PABC

Premi

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1 9 4 2
March 18

Major Austin C. Taylor,
Chairman,
B. C. Security Commission,
355 Burrard Street,
VANCOUVER, B. C.

Dear Major Taylor:

Mr. J. Alex Swanson writes to me, stating that he has made application to you for work in connection with the evaluating of Japanese property. Mr. Swanson has done considerable work for the Government and I always have found his work to be satisfactory.

Yours faithfully,

C.D. 1M

CANADIAN PACIFIC TELEGRAPHS

World Wide Communications

W.D.NEIL, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, MONTREAL

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VICTORIA BC

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MAR 17 1942
PREMIER'S OFFICE

IN FURTHERANCE OF OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH REGARD TO MY PROPOSED APPOINTMENT AS VALUATOR OF JAPANESE PROPERTIES IN BRITISHCOLUMBIA STOP THE HONOURABLE IAN MACKENZIE HAS RECOMMENDED ME TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL FOR A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PREMIER TO MAJOR AUSTIN TAYLOR, CHAIRMAN OF THE BRITISHCOLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION 355 BURRARD STREET.

J ALEX SWANSON

1215p

TELEGRAPHS
PARLIAMENT BLDGS
LOCAL 335

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Address all communications to:
THE COMMISSIONER
British Columbia Provincial Police
Victoria, B.C.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
VICTORIA

Your File No.....

In reply quote File No.....

SUBJECT:

REMOVAL OF JAPANESE
FROM PROTECTED AREAS.

January 22nd, 1943.

The Honourable the Premier,
Parliament Buildings,
Victoria, B. C.

Sir:

I thought you might like the enclosed report.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

T.W.S. Parsons,
Commissioner of Provincial Police.

TWSP/JMW
Encl.

REMOVAL OF JAPANESE FROM PROTECTED AREAS



Fruit and Vegetable Garden, with Japanese Worker, Kaslo, B. C.

REPORT ISSUED BY

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

Vancouver, B. C.





REPORT

of

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

GOVERNMENT OF DOMINION OF CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Minister
HON. HUMPHREY MITCHELL, M. P.

Deputy Minister
ARTHUR MacNAMARA

March 4, 1942 to October 31, 1942.

Published by authority of the British Columbia Security Commission

Austin C. Taylor, Chairman,
F. J. Mead, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Assistant Commissioner,
John Shirras, British Columbia Provincial Police, Assistant Commissioner.

		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	WAR WITH JAPAN	2
3.	CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION	2
	(a) Internment	
	(b) Disposition of Nationals - Road Camps	
	(c) Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee	
	(d) Surrender of moving vehicles, cameras, weapons	
	(e) Custodian of Alien Property	
	(f) Registration by Royal Canadian Mounted Police	
4.	CREATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION	3
	(a) Operation	
	(b) Establishment of Clearing Station	
5.	EVACUATION	5
	(a) Withdrawal of Japanese from outlying points	
	(b) Final clearance of Steveston	
	(c) Fraser Valley	
	(d) Vancouver and Environs	
	(e) Eurasians	
	(f) Permits	
6.	HASTINGS PARK ASSEMBLY CENTRE	7
	(a) Operation	
	(b) Welfare under Dr. Lyall Hodgins	
	(c) Closing of Hastings Park Assembly Centre	
7.	PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF JAPANESE EVACUEES	9
	Consideration and selection of Plans	
	1. Sugar Beet Projects	
	2. Independent Schemes - Financially Independent	
	- Self-Supporting through Labour	
	3. Individual Placement under Permit System	
	- in British Columbia	
	- in Eastern Canada	
	4. Road Camps and Protests therefrom	
	5. Building Programme	
8.	ADMINISTRATION OF INTERIOR TOWNS	13
	(a) General Management	
	(b) Welfare	
	(c) Education	
	(d) Hospitals	
	(e) Policing	
	(f) Proposed Relocation	
9.	CONCLUSION	17

PART TWO

		Page
1.	SUGAR BEET PROJECTS Southern Alberta Manitoba Ontario	19
2.	INTERIOR HOUSING PROJECTS Greenwood Kaslo Sandon New Denver Slocan and Slocan Area Tashme	20
3.	THE HIGH PROTECTING POWER	26
4.	REPATRIATION	27
5.	DISPOSITION OF EVACUEES	28

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The colourful pages of early Canadian history have ever been a recital of action and movement.

The settler, the family, the community; dissension and compromise; a continual readjustment of human lives and their relationships; the urge to seek new and virgin fields, all comprise a tale of natural growth and expansion and inevitably a westward trek.

Since the linking of east and west by steel, the pattern of our lives has become more uniform and stabilized, our problems more similar - the Great War, the boom days and subsequent depression were factors common to the whole country.

Canadian historians could no doubt reveal that, whilst this nationhood is in no small measure the result of the efforts of statesmen and industrial leaders, the ordinary citizen has also been a contributory factor of considerable importance in the development of Canadian life as it is today, and it is significant that the latter, many of whom still bear the mark of foreign birth or parentage, represent diverse racial origins.

Canadian people as a whole may have been unmindful of the fact that scattered throughout the Dominion were comparatively small groups of people which had not become completely assimilated into their present environment. This, however, could not be said of the people of British Columbia, who have been constantly kept aware that within the confines of this Province, with its wide untenanted areas, lived seven thousand Japanese who had been born in Canada, and sixteen thousand others who had immigrated to this country in the past fifty years.

The lure of this vast continent of plenty had caused most of them to leave their homeland forever. In general, they were representative of the poorer class in Japan, therefore the most menial work in their new home offered them greater rewards and comforts than those to which they had hitherto been accustomed. They proved quick to familiarize themselves with the laws and customs of this country, and their apparent slowness to become assimilated into community life has been, quite probably, due to the existing colour prejudice and the Provincial denial of the right to vote. It has been inevitable that the denial of the franchise, and also the restrictions against their entry into certain professions, have of necessity driven them to concentrate their initiative and energy in those channels of business available to them, and to which they were especially suited. At the outbreak of hostilities, the Japanese in British Columbia were chiefly employed in the fishing industry, boat building, cultivation of truck farms, berries and fruits, and in multifarious types of small businesses such as restaurants, boarding houses, dry cleaning establishments, and small fruit and grocery stores.

By their industry and self-sacrifice, they had established their homes, families and businesses, seldom becoming public charges, and at all times trusting that some day they, or at least their Canadian born children, would have the full privileges of Canadian citizenship.

WAR WITH JAPAN

However, in December of 1941 these hopes were quickly shattered by the unprovoked action of their native countrymen in viciously attacking Pearl Harbour without warning, and this group of people numbering over 23,000 were immediately classified as "Alien". Here were represented Japanese who still retained their natural loyalty to the land of their birth. Here also were the indifferent, interested only in their physical and material well-being; and others, Canadian born, torn between family ties and an appreciation of this country which they had come to consider their own. There were also others who were entirely uninfluenced by ties of parentage, real Canadians, possessing that spirit of independence which they cherished as their rightful heritage. This group of people of varied objectives, conflicting loyalties and diverse aspirations were now the victims of the cruel action of their race.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES ACTION

Following the inevitable declaration of a state of War with Japan by Canada, the natural reaction to the unparalleled atrocities committed by individuals and groups trained in a form of civilization so different from our own, was not only immediately to take all direct protective measures possible to safeguard the Pacific Coastline from attack without, but also, in the interests of self-preservation, to take the essential precaution against attack from within, by removing from the defense area all persons who, under any circumstances could be suspect of alien sympathies. The Coast Defense Area in British Columbia, bound by Yukon on the North and the United States on the South, extends from the Pacific to the Cascades and measures more than 75,000 square miles.

Apprehension regarding the difficulty of patrolling a seaboard of almost 1,000 miles led to the realization that the presence of such a large and vulnerable coastline, constituted a potential menace to the safety of Canada as a whole that could not be ignored.

