

THE NEW CANADIAN

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A paper published by and for second generation Japanese in Canada, and devoted to their welfare as citizens of Canada.

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Thanks to the "Province"

BRITISH Columbia's largest daily newspaper, the Vancouver Province, has expressed what it thinks of a leading anti-Japanese public servant in these no uncertain terms.

Alderman Wilson's one-man crusade against what he calls "Oriental peaceful penetration" does not apparently inspire his colleagues on the City Council with the least respect. The latest case in point is one that seems to admit of no other explanation.

Alderman Wilson failed to get a seconder in council for a motion to hold up, pending investigation, the applications of three Japanese for licences to operate dressmaking shops in the city.

He did this on the grounds, as he alleged, that Japanese were maintaining sweat-shop conditions, in their homes, in the backs of stores and in small dressmaking establishments, and that tuberculosis was rife in such places.

These are very serious allegations. If they were true, and no matter what the race of the people concerned, the City Council would be greatly derelict in its duty if it did not move to remedy the condition. Evidently the council by its action believes that Alderman Wilson's charges can not be substantiated.

Alderman Wilson has no one but himself to thank for this sweeping and even contemptuous disregard of his exertions in this matter. The too well authenticated suspicion against him is that he is here not first of all concerned with preventing sweatshops and tuberculosis but that he is trying by devious means to discriminate, unjustly and unlawfully, against Orientals.

For some time now the Province has taken the lead in arguing for a more reasonable, a more tolerant and just approach to the question of British Columbia's minority groups than that characterized by the alderman under fire. And to this widely read and influential public organ, we should like to make a public acknowledgement of our gratitude.

There should be, in fact, not one Canadian, Occidental or Oriental, old or new, who does not feel indebted to the Province for its timely and sincere effort to safeguard the basic principles of a democratic way of life. This paper has shown clearly that there is no room in Canada for unjust restrictions and discrimination imposed upon a group of citizens from the mere fact of race. And in so doing, the Province is rendering a great public service.

It is doing, and can continue so to do, much to repair, safeguard and actively to inspire in Oriental Canadians that sense of broad, loyal Canadianism which our nation needs today and in the future.

Rejoinder To Thomas Reid, M.P.

(Continued from Page 1.)

attacks upon the loyalty and integrity of Japanese Canadians could have had no other effect. At no time has he offered any reasonable or just suggestions leading towards a happy solution of the problems of this minority group. And to the best of our knowledge, he has at no time expressed any wish other than to see perpetuated in this province a permanent group of under-privileged citizens, set apart from Canadian society, restricted politically, economically and socially—a continual source of unrest, prejudice and ill-feeling.

This journal is not interested in false statements or in the vilification of members of parliament. It is interested in the truth—in the presentation of an obvious truth that by birth and education, by environment and natural aspirations, second generation Japanese are Canadians first and foremost, and that they owe their loyalty and allegiance to this Dominion.

We are asking simply that our fellow citizens and our government face this question logically, tolerantly and reasonably, without regard to past prejudice or ancient ignorance. If they do that, they must realize that if and when we are accepted as free and equal citizens of Canada, we can and will fulfill, just as honourably as Mr. Reid or any other Canadian, everything that is thereby implied.

FRIGHT...

THERE was no getting away from it. She was frightened. Horribly scared, as she saw the hundreds of eyes staring at her in anticipation. They were like ghouls, she thought, waiting for her to make one slip, before they fell on her in glee. More tightly than ever she gripped the edge of her chair, wanting to run away, yet knowing she couldn't.

She sat there, tense, every nerve straining for release from this almost hysterical fright. What on earth had possessed her to come here in the first place? Why hadn't she stayed at home, and perhaps then she would not be experiencing this coldness that clutched at her heart? She shut her own eyes, trying to get away from those others in front.

What on earth was he saying, the tall man beside her? She tried to listen, but she was trembling so much she could not. Instinctively she pulled her sweater closer to her thin body. The rain outside seemed to be beating a tattoo on her numbed mind. She remembered she had something to say, something very important they said, but at the moment she could not recollect a word. Soon she would be asked, She must... she must do something!

