

Primary Source Cache:

Records of the Forced Uprooting, Internment, Dispossession, and Exile of Japanese Canadians

This cache of primary-source materials was selected from the *Landscapes of Injustice* research database. The materials reflect moments in the history of the forced uprooting, internment, dispossession, and exile of Japanese Canadians. They are not meant to provide a coherent or summative account of the history. Rather, this cache offers a starting point for considering, for instance,

- racism and the administrative state,
- complex and varied responses to state violence,
- notions of culpability, complicity, and accountability,
- conceptions of Canadian citizenship and law,
- relations between Japanese-Canadian dispossession and settler colonial dispossession,
- and legacies of dispossession and displacement.

Though the federal policies that derailed the lives of nearly 22,000 Japanese Canadians occurred in the 1940s, this history started both decades earlier and has legacies that extend to the present day. Readers are encouraged to consider these documents in connection to these longer histories. Further, this cache offers a range of voices from different positions within and relations to this history. These voices include: children, men, women, bureaucrats, politicians, lawyers, Japanese Canadians, non-Japanese Canadians, journalists, bystanders, and low-level officials. The cache includes the voices of people who were children at the time and descendants of people who lived through the 1940s first-hand. We hope that readers, having reconstructed their broader context, will read these documents with care and a critical eye.

The full *Landscapes of Injustice* research database will launch in 2021.

Find more information about *Landscapes of Injustice* here: <http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com/>

For any questions relating to these materials or *Landscapes of Injustice*, please contact: Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross, Project Director (jstross@uvic.ca) or Kaitlin Findlay, Research Coordinator (kfindlay@uvic.ca)



Library and Archives Canada = LAC
Nikkei National Museum = NNM
Thomas Fisher Rare Books Library = TFRBL

- p. 1 - Lillie Reiko Yano's Registration Card, 1941, NNM, Yano Family collection, 2013.57.4.3.
- p. 2 - Excerpt from scrapbook, [undated], TFRBL, Frank Gould Shears papers, series 5: "Clippings," box 13, file 1: "[Assorted clippings, predominantly 1941-1942], [1938-1950]."
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- p. 6 - Front page, 27 February 1942, *The New Canadian*, SFU Digitized Newspapers, <http://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/tnc-1/new-canadian>.
- p. 7 - Note from John Erskine Read to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, 2 March 1942, LAC, RG25 (Department of External Affairs), volume 3005, file 3464-q-40: "British Columbia Security Commission – Establishment Of."
- p. 10 - Memorandum from George B. Spain to Frank Gould Shears, 29 October 1946, TFRBL, Frank Gould Shears papers, series 2: "Reports," box 4, file 7: "Green, H.F. [Protection Dept., Office of the Custodian], Thefts and Vandalism, 1942-1947."
- p. 13 - Letter from Ian McKenzie to T.A. Crerar, 29 April 1942, LAC, RG38 (Veterans Land Act), series: "Block 8 central registry files relating to the acquisition of former Japanese properties," volume 403, file v-8-10 part 1: "Japanese and their Farm Properties."
- p. 14 - Letter from Ivan T. Barnett to Gordon Murchison, 2 June 1942, LAC, RG38 (Veterans Land Act), series: "Block 8 central registry files relating to the acquisition of former Japanese properties," volume 403, file v-8-10 part 1: "Japanese and their Farm Properties."
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- p. 20 - Interview with Betty Toyota [1925] and Joy Trapnell [1957], by Kyla Fitzgerald, 13 October 2016, Duncan (British Columbia), *Landscapes of Injustice* oral history collection.
- p. 30 - Letter from Naka Nagata to Frederick Field, 15 November 1942, LAC, RG117-C-3 (Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Vancouver Office: Office files), reel C-9304, images 2866-7.
- p. 32 - Letter from Ian MacKenzie to John Godwin, 7 December 1942, LAC, MG27-III B5 (Ian Mackenzie fonds), volume 25, file 70-25(3): "Vancouver Centre: Japanese in BC, 1942."
- p. 33 - Front page, 8 April 1943, *The New Canadian*, SFU Digitized Newspapers, <http://newspapers.lib.sfu.ca/tnc-1/new-canadian>.
- p. 34 - Letter from Aya Suzuki to P.H. Russel, 18 January 1944, LAC, RG117-C-3 (Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Vancouver Office: Office files), reel C-9476, image 1334.
- p. 35 - Letter Rikizo Yoneyama to the Minister of Justice, 31 July 1944, LAC, RG117-C-3 (Office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Vancouver Office: Office files), reel C-9476, image 1448-1449.
- p. 37 - Letter from T.B. Pickersgill to Arthur MacNamara, 28 March 1945, LAC, RG25 (External Affairs), volume 5761, file 104s part 2-1: "Postwar treatment of Japanese in Canada and United States. 1943/08/20-1950/09/22. Part 2.1."
- p. 46 - Interview with David Mistui [1954], by Joshua Labove, 22 September 2015, Edmonton (Alberta), *Landscapes of Injustice* oral history collection.

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The Bearer, whose photograph and specimen of signature appear hereon, has been duly registered in compliance with the provisions of Order-in-Council P. C. 117.

Vancouver
(Date)

April 23 1941

CANADIAN BORN

Issuing
Officer

[Handwritten signature]

INSPECTOR R.C.M.P.



It's Up to Japanese Themselves

Canada's government is doing well to check up on registration, not only of Japanese nationals who have come to this Dominion as immigrants, but to members of that race who are Canadian-born citizens.

In the Ottawa announcement it is noted, concerning the latter, that their "loyalty to Canada is not questioned except in isolated cases" and they are therefore not being subject to enemy-alien treatment. Without attempting to define Canadian policy in too large a scope, it is apparent that for the present our Canadian-born Japanese are to be regarded with tolerance. It depends very much upon themselves whether kindly consideration shall be continued.

Within the past week many hundreds of fishing boats, most of them owned by Canadian-born Japanese, have been seized by the authorities. Their crews have been required to part company with these craft. This action by the government will be widely endorsed. It will completely remove any temptation which boatmen travelling up and down the coast might have of communicating with Japanese naval or aircraft units.

Now these Japanese fishermen, with

their dependent families numbering several thousand, have been cut off from their regular labor and it may be assumed that for the duration they will not be allowed again to go to sea. In what way will they be occupied?

There will be a tendency for more and more of them to go into woods occupations and small farming. Here is a problem that should have early and careful consideration by the authorities. All Japanese in this area should be set at work doing some necessary war task or some public improvement where their labor will count. If the Japanese are loyal, as they claim to be, then they should work for Canada. Any who decline to work should be interned. And the more careful they are to keep pretty close to their own jobs in their recognized areas, the greater will be the tolerance of our citizens.

It is worth while repeating that it depends very much upon the attitude of the Japanese themselves to determine what kind of beds they are going to sleep in during the trying months that are ahead. Many thousands of pairs of eyes will be upon them, watching their steps.

Jap Property Here—Will It Be Seized?

Today—two weeks after Canada and Japan went to war and five months after a federal order freezing the Canadian assets of Japanese nationals — civic officials are still waiting for orders to make a survey of Vancouver real estate in the hands of the Oriental enemy.

Enemy Alien Action Left To Ottawa

(Status of Japanese-owned city property questioned, page 8.)

VICTORIA, Monday. — British Columbia will not seize Japanese-owned natural resources in this province.

This matter is entirely in the hands of Ottawa, B. C. Government officials point out.

It is up to the custodian of enemy property to seize such resources, if it can be proved enemy aliens own them.

Such proof is difficult to obtain.

"We don't know the Japanese hold any timber," said Henry Cathcart, Deputy Minister of Lands today. "If they do, it is nothing to do with us. It is up to the provincial police or the federal government. This department has never sold any crown lands to any Japanese, naturalized or born in Canada."

The provincial police said the matter was entirely the business of the Ottawa government, which means if any action is taken it is up to the RCMP.

"NOT OUR JOB"

"This is not our job," an official of the Attorney-General's department said. "If there is any timber in B.C. owned by enemy aliens it is up to Ottawa."

Actually, government officials said, it has been the policy of the government in recent years to refuse Japanese applicants for timber tracts.

"We have ignored such requests," one official said.

A check on several government offices today revealed this fact: that B. C. officials will do absolutely nothing about any Japanese-owned natural resources in this province.

They will leave it up to Ottawa.

Natural resources owned by Japanese born in Canada are not liable to seizure by this country.

The Japanese, no doubt, have been clever enough to see that such resources have been registered in the name of Japanese born in Canada.

Therefore, any timber tracts owned by Japanese will continue to be so owned, unless the Ottawa government can prove an alien Japanese (born outside Canada and not naturalized) has controlling shares in them.

Latest word is that "special arrangements for swift seizure" have been made.

If so, nobody at City Hall knows what they are.

And they think the only way to find out what properties are liable to seizure would be to comb the assessment roll for 1942, completed last month.

That, however, has never been done.

At the City Hall they expected to get instructions to do so after G. W. McPherson, representing the Custodian of Alien Enemy Property, flew here last week.

Mr. McPherson was to leave today but no instructions have been received.

CIVIC TAX COLLECTORS

Tax collectors have read in the newspapers that Mr. McPherson has named a local firm of accountants, P. S. Ross & Sons, and Frank E. H. Gates to assist him.

Messrs. Ross and Gates will presumably have lengthy dealings with the civic tax collectors while the war lasts in the Pacific.

Huge quantities of property could fall under the administration of these assistants under a strict system of seizures.

SURVEY NEVER MADE

Because no survey has ever been made no one can say what the prospective value of such holdings might be.

Assessors would make no estimate today beyond saying that "it would stand at a high figure."

Real estate owned by Japanese is scattered widely throughout Vancouver. Its heaviest concentration, naturally, is in the heart of the Japanese community around Powell Street.

ON CROWN PROPERTY

Then there are Japanese boat-builders along Burrard Inlet, said to be operating on land and water lots leased from His Majesty the King in the name of the Dominion Government.

Almost no residential area is free of Japanese homes. The warehouse districts are also studded with Japanese occupation or ownership.

Strangely enough, there is little undeveloped property held for speculation by Japanese. This is explained by Ald. H. D. Wilson by the "pyramiding" method used by Japanese to expand their influence.

DROPPED AT TAX SALE

Japanese, he states, do not ordinarily tie up their money in unproductive enterprise.

They put it to work and apply the revenues to acquiring more land and more buildings, which yield more revenues for a repetition of the process.

A few parcels were held for a rising market several years ago but the owners have gradually been dropping them at tax sale.

NEVER SUB-DIVIDED

Most notable instance was the choice acreage on the northeast corner of Marine Drive at Dunbar, to which the city acquired title in default of tax payments two years ago.

There is one choice tract, however, to which the Japanese are still clinging.

It is on Twenty-fifth Avenue at Quesnelle Drive, on high land overlooking the city and English Bay.

A civic executive reports it to be registered in the name of a man living on Powell Street, but he is "sure" the real owners are a syndicate in Japan.

This land has never been subdivided despite a building boom in the area and high offers to purchase have been rebuffed.

The federal custodian would have no trouble in making a swift sale.

FEW TAX NOTICES TO JAPAN

If assessment and tax notices were mailed to persons in Japan the post office would automatically give the letters to the custodian, it is explained.

Those in Japan, however, mask their identity by appointing local agents, who handle all tax transactions.

Only four or five cases are known at City Hall in which notices are mailed to Japan, and these are understood to be for white persons residents there.

Civic officials assert that the custodianship is working better in this war than in the last one.

Price Waterhouse & Co., accountants, have been managing properties of Germans and Italians, whereas lawyers were the chief administrators in the First World War.

The result was that large tax bills were piled up then which the city has never been able to collect.

The city was unable to sue the custodian, because he was an agent of the Crown, and neither could the city sell the properties at tax sale.

White Crews Will Carry On in Seized Japanese Fishing Boats

DEC 29 1941

The Vancouver Sun learned today that plans are already under way to make use of a large number of the hundreds of Japanese fishing vessels seized in British Columbia waters at the outbreak of war in the Pacific.

What the plans are, and when they will come into effect are not yet known, but it is certain that the Jap boats to be utilized will be turned over to white crews in plenty of time for the openings of the most important branches of the fishing industry in 1942.

First Jap fishing boats to be released for operations by

white fishermen will probably be the more than 40 percent of the Japanese fleet, which was wholly or partly financed by white-owned British Columbia canneries.

This part of the plan is already under discussion.

Some such action has been found absolutely necessary, for since start of World War II a large number of the biggest and best white-owned fishing vessels on this coast—speedy seine boats and packers—have been kept out of the fishing industry by

participation in naval auxiliary patrol duties.

Then, last week, the armed forces took over three more British Columbia fishing vessels. And it is hinted that the navy may need another score before long.

These fishing vessels, which are among the best in B.C. waters, must be replaced if the fishing industry is to be maintained at present efficiency. And that efficiency is important to Britain.

The only solution is to use the Jap boats.

Ottawa authorities are discussing the taking over the Jap boats by white crews. Some official announcement should be forthcoming soon since the herring fishery will be getting underway again immediately after the New Year. In early spring comes the halibut season, and then the salmon—largest fishery of all.

Britain has taken hundreds of thousands of cases of B.C. canned fish to feed her population this year and will need similar amounts in 1942.

There has been no official announcement regarding the possibility of renewing certain Jap fishing licenses after the New Year, but no one in British Columbia expects that a single Jap will get a license while the Empire is fighting in the Pacific.

General opinion is that the white fishermen can handle the industry providing they have enough boats. Use of the Jap vessels will overcome that problem.

'Intern Male Japs' M.P. Demands

VICTORIA, Dec. 29.—Lt. Alan Chambers, Liberal member of parliament for Nanaimo, said in a statement today that "the Japanese must be totally excluded from our coastal waters, from our woods and mills and from any activities in connection with the preparation of food consumed by ourselves or our allies" and advocated the detention of all Japanese males of military age who might come under Tokyo orders.

"Certain coast interests, whose consideration for their pocket-books is greater than for their country, are already trying to bring pressure on Ottawa to permit the Japanese fishing boats to go to sea again when the season opens. This must and should be prevented," he said.

