

Correspondence 1939

FOLDER NO. 72-11

PLEASE RETAIN  
ORIGINAL ORDER

ANGUS MACINNIS MEMORIAL COLL.  
UBC LIB. MSS. COLL.

Vancouver, B.C.,

May 16th, 1939.

Dear Sir;

On behalf of the Japanese Employees of the Hotel Vancouver, I desire to express to you their appreciation for the courteous consideration and assistance you rendered in endeavouring to have their services retained.

I regret to have to advise you that the efforts of the employees and their friends have not been successful, but the assistance of the many friends and patrons of the Hotel is greatly appreciated notwithstanding.

Yours very truly,

Harry Kitagawa, for  
the Employees.

CANADIAN PACIFIC HOTELS • ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC



Cornwallis Inn, Kentville, N.S.



The Pines, Digby, N.S.



Lakeside Inn, Yarmouth, N.S.



Algonquin Hotel, St. Andrews, N.B.



Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, Que.



Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ont.



Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, Man.



Hotel Saskatchewan, Regina, Sask.



Hotel Palliser, Calgary, Alta.



Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alta.



Chateau Lake Louise, Lake Louise, Alta.



Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, B.C.



Empress Hotel, Victoria, B.C.

*Kitagawa*



*Hotel Vancouver,  
Vancouver, B.C.*

May 12, 1939.

Mr. Angus MacInnes,  
Member for Vancouver East,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I have for acknowledgement your letter of May 8th with regard to letter received by you from H. Kitagawa on behalf of the Japanese bellboys at this hotel.

I note from your letter that you have written to Mr. Hungerford in this connection and no doubt you will receive a satisfactory reply from him in due course.

Yours very truly,

*W. J. Mylett*  
W. J. Mylett  
MANAGER.

*Kitagawa*

O t t a w a, Ontario,  
May 8, 1939.

The Manager,  
Hotel Vancouver,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of a communication signed by H. Kitagawa, one of the bell boys presently working in the Vancouver hotel. Mr. Kitagawa wrote to me on behalf of himself and a number of other Japanese engaged in similar work in the hotel. He informs me that it is the intention when the new hotel is opened to engage other help for the positions they now hold. I have written to the President of the Canadian National Railway Company, Mr. J. S. Hungerford, drawing the matter to his attention and suggesting to him that it would be very undesirable for these people who have given faithful service for a number of years and who are all Canadians, either by birth or naturalization to lose their positions because of racial prejudice.

I would be very glad if you would give this matter your consideration. Of course, if their services are not satisfactory, I have nothing further to say in the matter. But I would suggest that every consideration should be given to the question of their dismissal if it is entirely on the basis of race.

Yours sincerely,

Angus MacInnis,  
Member for Vancouver East.

AM-T.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

MAY 4th, 1939.

O t t a w a, Ontario,  
May 8, 1939.

Mr. Angus MacInnis, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, CANADA.

H. Kitagawa, Esq.,  
Vancouver Hotel,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Kitagawa:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 4th. I am today writing to the Manager of the Vancouver Hotel asking him to use his good offices on your behalf.

Yours sincerely,

Angus MacInnis,  
Member for Vancouver East.

AM-T.

yours respectfully,

H. Kitagawa

Vancouver, B. C.

May 4th, 1939.

Mr. Angus McInnis, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Canada.

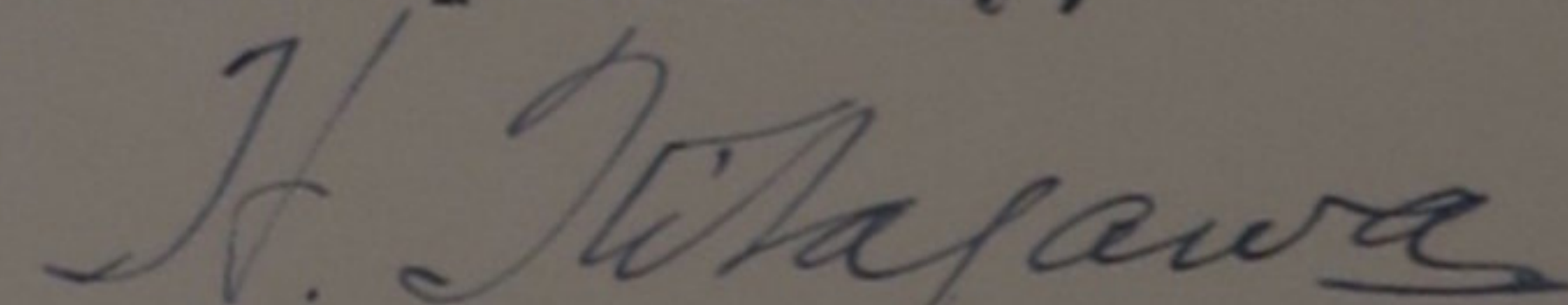
Dear Sir:

We acknowledge with sincere thanks receipt of your letter of April 17th.

We fully realized that our positions did not warrant our taking the liberty of appealing to you for assistance, but we were unable to obtain a satisfactory response from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the thought of losing our positions weighed heavily on us. However, all the Chinese who have been in the employ of the Hotel have already been transferred, and we are still hopeful that we may be given as favourable a consideration as they.

We are more than grateful for all that you have done for us and would gladly welcome any further assistance we may be honoured to receive in the future.

yours respectfully,



H. Kitagawa

See, Lofting, A. V.  
C. N. R. J. S. Hungerford

Mr. Angus MacInnis, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

O t t a w a, Ontario,  
April 17, 1939.