She dragged her eyes away from the crowd in front and focussed them on the high windows at the sides. How high they were! What a job to wash them! Then to her ears came a loud snicker from the hundreds massed out there. A hot blush rose to her pale cheeks. Her fingers twitched in nervousness. Were they laughing at her? At her faded dress, her unkempt hair that she tried in vain to make as glossy as the sun? Why were people so cruel? Had she ever done anything to them? A sudden flame of hate burned in her throat, and she gulped.

Slowly, ever so slowly it seemed to her, though the minute hand of the far clock had not moved more than five seconds, her mind cleared of the fright. Almost with contempt she turned again to look at the people in front, and then at the man beside her. He was making them laugh again with one of his jokes. She looked at the other girls sitting primly in their chairs behind him. They were plump and pretty. She felt her scrawniness more than ever, but her mouth suddenly took on grimness that was not good to see. In the next moment she heard her name being called:

"... the High School Provincial finals at Vancouver. Now we'll ask the first speaker to come forward. Miss Mari—"

The rest of the name was drowned in a burst of hand-clapping, and when she stood to speak her voice was surprisingly clear.

QUICKSILVER

(J.L.M. in the Ulysses.)

Yesterday we walked along Together.

Today we met and talked About—

The weather;

... and Cupid wept.

The Lease-Lend Bill

(From the Christian Science Monitor)

SPECIFICALLY the lend-lease bill approves these purposes and makes possible these things:

It approves the abandonment of the fact and the pretense of neutrality in this world-wide war against totalitarianism. It abandons neutrality in spirit, in letter and in substance. It abandons neutrality in law and intent because it provides that the United States will give aid to one side and refuse to the other.

It formally places the United States as the open declared — though non-belligerent — ally of Great Britain, Greece and China.

It authorizes the President to mobilize the fullest industrial power of America and unstintingly thrust it — ships, planes, guns and tanks — onto the scales against Hitler.

It enables the president to "procure" every possible weapon of war and make them available to "any country whose defence the President deems vital to the defence of the United States." He may sell, lease, lend or otherwise dispose of any of these articles of defence.

It permits the President immediately to aid the defending democracies by transferring from the Nation's existing military equipment up to \$1,300,000,000. It allows the warships, friendly powers the use of American yards.

This is why the lend-lease bill is more than a bill to lend lease. It is an affirmation of national purpose—that purpose being to see that Britain is able to defeat Hitlerism in Europe so that the U.S. will not have to fight Hitlerism in America.

MEMORY CHIMES

Their tinkling silvery music fills the night,
Waking with every wind a cool refrain —
That weaves remembrance into morning light

And links the present to the past again.

—M. J. A.

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Rejoinder to Thomas Reid, M.P.

Editorial

THE New Canadian has drawn a very strong attack from Thomas Reid, member of parliament for New Westminster, for its criticism of statements made by himself and the member for Comox-Alberni in the House of Commons some time ago. Defending himself, Mr. Reid declared that he had at no time tried to arouse hostile or racial feelings against the Japanese in British Columbia.

In reply, it may be said that Mr. Reid's attitude is perhaps as well known in Ottawa as it is in British Columbia. During the past decade, he has campaigned consistently and effectively to squeeze our fellow Japanese Canadians out of the fishing industry. He has campaigned with equal force against the extension of rights of citizenship both to naturalized and natural-born Canadians of Japanese ancestry.

Granted that he has not consciously tried to stir up racial ill-feelings, certainly the tone and content of his

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M.P. Charges New Canadian Makes Scurrilous and Malicious Attack

OTTAWA.—Thomas Reid, M.P., member for New Westminster, defending himself in the House of Commons last Friday from criticism made in the February 28th issue of The New Canadian, declared that the Nisei paper had made a "scurrilous attack" upon himself and A. W. Neill, the member for Comox-Alberni. The New Canadian, he said, had made statements that were not only false, but also malicious, and that he wished to repudiate the attack in the strongest possible terms.