日系人所有漁船処分顛末覚書

本項中には一部戦時機密令に依り当時としては発表不能のもの、
並に、枢密院令上の所管官担任、ミシヨード漁業大臣 (Hon. J. E. MICHAUD,
MINISTER OF FISHERIES) 文に報告される箇の大部分を含む。

先ず当時のメモを便りに、大體日順を追つて拾録して見よう。

▲漁船処分委員会成立までの経緯

太平洋戦争勃発一ヶ月後の一九四二年一月八日、漁業長官マザーウェル氏

(MATOR J. A. MOTHERWELL, CHIEF SUPERVISOR OF FISHERIES.) (以後マザーウェル氏と累称)
から「至急極秘に相済したい故、出頭されたい」と電報があつたので、早速漁業省を
訪れた処、「領政府は食料補給政策上、目下繫船中の日系人所有漁船を、
白人系漁者 (BONA-FIDE FISHERMEN) の手に依り至急出漁一の能き方法を講ずる

為め枢密院令の草案を用意中である。漁船の売却、或は傭船手續の円滑、且つ
公平な取扱方を計る機関として特別な委員会を構成する。その委員長は判事、
委員として国防省の代表一名及び日系人委員一名と任命するとのことである。尚、日系
代表者の推薦方を委ねられたので、君が適任と報告しておいたから了承されたい。」との
話であつた。依て、中着網船や運搬船の殆ど全部は海難、火災保険を付ける

関係上、年々サーベイ (鑑査) 報告書に妥当な船価が明記してあるし、又過去の
傭船契約書を取調べると大凡の傭船料も判明するであらうが、ギルネット、

ワローリング、底曳き、又はカット漁船等小型船は全損補償文の保険に限ら
れてゐる為め、保険を付けるものもない。従てサーベイ報告書は多く、又傭船した

例も殆ど皆無の有様であらう。船価や傭船料の決定は誠に至難であり、
委員としての使命達成は六ヶ敷く思ふ。井手律氏、永年に亘り日系漁者

聯絡協議会の幹事を勤めておられる井手律氏が最適任者と思う故、是非
同氏に相済を願ふ。」と話して置き、翌九日井手氏に前述の点と伝えた処、既に今朝程

マザーウェル氏から話があつたので、君がよいと返事をした。何とか努力して呉れ給え。」との事なので、

「君しも委員にもつた場合は、聯絡協議会の後援が必要であるから、此の点を判然と
して貰いたい。一兩日熟考後決意しませう。」と約束し、同時にこれをマザーウェル氏に報告

した。マザーウェル氏は「緊急事態上枢密院令の草案は完成し、既に委員長と
国防省代表は決定しているから、十二日中には発令を視る筈である」と話された。

これより先、晩市及びその付近各地の日系有志は、一九〇七年然も平時下にも
拘らず排日暴動があつたに鑑み、まして今回は戦時下で、国民一般に不安、恐怖、或は
憎悪も漲つてゐるであらうから、若し不祥事が起つた場合は、婦女子や老人の保護は
非常に難事に見えもので、その脅威が濃厚化しないうちに、一と先ず彼等を安全地帯
に避難させる策を講じてはと、晩市の一室に集り、協議を重ねてゐた。依て十一日

[Excerpt from the diary of Kishizo Kimura. For full text, see: <http://witnessstoloss.ca/the-diary-part-one/>]

Part I: A Memorandum on the Events Surrounding the Liquidation of Fishing Boats Owned by Nikkei People

Establishment of the Committee for the Liquidation of Fishing Boats

January 8, 1942:

One month after the outbreak of the Pacific War, Major J.A. Motherwell, chief supervisor of fisheries, contacted me. He urgently wanted to have a private consultation with me at the Ministry of Fisheries. He told me that the provincial government wanted to increase the food supply. They planned to promptly release impounded Nikkei fishing boats into the hands of Hakujuin and Dojin fishermen so that they could go out fishing. An order-in-council was being drafted for this purpose. To facilitate the sale or rental of these boats, they were creating a special committee. A judge would be appointed as chairman, with a representative from the Ministry of Defence as another member. Mr. Motherwell was to recommend myself as a representative from the Nikkei community and urged me to accept.

The recommended sale prices for seiners and packers were clearly stated in the yearly survey report for the purpose of disaster and fire insurance. Their rental price could be easily ascertained by checking past charter contracts. However, regarding the smaller boats such as gill-netters, trollers, trawlers, and cod-fishing boats, no one placed insurance on them because insurance was limited to the total loss. Therefore, there was no price recommended in the survey report and hardly any examples of their chartering fees, making it very difficult to determine a price. So it was difficult for me to carry out my duties as a committee member.

I stated that there was a Nikkei fishermen's organization, that Mr. Ritsu Ide had been its director for many years, and that he would be the right person for the job. The following day, on the ninth, I called Mr. Ide, and he said he had already spoken to Mr. Motherwell that morning and that he had recommended me to him. He encouraged me to accept the position, and I made it a condition that the Nikkei fishermen's organization would support me. I promised that I would make up my mind after one day of deliberation.

I reported back to Mr. Motherwell, and he told me that the draft of the order-in-council had already been completed because of the urgency of the situation, and it would take effect on the 12th. The committee chairman and member from the Ministry of Defence had already been chosen.

Before this happened, Nikkei volunteers from Vancouver and the surrounding area had met regularly in Vancouver to discuss their wartime safety. Recalling the anti-Nikkei riots of 1907, which had occurred during peacetime, they were afraid of the current mood of the population in this time of war. There was anxiety, fear, and even hatred being directed toward them. If an incident occurred, it would be very difficult to protect women, children, and the elderly. The group had been discussing their temporary evacuation to a safe place before the threat became urgent. On the 11th of January, I visited their meeting place and summarized, to the people in the fishing industry, the conversation I had had with Mr. Motherwell. They promised to back me up whenever necessary.

Early on the morning of the 12th, there was a call from Mr. Motherwell. He persuaded me to accept the committee position, saying that both the chairman and the member from the Ministry of Defence were familiar to me.

TREND OF THE TIMES IN VANCOUVER

FEB 26 1942



Without fuss or friction, a change that may have a significant bearing on British Columbia's future is taking place in Vancouver. The Japanese are moving out, and Canadians are moving in. There are new faces behind the counters in establishments formerly operated by Nipponese, and it is expected their number will increase as the exodus from the coast gathers momentum. One instance is the Busy Bee, West End neighborhood store at Robson and Thurlow. A few days ago it was owned by Japanese, but it has been taken over by Mrs. A. L. Colborne. In the picture, Mrs. Mary Smith is getting ready for customers.

Curfew to Restrict Movements of Japs In B.C. Coast Area

By B. T. RICHARDSON
Vancouver Sun Ottawa Bureau

OTTAWA, Feb. 26.—Following a series of orders, disclosed Wednesday by Prime Minister King, dealing with the Japanese problem on the British Columbia coast, a curfew order is being issued restricting the movements of Japanese between certain hours. It will be enforced by the RCMP.

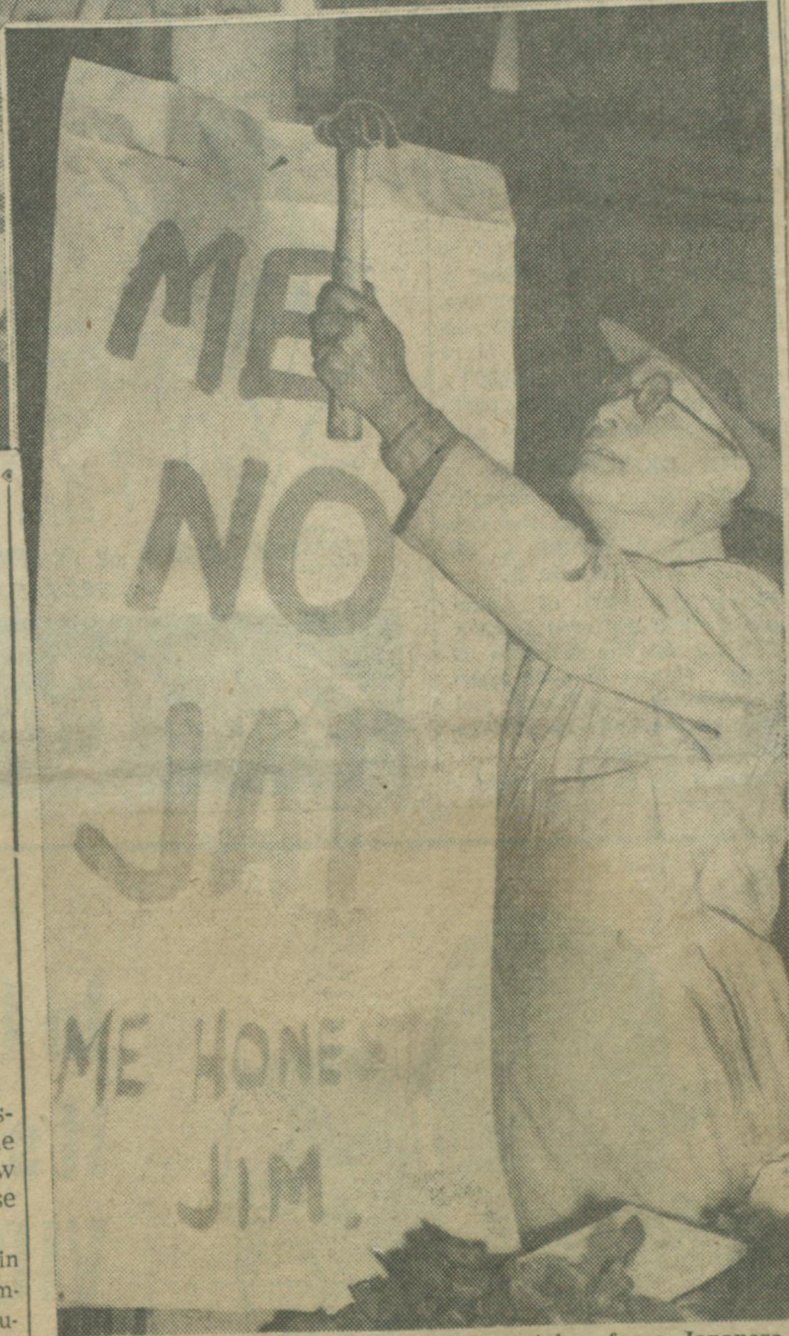
Orders in council tabled in Parliament, including two important documents dated February 24, were hailed with satisfaction by B.C. members, who have conducted a caucus of their own recently and held consultations with the government on security measures to be taken on the Pacific Coast. The order now completed, along with the definite announcement that all persons of Japanese race will be moved out of the B.C. protected zone, are believed to meet all points raised in representations that have flooded the government lately.

SPEED TRANSFER

Hon. Ian Mackenzie, B.C. minister in the government, told The Vancouver Sun today: "As far as I am aware, though there may be some further restrictions, all the recommendations that have come to me have been met."

It is not possible to be precise at the moment about the removal date of all Japanese, he said, but the transfer will proceed as quickly as possible.

Please Turn to Page Four
See "B. C. Japanese"



Honest Jim (Jim Lemen) has been taken for a Japanese so often he has now put up this sign at his stall in Blackburn's market.

The removal order has already been issued, under PC 1486, dated February 24. It is mandatory and provides that removal shall take place forthwith. A substantial number of male Japanese will be moved immediately. Altogether, the order applies to 22,870 persons of Japanese race in Canada. Those resident in the protected zone, which lies west of the Cascade Mountains, must be moved outside the zone, and those already outside the zone can not enter it.

ANYONE CAN BE MOVED

The new orders just issued cover possession of land, property and crops by Japanese and by Japanese-owned or controlled companies. They restrict possession or use of radios, gasoline and explosives. All firearms licenses held by Japanese are cancelled, including licenses to possess stumping powder.

One of the new orders in council tabled by Mr. King provides a new clause in the Defense of Canada Regulations, containing important powers that can be used, not only to move the Japanese population, but to move any or all persons from designated protected area. Similar power hitherto existed only in respect to enemy aliens.

"The public in British Columbia can rest assured that the government is moving with expedition to remove these people from the protected area along the coast, Hon. Humphrey Mitchell, new Minister of Labor, told newspapermen.

"We must maintain the British traditions for handling such situations," he said. "We've got to be fair and we've got to be human."

Ultimately, Mr. Mitchell said, the aim is to move all Japanese from the coast area—naturalized or unnaturalized; men, women and children. But the problem created by presence of 3499 male nationals over 16 is the most important and must be dealt with first.

OTHER MEANS

He urged that Canadians "keep their feet on the ground" while the problem is being worked out.

"The Japanese nationals — we are already moving them from the coast—are expected to agree voluntarily to go into the camps being set up for them," Mr. Mitchell said. "But if they do not, other means will be used."

With Mr. Mitchell at his press conference was Arthur MacNamara, associate deputy labor minister, who is handling the removal of Japanese.

A "person of the Japanese race" is defined as one wholly father or mother was Japanese and who was required by the RCMP to register.

\$1 A DAY PAY

The Canadian Japanese Construction Corps will, according to an order dated February 17, provide for Canadian Nationals of Japanese origin who have expressed a desire to assist in the war effort.

"It has not been found expedient to enlist such Canadians in unrestricted numbers in the armed forces," the order said.

Enrolment in the Corps will be voluntary and for the duration of the war. The basic rate of pay will be \$1 a day and in addition the volunteers will receive on their honorable discharge \$2 for each month served.

Dependents' allowances will be paid, comparable to allowances paid Vancouver relief recipients but not greater than 50 per cent of the scale paid dependents of enlisted men.

The men will be required to take an oath of allegiance and undergo a medical examination and will be provided with accommodation, subsistence, clothing and medical attention.

Sweeping Steps to Restrict All Japanese on Coast

The New Canadian

THE VOICE OF THE SECOND GENERATION

Vol. V, No. 25

VANCOUVER, B. C.

Fri., Feb. 27, 1942

Are You Keeping Up With The Words We're Using Today?

"Oh, why oh, why didn't I study Japanese harder while I was going to the Japanese language school," moaned one Nisei. "My parents keep asking me the meaning of this and that word in Japanese, but I don't know them."

The average Nisei these days finds himself in a somewhat similar situation as Professor Potts in the motion picture, "Ball of Fire," who finds his language studies have been way behind times.

For a translation of "curfew," a word that will be a household term from now on, a thumbing of the dictionary unearths an unearthy long-winded expression, "Yakan gaishu-tsu kinshi rei" (order forbidding the leaving of one's home at night). "No thanks," comments Joe Nisei. "I'll stick to 'curfew'." So the phonetic equivalent in Japanese, "Kafu," stands a better than 50-50 chance to come into being as "bata" did for "butter" and "buredo" for "bread."

Other more technical words have straight Japanese equivalents: "bogyo chitai" (protected or defense area), "sotoku rei" (order-in-council), "shimin rodo butai" (civilian labor corps), "senso chu" (for the duration), "tekoku jin" (enemy alien), "kika jin" (naturalized person), "tettai" (evacuation), "kaigen rei" (marital law), "Canada Kokubo ho" (Defense of Canada Regulations), and many others.

There's A Dance If The Curfew Holds Off

One last dance, one last waltz! Phone your one and only right away for tomorrow night (February 28) is the night when the Vancouver J.C.C.L. will sponsor a "hard times" dance for Nisei dance lovers at the Jackson Avenue Gym.

From 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., then, there'll be music and syncope, and the tariff will be lowered to give everyone a chance to attend.

It's going to be the last fling before the curfew comes officially into effect. Let's make it an occasion the memories of which we'll treasure for all the years to come.

—IF THERE'S NO CURFEW.