Internment.

Steps were taken to offset this peril and those Japanese known to be dangerous, or to have the slightest subversive tendencies and, therefore, considered to be a potential menace, were at once arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and placed in internment camps.

Disposition of Nationals - Road Camps.

The disposal of 1,500 Japanese was the next problem faced by the Dominion Government, and the solution was found in the establishment of road camps operated by the Department of Mines and Resources, and situated at various interior points in British Columbia.

Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee.

Action was also taken by the Government regarding the ownership of fishing vessels by the Japanese, and a special Committee known as the Japanese Fishing Vessels Disposal Committee was appointed under the Department of Fisheries, made effective by Order in Council P.C. 288 on January 13th, 1942.

Surrender of Moving Vehicles, Cameras, Weapons.

On February 26th, a notice was issued by the Minister of Justice under authority of Government Notice 174, February 2nd, 1942, ordering the surrender of automobiles, weapons, cameras, and radios in possession of Japanese. Accordingly, these articles were handed over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police who, in turn, placed them in the safe-keeping of the Custodian of Alien Property.

Custodian of Alien Property.

The Custodian of Alien Property in Vancouver, under the Department of Secretary of State, came into operation on March 4th, 1942 (P.C. 1665), assuming from that date complete responsibility for all Japanese matters in connection with Real Estate, personal effects, business and farms.

Registration of Japanese by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

In March of 1941 the many thousand Japanese domiciled in Canada, practically all of whom were in British Columbia, had been required to register themselves with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the resulting records reveal the following details:

Canadian born	6,727
Naturalized	7,011
Nationals	9,758
U.S.Citizens	16
TOTAL	23,512

At that time they were all allotted Japanese registration numbers and, on the outbreak of war with Japan, all Japanese nationals and those naturalized since 1922 were paroled and issued parole cards and numbers.

CREATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

The Government of Canada took no further definite action until public sentiment became inflamed and the members of Parliament from this Province became so vehement in their denunciation, and the press so vociferous in its expression of indignation that finally, faced with the necessity of establishing some security against possible attack from with-

in as well as without, on March 4th, 1942, the Government of Canada issued Privy Council Order No's. 1665 and 1666 creating the British Columbia Security Commission, whose primary duty was to evacuate all persons of the Japanese race from certain strategic areas of British Columbia which had previously been declared "protected" by Order in Council No. 365.

The Commission, the authority of which was vested in a Chairman and two Assistant Commissioners whose names appear below, immediately began to function under the able direction of the Chairman:

Austin C. Taylor, Chairman
F. J. Mead, Assistant Commissioner
John Shirras, Assistant Commissioner

The first named is a prominent and highly successful industrial figure in British Columbia, and the Assistant Commissioners are veteran Police officers of high rank and wide knowledge of Japanese conditions, loaned by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the British Columbia Provincial Police, respectively. The Commission was further assisted by the formation of an Advisory Board, consisting of twenty British Columbia citizens from different walks of life throughout the Province:-

Hon. R. L. Maitland, K. C.
Hon. George Pearson
Harold E. Winch, M.L.A.
General J. Arthur Clarke
A. D. Darlington
Wendell B. Farris
Major G. Lyall Fraser
Major James Hamilton
T. M. Harnett
Dr. Lyall Hodgins
R.H.B. Ker
J. McKimmon
Eric R. Morton
William Mott
George W. Nickerson (resigned)
Capt. M.C. Robinson
R. G. Rutherford
Mrs. Percy Scurrah
Birt Showler
Mrs. Mary Sutherland
Oscar L. Erickson

Duties of the Commission.

The problem facing the Commission was a difficult one. To pluck more than 23,000 people from their homes and means of livelihood, acquired in most cases by painstaking industry, and to place them in strange and perhaps hostile surroundings, with all the problems such a task entailed, required vision as well as administrative experience. Offices were quickly established and plans formulated to carry out the great exodus. Speed was essential, but it was desired to create the minimum amount of discomfort to those affected by the movement.

Establishment of Clearing Station.

As the Commission swung into action in the first phase of its stupendous undertaking, it was realized that never before in history had occurred such a rapid and controlled migration of people. The Libraries of this Continent held no reference to guide the organizers in their initial actions. The selection of qualified persons for the execution of the program decided upon was rapidly accomplished and it was at once recognized that a central assembly point would be urgently necessary to accommodate large numbers of Japanese until more permanent locations could be found for them. Accordingly, the premises known as Hastings Park in the City of Vancouver, consisting of large grounds and a number of permanent Exhibition buildings located therein, were expropriated by the Department of National Defense and turned over to the British Columbia Security Commission to be used as a Clearing Station for the Japanese.

E V A C U A T I O N

Withdrawal of Japanese from Outlying Points.

From many out-of-the-way places came Japanese who for years had seen few of their compatriots. Lack of congeniality permitted no fusion with the local group from the larger centres and they resented being cast into the Clearing Station.

Among the first incoming group, too, were those who had been the cynosure for attacks from the public and the Press as suspected spies - the West Coast fishermen. The complete evacuation of Japanese from outlying points by the early part of May left the duties of the British Columbia Security Commission in those districts a completed chapter.

Final Clearance of Steveston.

Barely had the removal of the last Japanese from the outermost Coastal points been completed when the evacuation officers began their duties at Steveston, the focal point of the British Columbia fishing industry. A great number of the men of this community, being Japanese nationals, had already been sent to road camps. The remainder of the community wished to be evacuated in large groups. They were almost tribal in their intense desire to remain together and they are now mainly resettled in one of our interior towns, Greenwood; while a few have been sent to Alberta and Manitoba beet fields.

Were the fisher folk of Steveston a more cultured group, there might easily have been another Goldsmith or Longfellow to sketch in more vibrant and colourful words the story of that small deserted village of grey frame houses - perhaps the only spot in this stronghold of British Democracy where a corner of Japan was to be found. There, old land customs were observed and Japanese, not English, was the language of the

people. But now that diminutive faded village, twenty miles from Vancouver, stands a derelict remembrance of a group of people who, while starting life afresh in a New World, clung tenaciously to the customs of the old. Steveston is now another of British Columbia's ghost towns. Strange it seems that the ghost towns which, years ago, said "Good-bye" to the miners of the Gold Rush days, are now domiciling the Japanese to whom this other and newer ghost town has so recently said "Sayonara" (Good-bye).

Upon completion of the evacuation to Hastings Park, Vancouver, from Vancouver Island, the Coastal Points, and Steveston, the movement outward to planned projects began, thus providing much desired space for new evacuees coming in from the Fraser Valley and Vancouver proper.

Fraser Valley.

From the Fraser Valley, the farming countryside extending from New Westminster back to the foot of the Fraser Canyon, came the next large body of evacuees. Many family groups left direct for their final destination and, in the small towns of Mission and Haney could be seen chattering Japanese, interested in the final disposition of their goods and chattels. Train loads from Surrey and Matsqui left for Alberta and Manitoba at stated intervals, removing most of the Japanese from these districts. A few were left temporarily to harvest the berry crops and the remainder were brought to the Hastings Park Assembly Centre for later allocation.

To the Japanese in the Fraser Valley districts, each farm represented years of toil. The clearing and preparation of the soil entailed work comparable to that of our great grandparents in Upper and Lower Canada. The Japanese farmer had worked willingly and unsparingly, his children helping him during the picking seasons. No agriculturist in the length and breadth of the country could fail to view with dismay the change a few short months has wrought in the berry farms of this Valley, since the departure of the Japanese farmers.

The Japanese uses his hands with meticulosity and, for that reason, the transplanting of the berry farmer to beet growing was a wise procedure and one which should have lasting good effects. The sugar beet crops for this war-ridden country should profit by the transplanting of these people to new fields of work.

Vancouver and Environs.

