

C O C
O O
P P
Y

234 Cottingham Street,
Toronto 5, Ontario,
April 16, 1944.

Department of the Secretary of State,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

The Director of the Office of the Custodian in Vancouver has notified us of your policy of liquidation of Japanese property. Because of this policy my property has now been catalogued for sale. This liquidation is against your promises, and my wishes, furthermore it is utterly undeserved.

Please remind yourselves that before our oppression became politically fashionable, abetted by your evacuation policy and your seemingly tacit approval of all the undemocratic propaganda directed against us who are not your enemies, that the Japanese minority had the best reputation for morals and for civic spirit of any minority in British Columbia. According to the Canadian Institute of Public Opinion, this reputation is still intact in spite of all the loud abuse levelled against it.

The contribution which my husband and I have made to this reputation is more than ordinary. My property at 42 Gorge Road, Victoria, B. C. is tangible evidence of this contribution. My husband has invested heavily in our home and garden. During a period of ten years we have succeeded in collecting many valuable and rare plants, shrubs and trees. Of these the most exotic are two gardenia trees from which my husband coaxed successfully many blooms. They are probably the only non-commercial gardenia trees in Victoria. On one occasion the Parks Superintendent of Victoria approached my husband and obtained for grafting some buds of a rare variety of cherry blossom. Both of us are proud of our collection, not only for its value but also for its endearingly beautiful response to our care and for the deep satisfaction it gave us.

Our unique collection was well known and was widely appreciated by fellow hobbyists. Testimony of this appreciation is shown in the way people would stop to compliment us as they strolled by, many requested permission to walk through our garden, motorists local and tourist would slow down or even stop, and driver of sightseeing busses used to point out our home and garden as they drove by. When the evacuation became a stark reality my husband received many offers from nurseries to buy our collection but he declined. Didn't you promise to keep intact all properties until we returned? Isn't the garden an asset to Victoria just as much as it is a pride and joy to us? As for proof, during a survey conducted by the Victoria Horticultural Society to choose "Gardens that beautify our streets", Mr. Takahashi was granted the Award of Merit, dated August 16, 1935. Two years later during the Royal Visit, Their Majesties the King and Queen drove past our home. We treasure the memory of seeing Her Majesty turn her head to see our garden.

Not only did our home and garden help to establish Victoria as "The Garden City of Canada", it also helped to cheer the sick and crippled. On Remembrance Day 1937, we opened our home to the public. By selling chrysanthemums which we had grown we raised money for the St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1938, 1939, 1940