るす對に氏諸人本日 項事意注各

昨日より本日に掛けて公表せられた日本人に關する諸法令は左の通りである

一、防禦地帯より全日本人(第一世第二世及歸化人)を撤退せしむ 本令は領政府の準備が出来次第施行せられるものと思はる

一、夜間外出禁止令 本令に依り日本人は全部日没より日出迄に住宅内に居なければならぬ

本令は「敵國人撤退令」と同様正式に各所に法令が貼付せられる迄は實施されないものと思はれる

「敵國人撤退令」は二月五日附で司法大臣より發表せられたが一月十四日迄揭示が行はれなかつた

一、加奈陀國防法が修整せられた者を目指すものである

尚前記諸法令中日本人とあるは日本人を父或は母として生れた者及マウンテッドボリス事務所で登録した者を指すものである

日本人は全部ビシー州内防禦地帯内では自動車、寫真器、無線電信機、無線受信機、銃器、彈藥及爆發藥の所有及使用が禁止せられる事になつた

更に本令に依り警官、マウンテッドボリスは搜索物件なしに日本人の家庭に入り前記物件の有無を調査する事が出来る事になつた

オタワ通信に依れば前記物件は治安維持の任に當る役員或は警官に引渡さなければならぬ旨報じてゐる

As New Curbs Came to the Community

It goes without saying that the present regulations pertaining to and radios is not going to throw up the curfew, the restrictions on cars any roseate picture on the social and economic life of all those of Japanese origin.

"Oh well, we're all nobody's sweethearts now so what's the difference. My business is all shot anyways. It can't get any worse. I wish they'd finish the thing off quick." With a half bitter, half reconciled expression on his face the owner of a once flourishing trucking business shrugged his shoulder expressively. "Toshichan, how will you eat when I haven't any money?" He smiled and fondled the head of his four year old girl.

"Oh daddy, I can work too." She squared her small shoulders courageously. "And I don't eat much... Look, I made dollie a dress yesterday." And proudly she held it up to his admiring gaze.

There's hardly a business that

isn't hit—hard. Stores and small businesses that depend on night trade and deliveries, as ice-cream parlors, soda fountains, cleaners and pressers, garages, were put on the spot.

"Why not come right out and tell us to quit? That would be easier to take, after all the war is a war, and I am quite ready to realize that these measures are necessary. But why not be honest about it. This squeezing us out isn't—isn't British!"

Medical doctors and surgeons are feeling particularly concerned. Without cars they will not be available in the crisis, and they felt that some of the first generation who knew no English might find it difficult to obtain medical aid in an emergency.

The younger generation seems to have imbibed too much of the spirit of democracy to take the current regulations without some degree of irritation.

Like ordinary folks they want a good time. They like their night life, the shows, the dances, their all-night carousings. Some feel sour and were boiling over. Some softened their views with a shrug, but all wished the government would quit their dilly-dallying and get down to it.

The Issei, however, feel it can't be helped. "It's war-time, they contend. It's probably what is taking place in Japan."

No Local Orders Given Yet

Ban on Radios, Cameras Includes Citizens Motor Vehicles To Be Taken Over

Drastic new restrictions amounting in sum to a practical application of martial law against all persons of Japanese origin in the protected area of British Columbia were announced in a series of new orders announced Thursday and Friday in Ottawa.

These include:

(1) Formal authority to provide for the removal "forthwith" from the protected area of all persons of Japanese origin. "Worthwith", it is understood, means as soon as the federal government can make adequate arrangements.

(2) Imposition of a curfew law, under which all persons of Japanese race in the protected area must return to their usual places of residence each day before sunset and sunrise," the order-in-council said.

It is understood that the curfew would not be imposed until official notice of it is made public, in the same manner as that for evacuation enemy aliens. In that case the Justice Minister announced the order on Feb. 5, but it was not posted locally until Feb. 14.

No confirmation, as usual, could be secured for the report of enforcement tonight in a Vancouver daily, which again made use of the opportunity to misrepresent the position of The New Canadian.)

(3) Person of Japanese race living in the protected area of B.C. are forbidden to possess or use "any motor vehicle, camera, radio, transmitter, radio receiving set, firearm, ammunition, or explosive" under an amendment to the Defence of Canada regulations.

These restrictions are contained in the same order detailing the curfew.

The order states further that "any peace officer or the R.C.M.P. . . is authorized to search without warrant the premises or any place occupied by any person of the Japanese race . . . and to seize any article (mentioned in this order) found on such premises."

These articles, an Ottawa dispatch said, must forthwith be turned over to any justice of the peace, or to any police officers. Officials receiving such articles must give to the person delivering them a receipt.

The definition of persons of Japanese race includes all those whose father or mother is Japanese or those who were required to register by the R.C.M.P.

In reply to a telegram to the Minister of Justice from the Citizens' Defence Committee, an invitation has been extended to the Committee to offer constructive suggestions for carrying out the complete removal order. The committee itself said that the removal of Japanese from the Ruskin Dam, the Capilano pipe line, and other vital points will commence immediately.

AUSTIN TAYLOR HEADS SECURITY COMMISSION TO MOVE JAPANESE

OTTAWA, Feb. 27.—Appointment of a British Columbia security commission which will take charge of evacuation, control, and employment of all persons of Japanese race was announced here this afternoon by Ian Mackenzie, Minister of pensions and health.

Commenting on the drastic order made public today by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Mackenzie said it is now in effect and local authorities are being advised by telegram.

Austin C. Taylor has accepted the chairmanship of the commission and the names of the other two members are to be announced shortly.

The commission is asked to take complete control of the situation, and is given very wide powers. Departments of the government are instructed to co-operate with it in every respect and will lend experienced men to help in the evacuation of all Japanese from the protected area.

The Commission is responsible directly to Ottawa. Mr. Mackenzie said that the fullest co-operation of the Provincial government was expected.

Members will be expected to give all their time to the huge task of settling nearly 23,000 Japanese outside of the Protected Area.

Federal departments of all kinds will lend all assistance to they have all taken part in the Commission. Previously policy, but it will now be directed solely by the Commission.

日没時から日出時迄の夜間、全日本人の外出を禁止する旨の法令は既に御承知のことと存じますが、これは日本人保護の目的から實施されるものでありますから誤解のない様、而かも今夜から各自自覺の上實行して相互の安全を保たれん事を願ひ致します

二月廿七日
日本俱樂部

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS RECORDS		
File No.	223-B-402	
Sub.	9	Chron. 9 Filed

JER/MJS
Mar. 2/42

Siler

NOTE FOR THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

British Columbia Security Commission

1. I am attaching a copy of a draft Report to Council, prepared by the Department of Justice, dealing with the establishment of this Commission and its duties.
2. I have looked over the draft in a casual way, and I am not questioning the general treatment, and I have not had time to go into it in detail.
3. There is, however, one point that seems to me to be a shocking thing.
4. Earlier in the year, when we were dealing with the question of the fishing boats, care was taken to establish a benevolent trusteeship in British Columbia, to protect the interests of British subjects whose fishing vessels were taken.
5. In the present instance, all property of any sort in the protected areas is being taken away from the Japanese and handed over to the Custodian.
6. This point was not dealt with in the instructions given to me when I prepared a first draft for an Order in Council.

It is possible that the policy may be one approved by the Ministers and, if so, it is none of my business.

7. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Ministers should fully realize what they are doing. They are abandoning completely the principle of treating the position of the British subjects of Japanese race as one which would justify fairness in so far as it is possible to be fair, taking into account questions of security. The taking of the property away from these men has nothing whatever to do with security. As a matter of fact, it will very greatly hamper the carrying out of the scheme of evacuation.

8. The scheme of evacuation, as embodied both in my draft and in Mr. Varcoe's draft, is based upon ultimate absorption of at least a substantial part of the persons in ordinary economic life outside of the protected areas.

9. This provision, with regard to property, will greatly hamper the absorption of any of the Japanese in ordinary business activities. It strips them of every cent they may have in their pockets or in the banks; it takes the clothes off their backs and removes the tools of their trade: fountain pens from their pockets, books from their libraries, and hands them all over

to the tender mercies of the Custodian. There is no element of trusteeship recognized, and no attempt to set up machinery that would enable the property of these British subjects to be sold so as to preserve and protect their interests.

P.S. I have just heard that the Order is being revised somewhat so as to provide that the Custodian will not be permitted to impose his 2 per cent. charge, and so as to limit its effect to property within British Columbia. Taking its application to a specific case with which we are familiar, Tamaki is in Halifax awaiting a call to the Bar. Assuming that he has his money in a bank in Halifax, he can be called and continue to earn his living. If, on the other hand, he happens to have it in an account in Vancouver, the money will be taken from him, put into Coleman's pocket, and Tamaki will become a charge upon the State.

October 29th, 1946.

TO: Mr. F. G. Shears

FROM: Mr. G. B. Spain

As my period of employment with the Custodian terminates on the 31st I have been reviewing the activities of the Protection Department as I encountered them.

In the first place I was engaged by Mr. Drewry on March 13th, 1942, to proceed the following day to Hastings Park to commence the registration of Japanese. We opened office there in the Mess Hall or Dining Room with any kind of make shift material available. We had typists, typewriters and registration forms, and before the registrations were completed, the Bureau had been shifted around the buildings four times to suit the convenience of the B. C. Security Commission. The problems encountered by the Custodian were evidently considered as of very secondary importance and members of the B.C. Security Commission made it quite obvious that they regarded the Registration Bureau as a nuisance. Collaborating with such Labour Department officials was not easy, and we had to exercise patience, tolerance and decency with the Japanese at the same time. The final big evacuation of Japanese took place on October 24th, 1942, when I was transferred from Hastings Park to this office to assist Mr. Green. The so called primary protection and the removal of chattels had already been in effect for about six months. Mr. Green asked me to supervise the Vancouver District, and in order to gain an intelligent grasp of the problems involved I accompanied Dave Smith to our warehouse at 992 Powell St. and commenced asking a lot of questions.

An examination of the storage arrangements, then in charge of the Crone Storage Company, quickly convinced me that everything was being done in a very haphazard manner. Crones would do the moving into the warehouse during the day, and leave the stacking, swamping and listing until nightfall (to get overtime I presume). The faulty electric illumination in the warehouse made careful work impossible and Crones employees were apparently quite irresponsible. They must have been the rag tag and bob tail element of Vancouver, and some of the lists they made were just so much illiterate scribble. As an example I would ask you to examine Inventory No. 190 in the warehouse. (Mr. Wills will bring this up if you instruct him). It is true there was a serious man power shortage at this time and more lucrative work was obtainable in hauling army contracts, etc. In any event Crones was a very unhappy choice and I submitted to Mr. Green a verbal report and recommendation that we discontinue their services and endeavour to employ other more efficient truckers. Mr. Green accepted my recommendation at once and Dave Smith was consulted as to the best trucker free to undertake the work. The only one free to consider moving chattels at the time was Samuel Barrett who did not seem to mind the dirty work. The change was satisfactory and much more economical, but the documentary method of handling the chattels left much to be desired. At this time I felt that a much better control and record could be kept if we had a triplicate system of lists, and I prepared such an example that would embody all the necessary details. This example was submitted to the office but it was promptly

rejected as unnecessary, particularly as an effort was being made at that time to minimize the stationery expense. I did succeed however in having a small form mimeographed upstairs which gave the field staff some semblance of what to expect at a given address, and return of this one sheet to me with a brief report enabled me to write a circular form of letter to the Japanese to the effect that their chattels were not found at the address given and that we presumed they had disposed of same prior to evacuation.

Our field staff never had a card or means of identifying themselves with the Custodian office, and in many instances tenants required a lot of convincing. In this connection I might state that the Department of Labour gave all of their employees a card stating that they were in the employ of that Department. In case of need I personally had a letter from the Military Authorities authorizing me to interrogate P/W in the Immigration Building, and a similar letter from the Military authorizing me to take photographs in the Defense Area, but none of those in the field had such identification.

The Department of Labour in conjunction with the R.C.M.P. adopted a very arbitrary practice of giving to Japanese an evacuation date notice without giving us similar advance notice of such intentions. The first notice we received of such evacuation was a day or two after the evacuation had been made, and this necessitated quick action by our field staff to reach the former homes of the Japanese before the thieves moved in. In many cases we reached the scene too late and either the thieves had arrived first, or the Japanese had already sold many of their chattels between the date of registration and the date of evacuation. The Protection Department regarded themselves as fortunate when they found the remains of the bacon and eggs on the still warm breakfast dishes. It only meant cleaning the dishes. Then there were gas or electric stoves and water fixtures to be disconnected. The walls, basements and attics had to be examined with the eye of a detective for panels that sounded hollow to the touch or showed signs of recent wall papering which might conceal personal property. It was probably a harrowing experience to the Japanese and I saw plenty of evidence of mental disturbance. For instance Mrs. TANAKA would require an empty carton to pack dishes and would rush across the street and borrow one from Mrs. KONDO. The carton, still bearing the name of Mrs. KONDO, would be credited to her when the carton reached the warehouse. Many Japanese women believed that their friends would not be evacuated; that the war would be finished soon; that they would be back themselves, etc., and left their chattels strewn around the country in anyone's charge. This did not help the Protection Department in identifying chattels.

Warehouses were scarce, or entirely unobtainable, and as the chattels continued to accumulate, the problem of storage accommodation became more acute. Then came the very belated orders from Ottawa to sell the chattels by auction. If the powers that be had exercised a little more imagination and initiative two years earlier, many thousands of dollars could have been saved. Then Thompson and Binnington were engaged to conduct the auctions. The most important consideration as far as the auctions were concerned was to get the right registration numbers on the auction lists. In preparing these lists on the day prior to the auction, Mr. Thompson would compile the lists, while his assistant Mr. Bensen, would call up from the floor a description of the article and the registration number. As Mr. Bensen received the munificent sum of fifty cents per hour for such work, he was

not particularly interested in getting the right numbers and would call say "13752" as "13257", etc. This did not help us very much when the auction sheets reached Miss Girard in the office. I do not believe many auction lists reached this office without numeral mistakes of some kind.

When we took over the Hampa Buddhist Temple at 604 East Cordova Street for storage purposes, it had been in use by the B. C. Security Commission for the accumulation and preparation of shipments of supplies to their Interior Housing Centers. In taking over the building from them I asked for an inventory of the contents and was informed there were none, notwithstanding the fact that one large room was filled to the ceiling and doors with Japanese chattels, which could not then be inventoried owing to congestion, and expense and time required for swamping. As the B. C. Security Commission did not ask us to sign a list of contents, I did not raise the point again.

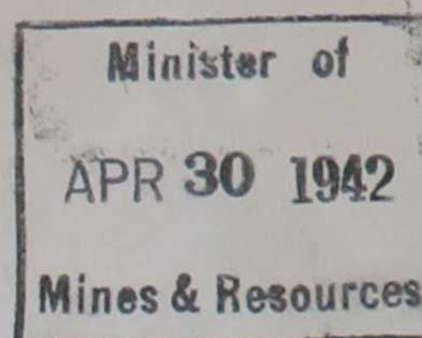
When we were not contending with thieves, we had floods in 992 Powell Street basement, and also at 154 W. 5th Ave. The storage places were infested with rats, moths and other bedstead denizens. The Japanese left fish and other foods in their boxes which invited trouble.

In saying goodbye to the office, I would be an ingrate if I did not mention how much I have appreciated and enjoyed the association with every member of the whole staff. The experience has been entertaining, interesting and amusing, and has enabled me to keep myself organized for the resumption of my work in the field of international trade and commerce.