The text of his speech, as reported by Hansard for March 14 follows:

"Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of personal privilege affecting me as a member of parliament. On February 25 last, when the estimates of the Department of External Affairs were under discussion, in a speech expressing views concerning the Japanese in Canada differing from those expressed by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) I made certain remarks which can be found at page 1107 of Hansard. In my remarks I pointed out that in my opinion the Japanese in Canada were an unassimilable race. Here are my exact words:

In answer to a question of mine, it was admitted by Japanese that they owed allegiance first to Japan, and so long as they were Japanese born here is registered in Japan and is looked upon as a Japanese national he cannot be truly Canadian. Hence my objection to them as a class. They are not an assimilable race, and are different in their outlook from any other nationals in Canada.

Scurrilous Attack

"This morning I received a copy of a newspaper called The New Canadian, published in Vancouver by the Japanese, in their own interests; and I am now going to read to the house an article which appeared in the issue of February 28, which contains a scurrilous personal attack upon both the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) and myself.

See "REID" Page 4.

Canadian Club Begins Study Of Minority Question

VANCOUVER.—Revealing a sympathetic interest in the problems of the Nisei, members of a study committee of the Canadian Club, investigating second generation minority groups in the province, discussed the Nisei angle last Monday night with Thomas Shoyama from the JCCL.

Questions in regard to language schools, dual nationality, religion, family life, immigration, economic competition and so forth were considered in detail.

The committee, it was indicated, would inquire as to the attitude of the major political parties toward Canadian-born Japanese. "We think that the standing of the Canadian Club in the community may have some influence," said W. J. Walton, of David Spencer, Ltd., chairman of the committee.

Members of the group included Alec Fisher, Canadian Club secretary; Mr. Burrie, bond department manager of Pemberton's; Mr. Pullen, B. C. Telephone; Mr. Buchan, B. C. E. R.; Mr. Mowat, Toronto General Trust; and Mr. Jukes of A. E. Jukes & Co.

Citizens Disprove Charges

On The Newsfront

Improvement in Public Moral Standards Sought

VANCOUVER.—A resolution to revive the long-defunct organization, the "Society for Reforming Living Conditions," was unanimously passed at a meeting sponsored by the Camp and Mill Workers Union last Friday at the Japanese School in order to improve the social and public morals standards in the Japanese community for the future welfare of the second generation.

The Union was delegated to organize the work, study all the angles of the question, and to prepare practical resolutions which will be brought up at another discussion meeting.

Farewell Banquet for Retiring Consul

VANCOUVER.—Some 200 citizens of the community joined in a farewell banquet tendered by the Canadian Japanese Association to Consul Kenji Nakachi, who leaves April 3 to assume a new post in Los Angeles.

K. Shoji, was toastmaster, and Bunji Hiseoka, Association president, spoke on behalf of the community.

Local Nisei Seek to Attend National Bussei Parley

VANCOUVER.—Some 12 local Nisei are seeking permits from the Foreign Exchange Control Board, allowing them to travel to Seattle to attend the second national Buddhist convention from April 24 to 27.

Salt Lake City Leader

Chosen "Nisei of the Year"

CHICAGO.—Chosen Nisei of the year from a long list of names was Mike Masaru Masaoka, of Salt Lake City, Utah, who "in the opinion of the judges did the most in 1940 to reflect credit on all Americans of Japanese parentage."

The list of Masaoka's accomplishments as debater, writer, coach, Mormon priest, athlete, and JACL leader is long and imposing. In 1940 he received the Chamber of Commerce award as "Salt Lake's Citizen of the Community" for his participation in civic charities. He was the driving force which created the Inter-Mountain District Council of the JACL.

Vice-Consul Oka Goes to Portland

VANCOUVER.—Returning to his former post, Y. Oka, vice-consul at Vancouver, will leave shortly for Portland, Oregon. He will be succeeded by Vice-Consul Kato, who will arrive shortly from the Consulate-General at Peking.

