

Jap Property Fight Opens Monday

By TOM HAZLITT

Final round in the legal battle to decide whether property rights of Japanese-Canadians were abused during the war opens in Vancouver Monday.

The series of hearings will probably last until June—perhaps longer.

Opening of the Vancouver hearing means that one leg of a gigantic task has been completed. When it is over all 1,500 Japanese who were moved from the coastal areas in 1941 and 1944 will have had their chance to state their claims against the Dominion Government.

Those claims are now totalling at approximately \$7,000,000.

YEAR AGO

Claims started to come in almost a year ago when Mr. Justice Henry I. Bird of the B.C. Court of Appeal was appointed a one-man Royal Commission to inquire into the prices obtained by the custodian of enemy property for Japanese property taken over during the war.

The story of what has already been done to arrive at a judicial settlement, plus an outline of the task which lies ahead, was given Tuesday by Col. I. W. G. Hunter, counsel for the Dominion Government.

BIG QUESTION

He claims the present Royal Commission is methodically handling one of the largest legal questions ever tackled in Canada.

"It's just like dealing with 1500 Supreme Court cases all at once," he said.

Preliminary hearings opened in Vancouver last December. Thousands of words of evidence were introduced, dealing with disposal of articles from modern fishing vessels to frying pans.

The commission moved to half-dozen centres in the interior of B.C. then on to Lethbridge, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg, Montreal and Toronto.

ARRIVING HERE

While on the prairies Mr. Justice Bird decided that if he were to personally hear all the claims he would be away for several years. With government approval it was decided that Mr. Justice Bird would personally open all hearings. Evidence would then be heard by County Court judges, and a typescript of the proceedings forwarded to Vancouver.

That has been done. Crates of

neatly typed manuscripts are arriving daily for use in the final Vancouver hearings.

Col. Hunter intends to present first general evidence which will have a bearing on all separate appeals that follow.

Appeals from corporations, then from individuals will follow, probably starting about the middle of November.

Col. Hunter believes that most of the Japanese were treated fairly.

Col. Hunter said that many of the Japanese have legitimate claims because of the prevalence of "terrific looting by civilians."

Johnston Hopes To Sell Russia U.S. Movies

MOSCOW (AP)—Eric Johnston is to hold conferences with Soviet motion picture officials. Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, said he still is optimistic about his chances of getting the Russians interested again in showing pictures from the United States.

Parley to Discuss European Union

PARIS (Reuters)—Duncan Sandys, non-law of Conservative Leader Winston Churchill and a minister in Churchill's wartime government, announced, a European economic conference would be called in Brussels early next year to consider potential benefits of European union.

Sandys presided over meetings here of the International Committee of the Movement for European Unity.

Trail to Talk Flood Control

Special to The Daily Province TRAIL—Plans for control of possible future floods here will be presented to Kenneth Morton, federal-public works engineer, New Westminster.

Plans have been drawn up by city and Consolidated Mining & Smelting Co. engineers.

City Council will meet Mr. Morton before he returns to the coast from the International Joint Commission's Creston meeting on the West Kootenay Power & Light Co.'s application for increased storage in Kootenay Lake.

Trail Woman Fractures Skull

TRAIL (CP)—Mrs. E. Daku of Ladang is in hospital suffering from a fractured skull and severe bruises. She was struck by a car driven by A. M. Cheeser of Ladang.

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Tin Cookie Sheets

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ARMY & NAVY ANNEX

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