The return of the evacuation officers to Vancouver presaged the final stage in the evacuation program. Gradually the streets of the city showed fewer and fewer Japanese and the department stores saw the last of the little dark-eyed women who crowded the shops on sale days and bought frantically in anticipation of the future requirements in their new domicile. Last good-byes were exchanged over the dress-goods counters of their favourite emporiums, which had served as their only social medium for many years.

The cleaning shops, and the corner grocery stores fell into other hands and the gardens of the better residential districts began to

exhibit untidy borders and shaggy lawns. By such small indications did the average citizen recognize the consummation of the edict of our Government, issued on the 4th day of March, 1942, in P.C. 1665, culminating in the disappearance of the last Japanese from the Restricted Area in late October.

E u r a s i a n s.

At this time, mention should be made of a small class of people who had been given consideration during the initial stages of Evacuation. They were the Japanese women who were married to Occidentals and the children of such mixed marriages. They numbered about 100 and the Department of Justice worked swiftly in recognition of their plight. On April 11th, 1942, Permits were issued, exempting them from all rules and regulations applicable to Japanese. The fact of their racial origin was to be disregarded and they were to be recognized as Canadians in the full sense of the word.

P e r m i t s.

During the period of Evacuation, the movement of all individual Japanese was controlled through a system of Permits rigorously enforced by the Commission.

HASTINGS PARK ASSEMBLY CENTRE
VANCOUVER

O p e r a t i o n.

During the whole period of evacuation, Hastings Park was the hub of activity for the Japanese. Almost all roads converged on this point and there were few Japanese who did not enter its confines at one time or another, either from necessity or curiosity. As previously stated, on April 14th of this year, the Exhibition buildings at Hastings Park had been expropriated by the Department of National Defense and turned over to the British Columbia Security Commission to be used as a clearing station.

The permanent buildings already located there were quickly prepared to accommodate up to 4,000 Japanese. Great responsibility in connection with this work was assumed by Colonel Goodwin Gibson, Real Estate Advisor to the Department of National Defense, and his capable management of this enterprise relieved the Commission of much of the burden of detail.

An adequate number of double-decker cots was procured and separate dormitories for men, women and children prepared. Dining room facilities were excellently organized, separate mess halls being established according to requirements. Service was efficient and rapid, with proper observance of dietary necessities so that the standard of health of so large a group of individuals immured in close confines should not be lowered, and with special consideration of the needs of the children

and the aged. Many valuable lessons in food values were learned by the Japanese during their stay in Hastings Park and while they were there every effort was made to educate them to the correct standards of proper diet. Sanitary and laundry conveniences and all the more simple accoutrements of modern civilization were installed.

In connection with the operation of Hastings Park as an assembly centre, Japanese labour was utilized whenever and wherever practicable, and included clerical workers, doctors, dentists, nurses, teachers, baggagemen and guards; the latter being forty-five Japanese members of the Canadian Legion who had fought with the Canadian Forces in the First World War. At all times the camp was kept scrupulously clean, sanitation rules were strictly enforced, sick people were given sympathetic and careful attention, and except for some minor disturbances, almost inevitable under the circumstances, the Japanese co-operated and resigned themselves to their new environment. It is interesting to note that, during the operation of Hastings Park as a clearing station, about 8,000 Japanese passed through its portals, and that 1,542,871 meals were served at an average raw food cost of $0.0933 per meal.

W e l f a r e.

The need for a competent welfare and medical advisor was felt and Dr. G. Lyall Hodgins, a member of the Advisory Council, acceded to the request of the Commission to act in this capacity. Under his discerning judgment, close attention was given to all aspects of welfare and various branches were set up to deal with the general and individual well-being of the Japanese who had become the charges of the Commission. A well equipped hospital came into operation immediately, with competent staff of Occidental and Japanese doctors and nurses. Schools, kindergartens, and, in fact, all necessary accommodation the need of which could be foreseen, were completed with the utmost rapidity. A registration bureau with English speaking Japanese assisting under the supervision of members of the staff of the Commission was quickly put into operation and Royal Canadian Mounted Police were installed to maintain order in the Park and to enforce the rules and regulations which might be promulgated from time to time.

Closing of Hastings Park Assembly Centre.

On September 30th, 1942, Hastings Park Assembly Centre finally closed its portals on the last Japanese, and although there were times when it appeared that Solomon himself could not have met the demands of both the citizens of Vancouver, who took great umbrage at the care and consideration given to this unwelcome but necessary influx of Japanese, and the demands of those Japanese who considered themselves deserving of a certain degree of convenience and recreation as solace for the comforts of home from which they had been so recently sundered, on the whole, all went well. The few incidents which marred the expeditious functioning of the various departments were quickly overcome, but some imprinted permanent pictures which will not be forgotten. The frustrated faces of tiny Japanese children denied association with their erstwhile Canadian compansions, who splashed the happy mornings away in the pool, was only one instance

which caused Vancouver columnists to decry a system which allowed such paradoxical interpretation of our Laws.

The story of those days in Hastings Park will never be fully recorded. The exacting hours of labour, the realization of playing a part in the conformation of Canadian History, the closeness of the picture to the observer, left all who viewed it with only kaleidoscopic images imprinted on their memories. The pathos and humour, the simple joys, the heart-breaking discouragements suffered by reluctant inmates awaiting dispersement to an unknown future, may have sown the seed in the heart and brain of some young Canadian born Japanese which will come to fruition in later years in the literary expression of this tale of the evacuation of a saddened people, but no present record of this exodus from Hastings Park should be allowed to stand without comment on the willing adaptability and reasonable attitude displayed on the part of the Japanese in general.

PROPOSED DISPOSITION OF JAPANESE EVACUEES

Consideration and Selection of Plans.

The process of evacuation from the homes to the Assembly Centre had been smooth and expeditious, the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in this respect being worthy the traditions of this Force; but the task of procuring suitable locations for the evacuees was by no means so easy. The British Columbia Provincial Police rendered additional services in this field with their Radio system and other facilities made available to the Commission. The Governmental policy was not to arbitrarily place Japanese in locations where the sentiment of the resident population was adverse to them, even though the evacuation was ordered strictly as a military expedient. Cooperation in this respect was sadly lacking; the Commission was deluged by protests from private citizens and public bodies alike; not only from British Columbia but from widely scattered places all over the Dominion, and very largely on account of this the process of Evacuation was considerably hampered.

While this opposition was to some extent understandable, it appeared that many communities and organizations failed to realize that the emergency was a national one and that their lack of cooperation might seriously affect the safety, not only of their own local areas, but also of the whole Dominion. Hastings Park was full to overflowing and much time was lost and much individual effort wasted in examining into various schemes and locations in endeavoring to overcome the persistent and vociferous hostility to settlement of Japanese away from the Protected Area.

Many plans were given consideration by the newly formed Commission and after sifting out those manifestly unsuitable it finally appeared that the relocation could be accomplished by several methods, and the following were definitely decided upon:

1. Sugar beet projects in Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario.
2. Road Camps
3. Housing for dependent families
4. Self-supporting group projects
5. Independent group projects
6. Individual Permits.

Concomitant with these schemes were, of course, the problems of education, medical treatment and hospitalization, welfare, etc., and from the very beginning these matters received the earnest attention of the Commission, which again enlisted the able services of Dr. Lyall Hodgins.

Sugar Beet Projects.

The first workable plan that presented itself for the relocation of a sizeable number of people came when the sugar beet growers of Southern Alberta found themselves faced with such a serious labour shortage that it was doubtful if they could even get their areas seeded. Negotiations were entered into between the Commission, The Government of Alberta, and the various beet grower associations; which negotiations finally resulted in 2,585 Japanese being evacuated from British Columbia to the beet farms in Southern Alberta. The beet growers of Manitoba quickly followed the lead of the Albertans, culminating in similar results, with 1,053 individuals being evacuated to Manitoba.

