This committee will function in Vancouver, and I believe will be very useful to you.

It is intended that Dr. Coleman will make a trip to the Coast, possibly in February, and I may accompany him, at which time the committee will be set up, and the policy of liquidation put into force. In anticipation of this policy, it is not considered desirable that we should execute any further leases, at any rate for more than this year, and wherever possible, the actual completion of the leases should be delayed.

In view of Section 1 referred to above, it is apparent that you will no longer require the approval of Mr. Barnet in so far as agricultural lands are concerned. The Soldier Settlement of Canada may purchase a considerable block of the property, and obviously they do not wish to be connected with its liquidation, so have therefore withdrawn from the picture.

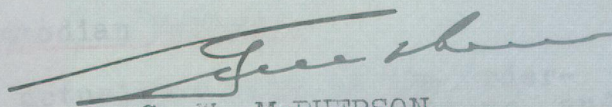
It will be obvious to you that if it became generally known at this time that the Custodian was going to sell all of the Japanese property in Vancouver and the agricultural lands, unscrupulous people might try and corner the property, and this is to be avoided. I would therefore request that while you will have to advise the people in the Organization interested, they should be warned to be very discreet about discussing the policy at this time.

We will take over Mr. McKay, possibly at the time that Dr. Coleman is in Vancouver, and we will pay him a salary of \$250 a month. He will be loaned to us for a period of from six to eight months by Mr. Barnet.



I think it is highly desirable that you proceed with the taking of pictures of the farms as rapidly as possible. Letters should not be written to any of the Japanese at this time advising of the determination of the policy, since the programme might be misunderstood and cause unrest.

Yours very truly,



G. W. McPHERSON,  
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary  
of State and/or Custodian.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Acting Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.



VIA AIR MAIL

## CANADA

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FILE No. ....

Legal Section

GWM/DI

Victoria Building,  
7 O'Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Canada.

20th January, 1943.

#### Personal

Dear Mr. Shears:-

The Order-in-Council I referred to the other day was passed yesterday, but I have not received a copy of it up to the moment, although I expect to have it later in the day.

✓ My personal position has now been clarified, and I am going to remain in Ottawa indefinitely, and according to Dr. Coleman, will be appointed as Executive Assistant to the Minister.

It appears impossible to find a place to live, but we are canvassing the situation thoroughly this week. For your confidential information, he has agreed to Miss Carroll's coming east to work as my secretary, but is greatly worried about the housing situation, and until I know definitely where we (with Mercier?) are going to live, I think I will let Miss Carroll stay as is.

In view of the Order-in-Council being passed this week, it is not improbable that I will be coming to Vancouver within the next few weeks to discuss its effect with you. I hope to be able to write you further later in the day, but briefly, and for your own information, the Custodian is going to proceed to liquidate all Japanese real estate as quickly as possible. The liquidation will be carried out under the direction of a special committee which will be appointed to assist you. The personnel of the committee has not yet been determined, and I doubt if any real steps will be taken in this direction until the beginning of next month.



It is at least good to know where we are going. The Soldier Settlement are being removed entirely from the picture, but will loan us Mr. McKay, according to present plans.

My personal regards to yourself and the staff.

Yours very sincerely,



G. W. McPHERSON,  
Authorized Deputy of the Secretary  
of State and/or Custodian.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Acting Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.



# Maurice Pope To Command Berlin Mission

Ottawa, Oct. 24 (CP).—Lieut.-Gen. Maurice Pope, 57, CB, MC, military adviser to Prime Minister Mackenzie King, is en route to Europe to assume command of "a small Canadian military mission to the Allied Control Council in Berlin," Justice Minister St. Laurent announced today in the Commons.

Its purpose, said the Acting Minister of External Affairs, is to protect Canadian interests in Germany in civil as in military matters, and it will include "an appropriate staff—representatives of the Department of External Affairs and other civil departments concerned."

Elevated to acting lieutenant-general from the rank of major-general for the job, Gen. Pope has been a key man in Canadian military policy since before the Second Great War. Only a year ago he was fitting himself into the three-fold role of adviser to the Prime Minister, Military Secretary in the War Committee of the Cabinet and member of the Chiefs of the Staff Committee, jobs of which put him in a vital spot in planning not only for the war but for demobilization.

## Big Four Decision

A professional soldier, he will head a mission despatched in line with the machinery of Government decided upon for Germany by the Big Four. He will go to Berlin after consultations with Canadian military authorities in the United Kingdom.

Whether his post as military staff officer to the Prime Minister will be continued, and, if so, who will succeed him are questions not liable to be decided until the Prime Minister returns from his trip to London, a reliable source said.

It was understood that Gen. Pope's mission—similar to other missions to be set up by 15 other countries, including Australia and India—will function more as a consulate or embassy than as a military body. In this sense it will become the fourth Canadian diplomatic establishment in Western Europe, the others being at Paris, Brussels and The Hague.

## Problems Involved

The mission's work will involve problems of Canadian nationals in Germany, Canadian business interests and property.

To his task, Gen. Pope takes a reputation for skill and experience necessary to a diplomat and a high-ranking civil servant.

Then a colonel, he was named early in 1939 as secretary to six interdepartmental committees charged with laying plans for hostilities. Its "War Book" detailed procedure for shifting the country to a war basis, covering subjects such as enemy aliens, censorship, mobilization and taking over property for army camps.

Born in Riviere du Loup, Que., Gen. Pope is the son of Sir Joseph and Henriette Pope.



Lieut.-Gen. Maurice Pope, CB, MC.



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

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FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Section  
FR/DI

Victoria Building,  
7 O'Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Canada.  
23rd January, 1943.

EVACUATION SECTION

Rec'd JAN 25 1943

File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_

Referred \_\_\_\_\_

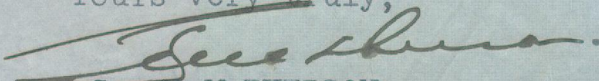
Dear Mr. Shears:-

Re: P.C. 469

I am enclosing a copy of the above Order-in-Council, which clears up several of the points we have discussed. The provisions of this Order-in-Council will require certain amendments to the brief which I left with you. It is my intention, as soon as Miss Carroll arrives here, to review the brief and bring it up to date by making the appropriate amendments on the pages immediately opposite the statement of policy that is to be amended, and I will at that time, forward you a complete list of such amendments and where they should be inserted. In the meantime, you might read over the Order-in-Council, and make notations in those sections of the brief to which it relates, as referred to in my recent letter to you.

Arrangements have been made for Miss Carroll to come to Ottawa, and I am hoping it will be convenient for you to release her as soon as possible, since I have considerable work for her to do, and I expect to do some travelling within the next month. In fact, I will be in New York on February 7, 8 and 9 attending meetings of the Liason committee with the American and British Custodians. Subsequent to that date, I think it is highly probable that I will visit Vancouver with Dr. Coleman to put into effect the new policy. With Miss Carroll here, I am hopeful that she will be able to keep the correspondence up to date with you, writing letters to you on my direction.

Yours very truly,



G. W. McPHERSON,  
Executive Assistant.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

21st October, 1944.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: C. C. Robinson.

With reference to your letter of the 19th instant. Mr. Robinson is now trying to raise a loan of \$300.00 from someone in Winnipeg and has just advised me that while the party he wrote to was away for a few days apparently his letter was read to him over the telephone by someone and Mr. Robinson has a reply which indicates that this loan may be available.

Apparently Mrs. Robinson will release half of the \$300.00 in their joint account in the Bank here so that if Mr. Robinson does receive the \$300.00 from Winnipeg he will then be paying us \$450.00, leaving only a small balance.

I will advise him in regard to Dr. Coleman's visit.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

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FILE NO. ....

Victoria Building, 7 O'Connor St.,  
Ottawa, September 30th, 1944.

CONFIDENTIAL

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:-

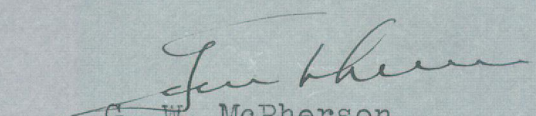
Re: G. C. Robinson - ma 7-48

There has been some delay in considering your letter of August 31st and this question generally but Dr. Coleman has now discussed the situation with Mr. MacNamara and Mr. MacNamara has been in touch with Mr. Robinson by telephone. Mr. Robinson advised him that he has already repaid \$300. and an additional \$135. and he is prepared to pay a further \$300. within the next week or ten days.

Dr. Coleman would like you to confirm that the \$435. has actually been paid and if Mr. Robinson pays the other \$300. within the next week or ten days, he would like to be advised of this and then on receipt of this \$300. you may advise Mr. Robinson that he is to pay the balance at the rate of \$25.00 per month and that the final disposition of this question will be reserved for the time being.

You will see from the above that the Custodian does not feel that any claim should be made against the bonding company and the whole matter should be allowed to stand to give Mr. Robinson a chance to repay the funds.

Yours truly,

  
G. W. McPherson,  
Executive Assistant.

GWMcP/AF



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

27th September, 1944.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: Mr. C. C. Robinson

I regret that on my return from Winnipeg I found that Mr. Robinson had not yet fully refunded the amount due to the Custodian. The situation at present is as follows:

Amount of shortage	\$1,014.65
Repaid	435.00

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Balance due	\$ 579.65
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I had Mr. Robinson call at the office yesterday and he informs me that a cheque for \$300.00, the balance of the proceeds of the sale of his car still remains in a joint account in the name of his wife and himself and so far he has not informed Mrs. Robinson the reason for which he requires the release of this money.

He expects to receive about \$100.00 proceeds from a life insurance policy at any time now and either from his salary or by raising a temporary loan states he can provide the remaining balance.

I informed Mr. Robinson that I had advised you that he had promised to make restitution immediately. I also told him that the matter of his bond was being considered and that I thought it quite possible that you would feel a responsibility to the Government Department with whom he was now engaged to advise them of the situation and that there would be some advantage at least in being able to report that the full amount had been repaid.

Mr. Robinson told me that when Mr. MacNamara was here recently he had discussed the matter of his salary with him and was hopeful of receiving an increase of \$50.00 per month. I asked him if he had informed



2.

Mr. G.W. McPherson

Mr. MacNamara of his difficulty with us and he stated that he had thought about doing it but finally decided not to do so.

Mr. Robinson has now 'phoned saying that Mr. MacNamara has telephoned him from Ottawa and it is evident that Dr. Coleman has discussed this matter with Mr. MacNamara.

I presume you will give me some advice in regard to any further action which you may be taking, or which may be required to be taken by myself.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

29th August, 1944.