In concluding I wish to express my thanks to you personally for all of your valued advice in meeting and overcoming the succession of obstructions we have encountered in this extraordinary task.

GBS:LBM

Wm. H. Lyman



MINISTER OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL HEALTH

Ottawa, 29th April, 1942

URGENT

My dear Colleague,-

This acknowledges your letter of April 27th about the Japanese lands in the Pacific Coast defence area.

I am in agreement with Major Murchison's memorandum. I understand informally that the survey has already been initiated and I note Major Murchison's agreement that if action is to be taken to conserve the potential productivity of these lands for soldier settlers, some steps must be taken by the Government immediately to prevent their getting into other hands.

If you care to make a recommendation under the War Measures Act for immediate action, I shall be very glad to support you.

Yours very sincerely,

The Honourable T. A. Crerar, M.P.,
Minister of Mines and Resources,
O t t a w a.



YOUR FILE NUMBER.....

PLEASE QUOTE FILE.....

Personal and
Confidential
Via Air Mail

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT OF CANADA

VANCOUVER, B.C., June 2, 1942.

G. Murchison, Esq.,
Director of Soldier Settlement,
O t t a w a.

Dear Mr. Murchison,

Appraisal of Japanese Lands

I spent last Thursday and Friday in the country again acquainting myself with greater detail on the ground in regard to the Japanese lands, and the localities in which these properties are located. I also had a full discussion with both appraisal teams. I took the boys who are working out of Abbotsford over Matsqui Municipality, and showed them the majority of the Japanese properties which they have to appraise. Mr. Ramsay is not familiar with Matsqui, and they all wanted the general background which they considered I could give them.

I think our men are doing a good job. Irrespective of whether or not their yardstick of values is correct I feel they are attempting to appraise one property fairly with another, and if it should come to the purchase of these lands, and it is necessary to increase the values, this could be done largely on a percentage basis. The whole problem is full of contradictions of various kinds, but I have told the appraisers not to worry as this is bound to crop up in any appraisal job of such magnitude.

Yesterday I spent the day, without break, reviewing appraisals, and ran across situations such as the following.

- (1) One property had been purchased early this year by a Japanese for \$1100 cash; our appraisal is \$1027, and the assessment \$2300.
- (2) Another property had been purchased a few years ago for \$1000. The owner must have given title and taken back a mortgage for \$900. Our appraisal is around \$400.
- (3) A 10 acre property which the owner brought out of the bush in about twenty years, (with a house on it which he claims will have cost him around \$6000 when completed) had grossed the Japanese \$4000 from his crop last year. Our appraisal is around \$2100. I think for practical purposes that our appraisal is not far wrong for the simple reason that a ten acre farm in the hands of the average man cannot support a \$6000 house although the man in question has proven by his efforts that it can be done. However, with a family of six or

seven children who work with him, a man can keep practically all the money in the family; whereas, the man who has to do all his own work, and hire labour, might only have \$400 or \$500 to himself at the outside out of a gross profit of \$4000. Complications are many and varied.

Last night I burned some midnight oil reading the report of the Committee on the Veterans' Act. I feel satisfied that you will run against stubborn opposition on an Act of this nature as the vast majority of people cannot visualize land being used for any purpose other than farming, despite the fact that we have hundreds of living examples before our eyes out here, especially on small holdings. As a matter of fact, a very large percentage of our settlers in the Fraser Valley do not get their living wholly from the land. In spite of this I am still struggling to quite a degree with our appraisers in any endeavour to show them that if we settled, say two thousand men in the Fraser Valley, at least one thousand, and possibly nearer fifteen hundred, will have to go on properties which in my opinion in the hands of the average man we will have to state we do not look upon as self supporting farm units; also that the individual will be at liberty, and will have to look to other sources to find part of his livelihood and means for repaying the advances. It is not that our men are not sincere when expressing their opinions. They seem to be unable to visualize that not only will we have to in the future, but at present we are using thousands of acres primarily as homes.

As an example, in all the appraisals made by Ralph Brown at Mission I doubt if he has once stated that the property is fully suitable for Veteran Settlement. He turns down practically every one for some reason or another. Other appraisers obviously are still playing with the idea of merging a number of properties into one big unit, overlooking the fact entirely that, though this may be sound agriculturally, it will not meet the problem we will have to face.

The next man who knows little or nothing about dyke and drainage charges, and has been on the bench lands, goes into the dyked districts and forthwith doubles the valuations when he finds the crops more abundant. He overlooks entirely that there may be an unpaid capitalization of \$50 an acre against the land plus the maintenance charges. I have also noticed the remark from time to time that no one but a Japanese could make a success on a property. The people of British Columbia have developed a complex over the last twenty-five years that the Oriental can succeed where the white man fails. The white man is doing truck and small fruit farming successfully elsewhere in Canada, and other parts of the world, and he can do it here if he will only change his line of thinking. The difference was rather aptly expressed by Mr. Godfrey when he made the comment that, when the white man went on relief, apparently the Japanese tightened his belt, and worked a little harder to support himself and his family. The dire

necessity of having to paddle his own canoe made him better equipped to face his handicaps.

As far as I can ascertain the Japanese planted probably over one hundred acres in hops in the last two or three years, and the kiln for curing hops which was built at Mission apparently was financed by the Japanese. Most of these hops are in blocks of not more than one or two acres on the individual farms. When I found that the Haas Hop Company at Sardis was going to work most of these small hopyards I was at a loss to understand how they could be interested in these small acreages as their own yards at Chilliwack are in three or four blocks, all comparatively close together. I think they now have over 800 acres in hops. I discovered that most of the hops the Japanese have are cluster hops, and this is the variety the Haas Company is short on.

I hear that Mr. Shimek, or his Company, have an advance in the neighbourhood of \$150,000 from the bank, and a number of Japanese have received fairly substantial cash payments on their leases from this source. Probably for the first time in history the Japanese have received payment for a crop in advance at a figure equal to what they would have made net if they had handled the crop themselves. A number of the people with whom Shimek has arranged leases are Mennonites of fairly recent vintage from the Prairies. Already some of them are wondering where they are going to get any money out of these crops for themselves at \$100 an acre rent.

I believe that Shimek is agitating to bring in five to ten thousand pickers from the Prairies. It appears that the fly in the ointment is that the railways want the return fare guaranteed. They say that once the picking of the small fruits is over these people could then move into the tree fruit picking in the Okanagan, and the picking of hops, etc.

Some of the leases that are said to have been arranged by the Custodian do not appear to have any rhyme or reason to them. I noticed one yesterday where the tenant was to give the Custodian half the crop for the use of the property. There is about five acres of poor hay on the place which may be worth \$25 to \$30 standing this year. There is a good house on the property which should bring at least \$10 a month. It is obvious to me that the man handling this work must know little or nothing about farming as he did not see that the rental value of this property is in the house, and not in the land.

I am enclosing a clipping taken from Saturday's "Sun". There are all kinds of viewpoints on the Japanese situation. One often wonders what is behind some of these undercurrents. As I told you when I was in Ottawa, I have refrained from contacting any of the Government organizations that are mixed up in the Japanese situation until the necessity arises, or I have instructions on the point from you.

I still hold the view that once this year's crop

is off a number of the strawberry plantations will have no further value as the labour will not be put into them to maintain them. Already the appraisers are commenting on the weed situation. One must remember that all these plantations look better today than they will again this year as, to date, we have had good growing weather. Once we get some warm weather, however, the berries will not look so bountiful on the bench lands.

I have kept in close touch with the boys in horticulture who have been studying the raspberry problem around Mission during the past eight or ten years. To date they have not been able to arrive at a definite conclusion as to why raspberries on the older ground no longer produce satisfactory canes. With this background you will see that I am not very optimistic as to the value of a raspberry plantation in the hands of a tenant. In other words, I doubt how much value there will be in the strawberry and raspberry plantations in 1943 in a number of these properties. It is for this reason that we are largely confining our values to the land. During the twenty odd years I have spent out here I have seen good raspberry plantations, without buildings, selling at \$1000 an acre, and later it was difficult to find a buyer for the same ground at any price, and eventually the land got into the hands of the taxing authorities.

You will recall the area south by west of Abbotsford, commonly known as the Peardonville country. It has been built up largely with Mennonites in the past ten years who have gone in chiefly for small fruits and poultry. Some of these people obviously are now beginning to cash in on their efforts. The country is comparatively flat over a big acreage, and is largely underlaid with gravel which at some places comes almost to the surface. Other sections have six inches to a foot or eighteen inches of silt over the gravel. The surveyors are working over this area at the present time, and apparently the Air Force are making a minute check of it from the air as well as on the land. The location, in my opinion, is first class as an air field as this area is as free from fogs as any I know of in the Fraser Valley. If the air currents are good then it should make an ideal field. With bulldozers the country can be levelled in very short time as there are few ravines, and those in existence are not deep. It should make a splendid all year round field. Recently the Delta Field was abandoned. I understand that training school has been moved to the Prairies. Your knowledge of the Delta will give you an idea what some of the problems were that must have confronted them there. The field in the Peardonville area will likely take some of the holdings in which we are interested. I believe also that surveys are being made in the vicinity of Courtenay which will affect some of our holdings in that area. I understand this district is being surveyed as a training field for Commando work.

In checking up on our collections yesterday I find we have taken in as much money so far this fiscal year on due payments as

we did last year, and prepayments are slightly ahead of last year - this in spite of the fact that we are without a field supervisor on the job, and two of the office staff are putting in full time getting out plans and sketches from the Land Registry Office for the field men. Almost every day some settler pays off his loan, and I do not feel well unless I see at least one or two letters in the mail asking the amount of their total debt.

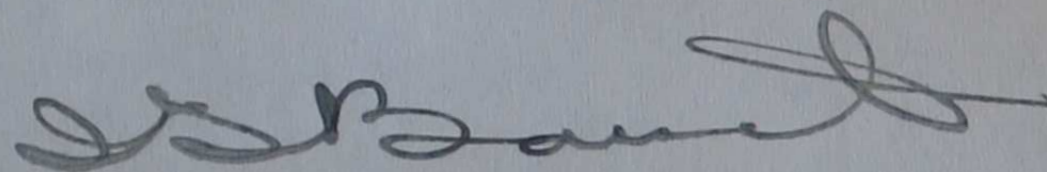
I felt that I could give you a better interpretation of our problems by a personal letter than under an official communication. I still feel that when the necessity arose to move the Japanese out of the Defence Area, we would be making a big error if we ever permit these people to establish themselves in Canada again. It will mean a hardship to many of them but, as a Nation, they saw fit to overrun lands of other Nations. We must maintain this Pacific Coast as a white man's country, and again educate the white man to realize that he can make a comfortable living in any of the occupations which the Japanese has been peacefully but aggressively dominating

The weather has been cool and showery, and the countryside as a whole is looking beautiful. Good hay crops as far as tonnage is concerned are assured. The berry crop is heavy, but dry warm weather is now required to ripen it. Some berries are being picked but on account of the excessive moisture they are moulding and rotting on the vines. The flavour will be nothing to write home about until the weather warms up.

I see no immediate serious problems cropping up in Soldier Settlement with all our staff working on this Japanese problem. I think on the whole the boys are reasonably content on the job. I authorized them to go home over the 24th of May at Government expense as I felt the cost to the Government would be less than keeping them in the hotels, and they would feel better for getting home to see their families. I am satisfied it was the right course to take as I see from the appraisals received yesterday that a number of them who stayed at the hotels worked over the weekend. I am going to suggest that those who are away from home work this weekend, and next Monday, add this time to a longer holiday on the first of July.

I hope that at the sittings of your Committee the Prairie Members can appreciate that Canada produces other products besides wheat and some livestock. Some of the Japanese greenhouse men are producing more off five acres than some of the Prairie farmers are off 3000 acres.

Yours very truly,



District Superintendent.

ITB:B

Jap Fleet Tie-up Brings New Menace

Who Will Catch Dogfish to Provide Britain With the High-Vitamin Oils She Needs So Badly? 'Prices Are Too Low'

By DON MASON

Danger of fifth column activities by British Columbia's big Japanese fishing fleet has been averted by swift official action, but by that action production of one of Britain's primary requirements is menaced today.

Britain vitally needs the high-vitamin oils which are manufactured from dogfish livers caught in B.C. Coast waters.

'PEGGED' PRICE

A high official declared recently that the vitamin oils are as vital a British requirement as tanks, planes and guns.

There is strong doubt today as to whether sufficient quantities of dogfish livers will be produced here to fill the Old Country's pending order.

Ottawa authorities decided about a week ago that small coast fish boats could produce all the livers needed. It was not stated, but the small boat production counted on was for the most part production by Japanese.

I was told today that in recent years Japanese fishermen have landed 75 percent of this province's total landings of dogfish livers.

The decision that small boats could handle the catch influenced Ottawa in deciding to set a "pegged" price of 12 cents a pound for dogfish livers.

This price seemed acceptable to the Japanese, but white fishermen declared it would not allow them to operate.

JAP TIE-UP

Mrs. Phyllis Gregory Turner, newly-appointed oils administrator, came to Vancouver to talk about prices and production with the fishermen and processing plant operators.

She returned to Ottawa apparently convinced that 12 cents a pound was the highest price operators should pay for the livers.

Perhaps the small boat fleet could have handled the production, but for one thing.

Every Jap-owned fishing boat on this British Columbia Coast is now interned. They'll do no more fishing this year. Today the navy began to move the Jap vessels in this area to Bidwell Bay, across from Dollarton on the south shore of Burrard Inlet.

Wednesday, W. T. Burgess of the United Fishermen's Federal Union wired Ottawa suggesting that since the Japanese fleet is now out of the industry for "an indefinite period" that the dogfish livers price problem be opened for further discussion.

'HIT-AND-MISS'

Today Mr. Burgess had his answer from Mrs. Turner.

She says that the terms of the agreement she made with the operators in Vancouver have been approved by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and have now been submitted to the British Food Mission.

If the agreement becomes effective, the price to fishermen will be "pegged" at 12 cents a pound.

"If that price is settled on, we believe that the production of dogfish livers from now on will be a hit-and-miss proposition, with no assurance that it will be large enough to fill Britain's requirements," Mr. Burgess said.

"One of the bigger fish boats arrived today with 5000 pounds of livers. After he had sold them at prevailing low prices, he told me that he could not afford to go fishing unless the price was up."

The situation in a nutshell is that Britain must have the vitamin oils, but the fishermen can't operate unless prices are boosted. It seems to me that this is a problem demanding immediate action by those in authority.

The Vancouver Sun, January Twenty-First, Nine

'Strategic Withdrawal to Prepared Positions'



—Les Callan in Toronto Star

These Regulations vest in the Custodian all enemy property and require all persons to report to the Custodian and hold subject to his control all enemy property as defined by the said Regulations.

Under these Regulations "enemy property" includes the property of all persons regardless of their nationality who reside in enemy or enemy occupied territory, and in addition the property of all persons who are detained under the Defense of Canada Regulations.