These Japanese were in family groups and had been selected as much as possible from those used to agriculture, due regard being given to the number of workers in each family. This was essential because of the fact that housing accommodation was extremely limited and quite unsatisfactory for year-around habitation of families with young children. But, as preservation of the family group appealed to the Japanese; and, in many instances, had meant immediate recall of men from Camp, these newly reunited families made every attempt to adjust themselves to their new environment, and settled as comfortably as possible in the small houses which, in many cases, had been erected by the farmers themselves to meet the sudden and urgent need. The Japanese quickly entered into their new occupations and their knowledge of farming, acquired by years of labour in the Fraser Valley and Delta made up in some degree for their initial inexperience in the seeding, cultivation and harvesting of the beet crop. Reports from our representatives in the Provinces concerned show that, generally speaking, the labour of the Japanese has been very satisfactory and many of the families have saved enough money to tide them over the prairie winter. There can be little doubt that unless Japanese labour had been recruited for these projects, the great bulk of the crop would not have been seeded, with the consequent loss to Canada of many thousands of tons of beet sugar.

Independent Schemes.

A considerable number of Japanese in British Columbia were in possession of some financial resources and were anxious to settle themselves on some self-supporting basis. There was some question as to

whether or not it would be wise to encourage this type of settlement but after consideration, it was deemed advisable, as it was felt that the presence of these families in the maintenance towns might create a disturbing influence by giving rise to class distinction. Suitable locations were found, and now some 1,200 Japanese are residing in the towns of Minto and Bridge River, also in the McGillivray Falls and Christina Lake district, and on a site adjacent to the town of Lillooet, B.C.

Numerous other Japanese, not desiring to be placed in the interior housing projects and thereby become entirely dependent on the Commission for support for the duration of the War, undertook to settle themselves, more or less on a community basis, in places where they would be able to earn a living. The two principal settlements of this nature are at Taylor Lake and Westwold, both in British Columbia, where approximately 300 evacuees are now living.

Individual Placement under Permit System in British Columbia.

Several hundred Japanese, both singly and in family groups, to whom farmers guaranteed permanent employment, left Vancouver on Special Permits to become completely self-supporting in areas in British Columbia, such as Grand Forks and unorganized territory north of Kamloops. In the latter district, the cooperation of the British Columbia Provincial Police in investigating and recommending suitable employment was enlisted, while in the Grand Forks area, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police assisted.

Individual Placement under Permit System in Eastern Canada.

It should be regarded as a primary principle that all available man power and woman power be utilized, and it will, therefore, be the constant endeavour of the Commission, with this objective in mind, to relocate as many as possible in other parts of the Dominion, believing that such policy will not only contribute towards the alleviation of the country's labour shortage, but will also make them financially independent of Government assistance.

Even during the period when large scale evacuation was being carried on, some attempt was made at individual placement in the hope of encouraging others to become self-supporting. The complete unwillingness of the Japanese to proceed farther East than Alberta made the hoped for result of decentralization and dispersement almost impossible. Only the very young and extremely Canadianized succumbed to the persuasions to accept employment east of the Rockies. The Jews did not face the Red Sea with greater trepidation than the first small group of Japanese domestics who entrained for London, Ontario.

Although literally hundreds of application forms for agricultural and domestic labour are on Commission files, barely more than 100 girls are now employed in the cities of Ontario, and in Montreal, under the auspices of the Young Women's Christian Association, which Organization is encouraging the assimilation of these young women into Canadian groups in a most commendable fashion.

Partly due to the fact that the demand was usually for men without families, less than 100 young men were recruited from those destined for camps and projects, and sent East to relieve the acute agricultural labour shortage.

It is believed, however, that the thought and consideration given to the placement of these individuals in communities where congenial work and lack of animosity is guaranteed, will result in reports sufficiently encouraging to favourably influence the many hundreds who have stayed behind.

Road Camps and Protests Therefrom.

During the time the sugar beet projects and the independent schemes were being initiated, more men were being sent to the road camps operated by the Department of Mines and Resources, but as a considerable number of the Japanese labourers employed in these camps were married, the enforced separation from their families gave rise to considerable trouble. Sit-down strikes occurred and, unfortunately, it was found necessary to intern a number of malcontents. No open violence resulted and the strikes were obviously meant as a demand for reunion of families. This unfortunate condition had never been viewed with approval by the Commission but, as previously mentioned, it was created before the British Columbia Security Commission commenced to function. [1]

Building Program

Accordingly, strong representations were made to Ottawa that this policy be abandoned and that steps should be taken to reunite the families by building a number of houses for them in areas in which no pronounced opposition to the Japanese had been evinced. These areas were chiefly in the old mining districts in the Slocan Valley where there were several abandoned mining towns which had been thoroughly investigated, and where it was known that many of the houses were habitable.

The Commission was authorized to go ahead and by July of this year a large building program was under way at Slocan and New Denver, also in the adjacent areas of Lemon Creek and Rosebery. The towns of Kaslo, Greenwood and Sandon on the Kettle Valley line of the Canadian Pacific Railway were also used to accommodate a number of Japanese families. Although in these latter places no new houses were erected, sufficient accommodation was found in the buildings already there, which were taken over by the Commission.

Another location was found on the Trites Ranch, some fourteen miles from Hope on the proposed Hope-Princeton highway, resulting in the leasing of this property through the Department of National Defense, and the building of a large number of small houses for the considerable Japanese population which is now there.

(1) Ref. Page 2, "Disposition of Nationals"

Japanese labour was employed as far as possible on the whole construction program, supervised by white foremen, and in a remarkably short time some 1,100 houses were completed and as they were finished families were immediately moved in. The houses were small, chiefly 14 x 25, built of rough lumber and tar paper; although some larger premises were erected in each location to house groups of single men.

These interior housing projects will be dealt with separately in this report.

ADMINISTRATION OF INTERIOR TOWNS

General Management.

The operation of each of the six interior towns, Kaslo, Sandon, Greenwood, Slocan City, New Denver, and Tashme, will be carried on along similar lines; although there will be of necessity certain differences in administration. The location, type of labour available, and the natural grouping of the Japanese themselves, decide to some extent the operation and practical management of each Project.

A Supervisor and an Assistant Supervisor constitute the managing directorship of each unit. A General Supervisor, in the capacity of Advisory and Reporting Officer, acts as general overseer of the five named projects; Tashme being excepted because of its remoteness from the others. The Town Supervisors are, however, primarily responsible to the Head Office of the British Columbia Security Commission. The clerical work, where possible, is handled by Japanese staff.

The Departments of Welfare and Treasury, which both have operating managers in the field, cooperate in all instances with the Town Supervisor, but they are also directly responsible to their department chiefs in Vancouver.

W e l f a r e.

Welfare of the Japanese under the supervision of the Commission in the interior housing projects is one of the continuing responsibilities of the Commission now that the Evacuation from the protected areas is completed. While many of those in the interior projects will later be removed in order to make their contribution towards relieving the country's labour shortage, those who are unable to obtain employment, or who are unemployable, must be given maintenance. Also it is undeniably a Japanese characteristic that the men-folk will not leave their families unless given reasonable assurance that they will be cared for. Too, it must be remembered that these people were arbitrarily removed from their homes and livelihood and forced to settle down in areas designated by the authorities. This unusual circumstance has created problems never before encountered by our governments or social agencies. For these reasons chiefly, a Welfare Department was set up within the Commission.

The responsibilities of the Welfare Department are, first to see that maintenance is given to those who are eligible, and that the policies governing this are in accordance with those already in effect in the Province of British Columbia. There are also the problems of the aged, children without guardianship, as well as food and clothing; all of which are handled by the Welfare Department.

The set-up of this Department consists of a general supervisor at Head Office, responsible for policy making; a field supervisor responsible for setting up of Welfare Departments in each of the interior towns and generally supervising the welfare staffs; a welfare manager in each town; and under this manager are the Japanese social workers who have personal contact with the individual families through visits to the home as well as office contacts.

It is believed that a well functioning Welfare Department will assist the Japanese people in the difficult adjustments they must make, and thereby alleviate much of the discontent and friction that may arise from time to time under the circumstances.