G. W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: C. C. Robinson.

I very much regret that I have to make the following report:

When Mr. Green was reviewing the Baba Boat Works File it appeared that an inventory of lumber had been appraised and recommended for sale but there was no record of the deal being completed and no amount credited in the Japanese owner's account. Further enquiry showed that the lumber had actually been disposed of to a Mr. Markstrom for the sum of \$400.00. On Mr. Markstrom being contacted he produced a receipt signed by Mr. C.C. Robinson - the receipt was on a Custodian letter head and not a receipt issued out of our regular printed receipt book. Mr. Markstrom subsequently submitted to us the cancelled cheque he had issued, and Mr. Green concluded that the amount in some way or another had been credited to the wrong account.

Our Mr. Peters interviewed Mr. Robinson in regard to this matter and Mr. Robinson then informed Mr. Peters that this money had been collected but that up to the present he had not remitted it to this office.

It developed that an amount of \$100.00 had also been collected in connection with the sale of a boiler for which no official receipt had been issued.

I then asked Mr. Good what check had been made on moneys handled by Mr. Robinson and it appears that when moneys or transfers from an account at Steveston had been received from Mr. Robinson they were properly supported by a duplicate carbon copy receipt (the original having been given to the Payer), but no actual tie-up had been made with the triplicate receipts remaining in our official receipt book.

Mr. Good and Mr. Reed stayed several nights and made a complete check of the receipts issued by Mr. Robinson from which it appeared that no money had been turned in for the following:



G.W. McPherson, Esq.

Receipt No. 933	\$87.50	1st October, 1942
937	75.00	4th " 1942
1376	30.00	25th August, 1943
1377	75.00	25th " 1943
1378	27.00	25th " 1943
1379	25.00	25th " 1943
1394	25.00	1st October, 1943
1397	75.00	1st " 1943
1400	3.00	15th " 1943
1401	7.00	21st " 1943
1402	.15	26th " 1943
1403	60.00	9th November 1943
1408	2.00	14th December 1943
1409	10.00	23rd " 1943
1410	5.00	4th January, 1944
1411	8.00	17th " 1944
re Baba Lumber	400.00	
re Baba Boiler	100.00	

---

\$ 1,014.65

---

I arranged with Mr. Robinson to come to the office after office hours and asked him for an explanation. Mr. Robinson did not hesitate to say that he had been using Custodian funds. He produced most of the duplicate receipts in the above list and claimed that it was his intention to refund the moneys covered by them and also the two amounts of \$400.00 and \$100.00 referred to above.

I mentioned to him that it was now <sup>early part of</sup> ~~past~~ the middle of August and that he had left in the early part of February and that the shortage had been brought to light by ourselves and not by a volunteered disclosure on his part and he admitted that the situation did not look good but that it was his intention to make up the shortages in due course. He claimed that this was the reason he had left \$1.00 in his account at Steveston rather than close the account out entirely. The logic or implication of this is hard to follow.

Mr. Robinson's statement was somewhat as follows:



G.W. McPherson, Esq.

His coal business in Winnipeg was not proving very successful and was practically dead in the summer time. He had applied to Mr. MacNamara asking for his influence to obtain some Government position in Winnipeg, preferably for the summer months. He had been advised as to the possibility of an opening here in Vancouver and apparently Mr. MacNamara had asked Dr. Coleman to do what he could, and as a result Mr. Robinson was offered a position here, the salary agreed upon to be \$300.00 per month to start with. After being here some while he sold his furniture in Winnipeg and moved his wife to Vancouver. Having been paid at the rate of \$300.00 for five months his salary was then reduced to \$200.00 and this he claims placed him "on the spot". Obligations which he had to maintain for life insurance and payments on personal debts owing he stated could not be met out of \$200.00 per month and to use his own words he was "in a jam" and manipulated funds keeping the duplicate receipts as a record of what funds he had not turned in. He again wrote to Mr. MacNamara, who in turn, he understood, saw Dr. Coleman but he was advised that the management of this office had indicated that he had not displayed real executive ability and that in line with other employees doing similar work it was necessary to reduce his salary.

As stated above, in order to meet his obligations he had used Custodian funds in a temporary way. When I asked how he expected his position in this regard to improve he really had no answer and did not appear to realize that with a monthly outlay in excess of income, recovery was not really possible. He claimed, however, that he always considered that he was in a sufficiently liquid position to cover the amount which he was using. This is not apparent to me.

During the course of checking up Mr. Good secured the cancelled cheques from his Steveston account and it appeared that Mr. Robinson had issued cheques for personal payments far in excess of the salary he had received from us. At first Mr. Robinson said that he had no other source of income in addition to his salary, but after endeavouring to obtain some satisfactory explanation as to the source from which he received sufficient moneys to pay the amount used for his personal accounts, he stated that he had about \$300.00 when he first came to Vancouver, that he had received the proceeds of a car sold at Winnipeg and had borrowed on his life insurance and also received small remittances for coal accounts receivable. By this figuring it did appear possible that he could have paid the accounts in question and expended a reasonable amount for his family maintenance by the addition of approximately \$1,000.00, the amount of the Custodian shortage.



G.W. McPherson, Esq.

While it is aside from the financial aspect I am afraid that it is a fact that his handling of the Steveston affairs, including the fish nets, does not present the most favourable picture. The prestige under which he came to this office may have influenced those in charge at that time to over rate his abilities.

Mr. Robinson is emphatic that apart from the two items for lumber and the boiler, no other items including Fish netting were sold for which he did not issue an official receipt and that the above sum represents the full amount of the shortage.

At the moment Mr. Robinson has refunded \$300.00 to this office. He has also sold an old car which he purchased here but he has just told me that the cheque is issued in the joint names of his wife and himself and apparently the situation is delicate as Mrs. Robinson is not aware of the present condition of affairs. He claims that from some source in Winnipeg he can pay up the balance in a brief period.

I advised Mr. Robinson that I would have to report to you and that it would be desirable if I could say that all the money had been refunded. Mr. Robinson is bonded but he hopes that it will not be necessary to make any report to the company in view of his promise to take care of the shortage. He is at present Assistant to the Regional Officer of Selective Service receiving I believe \$250.00 per month and is anxious that his position will not be jeopardized. I understand that Mr. MacNamara is to arrive in Vancouver this coming Thursday and Mr. Robinson was hoping for some advancement in his position.

In view of the fact that he left this office and secured another position I suppose that we will not be called upon at any time in the future to certify or recommend Mr. Robinson for a new position as he would likely refer any such enquiry to those last employing him.

I have mentioned to Mr. Watters that some cash discrepancy has occurred but that I was reporting fully to you.

As mentioned at the start of this letter, it is regrettable that this situation has arisen. The information in regard to this is confined to the few persons referred to in this letter and on the assumption



5.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.

that Mr. Robinson will make good the discrepancy it may be thought desirable to let the matter rest. You will doubtless be advising me in regard to this matter.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



CONFIDENTIAL

506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

31st August, 1944.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: C. C. Robinson

Your wire received.

The statement made by Mr. J.W. Anderson is enclosed herein.  
This was made considerably over a year ago.

Mr. Robinson was bonded with the Canadian Surety Company, the Bond being No.181954 in the amount of \$2,000.00 issued from the 1st November 1942. It was cancelled and a refund of the premium adjusted to the 8th February 1944. The enclosed is a copy of the conditions of the issuance of the Bond. The particular copy enclosed is in connection with Mr. Good's Bond which was for \$20,000.00. Mr. Robinson's Bond was surrendered at the time the premium adjustment was made - we have not asked for a copy of Mr. Robinson's Bond but Mr. Good secured a copy of his own for your perusal.

Mr. Robinson had rooms in Vancouver where his wife and daughter live and Mr. Robinson usually came to Vancouver over the weekend. During the week he usually stayed in a room adjacent to our office at Steveston which was situated in the Japanese Benevolent Association Building and which was used as one of our storages. No rent was paid by Mr. Robinson for this accommodation and Mr. Green considered that his staying there gave some added protection to the chattels under his care.

You will please advise in regard to any further action which is to be taken in this matter.

Yours very truly,

FGS/PMH  
encl.

F. G. Shears,  
Director.



About a month ago I was handed a letter from Mr. Milsom with regard to taking the inventory of Kuba's stock situated at 703 No. 1 Road, Steveston. On arrival at the Custodian's office in Steveston I called to see Mr. Robinson and found he was not there and, in turn, I handed the letter to Mr. Sterling who, after a short conversation, stated that Mr. Robinson wasn't there, but in view of the fact that I had a letter from Mr. Milsom he would take me down to Kuba's store and turn the key over to me.

On arrival at Kuba's store Mr. Sterling stated there were people living in the back section of the store but he had a key for the door leading in from the back into the store. He unlocked the door and made mention there was no sense of him being there at that particular time and that he would leave me to take the stock. I mentioned at that time my intentions were to make an appraisal and to check all the chattels which now remained on the premises. Mr. Sterling said "is it necessary for you to check the chattels as well" and I stated it was. After looking around upstairs at furniture, etc., I asked him where the sixteen parcels of personal belongings were and his answer to that question was very vague and as though he did not feel inclined to offer any suggestion as to where they were, and I just let it go at that.

Mr. Sterling mentioned before leaving that should I be there later than five o'clock, to turn the key over to Mr. Robinson, who lived at the back or in one of the other houses of the Custodian's office.

About 7:30 that night I was still taking the inventory there and I noticed many discrepancies in the stock and I made a notation of one particular item of a chime clock which was inventoried at \$15.00, and so I mentioned it to Mr. Robinson on meeting him this same evening. At the time I said there were many discrepancies in the stock and one particular item amounting to \$15.00 I failed to find on the premises. He stated that the chime clock was taken from Kuba's store and they now had it in their office, and then I mentioned to him that I would include that in my inventory.



In winding up the sale of Kuba's store I sold the balance of the stock to another party, who is now renting the building, and Mr. Robinson was called in to check off my inventory of the chattels which were not included in my original purchase of the stock. I had Mr. Robinson check off the entire chattels, of which I had a list, and which they have a list of here in this office, to protect myself after I left the premises. Mr. Robinson was good enough to check them all off and found them to be there. I then asked Mr. Robinson to return to me the chime clock which he had in the office and which belonged to the Kuba stock. In turn Mr. Robinson made a statement, in front of a truck driver whom they have hauling the different chattels, that the clock which he mentioned to me that he had taken out of Kuba's store he now finds from Mr. Sterling did not belong to Kuba's stock and was taken over to the Custodian's office by a Mr. Green who is affiliated with the sale of Red Cross goods out there, and who, incidentally, lived next door to Kuba's. I thought it rather strange that at that late hour Mr. Robinson should mention to me that the clock did not belong to Kuba's stock.