Paldi Nisei May Organize JCCL Chapter

CHEMAMUS.—Guests at the monthly meeting of the Chemamus JCCL were Nisei from Paldi and Duncan, inquiring into the why and wherefore of the JCCL movement. President Shige Yoshida presided, and Thomas Shoyama spoke briefly. Toki Yoshida was convener for a gay social that followed.

C.J. A. To Organize War Services Drive

VANCOUVER, MARCH 21.—The Canadian Japanese Association announced this afternoon that it would organize an intensive campaign of the Japanese community to raise funds in the National War Services Drive now under way. Organizational meeting has been called for March 26 at the Nippon Club.

MacNeil Speaks in Ottawa

Encourage Loyal Japanese Canadians

OTTAWA.—Termination of the Gentlemen's Agreement with Japan coupled with the extension of full rights of citizenship to those Japanese Canadians who could qualify was urged here recently by C. Grant MacNeil, former C.C.F. member for Vancouver North, in an address to the Y.M.C.A.

Mr. MacNeil, a veteran of the last war, urged that loyalty among Japanese Canadians be actively encouraged by a tolerant attitude, and criticised the seeking of political advantage by appeals to race prejudice.

Tracing the historical background of "The Japanese Problem in B.C.," the speaker declared that the reasons for original disenfranchisement no longer exist.

Organized labour, he con-

tinued, is opposed to racial discrimination and believes that equal rights and privileges should be extended to all. Moreover, disqualification of Japanese Canadians from voting is contrary to the spirit and terms of the Canadian constitution.

Japanese Assimilable

The familiar argument, "Once a Jap, always a Jap," is fallacious, Mr. MacNeil contended. The evidence in the balance shows that Japanese Canadians can be assimilated. Deep-rooted antagonism on the part of white business men and fishermen towards the Japanese on the ground of what they consider unfair competition leads them to rationalize that the Japanese are economically undesirable and politically dangerous.

Doctor, Merchant Declare Alderman Wholly Mistaken

VANCOUVER, March 21.—Two prominent citizens of the Japanese community, Dr. K. Shimo-takahara, well-known Vancouver physician, and T. Shimotakahara, proprietor of a large Granville Street women's wear firm, said today that Ald. H. D. Wilson's views, expressed last Monday in City Council, were wholly mistaken. "Non-sense!" was their terse comment.

In a motion to hold up applications from two Japanese for licences to operate dressmaking shops, which failed to secure a second, Ald. Wilson claimed that: (1) A "large percentage of the cheap, washable dresses" on the local market are Japanese made; (2) Tuberculosis is high among Japanese and the dresses they make are a menace; (3) The T.B. rate among

See "WILSON" Page 5.

Fishermen Boost Sale Of War Certificates

VANCOUVER.—Unity among all fishermen will be sought by the Amalgamated Association of British Columbia Fishermen, Japanese Canadian organization, in negotiation of fish prices, it was declared Monday last at the annual meeting.

At the same time, the organization declared its intent to maintain and cultivate close co-operation with Occidental fishermen and their organizations.

A resolution urging the members to subscribe to war savings certificates was received with enthusiasm.

U. Sakamoto was re-elected president of the Association.

Ten Orators Compete In Bussei Classic

Spiritual and philosophical reflections will keynote the 5th annual Bussei League Oratorical Contest this coming Sunday at the Hoppa Temple, when six young men and four young women will seek the Bishop Aoki Challenge Trophy, emblematic of Japanese oratorical supremacy.

Judges for the contest include Bishop Aoki, chairman; F. Kajiro, Steveston Language School head; J. Iwasaki, Tairoku Nippon; J. Suzuki, Canada Daily; K. Iwashita, Daily People; and Y. Ide.

Taking to the platform this Sunday will be:

Takeo Nishizaki, Kitsilano Y.M.B.A., "Devise Co-operative See "ORATORY" Page 4.