These Regulations do not affect the property of persons of the Japanese Race who are conducting themselves in a proper manner and who have not been detained under the Defense of Canada Regulations.

By special order dated the 8th Day of December 1941, the Secretary of State and/or Custodian has delegated his power and duty under the said Regulations to the undersigned—Glenn Willoughby McPherson.

To facilitate the investigation and control of all such enemy property the undersigned is now in Vancouver and all reports required by the Regulations and all other communications should be addressed to him c/o P. S. Ross & Sons, Royal Bank Bldg.

G. W. McPHERSON.

Authorized Deputy of the Secretary of State and/or Custodian.

Landscapes of Injustice



ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION COVER PAGE

Interviewer Name: Kyla Fitzgerald

Interviewee Names: Betty Toyota and Joy Trapnell

Interview Date: October 13, 2016

Interview Location: Joy Trapnell's residence, Duncan, BC

Interview Summary: In this interview, Kyla and Mike Abe sit down with Betty Toyota, a Nisei, and her daughter, Joy Trapnell, a Sansei. For this interview, Betty shares her memories of growing up in Vancouver as a teenager before the war, having her father and brother being sent to internment camps, her family's preparation before leaving, getting her high school diploma, being uprooted to Slocan and growing up during the internment like living in a tent and shack, eating in the mess hall, getting water, and getting work. Furthermore, Betty discusses her family history, how she met her husband Tak Toyota, reuniting with her brother, social life after the war, and moving to Creston with her husband. Joy and Betty also discuss Tak's successful business ventures including Tak's Home Furniture, community contributions, and legacy. Joy also shares her own childhood memories, her family, and about growing up in Creston and being Japanese Canadian. Finally, Betty and Joy reflect on the obstacles of fitting into a small town, the effects of the internment, and the importance of sharing family histories.

Subject Keywords: Vancouver, Japanese National, Petawawa, CPR Station, Immigration Building, Angler, Ontario, Alexander Street, Japanese Language School, Slocan, Pearl Harbor, New Denver, Cordova Street, Beacon Theatre, Vancouver Island, Japan, Wakayama, Strathcona School, education, graduation, diploma, Stanley Park, fishing, Powell Street, Hastings Park, vehicle, cars, Jalopy, deportation, naturalized Japanese Canadian, Creston, Thunder Bay, Fort William, Lethbridge, Popoff, marriage, Bay Farm, Lemon Creek, dance, radio, TV, Sandon, Buddhist Church, archive, photographs, photographer, Nikkei Memorial Centre, Nikkei National Museum, Tak's Home Furniture, Cranbrook, Castlegar, community, University of Calgary, family, racism, prejudice, discrimination, culture.

Time Periods: Pre-World War One (1900), Interwar Years World Two, Post-war (1948 onwards), Redress Settlement (1980's), Present

Consent Forms (completed, where stored?): Yes, forms held at Ryerson University

Rights (should be transferred to project via media release): Dr. Pamela Sugiman

Restrictions (any notes about keeping names private, or restricting public access to interview):

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No.

Equipment Used in Recording: Zoom H2n Handy Digital Recorder

Media Type and Format (most should be Audio WAV files): Audio WAV

Length of Interview: 2:32:28

Language: English

Landscapes ID Number (OFFICE USE):

START OF TAPE 1

00:00:00

JOY TRAPNELL

Why don't you talk about what it was like when you left Vancouver when you found out that you were going to have to leave, how did that go?

BETTY TOYOTA

It was kind of hard because by that time my dad was in the internment camp because, like I said, he was a Japanese National and being enemy aligned they have to send them to Petawawa. And then my brother ended up in Angler, Ontario, but another thing was this immigration building. They were taken into this immigration building in Vancouver that was right at the bottom of Granville Street. That's where the CPR Station was. And we could only go up there, they wouldn't let us in the building, but the first group of Japanese nationals that they rounded up, they were all stuck in this immigration building and the wives could go in and talk to their husbands, but then it was like a guard was standing in the room. This was the first group. And when that immigration building got full, then they shipped them all out to Petawawa. Then they started getting the second group, which was my dad, which was in the second group. By that time, they wouldn't let the wives into the room. We could only go outside and yell at them through the window and that's what we did just about every afternoon. And walk down to the immigration building and we yelled it. Somebody would say, "Oh Mr. Omakoshi, there's your family there." So he would come out to the window and it's barred.

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KYLA FITZGERALD

Oh.

BETTY TOYOTA

But it's open so we'd just come in and wave your hands like. And then we found out that they were going to ship this group of people to the interment camp on the train so that afternoon we went to see my dad and all I could remember is my dad yelling and he's telling my mother, "Make sure you eat good food. Don't skimp on your food and stay healthy." He was quite focused on eating good food like we did. And that was it. Well then after he got shipped to Petawawa, there were more groups. They took in the naturalized Canadians, they all got in and then after that they started getting the Japanese Nisseis in. and while there was one group they kind of protested, that the food was bad or something. So they had a riot in there. They threw toilet paper out of the window and everything.

KYLA FITZGERALD

Oh really?

BETTY TOYOTA

Ever since then, they stopped people from going to the building. They completely didn't let us go to the building. And the only way was here was your building, and this is Hastings Street and there's quite a lot of distance away and that's the only way you can see this building. So we would walk up to Hastings Street and there's kind of a guardrail and we would lean on and we could see the building down there. And you could see the people, but you can't see the faces, but you can see the men waving their hands out of the window. And then I got the idea I said one day, "Mom, we could send letters into the immigration building," just a note, of course it would be censored. So I said mom, "Lets do something. I'll put a red handkerchief in the envelope and write to Johnny and tell him if you see a red handkerchief like us waving, you come to the window and wave at us."

KYLA FITZGERALD

And can I ask who was Johnny?

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BETTY TOYOTA

John is my brother.

KYLA FITZGERALD

Oh okay.

BETTY TOYOTA

Okay. Yeah so the next day we went and the three of us, like my two sisters and my mom and I, we went and raved this red handkerchief. And somebody must have said, "There's somebody waving a red handkerchief." So naturally my brother came out and he was waving his red handkerchief. And then we knew he was okay that he was there. But then that story caught on and soon there was a white handkerchief, blue handkerchief – [Everybody laughs]

KYLA FITZGERALD

A rainbow of handkerchiefs.

BETTY TOYOTA

White handkerchief. That's how handkerchief started.

JOY TRAPNELL

Handkerchief started...

BETTY TOYOTA

And then that place got full so they were all shipped out to the interment camp we found out. Then we found out that the instead of sending them to Petawawa they sent them to Angler. And that was

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it. But another thing was going out on the train. They send them out on the train. And every night at seven o'clock the CPR train would go by our Alexander Street. The train track is just down below Alexander Street. And our Japanese School happened to be on Alexander Street and every night – you know those days nobody wore watches. We didn't have any watches. And we had Japanese school from 6:00 to 7:30 and we couldn't get out at 7:30. But every night, twenty after seven the train went by so we could tell when the train went by, "Oh it's twenty after 7:00, ten more minutes and we'll be out of school." And that was the longest ten minutes. But anyway when they started shipping all these people out, we couldn't go to the immigration building. All we could go was go down to Alexander Street and watch the train go by and then we could see the men in the train waving their hands. But you know what it's like a train going, how are you going to pick out your father or your brother just like that. You can't see anybody but somebody would say, "Oh I saw Johnny on the train, he was on the train." Oh somebody would say, "Oh Mr. Omokoshi was on the..." but then every night, everybody used to walk down to Alexander Street to see the train go by because at that time they were sending people to ghost camp too. Ghost towns on the train, right. So that was another thing. Every other night we would go down Alexander and watch these people go down on the train and that was quite a thing too. And then we got the notice that we had to go to Slocan and you're only given 48 hours notice. And the reason we went to Slocan was see they were all told where to go. Like the doctors were told to go here, the dentists were told to go here. Ministers, Kaslo was the United Church minister, Greenwood was the Catholic nun, Slocan was the Anglican. New Denver was the Buddhist Priest and that's how it went. And my sister worked for this dentist in Vancouver and he was told to go to Slocan. So the dentist said, "Well if I go to Slocan, I want my nurse. Like my aid to go." So that's how we ended up in Slocan.

JOY TRAPNELL

Because of Margaret.

BETTY TOYOTA

And then once we got to Slocan we had to live in this tent. And the tent you can see the replica of it in [Unclear due to cough]. And I remember the first time we went, they showed us our tent, we were each assigned a tent. It's only about that big. There were two double beds in the tent; it's just made of –

JOY TRAPNELL

Canvas.

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BETTY TOYOTA

Four studs and a board across and that was it. That was our bed. And on each bed was this – they called it a palius. It's a ticking made of blue and white ticking. Mattress cover. And they called it a palius, double bed side. And the man said, "You take this palius, go out in the field and fill it up with straw," out in the field there was a whole pile of straw or hay, I don't know what it was. But we had to fill this up and bring it back to the tent and that was our mattress. And we were each given a gray blanket, one of those itchy two, two itchy gray army blankets. And that was our bed.

MIKE ABE

How many in the tent?

BETTY TOYOTA

How many in the tent? Just me and my sister.

MIKE ABE

Okay.

JOY TRAPNELL

And your mother.

BETTY TOYOTA

Oh yeah and my mother. There was just the three of us, it was just the family. I don't know how many other people lived. But at least four people could live in the tent. And I can't remember what we did about our pillow or bed sheet. We brought it with us but it was still in the baggage car. But that's how we stayed and for two months.

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JOY TRAPNELL

And then how did you get out of the tent?

BETTY TOYOTA

How did we what?

JOY TRAPNELL

How did you get out of the tent? Like, why did you get moved?

BETTY TOYOTA

We moved because we were in there. We left Vancouver the day after Labour Day, September, October, we were in that tent. And you know how cold it gets? And Japanese are smart. They think of something.

0:10:00

They're always thinking of something. And we got to know this one young fellow; he used to come over every tide day. And he was the carpenter. So you know the nail kegs, they used to come in a keg. All the nails, got one of those nail kegs, made a little foundation made of wood and filled it up with rocks and gravel and put this nail keg upside down and made a hole in the front and then he made a hole in the top. And by that time the commission would give us stovepipes. You would go down to the head commission warehouse and there was this Japanese man in Vancouver. He was a tinsmith and he made these things called roof jack. You know how you have a roof and there's this tin and the pipe.

MIKE ABE

Oh yeah.

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BETTY TOYOTA

They called it a roof jack. So we were allowed to go down to the commission – the warehouse and get two pipes and a roof jack. So that roof jack would go out from the flat of the tin. So we had enough little fuel to burn in this little nail keg with the smoke going up the roof. And that kept our little tent warm enough.

JOY TRAPNELL AND MIKE ABE

Wow.

BETTY TOYOTA

That's how we kept. And then naturally October the 31st it snowed. And our tent caved in from the snow, weight of the snow. And I thought, "Oh my god we got bombed." And that was it. So the next morning there was no place to go so they moved us into the house. They're building this shack, but the house – it was the way they distributed people into the house was the way they came in. So you had to go by name like the people that were there first got the empty house. And the houses, they couldn't build these shacks fast enough for the people to live. And that's how we had to live in a tent 'til we got the shack. But then we managed and lucky to share a shack. But another thing was as long as you were living in the tent, you had to eat in the mess hall. How else can you get – there's no way of cooking. It was just the parent. So we went into the mess hall and this mess hall used to be this old skating rink in Slocan. So naturally the floor is dirt and they've just built tables out of old wood and benches. And that was the mess hall. And then you go in and you have to line up, like the working men ate first as soon as they came from their work about five o'clock or twelve o'clock. They would eat first. So the men and the women and children, old men and women and children, they had to line up outside. Wait in line 'til the men finished eating. But naturally we were working in the office right? So as soon as the men finished eating, we could go down and eat. But the first time we went to eat in the mess hall, you have to wait in line, walk in line and there's a stack of tin plates and I would swear, I'd swear that they must've picked it out of the dump at some army camp or something. They were dented, some were rusty and then every now and then you'd see this white rim and you'd think, "Oh it's an enamel plate, I'll get that." And pull it out and you know how enamel is when it gets old you get this black spot, it's got black spots and knife, but that's what we had to eat. And then they show your food, you line up and you go and they line up and throw food in. And I remember I had happened to be in front of my mother and I looked at her and her face just turned white. I could still see her. I mean in Vancouver, my dad was quite particular about the food we ate. That's why he yelled at us, mom to make sure you eat good food right? And we ate out of good chinaware. We had the Noritake chinaware set, we ate good food. And to see all this slaw, to us it was slaw. It was just something else. Yeah. And then Japanese there was an old saying, *tengoku*, means heaven and *jikoku* means hell. Mom used the first, quite a while she was saying it was just like *tengoku* too, for her. And it was like that for us. And then here we moved into the house. Well it was a shack, but to us it was an old wood stove.

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We had a gas stove in Vancouver, we had oil heat. Mom wasn't used to cooking on a wood stove. So it was all a new experience for her. So I often thought, no wonder it must've been hard on my mother. But she never complained, not once. We would complain every now and then. But mom never did because she said, "Think of your dad and think of your brother. They'd be worst." And no indoor plumbing, outside we had to go and fetch water with a pail. And for every six houses, three on that side and three on this, there was a washstand. And you'd go to New Denver and you see this replica of the washstand. It's just a wooden box, and then there's this pipe, it's sticking out. And you turn the water and you fill your pail and you come home. And it was – my mother and my younger sister, they looked after the water all the time. So after supper, it was my older sister and my turn to go and fetch water for the night. And I remember this one day, I told you.

JOY TRAPNELL

Yes you did.

BETTY TOYOTA

It was my turn to go fetch the water so I go get the water, fill it up, this is in the wintertime. Fill it up two pails and start to turn around and naturally it's all icy because everybody else is getting water and you know how it splashes, and everything is icy around and I turned to go and I slipped and I fell, two pails full of water just spilled. And I'm telling Joy, I told you, "I just swore my head off." [Joy laughs] I don't know where the words came from. I just swore and I thought, "What did I do to deserve this?" And that's the only time I felt so angry about being in an interment camp like a ghost town. That's how it was, you had to get used to it. You had to fetch water every time.

JOY TRAPNELL

Tell the story about the money. About grandpa, your father and how he knew and he took all the money and gave it to grandma.

BETTY TOYOTA

Well I told you that didn't – Oh the money when the war started my dad knew right away. You know how rumors go around? That they were going to get all the Japanese nationals because they were enemy aliens and they were going to round them up and deport them. Japan. So naturally the first thing that my dad thought was the money. So he went took all his money out of the bank, I think there

Landscapes of Injustice



were two banks he dealt with. Took all the money out of the bank and then he had three insurance policies on his life. Got all the money out of the insurance policy because he lost quite a bit too, right? But at least he had the cash. And then he was going to sell his house and get the money, but by that time, they had frozen all the Japanese, they froze the houses, right? So he couldn't get the money. But what we didn't know was that my mother all during that time she carried all this cash with her. And that's how we were able to buy a few things and all that.

KYLA FITZGERALD

Can we go back a bit, Betty, to your childhood?

[...]