During this time I had a further letter from Mr. Milsom asking me to go to Steveston and make an inventory of the stock of Omiya's store owned by Kitagawa. I arrived in Steveston Friday noon and found that Mr. Robinson was in Vancouver, and Mr. Sterling's statement to me was that he would finish his business in Vancouver and he would not be back in Steveston until Monday morning, and that I would not be able to get the key for Omiya's store until Monday morning. I considered it strange at that time that Mr. Sterling would tell me I would have to wait until Monday morning to get the key when it was there on the premises, seeing that he was good enough to give me the key to Kuba's store previous to this, so I dismissed it from my mind!

The following Sunday I drove out to Steveston prior to winding up the complete sale, to take from Kuba's stock, which I then owned, certain articles which I needed for my own personal use. On arriving in Steveston I drove up at the rear of Kuba's store, which is right alongside of Omiya's store, and in getting out of the car I noticed the only entrance to Omiya's store, which was a door, was wide open, and I asked the young lad



who was nearby who was in there and he said Mr. Robinson was there with two other men. I thought it very strange that Mr. Robinson would be out there Sunday when I understood from Mr. Sterling that he would not be back until Monday morning, and so I waited in the car for an hour before they left the store. Mr. Robinson walked alongside of my car but apparently didn't notice me and left with the two other men.

At 7:30 the same evening I was leaving Steveston and I noticed Mr. Robinson with several other men across the street in a discussion so I made it my own business to stay around Steveston for a little while as I felt in my own mind that Omiya's store might be broken into. At the time I noticed Mr. Robinson he was with Mr. Enright, a policeman appointed by yourselves to protect your property out there. I drove past the Custodian's office at nine o'clock and again at ten o'clock and noticed Mr. Robinson looking out the front window of the Custodian's office. I thought this was rather strange as his own living quarters were in the extreme rear and not in any part of the office. At eleven o'clock that evening I noticed Mr. Enright, the policeman, with two other men who appeared to be in Air Force uniform. Near twelve o'clock that night I walked down towards the tram as I noticed someone watching me, and made as though I was getting aboard the tram. The tram went out and I was behind a pole out of sight. Mr. Enright had taken the two men down towards Omiya's store and when the tram went out he finished his discussion and the two men walked down towards the store and went into the lane. I came out from behind the pole and started to walk towards Omiya's store and one of the Airforce men looked out to see whether everything was clear and they saw me walking up. He called the other fellow and they both walked up the street. I felt then that they thought I was watching them. They walked up the street and down again and went in the side of the policeman's place, found he wasn't there and walked down the street again. I left them for a little while and walked past the Custodian's office and found Mr. Robinson still looking out the window, with the lights on, and he was there until five minutes to one. At that time I had to get the tram back to Vancouver as it was the last tram.



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STATEMENT MADE BY MR. J.W. ANDERSON

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Rec'd NOV 28 1946  
File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
And \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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FILE NO. J-9

Victoria Bldg., 7 O'Connor St.,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
November 26, 1946

Private & Confidential

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

There are several letters on my desk from you which I hope to answer in the course of the next few days, but my time is so taken up with meetings and preparation of various reports, as well as legislation dealing with the continuance of this office and yours, that current work necessarily goes by the boards.

An Editorial appeared in the Toronto Star some days ago calling for an investigation of the Custodian's activities in regard to the assets of the Japanese. The Minister received this in New York and sent a note to Dr. Coleman asking for a complete review. This was handed to me by Dr. Coleman yesterday and he suggested that I should submit a one-page memo. This suggestion really put me behind the eight-ball, having in mind, e.g. that the report of the work in the Vancouver Office in 1944 covered 75 pages.

I have just sent a messenger with a memo, copy of which is enclosed, wherein I apologize for extending it to two pages. You will understand that it was quite impossible to give the entire story, but would like you to read it and see if I have omitted some really important facts.

Judging by the challenges that are being offered through the New Canadian and other publications, I sometimes think my title should be changed to 'Counsel for the Defence'. I have tried to defend your actions and will continue to do so in the hope that the time will come when we may enjoy some golf together in Vancouver, and this would not be possible if you were lodged in the Famous Hall at New Westminster. Miss Foy has just asked this question "How do you think you are going to escape?"

Sincerely yours,

*W. E. D.*

Encl.



VIA AIR MAIL

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FILE NO.....

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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

September 11, 1946.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Miss Jean Foy

Will you be kind enough to arrange for the transfer of Miss Jean Foy to this office as soon as possible.

It will be in order for you to make the necessary advance to Miss Foy in connection with transportation and expenses enroute. Will you also let us know the date that she leaves your office as she will be placed on the payroll in this office from that date. Also please let us know the date Miss Foy will arrive as Miss Carroll has very kindly consented to look about for suitable accommodation and will be writing Miss Foy about this.

Glenn returned to the office yesterday and is feeling fit as a fiddle. This is fortunate for the reason that his desk is already piled high with files.

Yours very truly,

  
K. W. Wright

Counsel to the Custodian

KWW/FC.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

13th May, 1946.

K. W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel to the Custodian,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Wright:

Re: Anderson & Moryson.

I am in receipt of yours of the 10th instant.

It was fully understood by the Committee and also by Anderson and Moryson that Mr. Cruikshank had brought this matter to the attention of the Custodian as a Member of Parliament for that District as he had received a written complaint from one of his constituents and that the matter was not raised by Mr. Cruikshank personally.

However, I am bringing it to the attention of Anderson and Moryson and will have it made perfectly clear in the Minutes of the next meeting.

I may perhaps say at this time that Mr. Anderson stated at the meeting that he was not well acquainted with Mr. Cruikshank but that he had voted for him at election times.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

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FILE NO.....

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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

May 10, 1946.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Anderson & Moryson

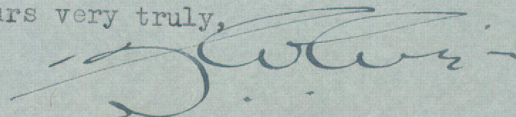
Thank you very much for your communication of the 7th instant.

All the material forwarded was submitted to Dr. Coleman and he approved my showing this to Mr. Cruickshank, M.P. He called at the office yesterday afternoon and following perusal of the reports and some discussion indicated that he was content with the findings of the Advisory Committee. I do not think he will do anything more about it.

The only criticism that Mr. Cruickshank had to offer was that his name was linked with the complaint in the minutes and the correspondence and I promised to write you stating that the complaint did not come from Mr. Cruickshank personally but as local member he was obliged to relay the written complaint of one of his constituents. I also informed him that I would request you to bring this to the attention of both Anderson and Moryson and record it in the minutes of the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Will you be kind enough to attend to this and let me have a letter in duplicate in order that a copy of the letter may be forwarded to Mr. Cruickshank.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Wright  
Counsel to the Custodian

KWW/FC.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

8th July, 1946.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

K. W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel to the Custodian,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Ken,

I was very much concerned to get your confidential letter regarding Glenn and can only hope that his condition will be more favourable than present reports may indicate.

Except for Good, Field and Mrs. Harrop, who is writing this note, nothing will be said here until we are advised that he has returned so that there will be no chance that Mercia will receive any news which would be unnecessarily disturbing to her.

I would like you to let me have all the information you receive and do hope that the trip home will help to set him up very considerably.

I hope that you will not be further delayed and will be able to have a little time before you have to return. I was hoping for a game or so of golf as I have not had a single game this year.

Wills was up at your house looking at the electric stove and is getting an idea of what might be the ceiling price. I spoke to Mrs. Wright this morning and she may decide to put an advertisement in the paper next week.

With kind regard,

Yours very truly,

FGS/PMH



K. W. Wright,  
Counsel to the Custodian.



(VIA AIR MAIL)

CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

COPY: J.C.

FIAT (Main) British,  
Control Commission for Germany (BE),  
HOECHST, near Frankfurt,  
B.A.O.R.

26th May, 1946.

K.W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel to the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
7 O'Connor Street,  
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Ken,

re: de Rothschild v. Custodian

I have your letter of May 10th, with enclosure, and, as you can well imagine, am greatly pleased to see that Justice has triumphed once again - I will not say, over the forces of evil - but rather, over the negligence of Counsel.

Yours sincerely,

GWM/hf

SGD: G. W. McPherson (Col.)

P.S. You may know that they have set up a Committee of experts numbering six, who will advise the eighteen nations on matters relating to German External Assets. Having no instructions from Ottawa, I was not in a position to request that Canada should be asked to submit a name. I think you, personally, will be interested to hear that the minutes of the meeting state: "The Chairman proposed, and the Committee approved, the nomination of Col. McPherson as Canadian expert in the interim, on the grounds of his outstanding technical knowledge." Personally, I think this is the type of Committee that we should recall Fred Read to act upon!



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

6th May, 1946.

K. W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel to the Custodian,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Ken,

I thought I would 'phone you this morning on the chance that you might wish to discuss the Committee's decision regarding Queen Charlotte before you spoke to Dr. Coleman. I conceived the idea that I would do this from your house so as to provide an opportunity for you to have a word with another "Queen Charlotte".

The first report was that you were in conference for half an hour and I waited longer and was then again informed that you were still not available and finally that you had gone out for lunch so that my good intentions on your behalf were misfired.

We are having fairly hectic times these days. We appear to be arriving at something definite in regard to the first bunch of repatriates - a boat is to leave Vancouver on the 28th which will accommodate about 640 and another on the 31st which will take about 900. Good, Peters and Wills left this morning for Tashme and will be staying several days and then going on to the Interior. I expect to go up Wednesday to see how they are getting on.

Yours sincerely,

F. G. Shears.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

## CANADA

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

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

May 28, 1946.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Mr. Mathieu asked me this morning if your annual report had been received and I stated that we expected to have same in the course of the next week. Information relative to enemy assets, including property in liquidation, is required for conferences on reparations which are now taking place, with meetings two or three days a week. It would, therefore, be appreciated if you would let us have the report as soon as possible and incorporate a list of the enemy assets.

In the course of our telephone conversation a few days ago I indicated that my visit to Vancouver might be delayed due to the absence of Dr. Coleman and Mr. Mathieu from the office. The question was finally settled this morning and I now plan to leave on the evening of July 12th and will go to Toronto, thence to Port McNicoll, taking the boat to Fort William. This means that I will arrive in Vancouver on the morning of July 18th, and Mr. Albert of the C.P.R. is now busy in an effort to obtain all necessary reservations. We are also reserving accommodation for the return journey, leaving Vancouver August 14th and hope that our furniture will be here in ample time but, in any event, the children will be able to start to school the 2nd of September. Mrs. Wright will have a week or ten days with her relatives near Belleville and if Douglas does not come with us on the 14th, he will follow in time to be here for the beginning of the school term.