Education.

Education for approximately 4,000 children of elementary grades had to be provided. Those for whom the Commission assumed the responsibility of education were the sugar beet groups in Alberta and Manitoba, the interior housing projects, and to a lesser extent the self-supporting groups at Christina Lake, McGillivray Falls, Bridge River, Minto, Taylor Lake, and Lillooet.

It was felt that in the case of the children who had attended school in British Columbia and were now merely shifted to another section of the same Province, the Provincial Department of Education should assume a share of their continuing education. No agreement could be reached, however, as the Provincial Department refused to accept any responsibility or to be liable for any part of the cost of educating these children. The Commission was, therefore, obliged to make other plans and accordingly arranged for the purchase of correspondence courses, together with the necessary text books for elementary grades, from the Provincial Department of Education.

For the children residing in the interior housing projects, the Commission is supplying these courses and books on a ratio basis, whereby with a minimum of expense, sufficient material will be allocated to each school centre. There are approximately 2,700 children of elementary grade standing in these housing projects. There are nine different school centres. A fully qualified Japanese teacher has been appointed as general supervisor with eleven assistants, some of whom are also qualified. They will act as directors or principals at the different points. In addition 120 University and High School students are being selected to act as teachers. This full staff is Japanese working under the close supervision of the Commission.

The educational policy is laid down solely by the Commission. All instruction will be based as closely as possible to the regular school curriculum and will be given in English. In the unavoidable interval while these arrangements are being completed, classes have been set up for the instruction of the proposed teachers in order to prepare them as far as possible for their new duties.

The Commission is grateful to many school Principals and a large number of teachers in various parts of the Province, chiefly in Vancouver, for voluntary assistance in this respect. Even before the evacuation was completed, lectures were being given by prominent local educationalists to many of the young Japanese students in order to help them in their new roles of school teachers. These lectures, have been mimeographed and are now being used freely throughout the areas under the control of the Commission. At every point where building facilities were available, they were utilized for schools. It was only necessary to construct buildings in one area, thereby keeping capital expenditure down to a minimum.

The self-supporting groups previously mentioned are being given a nominal grant on a per capita basis. The question of buildings, teachers, etc., is a matter to be determined by themselves, but every assistance is being extended to them by way of advice and suggestions.

The educational program in Manitoba has presented no obstacles. There are fewer children to be absorbed into the school system of the Province and the influx of Japanese children into any one district has created little additional strain on existing facilities. Where the presence of Japanese children has necessitated increased expenditure by the school districts concerned, their applications to the Commission for some financial contribution have been reasonable, and mutually satisfactory agreements have been made. Number of children attending in Manitoba is about 250.

The attitude of the Alberta Government, like that of Manitoba, was cooperative. The number of school-age children in this Province is nearly 600, and consequently constituted a greater problem. An agreement was entered into whereby the British Columbia Security Commission would share the cost of education by paying the Alberta Government a sum based on a per capita estimated cost of tuition, such sum to be distributed by the Alberta Government among the school districts affected by the influx of children evacuated from British Columbia by the Commission.

High School students desiring to pursue their education further are making their own arrangements, and a few University students have been successful in gaining admittance to Colleges outside British Columbia. These two groups receive no financial assistance from the Commission.

H o s p i t a l s.

A sanitorium is under construction at New Denver with a 100-bed capacity, for the accommodation of Tubercular cases, which disease is fairly prevalent among the Japanese. A 50-bed hospital, which will

shortly be completed, is also under construction at Tashme, the name given to the Japanese colony now located on the Trites Ranch near Hope. At Slocan is an isolation hospital, also a 16-bed hospital, whilst an additional 24-bed unit is in the course of construction. In other communities where civilian hospitals already exist, such facilities are being utilized by the Commission when necessary. A competent medical staff has been secured, also an adequate number of certificated nurses. The services of some Japanese doctors and nurses have been retained, and also a number of young Japanese women with partial hospital training have been given employment in various capacities in these hospitals and are performing their duties satisfactorily.

P o l i c i n g.

The services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and also, to some extent, those of the British Columbia Provincial Police are utilized to carry out various duties in connection with the Japanese and this Commission. Orders promulgated by the Commission are enforced by the Police, and the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has authorized several permanent detachments of his men at strategic places under the direct charge of an experienced officer of the Force.

A strict observation is kept on the movements of Japanese throughout the various schemes by the establishment of road blocks at the necessary places, as it is not deemed desirable that the Japanese shall be permitted to wander at will throughout the country. All movements in these districts, therefore, are by means of Permits issued by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and the British Columbia Provincial Police.

It is no exaggeration to state that this Commission could hardly have functioned without the assistance of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the British Columbia Provincial Police. The fact that the first mentioned Force had previously registered all Japanese in Canada and therefore had individual files on every Japanese adult over 16 years of age (children under 16 being included in head-of-family file) was in itself of the greatest value, as was the efficient manner in which they assisted in the Evacuation itself. Their cooperation has been whole-hearted and friendly and their sound advice has frequently prevented what might have been unfortunate complications.

The fullest cooperation of the British Columbia Provincial Police was available also, and of great service to the Commission were their wireless facilities which proved extremely useful in many instances.

Proposed Relocation.

The major work of relocation is one which will be handled through responsible department heads in the Vancouver Office, with the assistance of the Town Supervisor and Welfare Managers in the projects. The Employment office will be located in each town where outside employment will be offered to every able-bodied adult.

Occupation in the logging camps and lumber mills will be available for large groups of men and the Japanese will be urged to accept these opportunities for rehabilitation and final replacement of their families in self-supporting circumstances. Individual placement in Eastern Canada, in Agriculture, Industry and Domestic service will be continued and it is hoped that, through establishment of occupational work in the projects, trained workers may eventually be sent forward to relieve labour shortages in specified fields.

C O N C L U S I O N

The Evacuation phase of the work of the Commission was completed by the 31st day of October, 1942. This mass migration, affecting more than 21,000 persons, an undertaking unique in the annals of this country, was carried out without mishap and, considering the circumstances, with a reasonable rate of celerity.

From the preceding pages it can be seen that, although the exigencies of the circumstances required immediate action on the part of the Commission, and although the main purpose of its existence - Evacuation - was never lost sight of for a moment; the transplanting of the great aggregation of the Japanese located in the Coastal Defense areas to localities outside its borders, did not create an exodus of refugees, uncared for and uncontrolled. Nor was it carried through with military precision without regard to the diverse needs of the people concerned, but at all times with scrupulous attention to the dictates of civilized humanity.

The Commission had to contend with considerable opposition from sections of the general public. Also it was necessary to overcome the unamenable disposition of mind of the Canadian born Japanese. Their non-cooperative attitude, mainly a protest against separation of families and the alleged discrimination against the Japanese as compared with the treatment of persons of other enemy races, was abandoned when certain changes in Governmental policy, which had always been the object of the Commission, were achieved.

The brief descriptions contained in this report, relative to the interior towns which are now considered to be relocation centres, and in which over 15,000 of the original 23,000 are now domiciled, can only slightly indicate the extent of the effort and forethought necessary to establish these efficiently operating communities. It is the intention of the Commission that these centres under its jurisdiction shall continue to be clemently, yet economically administered, with due regard to the considerations of humanity and justice universally associated with the principles of Democracy.

In summarizing the present position of the Japanese in Canada let it be said that undoubtedly it is a difficult one. They desire to settle in groups and, under this system, are not readily assimilable. They are industrious and adaptable workers however, and it is not to the

interest of the Canadian war effort that local prejudices should prevent their employment. As the vital necessity of maintaining maximum production can only be achieved by the complete utilization of all available labour, it is in the public interest that non-constructive discrimination against them should be entirely abandoned. The Canadian people are being warned continually from the highest sources that all man-power and woman-power must be put to work, and it would seem the height of economic folly to allow large numbers of employable men and women of the Japanese race; many of them either Canadian born or naturalized, to remain in comparative idleness, or to endeavour to support themselves on the odds and ends of labour which can be procured for them by the efforts of the Commission.