Mr. A. V. Lofting has kindly given us your name  
so that we may ask your aid with regard to our positions at the

Hotel H. Kitagawa, Esq.,  
Hotel Vancouver,  
Vancouver, B. C.

As that Mr. Lofting has already written  
you and we would, therefore, deeply appreciate any assistance

Dear Mr. Kitagawa:

you may give us in this matter.

This will acknowledge receipt of your air-  
mail letter of April 13th. I had already received  
a communication from Mr. A. V. Lofting, drawing  
my attention to the intention of the new management  
of the Canadian National hotel not to employ the  
bell boys presently engaged in the Hotel Vancouver  
when the new hotel is opened.

Entire staffs of the hotel will be taken over to the new premises

I am writing to Mr. J. S. Hungerford,  
President of the Canadian National Railways, draw-  
ing his attention to what is considered to be  
a very definite discrimination. I shall be glad  
to write you when I hear from Mr. Hungerford.

valet are all to be discharged, with the exception of one, who

have all been in the employ of the company for many years, and

are heads of families in Vancouver. It would work a hardship

on us to throw us out of employment. We have grown up with this

work AM-T. find it impossible. Yours sincerely,  
Angus MacInnis,  
Member for Vancouver East.

we regret to say that it appears to be a matter

of discrimination. No reproach has been made to any of us, and

has any fault been found with the services of any of us. It is

vancouver, B. C.

April 13, 1939.

Mr. Angus MacInnis, MP.,  
House of Commons,  
OTTAWA, Canada.

Dear Sir:

Mr. A. V. Lofting has kindly given us your name so that we may ask your aid with regard to our positions at the Hotel Vancouver.

We presume that Mr. Lofting has already written you and we would, therefore, deeply appreciate any assistance you may give us in this matter.

We have been told that when the Hotel is moved to its new premises, our services will be dispensed with. We understand that the greater portion of those who are now on the different staffs of the Hotel will be taken over to the new premises regardless of nationality.

It appears that the Japanese bell boys and the valet are all to be discharged. With the exception of one, we have all been in the employ of the Company for many years, and are heads of families in Vancouver. It would work a hardship on us to throw us out of employment. We have grown up with this work and we find it impossible to secure positions elsewhere.

We regret to say that it appears to be a matter of discrimination. No reproach has been made to any of us, nor has any fault been found with the services of any of us. It is



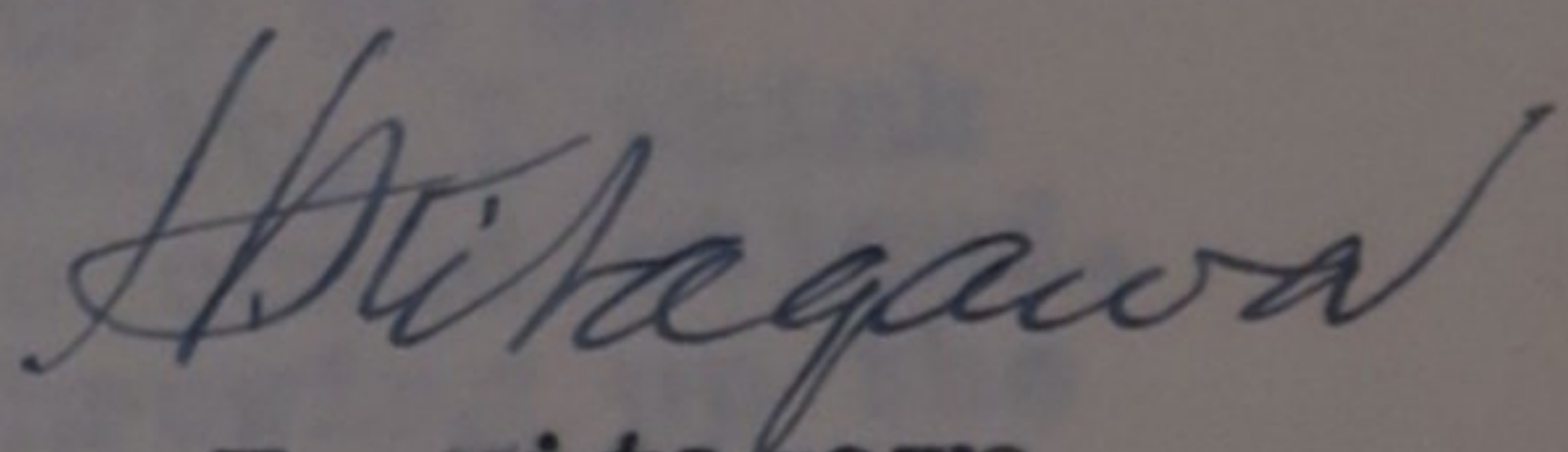
Mr. Angus MacInnis, M.P.

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with confidence that we refer you to the present management, or to any of the former executives of the Hotel, and particularly to the guests and patrons of the Hotel, as to our record of efficient and courteous service.

We feel that our record of service justifies us in expecting that when the change of premises is made we will be kept in the service of the Hotel. May we ask you, sir, that you will kindly make your influence to bear upon this matter, so that a favourable consideration will be given us by the same Company.

yours very respectfully,

  
H. Kitagawa.  
Hotel Vancouver  
Vancouver B.C.