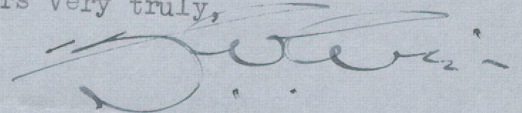
We have also discussed the problem of the transfer of enemy files, ledgers, etc., to this office and it is felt that due to the holiday season and the fact that it is impossible for me to get away the 1st of July as originally planned, we should delay transfer until the fall. This will allow you more time to liquidate such assets as may remain and I will go into this matter further with you upon arrival. This office is short of staff during the summer as well as yours and I have recommended that Mr. Arpin or someone from the Accounting Branch, should go over all records in



Vancouver with Mr. Good prior to transfer. It will also be necessary for us to have one or two members of your staff, who are familiar with the files, come to Ottawa and this will be more easily arranged in the fall than now.

I wired you today concerning the Queen Charlotte matter and look forward to receiving copies of the offers by air mail tomorrow. It is not expected that the decision will be long delayed as I had a chat with Dr. Coleman about this at noon today.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Wright  
Counsel to the Custodian

KWW/FC.



VIA AIR MAIL

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

May 9, 1946.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Very much disappointed to hear in your letter of the 6th that I missed your call from my home on Monday. To say it misfired is putting it lightly.

That morning we had a meeting on Bata affairs in Mr. Mathieu's office which lasted until 12.55 pm. When the meeting was finished our switchboard gave me three calls and stated Mr. Hughes of Vancouver wanted to speak to me but did not say it was a long distance call. I assumed the unknown Mr. Hughes was in Ottawa and I advised the calls would be attended to upon my return from lunch. Later in the day I was informed that it was a long distance call and I realized it might be important so called back but all circuits were busy and we gave up about 5.15 pm. The following morning I asked them to again put a call in and advice came that Mr. Hughes had cancelled the call. Since then I have been puzzled to know who Mr. Hughes was and what he wanted. Your letter furnishes the answer but I am sorry you were so inconvenienced and that an opportunity to speak about and to Queen Charlotte went way off the beam. Thank you for being so considerate and I have now indicated to our operators that conference or no conference long distance calls from you (not Mr. Hughes) have priority and they are to notify me at once.

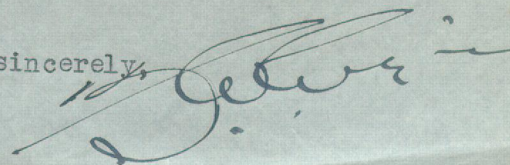
I have presented the Committee's report to Dr. Coleman and he has advised that he hopes to see the Minister before the end of the week.

I have also recommended acceptance of the Takahashi offer and the decision should be handed down in the course of a few days.

I trust all goes well with the transfer of assets of repatriates and when you have time please let me have a rough idea of the assets you are to take over.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours sincerely,



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VIA AIR MAIL

## CANADA

### DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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FILE NO.....

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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

December 8, 1945.

PERSONAL

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

In this letter I will deal with a number of matters and suggest that you place it on your personal file.

1. Regarding you as a member of our family I sent a carbon copy of the notice addressed to the family relative to an injury sustained on the journey from New York. Following this Dr. Gardner took charge and on Wednesday I went to the hospital for X-rays and he decided it would be best not to put the thumb in a cast as damage to other than the bone entails frequent dressings and I am again going to him this afternoon. The pain has subsided since about yesterday noon and so gradually we are pulling ourselves together but I am compelled to carry my arm in a sling and you will appreciate that this causes considerable inconvenience.

2. You have already been advised that the Government has decided to take over German Consular property as well as the property left by officials associated with the Consulates. I note in your letter of the 27th of October that Tokusuke Ogawa was the Vice Consul and that his property at 2306 McGill Street was disposed of by your office. We are asking the Department of External Affairs to express a definite opinion on whether diplomatic immunity may be a governing factor or whether the property, personal or otherwise, may be classed as enemy property. Do you know the present whereabouts of Ogawa? You might also let me have complete information regarding the disposition of his assets together with a statement of his account.

Dr. Coleman has instructed me to take inventory of all German Government assets while in Vancouver and it might be well for you to keep in mind that I will require the services of Mr. Spain and probably of Mr. Wills for a few days. No action can be taken before I arrive for the reason that we must have representatives of the Swiss Government present and there is a possibility that a representative from External



Affairs will also attend although at the moment they incline to the view that I should represent their Department as well as the Custodian. A letter has gone forward to External Affairs in regard to the Japanese property in Vancouver and instructions may issue before I leave to arrange for inventories and the outlining of a plan of liquidation while in Vancouver. I doubt if it will be possible to complete this work and leave immediately after the New Year but if necessary my departure from Vancouver will be delayed to meet the situation as it arises. There are many other properties in the west and it is altogether likely that I will stop off on my return at various places and, judging from information presently at hand, it may be necessary for me to spend several days in Winnipeg. You might keep this in mind. I know that you favour visiting Winnipeg about this time of the year and if you have any such thought in mind ~~you~~ may be able to take advantage of the connections which you have in Winnipeg and materially assist me in this work. No such suggestion has yet been made to Dr. Coleman as I wanted to get your re-action. When replying you might let me know what you think about it. I plan to leave here on the 19th and hope that it will be possible to clear the decks before that time but there is quite an accumulation as a result of my absence for eight days in New York and the thumb does not make the going any easier.

3. A Japanese, whose name I cannot recall, had an interest in a drug store on Powell Street with a white man and, as a result of our failure to negotiate a sale of his partnership interest, it was decided to release and restore his control over the property. A special order to this effect was prepared at the time and I would like to have a copy of the release if it is possible to find it and send it to me by return mail. I am quite sure that Miss Graham or Miss Foy will remember the case if you speak to them about it.

4. Glenn is still on the other side of the water and from all reports is hale and hearty. He has spent some time in Germany but I believe has spent most of his time since going across in Paris, having been at the Reparations Conference.

Yours sincerely,

Ken

KWW/FC.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PERSONAL

22nd October, 1945.

K. W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel to the Custodian,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Ken,

I intended sitting down and writing you yesterday, Sunday, but got invited out for lunch and the opportunity slipped.

I certainly miss your presence and the lunches among other things are not nearly as appetising as they used to be.

I don't think I acknowledged the little book "Dear Sir". I have kept it so far as at a few tea sessions I have read some (not all!) to the staff and it has also been on loan. However, it will be delivered to your house this evening.

Your letter of the 17th re the Army was quite a surprise and as you can imagine the whole staff were quite interested. Will the rank stick or will it need to be surrendered when the Mission is over? Glen would look quite smart in uniform and would carry the position off O.K. even although his course of training was speedy. Mr. Fred Read was in today and he was quite interested in the news.

I gather that Read is not quite as happy as he anticipated. He feels that the University Authorities were not very frank with him as regards the job and the facilities. There is no Law library and some of the courses he has to teach are new to him and he claims he has had to work very hard come down town quite a bit for reference books. His own pet subjects are apparently being taught by Deah Curtis, who I suppose would have the first choice. However, there is often a fly in the best of ointments and your divided interests between Vancouver and Ottawa are by no means ideal.

What is the house situation like now? Do you think you will be able to locate a place in the New Year? Time is passing and Christmas will be around before we know it and not only your own house but ours are looking forward to seeing you again.

The weather has been really very fine, but yesterday reminded us of what we may likely expect as it poured with rain most of the time. It is nice again today however.



K. W. Wright, Esq.

The Bond Shell started operations today but I do not know who the artists were.

Ilsley was supposed to speak at the Board of Trade luncheon on Friday and I went with Bell but he did not show up, his plane apparently having been delayed.

The Civil Service Staff meeting was held in the Strand Theatre on Saturday morning last. Our quota this year is over \$9,000.- and with our small staff I do not know whether we will make the grade this time or not. Of course it is on a 12 month basis and this may help.

Have had a couple of sessions with Alderman Jones re Committee matters. City properties are moving very slowly.

I have been out to Steveston three or four times and we are making a great effort to clean up there. I took Judge Whiteside out on one trip and we missed your presence.

Bowling has started. Peers plays with us and he is tops for the time being. Mrs. Harrop who is taking this letter is also tops if you turn the score upside down, unless as she tells me you allow for a handicap of 200 or 300!

I spoke to Mrs. Wright a few days ago and she tells me her cold is better.

Mrs. Shears is well but we have had some job getting after the furnace people to instal a new furnace. It has taken nearly seven weeks from the time they first promised to do the job. They have not finished yet but we were able to put a fire on for the first time yesterday.

How long do you expect Glen to be away? Will he be in Germany all the time, or in other parts of Europe as well? What will he mostly be doing? By the time he gets back he will need to ask you what to do in regard to Canadian Custodian problems.

I suppose Russell is still in London. How is he getting on?



3.

K.W. Wright, Esq.

The staff wish to be remembered to you and I certainly wish  
you the very best.

Kindly remember me to Miss Carroll,

Yours sincerely,

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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FILE NO. ....

Personal

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

November 21, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

I want to thank you for the very kind letter which reached me Monday and ask you to convey to my girls in 509 and Mr. Johnston expressions of appreciation for their card that arrived in the same mail.

Let me first of all freely confess that I do not merit the considerations extended for, as Mercia so aptly put it - "the set-back was just plain silly and evidently I need some one to look after me".

In detailing the causes, may I suggest that it is not intended to arouse sympathy but rather to impress upon you, or some of your scholars who may be overdoing it, that it is best to remember rule 21 I once told Mrs. McArthur about and avoid ideas that the world can't get along without you.

To begin with I had a rather trying experience on my way home from Belliville some weeks ago - having to change trains at Brockville and the train was so crowded that I had to ride on the platform between coaches from Brockville to Ottawa. A severe cold resulted but was neglected and the idea prevailed that the office could not go on for 24 hours if I was absent. The Sunday before leaving for Toronto I spent all day in the office though no heat is turned on on Sundays. The day I left for Toronto Traffic was blocked due to the funeral of Detective Stoneman and I waited at Lisgar Street until six minutes before train time for a taxi. It did not arrive and I ran with bags for seven blocks and beat the gun by two seconds. You could do that and get away with it but it appears I am not as young as you are.

The following day was crammed full of appointments and all were met regardless of adverse feelings. The next day I kept an appointment with a solicitor at 8.15 A.M. and at 8.30 A.M. I was out like the proverbial



light. The physician's verdict was influenza coupled with nervous exhaustion and to avoid complications, and permit close observation hospital was essential. I had to remain there for a week against my will but the world went on just the same and so I learned that if you break the rules you have to suffer the consequences. Reflection leads to but one conclusion namely, that it was all unnecessary and very foolish so if you or any of my good friends in 506, etc., are performing similar tricks - my advice is to exercise the doctrine of estoppel.

Glenn's sudden departure was, of course, a personal loss and I tell Mercia that I miss him as much as she does. Matters were not helped by Fred Read's going to B.C. and Biron's leaving with replacement by two solicitors lacking Custodian experience. I am glad to report that Glenn is as fit as a fiddle and regardless of the rough passage did not miss a meal. He is now in Paris and we may expect excellent results from certain investigations he is now conducting.