9524 109 A. Avenue,
Edmonton, Alberta,
November 15, 1942.

Mr. Field and Co.,
Frederick Field and Co.,
Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Field:

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of the 10th instalment. We are very grateful for all your advice. We appreciate it very much.

I am indeed very sorry to have caused you so much trouble and worry. I am sure, however, that I did not waste the money you have been sending to me. Please excuse our extra expenses but I am trying to be very very careful. However our coming to our new place did constitute most of our extra expenses such as the stove, moving expenses, settling, etc.

I too was in a way shocked at the expenditure of the last eight months but I feel that I had not used the money in a wasteful manner. I'm certain that we had not used more than hundred - fifty a month for living expenses. The extra was for moving etc. I must apologize and must more than apologize for all these expenses but I can not express myself in any other but to say that I have tried my best. My children too are fully aware of the situation I am in and thus I find they are not at all difficult to manage. The boys are growing now and thus I need quite a bit to keep them in a healthy condition. I assure you that when your allowance comes we just pay our Light, Gas, Telephone, street car bills. For the last month and perhaps this month I have had dentist bills. All these bills amount close to fifty dollars. Believe me, Mr. Field, I do not use the money for any unnecessaries such as shows, clothes and others. Towards the middle of the month I find that I have not enough to carry me through. I have tried very hard for the last few months but always I run out. Could you please consult the custodian for a little more money in our allowance? I promise and can assure you that I do not use any on luxuries and non-essentials. I do pray that you will be able to do this for us because when the situation arises it is indeed both difficult and embarrassing.

In regard to the winter clothes. Could you please send enough to cover my little ones expenses at least. Right now it is really cold with quite deep snow. The wind here is bitter.

My two daughters say they can manage for a little while longer with coats they have and so could you please send enough for others, because they are really in need of winter clothes. They are not at all prepared for the winter. Please send this as soon as possible.

I have enclosed a bill we paid yesterday for Fusako's gym slacks and shoes. This was necessary for the military lectures and Physical Training at school. Shinko will also need them for next Monday so please include this money too.

These financial matters are indeed frightening but my husband and I are fully prepared that all our accounts will disappear. I do not regret this at all however, because I wanted the children to get an education. My husband and I knew and realized that our account would disappear when we came here. If Shinko's account becomes nil, please transfer Fusako's account to Shinko's won't you? If this does not agree with the custodian please deposit my cash money or car money into Shinko's account. But I'm sure I need not explain because my husband explained to you before he left for camp. If the above ways cannot be done I shall be willing to borrow \$200 a month from my husband's company.

In regard to Mrs. Iwashita, I shall do as you say. I felt that I should not do this asking for payment and thus I had not wanted to receive any payment. I had sincerely hoped that by this time I would be able to obtain a permit for the family to move but as yet I am not successful. I have thought the matter over however, and believe sincerely that I must offer my kindness to this family when all the world is in a chaos. I don't want to consider this as a money basis because somehow I feel that Mrs. Iwashita is different from myself. Up to now though I have been asking Mrs. Iwashita to pay one-half of our water, light and gas bill. I shall thus leave the whole matter to you.

I was indeed surprised that you had not kept our radio. We had sincerely wished you to have this radio as our appreciation for all your goodness and kindness to us. Please accept it won't you?

I must apologize for writing such a long, perhaps boring letter but I'm sure you will understand. Thanking you again, I remain,

Sincerely,

(signed) Mrs. Nagata.

Ottawa, 7th December, 1942

Dear Mr. Godwin,-

On my return from the West, I have read with interest your letter of November 20th in regard to the Japanese situation.

Your letter, I must say, is very reasonable and very constructive and very fair, from your point of view. I must state, however, that your point of view and mine are entirely different with respect to this situation. When I think of the anguish, the fears, and the anxiety which we have experienced in recent years on account of the presence of these Japanese in our midst, I do not think that any question of nationality should prevent our having the right to advocate, at the Peace Conference, their complete removal to their own country. Their country should never have been Canada. In some cases, unfortunately, it is.

I do not think this is an unkind policy. I think it is a fair policy. I do not believe the Japanese are an assimilable race. I think that in the future those who will be in charge of affairs in our province will have a happier time if the white population has not to meet the presence and the competition of the people of Japan. In this I admit frankly that my viewpoint may not be as christian as yours, but it is an honest viewpoint and honestly arrived at.

I appreciate very much your writing me in the spirit in which you have done, and I hope that your son who is overseas with the Air Force will be returned to you when victory and peace come back to us again.

Yours sincerely,

John Godwin, Esq.,
1 Aberdeen Block,
84 Lonsdale Avenue,
North Vancouver, B.C.

MAY TAKE LEGAL STEPS TO PREVENT LOSS OF HOMES

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An Independent Weekly for Canadians of Japanese Origin

Vol. VI, No. 18

10c per copy

KASLO, B. C.

40c per month

Saturday, April 8, 1948

Your friends would like to
know — Register births,
deaths and your weddings
in The New Canadian.

Custodian Seeks Orderly Property Sale

Legal Opinion Disposal Beyond Governm't Power

Definite pronouncement of the Federal Government's intentions to proceed with the liquidation of property owned by Japanese evacuees at the Pacific coast ended weeks of suspense for many owners, but also brought fresh fears.

First suggestion that property might be sold came in a Canadian Press report two months ago that an official of the Secretary of State's department had announced that the Custodian had been vested with the legal power to sell, and that an advisory committee was being constituted.

Inquiry by responsible quarters failed to reveal any further details until the public statement last week.

It was understood in certain official quarters that the Government had taken action only because of certain cases, where full use of the property could not be made because of the stubbornness of the evacuated owners.

At the same time the impression was given that where full arrangements had been made by the owners to rent their property, and management of it had been placed with lawyers or agents, there was no intention to proceed with an arbitrary sale.

Latest developments seem to dispel this impression, although considerable reliance is hopefully placed on the official statement that "the whole purpose of the custodian's taking over the property of evacuees is in order that it may be properly protected."

STRONG REACTION

On the other hand, the fact that the proceeds of the sale are not to be handed over to the owners, but are to be held by the Custodian's office and to be issued only in certain amounts "in co-operation with the British Columbia Security Commission" has provoked a strong reaction and some suspicion.

No figures are available at all as to the gross value of the urban and rural property which may be affected, but it is certain to run into millions of dollars.

It is concentrated, of course, chiefly in the Vancouver downtown area and in the berry-growing areas of the Fra-

KASLO. — The legal opinion has been expressed that the intention of the Federal Government to proceed with the arbitrary liquidation of property owned both by citizens and aliens of Japanese origin is beyond the legal powers of the Government even as a war measure.

With this expression in mind it seems certain that legal steps will be taken by property owners to secure an injunction to prevent the sale of the property on these grounds.

Numbers of former residents of the coastal district in the Slokan, New Denver and Kaslo projects have voiced their wish to organize as an amalgamated "property-owners' association" in order to carry the fight to the courts of law.

It is foreseen that the litigation is likely to be long, involved and costly, and likely to go at least to the Court of Appeal, if not farther.

Recognizing that the expense will be heavy there is the evident wish on the part of many to unite for the purpose of carrying the case as far as legally possible.

It is thought that evacuee-owners in all different districts may set up representative committees, and that a central committee be chosen for action.

Owners in every district who are interested in contesting the power of the government to liquidate their property are therefore urged to set up local committees and to dispatch their suggestions and support by letter and telegram to a temporary committee already established.

Headquarters for the temporary committee will be in Kaslo at the office of "The New Canadian."

ser Valley, but some holdings are to be found in other coastal points from which the Japanese were evacuated.

While holdings by both nationals and naturalized citizens are large, it is doubted if many Canadian-born citizens own property. The liquidation policy is to be carried out, however, regardless of citizenship status.

Use Of Japanese Homes Again In Vancouver Council Discussion

VANCOUVER. — The problems of empty Japanese houses in the city were discussed again at a meeting of the prepared to help in the matter, the Housing Committee last week, re-called the Province. The National Greyhound said that if the government Housing Ministry is faced with the problem of finding housing accommodations for at least 600 families, and that a special interview with the

request was received from the Housing Ministry. Realty that, in view of the pressing housing needs, some definite action be taken with regard to the property of the vacated Japanese and some manner of proceeding be given to the project of making the houses habitable, continued the report.

Chairman of the committee, A. G. Macdonald, claimed that people were anxious to get into the houses, but that they were restrained because of restrictions regarding sanitation and other measures.

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Appointed To Committee



Kishizo Kimura

Former member of the Japanese Vessels Disposal Committee, was appointed by Ottawa to the committee which will advise the Custodian "on matters relating to the disposition and effective use of" Japanese properties in the Greater Vancouver area. Mr. Kimura, secretary of the Canadian Salt Herring Exporters before evacuation will represent the Japanese evacuees. Mr. Justice Sidney Smith is chairman of this committee and Alderman Charles Jones will represent the City Council.

NOTICE TO EVACUEE PROPERTY OWNERS

● A temporary committee has been set up in Kaslo to represent the "Amalgamated Evacuee Property Owners' Association" with a view to presenting submissions to the Federal Government in respect to their property, and to taking any available legal steps to protect their interests and equity.

● It is believed that many widely-scattered evacuee owners will be interested in the new purpose and work of the Association, and opinions, suggestions and supports are urgently invited.

● Telegraph or write immediately to the:

Temporary Committee,
Amalgamated Evacuee
Property Owners' Association,
c/o The New Canadian,
Kaslo, B.C.

Hawaii Bids Nisei Volunteers Aloha

HONOLULU. — (AP) — Honolulu, April 7. — The 2,000 Japanese American volunteers who are being sent to Hawaii to help in the war effort, are being welcomed by the Nisei community. The volunteers are being sent to Hawaii to help in the war effort, and are being welcomed by the Nisei community.

Veteran Grand Secretary estimated that nearly 20,000 Japanese American volunteers are being sent to Hawaii to help in the war effort, and are being welcomed by the Nisei community.

Kishizo Kimura and Yasutaro Yamaga Represent Evacuees

KASLO. — In a press release received by The New Canadian, the appointment of Kishizo Kimura of Christina to the "Advisory Committee of Japanese properties in Greater Vancouver" and Yasutaro Yamaga of Tashme to the second "Advisory Committee on Rural Japanese Properties" was announced by the secretary of state as Custodian of Japanese property in Vancouver. The manner and method whereby properties will be liquidated is still to be decided and will be made known to the public and the Japanese through the press in due course, the release stated.

The two Advisory Committees which will advise the custodian "on matters relating to the disposition and effective use of" Japanese properties are headed by the Honorable Mr. Justice Sidney Smith on the city committee and His Honor Judge Whiteside of New Westminster on the rural committee. Appointed as a third member of the committee dealing with properties in the Vancouver area was Alderman Charles Jones of the Vancouver City Council. A. E. McMaster will act as executive assistant to this committee.

(Mr. Justice Sidney Smith, Mr. Kimura and Mr. McMaster were recently "warmly" commended for their "work in handling the difficult situation" regarding the matter of disposing over a thousand Japanese fishing boats.)

The members of the Rural Committee are D. McKenzie, New Westminster, J. J. McLellan, Fort Langley, Hal Menzies, Hancey and Yasutaro Yamaga, former manager of the Maple Ridge Co-operative Produce Exchange, representing the Japanese interests.

G. W. McPherson, executive assistant to the Secretary of State has been in Vancouver during the past week assisting in the organizational work of the Advisory Committees and he stated:

PROPERTY WILL NOT BE
SACRIFICED — CREDITED
JAPANESE EVACUEE

"The Custodian is anxious that the public and the evacuees understand

that the properties will not be sacrificed but that the liquidation will be credited in the Custodian's office to the account of the individual evacuee owner and will be made available to him in co-operation with the British Columbia Security Commission in such amounts as he may require.

"The whole purpose of the Custodian's taking over the properties of evacuees is in order that it may be properly protected and there is no intention that the property or the proceeds of the liquidations of the same have been or will be confiscated and this applies regardless of the nationality of the evacuee owner."

The Custodian during the past year, explained the statement, has in accordance with Orders in Council appointing him for that purpose, endeavored to take protective custody of all Japanese evacuee assets located in the protected areas of British Columbia. It appears to the Custodian, the release continued, that in view of conditions and circumstances existing at present, it is probable that the interests of Japanese evacuees in the protected area will be adversely affected and he has come to the conclusion that in order to properly protect such interests it is advisable to carry out an orderly liquidation of evacuee properties.

"In so far as the public is concerned, the Custodian's Organization will continue to administer the affairs of the Japanese evacuees and to deal with the public and the evacuees directly in all matters relating to the proposed liquidation."

Japanese Members Well-Known In Community Life Before Evacuation

Two well-known figures in the pre-war Japanese community have been appointed to the advisory committees which will aid in the liquidation of evacuee-owned property.

Yasutaro Yamaga, formerly of Hancey and now living in Tashme, is probably the most widely-known Japanese figure in the Fraser Valley district.

He organized and was manager of the Hancey Maple Ridge Berry Growers' Cooperative, and was also a member of the Hancey and Tashme Japanese Community. He was also active in community and church affairs. He is a Japanese national.

Kishizo Kimura, former secretary of the Canadian Salt Herring Exporters Ltd., on Dunsmuir Avenue, represented Japanese owners on the Fishing Vessel Disposal Commission, which last year liquidated the fishing fleet for a gross value of one million dollars.

Mr. Kimura, a naturalized sub-

ject, has been at Christina during the winter, but has been in Vancouver for the past two weeks conferring on the property question.

The personnel of the fishing disposal commission has been substantially retained in the urban property committee. Mr. Justice Sidney Smith, who headed that body, is also chairman of the property committee, and A. E. McMaster is again executive assistant.

Alderman Charles Jones, well-known in the Japanese community as Father Jones, is also a member and represents Vancouver City on the committee.

The rural committee, drawn from New Westminster and other Fraser Valley farming centres.

It is not known whether any representatives have been or will be selected for other points in the protected area, where evacuees own property. These would include Victoria, Nanaimo, Cumberland, Prince Rupert, Skeena and other coastal points.

沿岸日系人財産処理方策の詳細未決定

カストチアン當局は在来通りの方法で整理を進行中

近頃日米関係が緊張している。このため、沿岸日系人財産処理方策の詳細は未決定である。カストチアン當局は在来通りの方法で整理を進行中である。

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file. J 24/1/44*

Box 48,
Slocan City, B. C.

January 18, 1944.

P. H. Russell,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Received your letter of the 3rd instant.

I do not wish to appear rude and it is not my intention but I would like to put the facts before you in withholding signatures for this case until the court appeal is settled upon.

Before leaving Vancouver your men had told us that this process was to protect us and in your assurance we had our business put into our local agents whom we trusted as you had promised that if and when they have proved reliable that they will be able to deal directly with us. But now you say according to Ottawa this land has been sold.

You have gone against our wishes, also without even consulting us, as any citizen of Canada would have the privilege of giving assent or refusal, and as long as we are not hindering production I feel before God that we have the right to contest it. After all what are we (Canada) fighting for? Not that same treatment the Nazi's gave the Jews be practised here in our own country! But that Canadian citizens be free to exercise their rights and to contribute to the betterment of this land of our birth.