It is evident, therefore, that the now most important angle of the Japanese problem in Canada - relocation in self-supporting family units - is a matter for Parliamentary and Governmental decision, and definitely an issue to be faced in due course by the country at large. The people of all parts of Canada should come to realize their war-time obligation in connection with the Japanese evacuees, and to recognize that their cooperation will, to a great extent, remove the necessity of the present relocation centres, now operated mainly at the expense of the already heavily-burdened tax payers.

In conclusion it may be said that the foregoing summary of this first episode of the saga of an industrious people lifted from the fields of activity to which they had been accustomed, and placed in comparative idleness in interior towns, depicts no permanent static condition, but is believed to be only the frontispiece to the still unfolding story of the final relocation and rehabilitation of the whole Japanese-Canadian population.

This report cannot be concluded without tendering the especial appreciation of the Commission to certain sections of the Press, to educational and religious groups, and to numerous private citizens for their voluntary and frequently invaluable assistance.

Appreciation is also expressed to those Departments of the Dominion Government which have given the fullest cooperation where necessary.



House construction, New Denver, B. C.



Arrival of evacuees, men's bunkhouse, Slocan area.



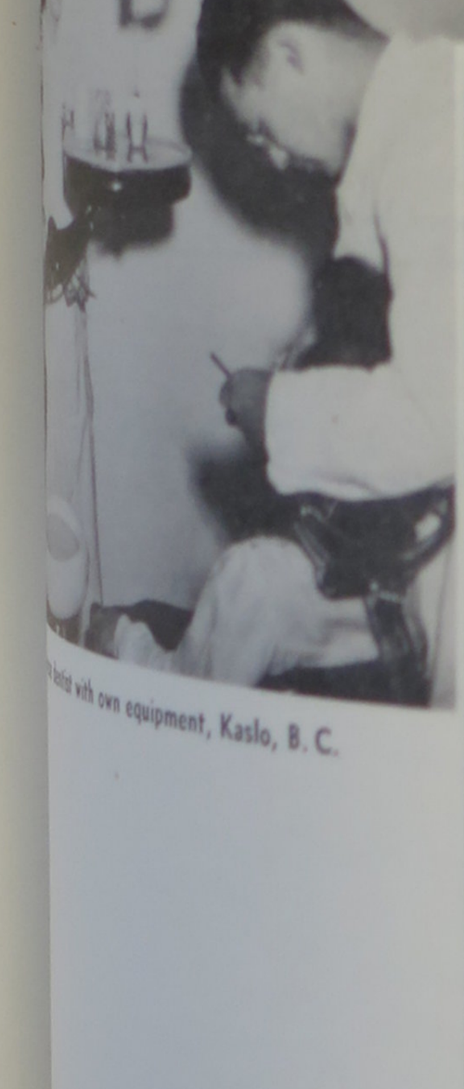
Type of house, Slocan area.



Clearing and laying foundations, New Denver, B. C.





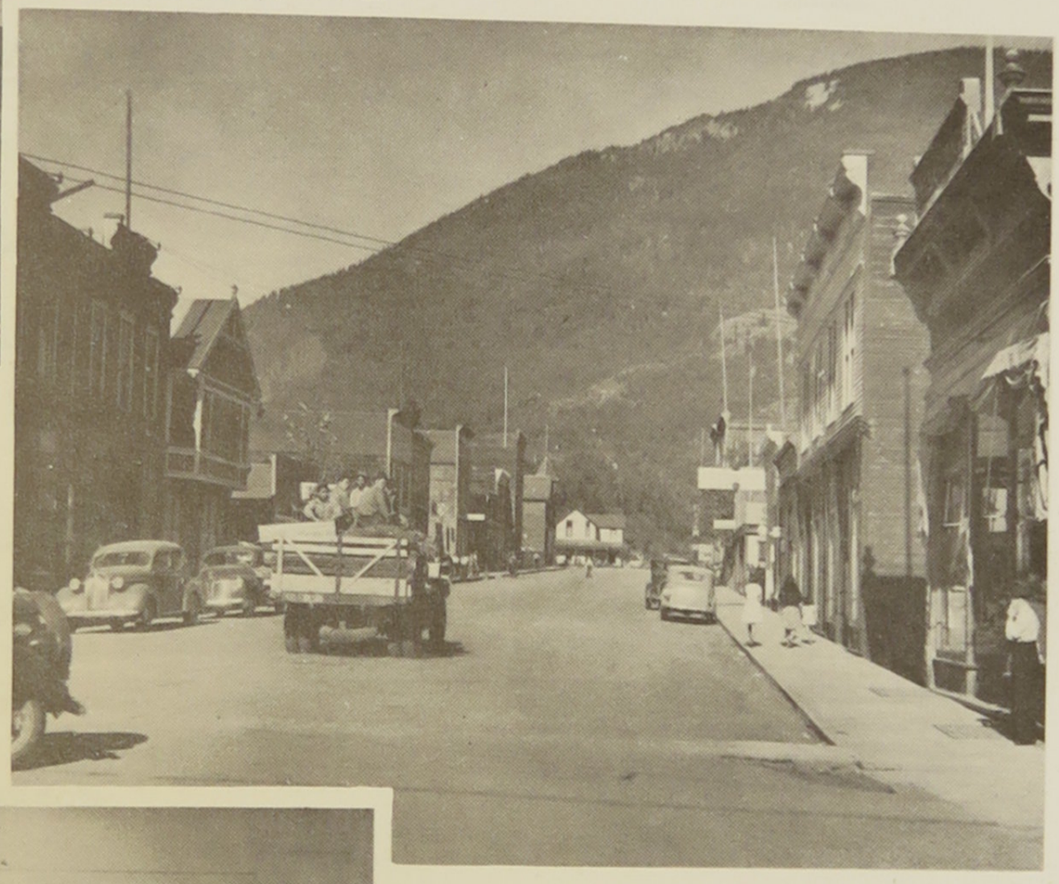




Partial view



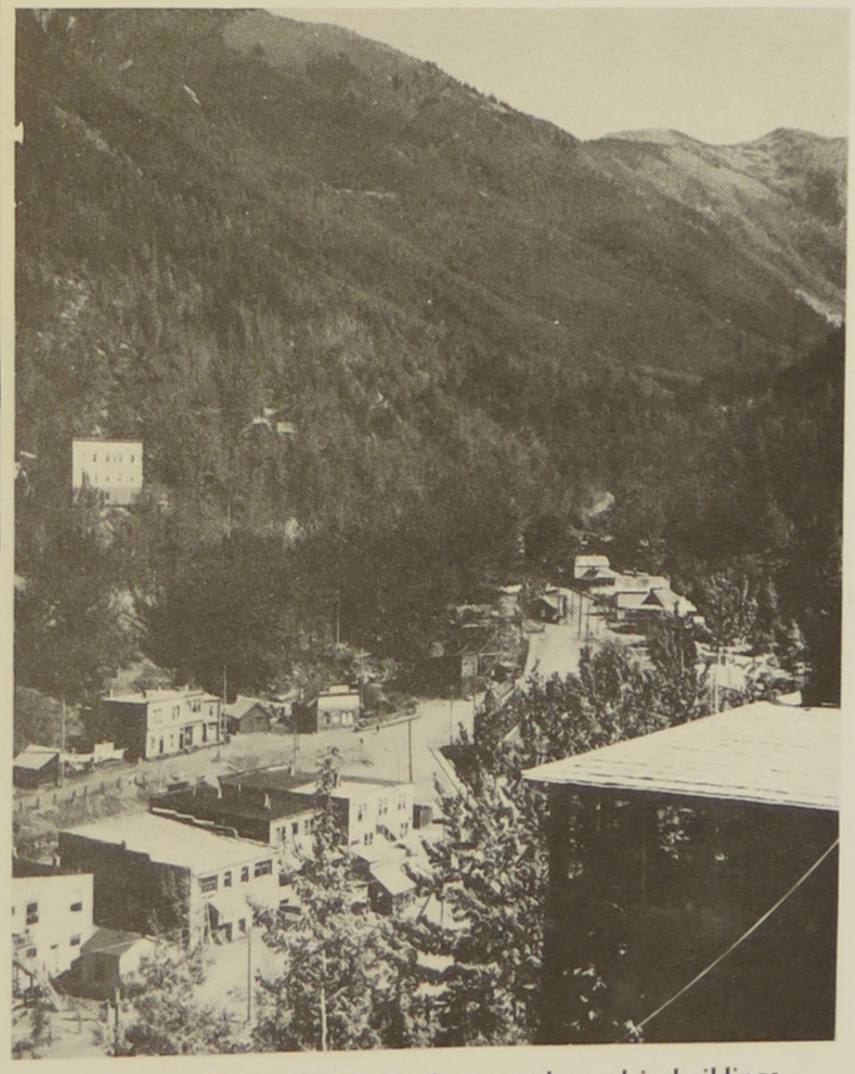
Japanese salting fish.