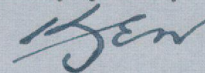
It is good of you to suggest that my visit to B.C. should be advanced to an earlier date but this appears out of the question. Next Monday I have to leave for New York and it will not be possible to complete the assignment and return before December 1st. This will leave a bit more than a couple of weeks to clear the decks and get going West. All of this will be required as, to be perfectly honest, it seems impossible to accomplish as much in a day as heretofore.

We are certainly "enjoying"? plenty of winter here now and the roads and sidewalks are ideal for skidders and skaters. One seems to feel a sense of relief to arrive home at night without a broken leg but possibly this is due to the freedom from treacherous navigation so long enjoyed in Vancouver.

According to reports Russell is enjoying life and I am pleased to advise that Edgar T. is on the job every day and Miss Carroll really never looked as well since I have known her.

This started out as a short "thank you" note but finally concludes with kindest regards to Mrs. Shears, Fred Field and all Custodian associates, and also to yourself from one who should have known better.

Gratefully yours,





VIA AIR MAIL

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PERSONAL

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

December 14, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your letter of December 10th. Dr. Gardner dressed the thumb again Wednesday and stated that in his opinion there would be no permanent disability and he will refer me to a surgeon in Vancouver for further dressings while I am there. I was disappointed inasmuch that he says I will have to carry my arm in a sling until after the first of the year and it may be that I will arrive in Vancouver with a four days' growth on my face and my friends will not want to recognize me. I plan to leave here on Wednesday evening at 10.30, C.P.R., and will arrive in Vancouver on Sunday morning - too late for your Saturday morning get together, but I will be with you in spirit on that occasion.

I am very glad to know that you are considering the jaunt to Winnipeg and will discuss this further with you when I reach Vancouver. The Swiss Consul has not yet made final arrangements in connection with the properties and, therefore, no action may be taken for the time being. We are more or less in the dark in regard to the problem here but I expect to spend more time in Vancouver than was originally planned. However, there will be no objection to this as it has been down as far as 10 below zero here.

Yours sincerely,

KWW/FC.

Ken



VIA AIR MAIL

PERSONAL

CANADA

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FILE NO.....

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

October 25th, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Frank:

Very glad to have your letter of the 22nd instant, and to receive the current news, although the word regarding Fred Read's problems is disappointing. We hoped that he would be very happy in his new work and we trust that time will take care of many of the prevailing ills.

You enquire about Glenn and his work in Europe. Today's papers furnish the first public information and I enclose clipping from the Globe and Mail. Our link is referred to as "an appropriate staff - representatives of the Department of External Affairs and other civil departments concerned." You ask if Glenn's rank will stick and my off hand answer is "Yes" for the reason that I do not believe they may deprive him of the title except for cause and no cause will arise so far as Glenn is concerned unless he gets mad at some Brigadier for not cutting the red tape fast enough. The experience will be splendid, though you may rest assured it will not be all beer and skittles. Time of his absence will depend on developments, but if all goes well I doubt if we should expect him to return for at least six months. You suggest that upon return he will have to ask me about Canadian Custodian business. I wouldn't be surprised. I expect by the time he returns we may have so many cars on the wrong tracks that he may not recognize the main line.

We too have started bowling and true to my erratic form my last score was 136 - 99 - 180. I was a member of the leading team (no personal credit implied) but when Glenn went away I was asked to switch and we find ourselves near the bottom rung through no fault of Miss Carroll who is also a member of the team. I, therefore, have the doubtful honour of being kicked off one team and it is very early in the season. There are but eight teams and if they bounce me around at the present rate, I will be playing by my lonesome before the end of January. The spirit here is, shall we say, more competitive from



the team standpoint than in Vancouver. We play 3 games and I find the alleys and bowls do not measure up to your De Luxe. This affords a splendid alibi.

I have my reservations for Vancouver, leaving here on the 19th and arriving the Sunday before Christmas. If you have your Christmas party on the 24th I will surely be there to again enjoy your "Scrooge" etc. I hope Douet will repeat his soap box oratory and again suggest that the whole show is too good to be missed by friends and relatives of the staff. I plan to leave Vancouver the day following New Years and betwixt and between hope we will have an opportunity to review the P.S. Ross files and speed the winding up of several which appear to be somewhat slowed down.

This is all I have time for today.

Kindest regards to you all.

*Quincy*  
*Em*



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

27th October, 1945.

K. W. Wright, Esq.,  
Counsel for the Custodian,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Ken:

Mr. Read was in the office again this morning.

He is very disgruntled in regard to his position at the University. However, he emphasises that what he was telling me was very confidential and apparently he did not wish any word of this to get to Ottawa to Dr. Coleman and others. You will, therefore kindly use judgment in regard to what I have mentioned.

I am sure that when you are here at Christmas he will in any case unburden himself to you.

Yours very sincerely,

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

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PERSONAL

Victoria Building,  
70 Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

September 29, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

I have your letter of September 25th and wish to thank you for your personal remarks.

Mr. Roy and I were making arrangements to leave the first of next week but our plans have been changed somewhat and we do not expect to get away before the last week in October. Mr. Wright is very despondent as a result of my delayed departure.

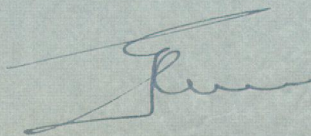
We have all looked at the pictures of your new home and I understand it is principally a vegetable garden to supply the Wright family at the city's expense. I do not know but I think that in Manitoba we would refer to this as civic relief. I have also looked at the pictures of Vancouver and feel you must have used an infra-red film which I understand takes very good pictures through fog and rain. One of the pictures is apparently the view from your front door and I am wondering if that is Mount Baker I see in the distance or is it merely the heavy fog over the harbour. I am endeavouring to purchase a movie camera to take on my travels and some day may be able to show you some interesting movies of conditions across the pond.

I am beginning to think I will never be able to leave the Custodian's office but in any event will always be interested in the trials and tribulations of the Vancouver staff. In case I do not arrive back in time, I wish you the best of luck and a short sentence as a result of any Royal Commission that may be held.

I see you have been looking after the Professor - give him my regards, and my best wishes to yourself, your wife and the staff.

Yours very sincerely,

GWMcP/FC.





PERSONAL

506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

25th September, 1945.

G. W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Glenn,

Every best wish for your safety and comfort in all your journeyings and for a satisfactory accomplishment of what you aim to do. That you will more than cover the ~~best~~ requirements of the task I am very sure and your knowledge and ability will be of immeasurable value in dealing with the intricate and important matters with which you will be concerned.

We will miss you at long distance range and I feel sure that Ken Wright, from a personal viewpoint, will regret your absence as I know he was hoping to be able to have at hand the benefit of your experience.

If in the midst of it all you can send an occasional line it will be appreciated.

You mention that your wife might winter at Revelstoke and if so would likely be visiting at Vancouver. While I expect she has a number of friends who will take care of her, please see that she does not hesitate to advise me if I can be of any service at all. I would gladly meet her at the train and can, if necessary, carry a baby without dropping her very often!

By the way, friend Read was under my care for a day or so after I met him at the station. I transported him several times to the University where he is now ensconced in a room in the Anglican College. He spent an evening at our house and seemed to enjoy some of my records.

I am enclosing a few snaps of our latest and "permanent"! address at 3906 West 12th Avenue. The weather general speaking is so very fine here in Vancouver that the peach, pear and cherry trees in the garden were laden.



2.

G. W. McPherson, Esq.

I am also enclosing one or two views from the office window, one showing the crowd at the Bond Shell during the last Victory Loan campaign, I forget whether it was Charlie McCarthy or some other imported attraction.

You may rest assured that I will endeavour to keep things steady at this end while you are away and I will keep in close touch with Ken on any matter that should be referred to Ottawa.

Providing it is not prejudicing your own future I rather hope that you will become permanently established in Custodian affairs.

Once again with every best wish,

Yours sincerely,

FGS/PMH  
encl.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

August 1st, 1945.

PERSONAL.

G. W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Glenn:

Received your personal letter of July 24th. I certainly hope that you can take some holidays in August as I feel even with your energy a little rest from your continual grind will do you a lot of good. Glad to know that Mr. Russell is returning to England as I gather he is doing a good job for you there.

Mrs. Shears is still over at Roberts Creek. I forget whether I told you that we have moved again! We are now only one block from Olive's and I think we will stay put quite a while. The address is 3906 W. 12th Avenue, and the telephone number Alma 1443 L.

Your reference to Mr. Wright indicates to me that your need for help is pretty urgent and I feel sure that Ken will be able to do a lot for you and our loss will be your gain. We will be sorry to lose Ken and I would have been glad if he could have stayed for some while longer as our work still keeps everyone more than busy.

Ken has arranged to travel by plane as he finds that all accommodations on the trains have been reserved beyond the end of August. He wants to spend three days with Douglas who has a post for the summer with the Union Steamships Co. at Bowen Island, but it is not advisable for him to leave here until the middle of next week as Mr. Johnston is absent on holidays. It will then be necessary for him to have a few days here upon his return from Bowen Island so that we may clear the securities in



- 2 -

G. W. McPherson, Esq.,

August 1, 1945.

the safety deposit boxes and go over his final reports. The plane reservation is therefore obtained for departure on the 19th instant and you may count on him being in Ottawa on the 20th. No seats were available on the afternoon flights around that date, but fortunately he has been able to secure one on the plane leaving here at 8.15 p.m. Would you please note these dates and Ken would appreciate having Miss Carroll phone for a hotel reservation.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS:AS



AIR MAIL

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FILE NO.....

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

PERSONAL

July 24, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

I have your personal letter of July 19th which I received today on my return to Ottawa from New York. You may be interested to know that on my arrival in Montreal last night T.C.A. was delayed and I spent the night sitting in a chair in Dorval, arriving here at 9.30 this morning. I am, therefore, not in any position to dictate a long letter.

Russell is here and will be going back probably around the end of next week. I haven't made any plans myself and hope I don't have to go to England until late in the fall.

I read Durkee's report which I thought was pretty much to the point but I didn't think he gave the Custodian's organization any credit.

Miss Carroll is back and my files are again on the right track.

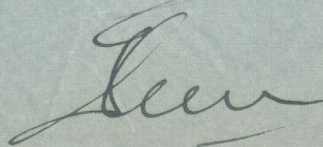
Mercia and the family are well and I am hoping to be able to spend a few days holidays with them some time in August. As far as the furs are concerned, they have not been made up again, the weather being too hot for Mercia even to think of them. She liked the arrangement the way it was but they were not put together securely enough.

I hope you and your wife are enjoying good health.

Please give my regards to the staff and Mr. Wright and tell him the sooner I see him in Ottawa the better.