This seems as if we are not cooperating but we must stand for the right. I am sure you will understand when you put yourselves in our position.

Hoping things will clear up soon,

Yours sincerely,

"Aya SUZUKI" - #08121

C
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Sub. P. O. 9,
Edmonton, Alta.
July 31, 1944

The Right Honorable The Minister of Justice,
Justice Building,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

During May of this year I received notification that my property at Haney, B.C. had been sold for the sum of \$1406.98 to the Director, Veterans' Land Act. My property there consisted of seventeen and a half acres of land and other household goods of which I am enclosing a list, which I valued at the total sum of \$4500. The Custodian has not at any time requested my sanction of dispose of my property and had he done so, I would have been most reluctant to sell it, as it has been my livelihood for the past seven years and through hard work I had been successful in making an income to approximately \$3500. per year which I expended to put two of my children through university as doctor and dentist respectively. In order that my two remaining children, who are dependent upon me, receive the same privilege as their two older sisters, it was my desire to return to my home at Haney and endeavour, as in the past, to obtain sufficient independence to enable them to complete their education, one as an optometrist and my only son as electrical engineer.

I came to Canada in 1907 and was allowed the privilege of Canadian Citizenship on December 22, 1914. This, to me, was the most gracious opportunity given by the country of my adoption. Through it, I realized an ambition I had desired since landing on this continent, that of being able to raise a family of Canadian sons and daughters. The opportunities given me by Canada, sir, have never been abused by me or any member of my family.

I am now fifty eight years and feel that I cannot start again from the bottom. My health is failing, and as previously pointed out, my desire after hostilities have terminated, was to return to my home at Haney and continue where I left off upon evacuation during October 1942.

As you will see, sir, the disposal of my property for the sum stated has caused me a loss of over \$3000. in actual cash value and also the loss of a home I had spent years to build up to a point of security for my wife and my children. My wife and I have been Canadian subjects for thirty years. It does not seem just that as Canadians my family should be deprived of a home which to us meant more than just a home. It was to us, the foundation of security and freedom as Canadian citizens.

I am attaching hereto copies of letters received and sent by those concerned in this transaction and, sir, I would request your sympathetic tolerance, consideration and assistance in obtaining the return of my property. I feel no ill-will towards the country of my adoption through what to me seems an injustice. I realize that we are the victims of a war emergency and as such are quite willing to undergo the hardship of breaking family ties to help safeguard the shores of our homeland. However, I do urgently desire to return to my home at Haney when the present emergency ends. May I plead your assistance in the sincere request for the return of that home?

The integrity and loyalty of myself and the family is known to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Edmonton and should you desire a substantiation of same, I am quite sure you would be able to obtain a report covering my family from them. I am, sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. Yoneyama.

Encl.

Department of Labour

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

New Denver, B.C.,
March 28th, 1945.

Mr. A. MacNamara, Deputy Minister of Labour, Ottawa.

I have now completed my visit to all the Settlements in the Interior. We had our last meeting with the New Denver and Roseberry Committees this morning.

I thought you would be interested in the general re-action which I have observed, and a summary of the main questions which we have been asked by the Japanese people.

In listing the main questions which we have been asked, I am setting forth below each, the verbal answer which we have given. Some of the Committees have submitted their questions in writing and have requested written replies. Before acceding to this request, we think you should see the verbal answers we have given, and correct us on any points in which you think the answers are not wise. There are one or two questions which we admitted quite frankly we could not answer and promised to procure replies from Ottawa.

- 1.(a) Will relocees to Eastern Canada receive treatment as full fledged Canadian citizens?

Answer: We have replied quite frankly to this question that there are some details on which there is still some uncertainty. We suggested that it was not likely that this question would be fully decided in all its aspects until after the Loyalty Tribunal had been appointed and had completed its work. In the meantime, we were only asking people to relocate in other Provinces to fill specific jobs for which employers had requested Japanese labour. We explained to them, that because of this insecurity and several other questions which were still in doubt about the future for Japanese people remaining in Canada, the Government was offering generous provisions for repatriation to those voluntarily applying, if they come to the conclusion that the outlook is not too bright for staying in Canada.

- (b) Will relocees be given full rights to private enterprise, occupational freedom and a right to own and rent property, real and otherwise?

Ans: We told them that a complete and satisfactory answer could not yet be given to this question. In the meantime, they were being asked to accept employment, and work for salaries or

wages, until the question of acquiring their own property and going into business, was settled. We pointed out the present regulations which apply, concerning the renting of residential property. According to Mr. Brown, this whole question is now under advisement, and we are likely to have some further information shortly.

- (c) Will freedom of travel and transfer of residence in any part of Eastern Canada be permitted during and after the war?

Ans: We explained that so far as during the war is concerned, the same regulations concerning travel will apply. While the war is on, the Japanese people will still remain under the jurisdiction of the Japanese Division, Department of Labour. Excepting B.C., travelling without a permit is allowed within a Province but permission must be secured to cross Provincial boundaries. So far as transferring of residence is concerned during the war, where a change of employment may be involved, we said that this could be arranged by our Eastern Placement Officers as new employment was found, and as housing accommodation could be obtained. So far as regulations after the war were concerned, we explained that details of this still had to be decided.

- (d) What is the policy of the disposal of liquidated assets of Eastern relocatees, now held in trust by the Custodian?

Ans: We explained that the same rule would apply as at present where Japanese people permanently relocating outside B. C., would be provided with the assets from the sale of their property, when such sales were made.

- (e) In the event of anti-racial violence and consequent damages sustained, will the Dominion Government hold themselves responsible for rectifications?

Ans: The Japanese people will have the same rights to police protection as any other people residing in a particular Province or locality, and will have the same rights to resort to the Courts for claims against damage to property, but the Dominion Government could not commit itself to paying for damages sustained. One person asked us, if on relocating East, and he was accosted by several who might have reached an advance stage of inebriation, would he be protected from violent actions on their part. We replied that he would have the same police protection that anyone else would have under the same circumstances.

- (a) Do relocations to other Provinces remain under the jurisdiction of the B. C. Security Commission or do they sever further relations and come under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government?

Ans: We explained that Japanese evacuated from the Protected Area would remain under the jurisdiction of the B. C. Security Commission so long as the war with Japan lasted. At the same time, the Dominion Government might work out, with the Provinces concerned, certain joint administrative arrangements for their relocation and resettlement.

- (b) Where a relocatee becomes destitute owing to illness or otherwise unemployable:

- (1) Will maintenance or relief be granted?

Ans: The Department of Labour will continue to assume responsibility for the welfare of the Japanese evacuated from the Protected Area, and where maintenance is required, this will be provided.

- (2) Will the Provincial or Dominion Government be responsible for the relief?

Ans: The Dominion Government will see that the relief is provided, but it is probable that the arrangements might be made with the Provincial Government for the administering of the relief.

- (3) Will there be any supplementation to income where ever it is deemed necessary by the relief authorities?

Ans: We reiterated the answer given to (b) (1), where we said that the Dominion Government would see that maintenance would be provided where it was required.

- (c) Will the Elementary and High School education of relocations be granted on an equal basis as all other residents of the Province?

Ans: We pointed out that Education was the responsibility of the Provincial Government, and not the Dominion Government, and we could not say definitely what would apply.

- (d) Is there any definite policy regarding military service?

Ans: What they wanted to know was whether they would be called up for military service if permanently relocated. We replied by saying that to our knowledge, there is no change contemplated in the present policy whereby people of Japanese origin were not called up for military service, or were not accepted when voluntarily applying.

- (e) Will those wishing to remain in Canada and who are presently employed in British Columbia, or in the Interior Housing Project, be permitted to retain their jobs until such time as they are suitably relocated and in the case of the unemployed, will the British Columbia Security Commission provide maintenance allowance until they are to be relocated to a suitable job. If so, will this apply to single persons, physically fit and over 18 years old?

Ans: We said that those presently engaged in private employment in British Columbia would not be required to leave that employment, but would be permitted to leave that employment in order to take advantage of employment outside of British Columbia.

For those Japanese Canadians employed in the Projects, we said that if we had suitable jobs to offer them outside of British Columbia, we would consider justifiable removing them from Commission employment.

We said that the British Columbia Security Commission would meet its responsibility for maintenance if suitable employment was not available.

So far as physically fit 18 years and over are concerned, we explained that those wanting to remain in Canada would be expected to take essential employment when we had it to offer them.

- X 3. (a) Where a person now residing in Eastern Canada applies for repatriation:

- (1) Will he be able to return to the Interior Housing Project immediately following his application?

Ans: We said that those who sign voluntary applications would be permitted to return to our Interior settlements just as soon as we could make housing accommodation available.

- (2) Will he be permitted to remain at his present place of employment until repatriation can be arranged?

Ans: We replied saying that he would be able to continue in his present employment so long as it lasted until repatriation could be arranged.

- (3) Should his application for repatriation result in his unemployment, will he be sent back to the Interior Housing Project?

Ans: He probably would be, but where there were circumstances which from his point of view made this very undesirable, we could probably arrange for his maintenance in the Province where the unemployment occurred.

(4) Will transportation be provided for those signing voluntary applications returning to the Interior Housing Project?

Ans: In cases where individuals were properly authorized by us to return, the transportation will be paid.

3. (b) Will Japanese Nationals wishing to remain in Canada be permitted to relocate East as permanent residents?

Ans: We said that where there was nothing on record of the Japanese National which we would consider would be of particular significance to the Loyalty Tribunal, we would assist in their relocation if they requested it, in the same manner as Japanese Canadians.

(c) Will those internees who can be released but who have refused Eastern employment, be permitted to rejoin their families in the Interior Housing until such time when they can be repatriated?

Ans: I had some doubts about this question, but suggested that there was little likelihood that Internees would be released from the Internment Camp to return to the B. C. settlements while the war with Japan was still in progress.

(d) Has the British Columbia Security Commission some definite policy regarding the present so-called rehabilitation reserve of those applying for repatriation. Where this minimum has been reached, will the Commission give maintenance thereafter and leave this amount intact for transfer upon repatriation, or do they become wards of the Canadian Government regardless of what funds they have on hand?

Ans: I replied that I would need further clarification on this point from Ottawa before giving a definite answer. I said that I was reasonably sure that the minimum reserve would be left intact, but that amounts in excess of the minimum reserve might have to be used before maintenance is provided.

I wonder if you might clarify this for us. In view of what is said in the statement signed by the Minister of Labour, are we not obligated to provide maintenance to voluntary repatriates regardless of the amount of their assets? This question has been asked several times and seems to be quite an important factor in

their deliberations about repatriation. I suppose, according to the actual wording of the statement signed by the Minister, we only secure to them the net proceeds from the disposition of their property which stands to their credit at the time of repatriation. I would suggest, that if requested, maintenance be provided to voluntary repatriates regardless of the amount of their assets.

(e) With reference to those applying for repatriation:

(1) Will Elementary schooling of children be continued?

Ans: The present schooling facilities provided by the Commission will be continued for voluntary repatriates until such time as repatriation could be arranged.

(2) Will teachers applying for repatriation remain on the staff and be permitted to attend the Teachers' training Summer School?

Ans: They will be permitted to remain on the teaching staff and to attend the Summer School.

(3) How will the Vital Statistic records be looked after for voluntary repatriates?

Ans: The same system as at present for recording Vital Statistics will be continued until such time as repatriation can be arranged.

(4) Will a person having applied for repatriation be permitted to cancel his application and remain in Canada if he has acceptable reasons?

Ans: We said that those who have already made application for repatriation could apply to the R.C.M.P., Ottawa, to have these applications cancelled. We doubted, however, unless the circumstances are very exceptional, that favorable consideration will be given to cancellation later, of applications made on a new form, when the R.C.M.P. Detachment takes these applications. We explained that the signing of these applications was strictly voluntary, and decisions made now, should be considered final.

(f) Will those applying for repatriation be permitted to relocate individually or as a family unit, to any part of British Columbia and Eastern Canada?

Ans: We said that those applying for repatriation would not be permitted to relocate outside of British Columbia, but that we would facilitate the taking of employment in British Columbia outside of the protected area, for those wishing

to become employed.

- (g) Where a Canadian Japanese applies for repatriation -- what arrangements have been made by the Canadian Government with the Japanese Government to secure Japanese citizenship?

Ans: We explained that the Prime Minister, in his announcement of the policy concerning Japanese in Canada, that in the peace negotiations with Japan, arrangements would be made for Japan to receive people of Japanese origin from Canada who are being repatriated after the war. I stated that voluntary repatriates would not be despatched to Japan until satisfactory diplomatic arrangements had been made.

- (h) If a family wishes to remain in Canada, but due to certain circumstances must remain in the Project; will the authorities give specific families due consideration, and if permitted to stay, will they be given maintenance or suitable employment?

Ans: I said that the Dominion Government would continue to assume its full responsibility for the welfare of the Japanese evacuees from the Protected Area. If they could not be moved from the Project, and maintenance was required, it would be provided.

4. If one parent signs for repatriation and the other does not, what about the position of the children under 16 years of age?

Ans: I said that I would need to get further clarification on this point from Ottawa, but that I felt that it was most likely that the father would be considered as the guardian of the children. In cases however, where the evidence showed that the mother had been responsible for the support of the children, and the father had not contributed to their support, the mother would likely be considered the guardian, and her action in signing would determine the position of the children.

5. If a couple desire to get married, but one signs and the other does not, will the marriage be prohibited?

Ans: We answered this by saying that such a situation would be most unlikely. It would seem strange that a couple would be planning a marriage when one knew that he or she would be going to Japan and the other was staying in Canada. We would not likely prohibit the marriage for these reasons.

6. How about the Japanese Nationals who do not wish to be repatriated, and who may have some other desires or wishes --

would they come under the same treatment as Japanese Canadians?

Ans: I answered this by saying that until such time as the Loyalty Tribunal had been appointed and completed its work, this Administration would treat Japanese Nationals the same as Japanese Canadians, except that we would be making particular effort to encourage Japanese Canadians not signing applications to relocate outside of British Columbia.

7. Will the children under 16 years of age, whose parents sign for repatriation now, be required to sign individual applications if they reach 16 years of age before repatriation can be arranged?

Ans: I stated that I thought this would likely be necessary, but I would refer it to Ottawa for clarification. I expect it would be necessary for us to see that this was done. I would like to have your opinion as to whether you consider that children who reach the age of 16, if their parents have signed for repatriation, will have the opportunity of stating that they do not wish to be associated with that request.

While I am still reserving judgment, the impressions given to me during this trip, suggest that there will be a substantial percentage of the Japanese in the settlements signing applications. The lowest estimate I have been given is 40% and the highest 80%. It is however, very difficult to say. One of the principal factors encouraging repatriation, seems to be that voluntary repatriates will be kept in British Columbia. Another important factor encouraging repatriation has been the reaction in the other provinces to our announcement. They have repeatedly raised the question of the unfavourable reaction in the other provinces to permanent settlement in those provinces.