Main Street, Kaslo, B. C.
Japanese housed in buildings.



Japanese dentist with own equipment, Kaslo, B. C.



Partial view of Sandon, B. C. Japanese housed in buildings.

		Page
1.	SUGAR BEET PROJECTS	19
	Southern Alberta	
	Manitoba	
	Ontario	
2.	INTERIOR HOUSING PROJECTS	20
	Greenwood	
	Kaslo	
	Sandon	
	New Denver	
	Slocan and Slocan Area	
	Tashme	
3.	THE HIGH PROTECTING POWER	26
4.	R E P A T R I A T I O N	27

SUGAR BEET PROJECTS

Southern Alberta:	2,588
Manitoba:	1,053
Ontario:	350

2,588 Japanese were evacuated to the southern Alberta sugar beet areas, of which Lethbridge can be considered the focal point, during the months of March, April and May, 1942. This number was made up of 430 family groups of which 70% were considered workers. Individual contracts were entered into between the beet growers and the Japanese; quarters were supplied on the farms and a portion of land allotted to each family for vegetable growing for their own use. Some financial assistance had to be supplied by the Commission in order to make the houses habitable for the prairie winter; the farmers themselves bearing a portion of the cost for lumber, etc., and the Japanese voluntarily doing the work.

It should be pointed out that in years past the great bulk of the beet growing work was performed by transient labour. The houses supplied were only for summer use, as the labourers mentioned, immediately the season was over, proceeded to other areas of employment. The Japanese acquitted themselves creditably in this, their first experience of such work, and, although it was found that, owing to inexperience and less physical strength, they were unable to look after the same amount of acreage as had been done in the past by experienced beet workers, still they gave satisfaction and saved the situation as regards Canada's sugar production.

Arrangements are now under way to procure other work during the winter for them in order to avoid idleness and to render them as self-supporting as possible. Local prejudices, however, in the towns of Lethbridge, Taber and Raymond, for example, have prevented considerable numbers of them being employed in food canning factories in those places but it is believed that shortly other opportunities in different types of labour will present themselves. These remarks apply also in the case of similar projects in Manitoba and Ontario.

In the first of these, Manitoba, there are now 1,053 employed in the beet fields, having given the same satisfaction as in Alberta, and fortunately employment prospects for the winter months in Manitoba are good. Already quite a number of both male and female Japanese have been absorbed in various types of work, and it is confidently anticipated that conditions in Manitoba will remain satisfactory.

In Ontario a number of Japanese, nearly all single males of Canadian birth were evacuated to the Schreiber district shortly after the formation of the Commission, where they were employed on government road camp schemes. The plan of the Commission from the first was to transfer these workers to agriculture and industry as opportunities arose. A Farm Service Force was formed in cooperation with the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and through this agency about 350 Japanese were given employment in the beet fields direct from the road camps. As in the other Provinces, their work has proven satisfactory and many are being absorbed into lumber camps, sawmills, farms and work of a similar nature throughout the Province of Ontario.

It is hoped that, in the case of those with families, arrangements can be made to reunite them in the East on an entirely self-supporting basis, as it is realized that no satisfactory allocation of Japanese labour can be made otherwise.

In each of the three Provinces mentioned, we have a representative of the Commission assisted by a small staff and, with these local administrations now functioning adequately, matters can be considered reasonably satisfactory.

INTERIOR HOUSING PROJECTS

GREENWOOD

Japanese Population: 1,177

Nine miles north of the international boundary in central British Columbia is the once prosperous mining town of Greenwood. A white population of 150 and many empty buildings are what remain of a typical boom town of some forty years ago, when much of the early mining history of this Province was written. The Kettle Valley line of the C. P. R. runs through it, as does the Greyhound Bus Lines. The average climate in this district ranges from 15 degrees above in winter to 70 degrees in summer, but extremes of 25 below and 105 above are experienced.

Buildings have been reconstructed and new additional septic tanks and pipes for drainage have been installed. The town obtains its water supply from three creeks running into three separate reservoirs from where it is piped into the town. Other facilities which were already available include electricity, which is supplied in Greenwood by the West Kootenay Power and Light Company.

In the surrounding country there is some farming carried on by about 15 white farmers. No one spedial crop is grown as it is a country of general mixed farming, with considerable grazing land for stock. Within the town limits some 30 acres of land are being cleared, thus giving some employment to the Japanese, and in the Spring of 1943 this land will be planted with vegetables for the Japanese community.

There are no large work projects in this area, but employment is created by wood cutting, land clearing, community gardening, and general maintenance crews, together with work obtained from the local townspeople and surrounding farmers.

Facilities for the Japanese include a steam-heated fifteen bed hospital equipped to handle all minor ailments other than major surgical operations, and an isolation hospital which can accommodate thirteen patients. A Japanese dentist, with fully equipped office, is resident in the community.

All kinds of outdoor sports are in progress during the summer and there is a large hall suitable for recreational purposes during the winter. There is also a skating and curling rink.

KASLO

Japanese Population: 964.

On the west shore of Kootenay Lake lies the small city of Kaslo. This, like Greenwood, was formerly a thriving mining town of some 6,000 people and of this number about 500 remain. Transportation facilities are good. The Greyhound Bus Line runs to Nelson; the C. P. R. steamer "Moyie" gives weekly service, a freight train operates twice weekly to Nakusp, connecting with the ferry on the Arrow Lake; and a daily service to Nelson is maintained by a trucking firm.

Some 52 buildings have been reconditioned and leased by the Commission. Many of them, formerly in a bad state of disrepair, will now give good service for many years. The light and water systems are owned and operated by the City of Kaslo, and no improvements were necessary with these services. The sewerage system (septic tanks and cesspools) on all leased properties have been repaired. Incidental improvements to the general appearance of Kaslo have been considerable since the advent of the Japanese. Beaches, streets, lanes and rubbish piles accumulated through the years have all been cleared away and the results are viewed with satisfaction by all, including the permanent residents.

A limited amount of very fertile land exists around the city, and the Commission has leased some thirty acres. This is all planted in vegetables and should yield enough to supply the needs of this community as well as those of nearby Sandon. This district also yields very fine fruits, particularly cherries. In addition, a project was started in Kaslo through cooperation with the Provincial Game Department to obtain large quantities of fish. Some of these are used in the fresh state and the balance smoked and salted for winter use. These can be obtained in sufficient quantity to supply the other Japanese communities to some extent.

There is employment at the present time in wood cutting, construction, maintenance and gardening. Good opportunities exist for shingle mills and logging operations. If arrangements can be made for such endeavours, there would be little idleness in this area. At present some employment is being given by local residents.

There is a twenty-four bed hospital, modernly equipped, and a clinic. In addition this community has the services of a Japanese dentist and optometrist.