Yours very sincerely,

GWMcP/FC.





506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PERSONAL

19th July, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Glenn,

I have been away for two weeks except for dropping into the office after office hours on a few occasions.

My daughter Olive has a cottage at Roberts Creek and I made four or five ocean voyages of three hours duration to and fro on the Union Steamships.

Ken tells me that when he spoke to you on the telephone in regard to N.S. McNeil he mentioned about delaying his departure. I am very glad that this will be satisfactory to you as the delay of a few weeks will be appreciated by myself. Holidays of the staff disrupt things quite a bit during July and August.

How is Mr. Russell and what are his movements? I understand he is now in Canada. I presume you will be going over to England soon. Have you been able to fix your programme yet?

Received Mr. Durkee's Report but at the moment have not perused same. Mr. Justice Smith is asking for my presence at their next meeting to outline any new procedure necessary.

I have noticed Miss Carroll's signature again and I am glad she has returned, indicating a recovery in her health.

How are you yourself and family?

By the way, what do the furs look like now they are made up?

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

22nd June, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Glenn,

I find that Ken has given you the idea that I was not very well. Don't worry, I feel quite fit. I did get a slight cold and instead of throwing it off quickly it seemed to settle in the sinus. Felt fairly well when not doing very much, but had a dull headache if I tried to concentrate. However, everything cleared up last week and I went to Nanaimo last weekend.

So that you may know my plans, I intend to go away on Friday next, June 29th, but will only be a few hours boat distance away and can be available if anything urgent develops.

I will be back about the 11th or 12th July as I want to have about a week before Ken leaves. He figures on leaving on the 19th or 20th.

With different ones going on holidays we will be somewhat disrupted for the next month or so but I expect we will be able to carry on and I am hoping for satisfactory progress to be made this fall.

How is Miss Carroll? Don't overdo it yourself. I hope that Mercia and the family are well. How do the furs look?

I wired you some days ago after speaking to Mr. Ladner as he indicated that he was going to telephone to you. I do not know if he did so or not, in any case you will doubtless be letting me know when any final decision is arrived at.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

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7 O'Connor Street,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

June 12th, 1945.  
(Dictated June 11th).

PERSONAL

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

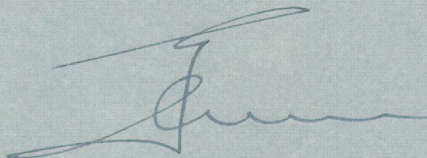
Dear Frank:

I have just returned from New York and Washington, and was only in Ottawa six days after my return from Vancouver. During that time Dr. Coleman left for England and Mrs. Coleman had to move from her house to an apartment and I acted as principal factotum in the moving which took up another whole day. Then Mrs. Coleman had to leave suddenly for Winnipeg because of the serious illness of Judge Robson, her Father, and I left for New York.

Having just returned my desk is in a turmoil and Election Day today is not improving the situation, since we are closing for the half day.

I have not been able to write Mr. Good yet about the personal matter, and I wish you would tell him that I will be writing him during the present week to settle same.

Yours truly,





VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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FILE NO.....

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

April 23, 1945.

PERSONAL

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

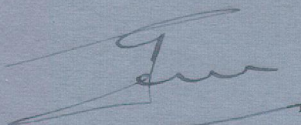
I have your letter of April 20th and at the time of receiving it had just been able to more or less arrange my plans for the summer. I agree with you that if I am going to Vancouver at all, I should be able to spend sufficient time there to review the entire situation and, while I appreciate your offer to come East with Mr. Wright, I do not think this would solve the problem since the work has to be done in your office, particularly with reference to straightening out a few matters with Frederick Field and bringing the McNeil timber deal to completion as rapidly as possible.

Up to yesterday I was hesitating about going to Vancouver because preliminary discussions with Dr. Coleman indicated he would be in England the first week of June and would like either Russell or myself there at that time. However, in our talk yesterday, he agreed that it was not essential that either Russell or I should be there and in any event our negotiations with the Free Governments have not progressed to the point where the machinery to be set up in London can be finally planned, which is one of the jobs I will want to do in London when the agreements are ready, and this, I think, will probably be in July or August. It has, therefore, been decided that I will not go to England in June and there will be no necessity for my rushing back to Ottawa before the end of May, although I hope to be back by then.

Mercia is a little disturbed about my flying out on T.C.A. and I am, therefore, going out by train but will probably fly back. According to my reservations I will arrive in Vancouver on Thursday, May 10th by C.P.R.. Actually I plan to leave here on Thursday night,

In my personal letter to you I forgot to ask you to make arrangements to reserve a room and bath in the Hotel Vancouver to be available on my arrival on the morning of May 10th. Since I will probably be in Vancouver for a couple of weeks, I would like a room with a view just in case the fog lifts.

GWMcP.

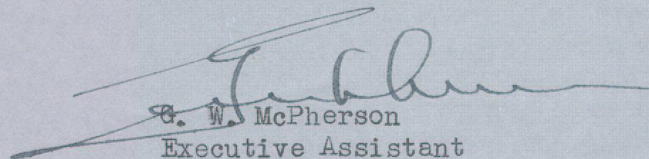




May 3rd, but I have some business to attend to in Winnipeg and will be stopping off there for Monday, May 7th. If there is any change in these plans I will let you know but in the meantime I would appreciate it if you would get everything prepared so we can go through the problems as quickly as possible and I will expect Mr. Field to have his reports up to date on all cases now under his supervision. I also hope that his army camp will not interfere with my trip.

Since you have discussed with Mr. Wright the question of his coming East to work, you might advise him, so he can consider the situation, that I have now obtained the Minister's approval to this suggestion and will be pleased to discuss the matter thoroughly with him on my arrival.

Yours very sincerely,

  
G. W. McPherson  
Executive Assistant

GWMcP/FC.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

13th April, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Glen,

Delighted to have the news of the arrival of another daughter. Did you have any bets on it being a boy?

Mabel and I hope everything will progress nicely and send best wishes to your wife.

Re: N.S. McNeil Trading Co., Ltd.

I am sure Field will be pretty mad when he arrives back and possibly sore with me. However, Glen, I really think I have carried on these negotiations with Koerner as far as they have gone in a very satisfactory manner, and although perhaps I should not say it, I doubt if they would have progressed as favourably otherwise.

As I think you sense, neither Field, Wray or Watters want to sell to Koerner. Neither do I particularly, but I have developed that impersonal attitude which it seems difficult for them to get.

Ken Wright's eyes popped when I jacked them up to \$585,000.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

FGS/PMH



PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

2nd April, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: N. S. McNeil Trading Company Limited.

Referring to your telephone message of Saturday morning.

I was unable to contact Mr. Field until 6 o'clock that evening and when I telephoned Mr. Ladner this morning I discovered that his office was closed on account of it being Easter Monday. I will endeavour to contact Mr. Ladner tomorrow morning.

Mr. Field tells me that Mr. Koerner has had his engineers on his property for the past month and that he has supplied Mr. Koerner with any information which he has requested.

Since the time that tenders were first received, Mr. Field states that besides having been in touch with Mr. Koerner (Alaska Pine Co., Ltd.) he has also had several contacts with the B.C. Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd.

Mr. Field seems to be fairly sure that he will soon receive a firm offer from this latter company.

The original tenderers, namely the B.C. Manufacturing Co., Ltd. and the C. & A. Logging Co., Ltd. do not appear to be interested in making any increased bids.

Mr. Field also advises me that he has endeavoured to create some interest in the purchase of this property by approaching the following companies:

Pioneer Timber Company Limited  
Powell River Pulp & Paper Company Limited  
Sorg Pulp & Paper Company Limited  
Pacific Mills Limited  
Rayonier Inc.



G.W. McPherson, Esq.

I asked Mr. Field if anything had been said in regard to the consideration of offers on a time basis and he stated that he felt sure that when the B.C. Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd. were ready to make an offer it would be on a time basis.

Mr. Field's reasons for not following out the suggestion of having some reference made in the public press was because he believed that until the negotiations which he is now carrying on had proved to be futile that it would not be desirable to give any further publicity.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

Rec'd	MAR 3 1945
File No.	
Ans.	
Referred	

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FILE NO. ....

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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

March 1st, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Staff Reduction

I have your letter of February 17th, and have read with considerable interest your remarks concerning the individuals who might possibly be willing to come to Ottawa. As far as I can see none of these parties are really suitable for the position which we have here, but I would like to give the matter further consideration and discuss it with you on my arrival in Vancouver.

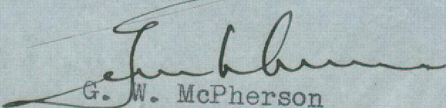
In the meantime, and entirely off the record, I not having discussed the matter with the Deputy, I wonder whether you personally would consider coming to Ottawa to work in this office, in which case we could leave Mr. Wright in Vancouver to run the Administration there. You might give this suggestion some consideration, and you might even sound out Mr. Wright on the question whether or not he would be prepared to come to Ottawa, without telling him in any way that I have suggested you discuss it with him.

Insofar as Mr. Gibson is concerned I do not think that we have any position here that would be suitable for him, since our insurance is not handled the way it is in Vancouver but is handled by our Agents, and we have no necessity for an Insurance Department, as such.

I agree with you that there are only three people outside of yourself and Mr. Wright that would be at all suitable, namely, Gibson, Bell or Douet.

I would not like you to take this letter as a suggestion that either you or Mr. Wright come to Ottawa, but merely put up the idea to you so that you can consider it before I come to Vancouver.

Yours very sincerely,

  
G. W. McPherson  
Executive Assistant

GWMcP/MEF



VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

Rec'd	MAR 3 1945
File No.	
Ans.	
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FILE NO. ....

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

March 1st, 1945  
(Dictated February 27th)

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Re: Vancouver Report

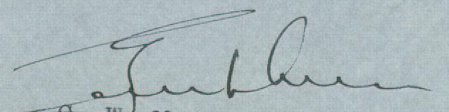
I have your letter of February 17th, and also received a report under separate cover.

I ran over the report very quickly last night and mentioned it to you on the telephone. I have sent it up to Dr. Coleman today. I consider the report very well done and was quite impressed with the statistical information given. This report will be of inestimable value, if, as and when we have to account for our administration of the Japanese assets.

The question of the recommendations made by you in the cutting of staff, etc. is one that will be considered here and when I come to Vancouver we will be able to go through the report and deal with the entire problem.

At the present time, in view of meetings that are being arranged, I think it highly improbable that I will be in Vancouver before the end of April. I understand that Mr. Wright is anxious to come to Ottawa in April, and Dr. Coleman has approved of this. If there are any changes made in my plans I will advise you, and in the meantime I will endeavour to have the Minister review the report and obtain his views on same.