This was naturally an extremely difficult question for us to discuss with them. I stated quite frankly that this bad reaction was fairly universal across the country and undoubtedly it would make conditions more difficult for the Japanese taking employment in those provinces. I said to them at the same time that this situation existed, it was a fact, and they must be realistic in facing this fact. It was because of this possible reaction that the Government was offering generous terms of assistance to those who come to the conclusion that conditions might be too difficult for them in Canada, and the opportunity might be better in going to Japan. I emphasized that the signing of these applications was strictly voluntary. No pressure whatsoever was being exerted. Those however, who do not sign, know the facts and the difficulties ahead, and would have to be prepared to meet these difficulties and the existing uncertainties. I reiterated that we were not asking those who do not sign, to leave British Columbia unless we had specific jobs which we considered

suitable, and in which they could make a livelihood, to offer them. we had jobs which we consider suitable, we, however, expect the Japanese Canadians to take them.

I think it would be helpful, if no disclosure was made of our estimations of the percentages of people who may sign. I have already been telephoned by the papers in Vancouver, since coming on this trip, asking for a statement on the general reaction. I stated that I was not willing to say anything at this time. One of the papers has requested permission to be at Tashme on the first day that the R.C.M.P. Detachment reaches the Project. I have turned down this request, believing it to be most unwise. I would, however, appreciate having your advice on this point.

If we find at Tashme that a high percentage of the people sign applications, should we make this fact public? If the percentage is low, I think it would be most unwise, but if it is high, there might be some advantage in having this fact publicized.

T. B. Pickersgill (sgd.)

T. B. Pickersgill
Commissioner.

TBP/VK

Landscapes of Injustice



ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION COVER PAGE

Interviewer Name: Joshua Labove

Interviewee Name: David Mitsui

Interview Date: September 22, 2015

Interview Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Interview Summary:

David begins the interview with his earliest childhood memories including the different places he moved to in Ontario, where he went to school, and how his parents, after being interned, raised him. He recalls what it felt like growing up in an area where there were not many visible minorities. David explains that his curiosity regarding the internment and dispossession of his family stemmed from his interest in his grandfather's participation in the First World War. He tells the story of how his grandfather enlisted in the Canadian Army, despite the BC government's unwillingness to accept his application, in order to prove his allegiance to the country. David also describes his grandfather's role in gaining the right to vote for Japanese-Canadian veterans. David then recalls the moment when his father, shortly after leaving for the Greenwood internment camp, was notified that their property had been vandalized and looted. He then moves on to reflect on how his grandfather may have felt about the redress movement and the government apology had he been alive to experience that moment.

Subject Keywords: Joy Kogawa, Hamilton, Smithville, Ontario, St. Catharines, College Street Public School, South Lincoln High School, Brock University, University of Waterloo, Queens University, Museum of Regiment, Regimental Secretary, National Association of Japanese Canadians, Calgary War Museum, Michel Gravel, Norm Christie, Common Wealth Graves Commission, Japanese Canadian War Memorial, Legion Branch Number Nine, Canadian Expeditionary Forces, Pearl Harbor, Port Coquitlam, Greenwood, Redress, Apology, Brian Mulroney, Hastings Park, Stanley Park, Alberta, Spruce Grove, Edmonton, Powell Street, Argyll Community Center, Edmonton Japanese Canadian Association, World War One, World War Two.

Time Periods: 1900s – 2000s

Consent Forms (completed, where stored?):

Rights (should be transferred to project via media release):

Landscapes of Injustice



Restrictions (any notes about keeping names private, or restricting public access to interview):

Equipment Used in Recording: Zoom H2N

Media Type and Format (most should be Audio WAV files): 2 WAV files.

Length of Interview: 2:03:31

Language: English

Landscapes ID Number (OFFICE USE):

START OF TAPE PART ONE OF TWO

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START OF TAPE PART TWO OF TWO

[00:00:00]

JOSH

Josh Labove, still in Edmonton, Alberta with David Mitsui. So, talking about your grandfather, did he talk much about his military experience with you or the evolution of coming out from BC to Alberta to enlist?

DAVID

My grandfather never spoke a word about his previous life at all, mainly because he didn't want to recall his war experience. He spoke a little bit of English but not a lot of English. Growing up we could understand a little bit of Japanese but certainly not have a conversation with him. We could understand enough to let him know what we were up to and tell him things that were happening in our life, but not for him to sit and tell a story to us or to recount some of his experiences. I learned about my grandfather mainly from my dad and my aunts. My grandfather Masumi Mitsui immigrated to Canada in 1908. His father was a naval officer in the Japanese navy. He was away a lot when they were battling China and other places. But my grandfather wanted to enlist as well. He tried to enlist but for whatever reason, and we don't know why, his enlistment was refused. We think as a result of that, he left Japan and he came to Canada. He landed in Victoria and became a dish washer and chauffeur. That's where he started in

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Canada. He became involved in the community I think quite quickly because there was a pretty large Japanese immigrant population in the lower mainland already. He moved to the Vancouver area after leaving Victoria. That's when he met his fellow soldiers and they wanted to enlist when World War One broke out in 1914. As I said, the British Columbia government wouldn't let them enlist even though they had started to form a Japanese Canadian contingent that wanted to enlist in BC but they had to disband because of that. After going to Calgary and then having come back from the war, about fifty percent of them did not come back. So they lost about fifty percent. When my grandfather was discharged in April 1919 and came back to Vancouver, like all the other ones came back to Vancouver as well, the Japanese Canadian community raised money and they built the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Stanley Park and it was dedicated to the soldiers of World War One. On one side of the pillar are the names of those who returned and the other side of the pillar are those that did not return. At the base are petals outlining all the battles that the Japanese Canadian soldiers were involved in. Still wanting the right to vote, and wanting to form a group to lobby the government, they first of all created the local Legion Branch Number 9. There was a lot of resistance from other Legions that were mainly white Anglo-Saxon and Protestants that were against them. I guess the head of the Legion permitted them to create their own branch of Japanese Canadian soldiers, vets. In 1931, my grandfather was the president. They brought together a number of vets, as well as Japanese Canadian businessmen and the secretary of the Legion and they travelled to Victoria with the sole purpose of lobbying the legislature to get the franchise. After the vote, it turned out that they had won the right to vote by one vote from the legislators but it was a hollow victory because only the Japanese Canadian vets were given the right to vote in 1931. The rest of the Japanese populations weren't given the right to vote until 1949. When they found out that they had won that concession, they returned to Vancouver and their sole purpose at that time was not to celebrate that the vets had won the right to vote, but they gathered around the cenotaph and they wanted to honor their fallen comrades. So that event was pretty historical. I submitted a proposal to the Honorable Peter Kent back in 2007 that the Japanese Canadian veterans of World War One getting their right to vote was a historical event and should be identified as such. I got a letter back from him in July of 2011, it took a while, stating that he approved my proposal and the Japanese Canadian vets of World War One getting the right to vote is a historical event. That started the process of getting a plaque made and getting the wording on it embedded and having it installed. So, we're at the stage now of the wording has been embedded, I'm not sure if the plaque has yet been made but we are looking and we put in a request to have the plaque installed at the site of the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Vancouver in Stanley Park installed in April of 2016 which is sort of the beginning when the Japanese Canadian war vets were enlisted to fight with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces. It's also the 100th anniversary of World War One, and 2017 would be the 100th of Vimy, the battle of Vimy Ridge. So I guess we were waiting patiently for this election to be over because nothing is happening during this election period. We were hopeful that something is going to happen, can happen, next April. Let's see, where was I, going back . . . So after they won the right to vote, World War Two happened. The Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941. That brought into play all of the discrimination and prejudice and fear of the yellow peril as Barry Broadfoot stated. William Lyon Mackenzie and his cabinet and the BC Premier and his cabinet fearing that the Japanese Canadian along the Western Pacific Coast were a threat to their

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existence and the War Measures Act was introduced. From my understanding, things happened pretty quickly starting in 1942. Some of the men were immediately taken to internment camps or work camps, with families to follow. My grandfather owned a seventeen acre poultry farm in Port Coquitlam, and the address is 1945 Laurier Avenue. My dad was given permission, and actually I have the certificate, it's called the security certificate that allows him to stay on the farm while he takes care of the house and business, and the rest of the family is sent to Greenwood and the internment camps. Shortly after my dad left, he went to Greenwood as well. Someone contacted the Mitsui family at Greenwood and said "Your house has been basically vandalized." They were told before they left to put all the valuables in the basement and it'll be there when they got back. The house was broken into and everything was stolen out of it. The house was sold by the government, I think I have it written down here, for [long pause] . . . So the BC government sold the house and paid the family \$2,291.00 dollars minus legal costs to transfer the title. It was bought by a person, a fellow named Edward James Gilmore for \$893.70 and included a bill of sale of everything the family owned including farm tools and, quote, "Japanese fancy goods all packed in boxes." I heard that the family, my grandfather's family never got the money from the sale of the house. The government used it to pay for their internment, okay? We were, my wife's daughter and her husband, moved to Port Coquitlam about five years ago. When we were looking up their address in Port Coquitlam, this real estate ad popped up on Google. It had this house for sale, 1945 Laurier Avenue, formerly owned by World War One veteran Sergeant Masumi Mitsui. So we clicked on that link and sure enough the house was for sale. Only the farm house, not the 17 acres because it's all developed land now. And the family wanted \$700,099.00 for it. So my wife said "You need to contact the real estate agent because we're going to be in Port Coquitlam for Thanksgiving." Which is just the following week. So she sent an email to him on his link and within ten minutes we get a phone call. "This is the real estate agent, I'd love you meet you. I've got a lot of information about your grandfather." So we were there for Thanksgiving and on that Sunday we had a private showing of the house that my grandfather had built and rebuilt in 1941 because there was a fire. There were four bedrooms and the kitchen was modernized but the rest of the house was basically the same.

[00:15:32]

JOSH

What's that like? I mean there you are in the house with a real estate agent who's looking for a commission and you're looking at your grandfather's prized asset lost from the war and you're finding it through someone who's getting ready to sell it?

DAVID

It was, an eerie experience. We thought we would also meet the family who owned it but I think they decided to leave the city that weekend. So, we never met the family that lived there that was selling it but they had lived there since apparently 1960 or something like that.

JOSH

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And he wasn't aware of it?

DAVID

No, but the house was in the process of being designated with some historical designation like a heritage home. So it would put limits on what you could do with the house in terms of modernizing it or changing the exterior or whatever. It was a cottage style home but it was just, I don't know, an unreal experience to . . . especially just walking . . . The downstairs was pretty much, the kitchen was modernized, the living room area and dining room, you know the spaces were the same but it had been upgraded a bit. Going upstairs to the bedrooms, the ceiling was rounded and it had like cedar planks, thin planks and four bedrooms and I'm thinking, "hmm I wonder which one my dad had and which one was my aunt Lucy and my aunt Amy." You could tell which one was the main, master bedroom. It was . . . yeah. I was thinking if things were different and this property was still owned by my grandfather, what it would have been like. Then I thought, "well, if he was still here maybe I wouldn't be here" because of just how things, how life continues on. My wife thought that I should contact the, I'm not sure which one, citizenship or immigration or whatever and say "you know, maybe you should buy this house and make it into a museum because it is historical." Apparently, the house during the war was used by the Japanese Consulate for a period of time. I looked at the farm house on the website recently and apparently it was sold just last year 2014 for \$600,061.00. You know my wife says "That should be your place" and I thought no that's history. That's a long time ago and I'm not into digging up old wounds like that and you know that's my history but it's not my history. It's my grandfather's and my father's place, or was their place. It just made me, I guess, very sad.

JOSH

But not angry?

DAVID

Not angry, no. And certainly I couldn't feel angry with the family that currently owned it because they were never involved with that and certainly politicians today weren't involved and it was the political atmosphere and climate at the time when World War Two was happening.

JOSH

Your grandfather didn't live long enough to see a formal apology or redress. What do you think he would've thought had he been there to shake Prime Minister Mulroney's hand or hear those words?

DAVID

Well, he fought for redress his entire life. He always wanted to have some compensation for losing that property. He never forgave the government for the decisions that led to the internment of the Japanese Canadians and losing all the property that was involved. In fact, he was so much bitter about what happened to him, he never went to a public Remembrance Day service after World War Two. He was always very supportive of the military and respected the military but he never forgave the government.

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And that is why on Remembrance Day he would be at home in his military uniform with his Royal Canadian Legion beret and his medals.

JOSH

And you have those medals now?

DAVID

And I have those medals now. It was not until 1983, he was living in Hamilton with my aunt Amy and her husband [Tak?], that a Hamilton Spectator reporter found out that he was living in Hamilton, that he was still alive. He interviewed the family and the main Legion in Hamilton learned about his existence and they invited him to their Remembrance Day ceremony. That was the first public ceremony he went to after World War Two. In 1984, there was a federal election and Brian Mulroney in his platform had indicated . . . and because of lobbying from the National Association of Japanese Canadians had lobbied for redress. There was a national redress committee that was formed and it was chaired by Art Miki out of Winnipeg. They lobbied him during the election about redress and a public apology for the internment. Brian Mulroney said "If I'm elected I will support that." So after he got elected, the redress committee went after the Prime Minister and said how are we going to do this and this is what we want and we want compensation and that was the start of discussions. There was nothing settled, there was nothing to indicate how Brian Mulroney was going to follow through with it. But in 1985, on August the 2nd, the War Memorial Committee had raised funds to restore the cenotaph and wanted to rededicate it. They invited my grandfather who lived in Hamilton to Vancouver and he was ninety-three at the time. They wanted him to be a part of the ceremony. So my two aunts, my dad's sisters, Amy and Lucy, accompanied him to Vancouver. He was given the honor of relighting the lantern at the top of the cenotaph. He was in a wheel chair but he stood at attention and he saluted and he said "This is my last duty to my comrades." I think that was sort of the part of the first phase of getting redress talks started by having that type of profile. So he passed away in April of 1987 and the public apology and compensation came in 1988.

JOSH

Not too long after.

DAVID

Nope. He passed away six months before his 100th birthday in September. He was one of the last two surviving Japanese Canadian vets of World War One. We think the other one was somewhere . . . may have immigrated or returned to Japan, but we're not sure.

[00:26:08]

JOSH

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Yeah but certainly to have served and then to have become an enemy of the state makes his story uniquely tragic in many ways.

DAVID

Well when he had to report to the security commission at Hastings Park, that's where everybody had to report to, he said, "Well, what good are these medals" and he threw them down at the officer and left. My aunt Lucy apparently had gone with him to report in and she retrieved the medals.

JOSH

She had the better sense to pick them up.

DAVID

Yeah.

JOSH

Where do you keep the medals now?

DAVID

They're in a safety deposit box in the bank. I take them out once a year and three years ago I was asked to become part of the Japanese War Memorial Committee in Stanley Park in Vancouver and we planned the annual Remembrance Day service. My first year there, I gave a speech about my grandfather and I had the medals and a photograph of him with his medals. Since then, I've been a part of the committee and I go there every year and embark on the ceremony and I lay the wreath on behalf of Local Branch Number Nine, Legion Number Nine.

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