Yours very truly,

  
G. W. McPherson,  
Executive Assistant

GWMcP/MEM



VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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Rec'd FEB 19 1945

File No. ....

Ans. ....

Referred ....

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

February 17, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

Mr. McPherson asked me to let you know that he left yesterday afternoon for a few holidays and will not be back in the office until February 26th.

On Thursday he saw Mr. Korner who is very interested in the McNeil proposition and assured him that no definite recommendation will be made to Ottawa by Mr. Field until he has had an opportunity to discuss the situation with Mr. Field on his return to Vancouver.

I am taking advantage of Mr. McPherson's absence to get some holidays also and will be away next week. In the meantime any mail received from your office will be held pending our return. All sale documents received up to and including today are on their way back to you.

Yours very truly,

*F. Carroll*

Miss F. Carroll

FC.



VIA AIR MAIL

CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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FILE NO. ....

Rec'd FEB 6 1945

File No. ....

Ans. ....

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

February 5, 1945.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

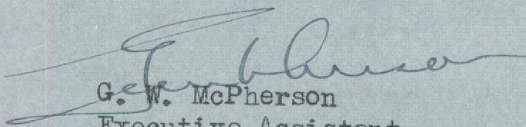
F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

I have your letter regarding the proposed trip by Mr. Wright and will discuss this with the Deputy as soon as possible. I have no doubt that a trip can be arranged and I note that April would be the most satisfactory month, both from the office standpoint and, I assume, from Mr. Wright's, since having lived in the fog so long, he would not like to visit us during our mild winter weather when he might suffer from a sunstroke.

In view of the possibility of a dissolution of Parliament and an early election, it appears desirable to have a round table discussion with all persons in Vancouver concerning that office and its gradual liquidation, and I would not be surprised if you will find that I arrive in Vancouver early in March. The suggestions you make regarding this matter will be kept in mind, particularly in view of the fact that I am not anxious to make a trip to the Coast unless it is essential.

Yours very truly,

  
G. W. McPherson  
Executive Assistant

GWMcP/FC.



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

1st February, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

At the time Dr. Coleman was here, while I was getting my car ready to drive him to a meeting, he had a personal chat with Mr. Wright.

Mr. Wright told me afterwards that Dr. Coleman referred to the fact that he had not been back East since coming to the Vancouver Office and that Dr. Coleman had suggested that he would arrange to make it possible this year.

Mr. Wright told me at the time that he was particularly pleased that the Dr. had broached this subject himself and that such an arrangement would fit in very nicely with his own personal wishes.

I think that Mr. Wright has some business in connection with the estate of an uncle who died last year and beside this would be very glad of the opportunity of seeing his Mother, who resides somewhere close to New York and who is around 90 years of age.

Mr. Wright could spend a very profitable two or three days at the Ottawa office as there are some matters that could be better clarified by a personal conference with Mr. Biron and others as well as yourself. It would be very agreeable to me if this could be arranged.

Apart from Japanese matters over 115 files in connection with German and Italian enemy and internee matters have been referred by Ottawa for Mr. Wright's attention. I understand that there are some 30 unfinished cases in the course of administration and in connection with these matters an occasional personal conference is all to the good.

I am writing in this regard at the present time for the following reasons:

Mr. Peers, who has been in Mr. Wright's department for a considerable time, has proved very satisfactory to Mr. Wright. Peers has some interest in a Neon sign Company here in Vancouver and with the demand for such lighting becoming more available again he has decided that by



G.W. McPherson, Esq.

the end of April he should return to the firm with which he is associated. In view of our curtailment policy I did not feel that any obstacle should be put in his way and the understanding is that he will leave this office at the end of April.

Your recent letter indicates that you may possibly be coming out to Vancouver in May. It would appear to be desirable for Mr. Peers still to be at the office during the time Mr. Wright was away and if it will be in order for Mr. Wright to make a business trip to Ottawa, my suggestion is that it should be in the early part of April.

If you would take the opportunity to discuss this matter with Dr. Coleman and write me in due course it would be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

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FILE NO. ....

PERSONAL

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

January 31, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

I have not had an opportunity of seeing the Minister since his return but I did get a chance to talk to Dr. Coleman about the Vancouver office yesterday. The problem arose because of difficulties we are experiencing here in obtaining suitable help. The Doctor now feels, as I must say I do, that having liquidated a great deal of the property we should be able to cut down the staff, possibly by re-organizing along the lines you suggested. I suggested to the Doctor that we might be able to obtain one or two good executives from the Vancouver office to come down here and give us a hand and this led to the question of my going to Vancouver in the near future to discuss the entire situation with you. I think there is every probability I will be there before many weeks have passed and, therefore, I am writing this personal letter to suggest that you give serious consideration to the re-organization problem.

The Doctor more or less agrees with me that the time has come to talk to Judge Smith about Mr. Durkee and Miss Sullivan and this is one of the matters which I would take up. In addition to this I will expect Mr. Field to have a complete statement ready as to the work they are still handling, how it stands and when he expects to complete it. You might advise him of this since I do not want to find that the statement is not prepared when I arrive as I will not have a great deal of time due to the fact that we are getting into our post-war organization work here. I will let you know a week ahead of my departure and since my time will be limited I will fly although I would personally prefer the rest on the train.

You may feel there has been considerable delay in dealing with your letters about offers for property, etc., but I can assure you that this has been due principally to the rush of work here and the absence of



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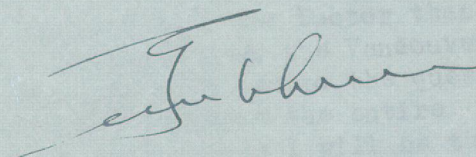
FILE NO.....

- 2 -

the Minister and the Deputy. Everything is now before the Minister for approval and I am hoping I will be able to send you definite decisions on the outstanding questions before the end of the present week.

As regards the typewriters, I assume the portable is on its way and I would appreciate it if you would just hold the others pending my arrival.

Yours very truly,



GWMcP/FC.

P.S. Since dictating the above the portable typewriter has arrived. I would appreciate it if you would not send a bill to this office for this machine but just let it stand as an asset of your office on the understanding that I am using it in connection with the Vancouver office.

G.W.M.



1944

August.	Original shortages Discovered.	1014.65	
			300.--
Aug. 16.	Received from C.C.R.		215.--
Oct. 17	✓		
	✓		300.--
Nov. 29			
Nov.	Additional shortages uncovered	26.25	
			26.25
Dec. 13	Received from C.C.R.		
Dec.	Additional shortages uncovered	68.50	

1945

Jan 30.	Received from C.C.R.		73.65
		1109.40	914.90
	Balance still unpaid.		194.50
		1109.40	1109.40

1945

Jan 30. Amount unaccounted for by C.C.R. \$ 194.50



506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B.C.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

31st January, 1945.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.,  
Executive Assistant,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Victoria Building,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. McPherson:

Re: Mr. C.C. Robinson

So that you are aware of the present position in regard to the above matter the following is a statement which shows a balance still unpaid of \$194.50. You will notice that two additional shortages have been discovered:

1944			
	August	Original shortages discovered	\$1,014.65
16	"	Received from C.C. Robinson	300.00
17	Oct.	" " "	215.00
29	Nov.	" " "	300.00
	"	Additional shortages uncovered	26.25
13	Dec.	Received from C.C. Robinson	26.25
	"	Additional shortages uncovered	68.50
1945			
30	Jan	Received from C.C. Robinson	73.65
			<hr/>
			\$1,109.40 914.90
		Balance still unpaid	<hr/>
			194.50
			<hr/>
			\$1,109.40 - \$1,109.40
			<hr/>
1945			
30	Jan.	Amount unaccounted for by C.C. Robinson - \$194.50	

In speaking to Mr. Robinson again yesterday he informed me that his salary has now been increased to \$300.00 per month and he thinks that after deduction of income tax this will net about \$225.00. However, I discovered that in order to make the October and November payments he borrowed from someone in Winnipeg \$250.00 and has a loan with the Bank of \$150.00 on which loans he is obligated to pay \$70.00



2.

G.W. McPherson, Esq.

per month. He has promised that he will pay \$40.00 for the next five months, commencing the end of February.

The money from the sale of his car, to which I have previously referred, he states is still in tact in the joint names of his wife and himself but as Mrs. Robinson has not been made aware of the position in which he has placed himself he says he cannot very well secure the release of any of this money.

Yours very truly,

F. G. Shears,  
Director.

FGS/PMH



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

## DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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FILE NO.....

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

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

January 29, 1945.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Shears:

I have your letter of January 25th, with enclosures, and wish to thank you for the very detailed information given. Your letter will have crossed Miss Carroll's letter which shows you have anticipated the questions she was asking.

Dr. Coleman has been ill for a week and I have not seen the Minister but I hope to be able to discuss the Vancouver situation some time this week. I appreciate the difficulty of cutting down staff even though the number of properties being handled has fallen off, but I think I will endeavour to visit Vancouver in May and at that time would like you to present a plan of what you think should be done to re-organize the entire office with a view to reducing the staff. In anticipation of this you might talk to some of the executives about their post-war plans, pointing out that there is going to be a considerable reduction in the staff and those who can obtain other employment at the present time might be well advised to do so. In this way we could avoid any unnecessary hardships, provided, of course, that the people to be retained under such a scheme are satisfactory.

On looking over the various departments I am wondering whether or not Mr. Gibson has made any arrangements to go back to his company since the insurance work must be fairly well routine by now. In addition to this the Property Administration and the Protection Department both appear very large but I know they are carrying the heaviest load.

You might think over the entire problem pending my arrival.

Yours very truly,

  
G. W. McPherson

Executive Assistant

GWMcP/FC.



August 23, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SHEARS

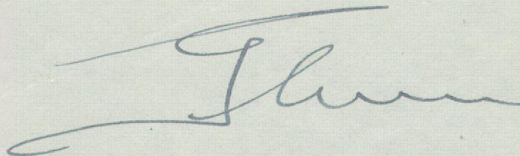
You may be surprised to hear I have arrived back in Ottawa but I am not becoming involved in the Custodian's work generally since I will be leaving her some time next week to attend further conferences which will last about three weeks, then I expect to be returning to London.

I returned very unexpectedly and was so busy attending meetings that I had no time to get in touch with any of my friends or locate your brother. When I return to London I expect to be there for a month or more and will make a point of seeing all the people I missed this last trip.

The trip over and back by air was quite interesting and my stay in London, while short, was of sufficient duration to see and hear enough of buzz bombs.

I trust you are all well.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be the name "John" written in a cursive, flowing style. The signature starts with a large, sweeping "J" and ends with a long, horizontal flourish.



17th July, 1944.

MEMORANDUM

TO: MR. F.G. SHEARS  
FROM: MR. K.W. WRIGHT

Re: Constable Bell - Port Essington

Information having been received from several sources that Constable Bell of the B.C. Police had removed certain articles from Japanese houses and had failed to report this, we called on him; after questioning he admitted that a number of articles were in his possession. There is no report on the files in this connection and in ordinary course, this should have been done by him to Headquarters and in turn by Headquarters to the Custodian. The suggestion made to us earlier that everything was not in order was therefore established. There has been evident laxity of proper protection by him, and it was apparent that everything was not altogether as regular as it should be. We therefore insisted that a detailed report be made to Mr. Brown of all articles in his possession and instructed that they be made available for sale in accordance with our future directions.



K.W. WRIGHT

KWW/DG



VIA AIR MAIL

# CANADA

## DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

July 11, 1944.

F. G. Shears, Esq.,  
Director,  
Office of the Custodian,  
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Frank:

You can discuss the contents of this letter with Mr. Wright since it will affect both of you.

Present plans are that the Deputy will leave for England on or about July 31st and if possible I will leave a day or two before. He expects to be away for about two weeks but has indicated that I may have to stay for some little time, depending on the situation in London insofar as our work is concerned. This will mean that I will be out of touch with you and Mr. Wright but I know you will be able to carry on on the basis you have in the past, sending any documents you have down to Miss Carroll. This raises the question of whether or not she should take holidays while I am away but now that I think of it, it seems that it would be better for her to be here since she knows your work and is your only direct contact with the Deputy.

I do not think there will be any drastic developments insofar as the court case is concerned about the power to sell before I get back, particularly since the courts will be having their long vacation. The usual run of the mill work of signing documents can continue and major questions which you can delay might be delayed for my return.

I do not think there is a chance in the world of getting the fishing vessels money through during the present session so that you can figure this branch of your work will have to stand for the time being. Before leaving I will try to clean up the few problems you are having with Mr. Barnett through Mr. Murchison and I hope to have Duncan Crux' method of billing the Custodian settled during the coming week.

Yours very sincerely,

GMMcP/TC.

*Field will  
know as I had  
to tell Gates  
in McNeil*

*draw papers of  
Assistant Deputy Custodian  
Albert H. Mathieu*



VIA AIR MAIL

## CANADA

### DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE CUSTODIAN

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- 2 -

The next question to consider is holidays for yourself and Mr. Wright and I believe that you haven't had any holidays since you have been in the Custodian's Office. I would suggest, therefore, that you and Mr. Wright arrange to take your holidays at different times so one of you will be in charge. If it is convenient for the two of you, you might take your holidays while I am away which will give an additional reason why you will be able to delay any pressing problems insofar as the public is concerned.

I believe you have some relatives in England and, while it may be impossible to see them, if you give me their addresses, I will make an effort to do so or at least to contact them by telephone or mail and tell them how you and your family are getting along.

Strangely enough, and just as I predicted, Mercia arrives home next Saturday and I expect to leave here about two weeks after she gets back so that she will have to spend the time alone but I have already talked to her on the telephone in Winnipeg and she feels she would sooner come home than remain either in Winnipeg or return to Revelstoke. There is always a chance too that plans may again be changed but for the present you can assume I will be away from here by the end of the month or at the latest the end of the first week in August.

If you have any matters that you think should be cleared up before I leave, will you please get them in the mail as soon as possible. Matters I have pending before the Deputy - such as the Alert Bay question - will be pushed along.

If I have not already advised you, you will be pleased to know that the cheque for the Nanaimo Shipyards will be coming through in due course.

You might give my regards to Mr. Wright and also to your wife and I will hope to see you some time this fall.

Yours very sincerely,

GWMcP/FC.



VIA AIR MAIL

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- 3 -

P.S. I have been anxiously awaiting news that everything is arranged for the publication of the advertisement re McNeil and in view of my pending trip I telephoned Mr. Gates this morning. He tells me there has been some delay due to the legal work regarding title to the property. It seems to me that Mr. Field indicated several times that there was no trouble at all about the legal positions of the titles of the company and he was anxious to go ahead and publish the ad before all of these details were investigated. It is a good thing that the detail work has been done first in this case but it is essential that everything be ready for publication before I leave here or it will likely have to wait until my return since Dr. Coleman will also be absent.



# HAROLD D. CAMPBELL

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

808-812 STANDARD BANK BUILDING

VANCOUVER, B. C.

LICENSED TRUSTEE  
IN BANKRUPTCY

TELEPHONE  
PACIFIC 1357

CONFIDENTIAL

July 5, 1943.

Mr. F. G. Shears,  
Office of the Custodian,  
Department of the Secretary of State,  
506 Royal Bank Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re- Peter Hem

In reply to your telephone request this afternoon, I am detailing the information obtained as a result of my investigation in connection with certain allegations made against Mr. Peter Hem, Chinese.

In September or October of last year, a certain Japanese, T. Nishikawa (Your File No. 1952) asked Mr. Hem to make an offer to purchase his rooming house chattels but Mr. Hem would not commit himself to an offer until an inventory of the chattels had been made, suspecting that certain chattels would probably be removed before he took possession if his offer were accepted. An inventory was made by my interpreter, Joe Mizuhara and Nishikawa. When Nishikawa found that Mizuhara had had copies of the inventory made and given one to Hem, he flew into a rage, threatened to kill Mizuhara, went to the adjoining rooming house operated by two Chinese, Yee and Chan Goon Chong, and amongst other statements derogatory to Mr. Hem, stated that Hem had served a term in jail. This statement, of course, came back to Mr. Hem through his two Chinese associates. Mr. Hem was extremely overwrought and it was with considerable difficulty he was restrained from taking either legal or physical action against Nishikawa.

As irresponsible statements of this kind by Nishikawa might result in serious consequences to himself, I arranged for him and Charlie Tanaka, the Japanese contact with the Spanish Embassy, to attend at my Office. The situation which had arisen was discussed with Tanaka, who strongly advised Nishikawa to cease any further utterances of a like nature and suggested that he formally retract his previous statements. Tanaka asked Nishikawa the source of his alleged information and he admitted that he had received this from two Chinese who were at that time competitors of Hem for the chattels of the King Rooms.

I asked Mr. Hem quite bluntly if there were any truth in this allegation and he stated unequivocally that he had never been in jail at any time; further that he had never been charged with any misdemeanour or crime and that the only time he had ever been before a Court, other than in his capacity of interpreter, was over a civil suit against him for a debt which he stated he did not ~~owe~~ and successfully defended.



July 5, 1943.

Mr. F. G. Shears, (Continued)

As it was probable at that time that Mr. Hem would have further dealings with the writer and your Office, and there were, in fact, some pending negotiations, I thought it advisable to make as thorough an investigation as possible to substantiate or refute this allegation.

As my original contact with Mr. Hem had come through Mr. J. A. MacLennan of Norris & MacLennan, Solicitors, I started by confidentially discussing this charge with Mr. MacLennan. He advised me that he did not for a moment believe it and knew nothing of the matter, but as Mr. Hem had been recommended to him by his former partner Mr. Walter Owen, the previous City Prosecutor, he took it on himself to make enquiries for me through that Office and the information which he obtained was that there was no knowledge or record of any such occurrence and it was felt that if such a thing had happened in the last ten or fifteen years, they would have been aware of it. That Office expressed the same opinion as Mr. MacLennan, that from their knowledge of Mr. Hem they felt the charge was entirely unfounded.

As a further check on this information I contacted Mr. Ian Cameron of Cameron & Co., Solicitors, who I have known for some years and who I was aware knew Mr. Hem. Mr. Cameron's practise for over twenty-five years has been mainly in the Police Court. On discussing this allegation with him he advised me that he had known Mr. Hem quite well for not less than twenty-two years and that at different times during this period had employed Mr. Hem as an interpreter; that during this period of association he not only had not heard of such a thing happening but advised me that it would have been practically impossible for such a thing to have occurred without his knowing it. Mr. Cameron, similar to the other parties contacted, told me that his dealings with Mr. Hem had been most satisfactory and in his opinion he was a man of very good character, considerably above the average. He put the allegation down as probably arising through jealousy or spite among the Chinese who might have had, in the past, business disagreements with Mr. Hem.

While I was in Mr. Cameron's Office, he telephoned either Chief Constable McKay or Detective Inspector Campbell, I cannot recollect which one he actually spoke to as the first one he asked for on the telephone was out at the time. Whichever one it was, advised Mr. Cameron that he had known Mr. Hem for a number of years and that he had no record or knowledge of any criminal record of Mr. Hem, and further stated it was very unlikely that such a thing could have happened without his knowledge. He was able to state definitely that there was no record of any charge under the name Peter Hem or Ng Way Ham, his Chinese name, but that this, of course, was not absolutely conclusive as there was a possibility that a sentence might have been served under another name and that only the matter of finger printing could establish conclusively that such a thing had or had not happened. He also confirmed Mr. Cameron's opinion of Mr. Hem's character.

If you will remember, a very good character was attributed



July 5, 1943.

Mr. F. G. Shears, (Continued)

to Mr. Hem by Mr. Reid, the Building Inspector, who had known Hem for approximately twenty years, in Mr. Wright's Office in your presence at a meeting in connection with the development of Powell Street, attended by Mr. Rogers of the Sanitary Department and several other people including the writer.

In view of the above information and the sources from whence it was obtained, I felt entirely satisfied to let the matter drop and if I remember rightly, mentioned to you that the allegation had been made by Mr. Nishikawa and that my investigation had satisfied me that it was untrue.

The whole matter had been forgotten until about two months ago when an application for fire insurance, placed by myself on some Japanese chattels rented by Mr. Hem from your Office, was rejected by the Insurance Company. I immediately contacted the General Manager of the Company in question and asked him the reason for this. He advised me, in confidence, that it was a report of the same nature which had influenced the Company's decision. At my request they double checked the source of information and after going into the matter very thoroughly were apparently satisfied that the report was based solely on rumour and not on fact and immediately issued the policy, which I now have in my possession, with a covering letter apologizing for the error which had been made and expressing themselves as entirely satisfied with Mr. Hem as a risk.

The above information is simply that received by myself as outlined and the sources mentioned above can be contacted direct by you and the matter re-checked if you think it necessary. While the evidence is not entirely conclusive, it is almost entirely so covering a period of twenty-five years and in view of the fact that these unquestioned sources have, in every case, vouched in an unqualified manner as to Mr. Hem's character and probity, leaves the writer with the impression that the whole matter is one of rumour, based on personal animosity or spite. Personally speaking it has been a pleasure to do business with Mr. Hem, as I have found his word to be as good as his bond on all occasions. He has never welched on a deal, although there have been several which have definitely turned out to his disadvantage. I believe that in your direct contacts with him you have found the same to be true.

Yours very truly,

H. D. CAMPBELL.

RCM:JM

Per. 