Maximum use is made of facilities for indoor recreational activities and in the summer many outdoor sports are available, including baseball, swimming, tennis.

SANDON

Japanese Population: 933.

Sandon is an old mining town which has been taken over and rehabilitated by the Commission. Situated high in the hills north-west of Kaslo and east of New Denver, it is reached by a narrow, winding, steeply graded road. The road is sometimes difficult to negotiate in winter but the C. P. R. runs a weekly freight train service. Of an original population early in 1900 of some 7,000 people, only about twenty white residents remain.

Since the Japanese evacuees came into Sandon, about 55 houses have been rebuilt or renovated, plumbing repaired, and bath houses and fire escapes installed. An excellent natural sewerage system already existed as a fast-flowing stream runs under the main street of the town and affords excellent sanitary and sewerage disposal facilities.

This location is not suitable for extensive cultivation of the soil but it is expected some twelve or thirteen acres will be made suitable for growing vegetable crops.

Employment is scarce here but a large proportion of the evacuees to this town are elderly men who are largely unemployables. Some of the factors involved are the town's isolated situation, no fishing, no farming, idle mines. Possibilities of woodworking and dressmaking are being investigated but the items of employment mostly engaged in at present are snow clearing, road work, and gathering of scrap iron. A number of loggers are engaged in cutting fire wood but there is a shortage of available timber.

A hospital with 20-bed capacity, complete with up-to-date equipment, clinic, surgery and an isolation ward, and under the charge of a Japanese doctor, has been made by renovating an old two-storey building. A Japanese dentist visits Sandon once weekly.

NEW DENVER

Japanese Population: 1,505.

New Denver is situated on the east side of Slocan Lake, midway between the Kootenay and Arrow Lakes in the upper Columbia River Basin. It has an altitude of 1,700 feet, with temperatures ranging from 90 degrees in summer to sometimes 20 degrees below zero in the winter, and an annual rainfall of about 11 inches. The soil is fertile, well adapted to mixed farming, gardening and the cultivation of berries and fruits. Of the original white population of several thousand, only 350 now remain and the place of the former residents has now been taken by the Japanese evacuees.

A well equipped local hospital serves the needs of the whole adjacent district and the Commission is building a sanatorium for the hospitalization of Japanese T. B. cases, which will accommodate 100 patients.

The New Denver Evacuation Area extends from the Harris Ranch on the south, to the old town of Rosebery on the north, a distance of about 16 miles. The 80-acre Harris Ranch has been leased by the Commission and 27 acres have already been put under cultivation. A total of 275 homes have been built for the Japanese, of the type of construction mentioned previously, 31 of them being designed for two-family groups and 244 for single families only. Bath houses (an important item in Japanese life) have been erected to serve the needs of the whole community and water connections are in the process of being laid to all sections of the area controlled by the Commission. In New Denver City itself, a good water service was already in operation prior to the advent of the Commission, the water being obtained from Slocan Lake, but the Commission has found it necessary to establish an auxiliary system deriving its supply of water from Wilson Creek. When this is completed, all Japanese houses will get their water supply from conveniently situated stand pipes.

Electricity is being supplied as quickly as possible and this work, together with that of laying water mains and cutting and hauling the very large supply of firewood necessary for the fairly severe winter, will keep the male Japanese population busy for some time to come.

It is hoped that work for the employable evacuees will soon be forthcoming in certain mines, sawmills and logging camps in adjacent areas, thereby avoiding the risks of enforced idleness. The New Denver area in the early 1900's produced large supplies of silver, lead and zinc and, although most of the mines have now been abandoned, some are still operating and are anxious to obtain Japanese labour.

A resident white doctor is in charge of the medical work, not only of the New Denver area but also as general supervisor over the Slocan and Sandon districts, which are more or less in the same general area. A good hospital already exists and is being used by the Commission where the necessity arises. When the sanatorium previously mentioned is completed, it will be equipped with modern facilities for its successful operation, and will, of course, come under the authority of the supervising physician.

Educational facilities are well under way in connection with elementary grade pupils and high school instructions on a voluntary basis will be given to those of more mature years.

Raising of vegetables will be extensively undertaken, several experienced market gardeners having been evacuated to this area, and it is anticipated that enough will be grown to supply all the needs of the evacuees.

SLOCAN AND SLOCAN AREA

Japanese Population: 4,814.

Slocan City is an abandoned mining town which was incorporated in 1901 and at one time housed a population of several thousand. It is situated in the West Kootenays at the foot of Slocan Lake. The temperature ranges during the year from 90 degrees above to 20 degrees below zero with an average rainfall of ten inches. Only about 350 white people still reside in Slocan and its adjacent areas, but the present Japanese population in the whole area, which includes Lemon Creek and is known as Slocan Extension, is 4,814.

Forty-nine abandoned houses were renovated for occupation, and 629 new dwellings were erected at small cost, to accommodate the evacuees. Bath houses are in operation, a suitable firehall with good equipment has been erected and the necessary administrative buildings such as hospitals, warehouses, stores, etc., are in full use. The Commission has leased a power plant in the vicinity of Slocan City and have had it thoroughly overhauled. It is now being operated in a very satisfactory manner. The voltage has been stepped up from 440 to 2200 on the primary line by the use of three 50-kilowatt transformers.

Excellent mountain water has been piped all over the district under the control of the Commission, adequate not only for domestic use but also for fire protection. Several streams have been tapped and pipes laid underground to a depth of three feet enabling the whole population to have a plentiful supply.

The Commission controls through lease or purchase 271 acres of fully arable land, 20 acres of orchards and 355 acres of wild land at present in the process of being cleared for cultivation. The soil is very fertile and it is proposed to employ all married female Japanese and their families in cultivating field crops and truck gardens, together with an intensive cultivation of berries and fruits. On part of the acreage controlled by the Commission, a number of Japanese families have been placed with approximately 1¼ acres of ground allotted to each one for the cultivation of vegetables, etc. This property is readily irrigated and by utilizing it to the fullest extent, food costs in this area will be cut down to a minimum. At Lemon Creek the Commission is operating a farm with some 30 head of cattle and 100 odd pigs. This should still further cut down food costs.

Slocan was used throughout the summer as a transfer point for New Denver and its adjacent extension of Rosebery and also Sandon. All the evacuees for these areas were first sent to Slocan and then transferred to final destinations. A large amount of baggage had to be unloaded at Slocan, re-routed and transferred along with the evacuees.

Building supplies were at times difficult to get, transportation difficulties had to be overcome and the matter of housing and feeding the large number of Japanese workers who were employed on the building construction had to be satisfactorily arranged,which latter problem was overcome by the purchase of a considerable number of second-hand tents.

A road diversion project is now under way which will employ some 300 able-bodied males during the winter momths and unmarried men are being given an opportunity for volunteering for work outside the area in sawmills and lumber camps. Firewood is being cut as rapidly as possible, and it is anticipated that a sufficient supply for winter use will be stocked up before severe weather starts.

A 16-bed hospital is in operation with another one under construction which will accommodate 24 beds, together with a smaller isolation hospital for contagious diseases. Emergency first aid stations have been established under the charge of fourth year Japanese medical students who have already rendered good assistance. A Japanese dentist is also employed by the Commission, together with a first-class Japanese optometrist.

Adequate recreational facilities are available, welfare and religious activities are in full swing, and the 1,083 Japanese children in the district will receive as good an education as possible under the circumstances.

TASHME

Japanese population: 2,636.

The word Tashme is coined from the first two letters of the surnames of each of the three commissioners of the British Columbia Security Commission and is used to designate the last built of the interior housing projects. Tashme is situated 14 miles south-east of the village of Hope in B. C., which latter place is served by three main railway lines and is situated on the scenic Cariboo highway, a beautiful three hours drive from the city of Vancouver. The road from Hope to Tashme was, only three months ago, a rough, narrow mountain trail but is, today, quite a good roadway which, when completed by the Japanese, will form a part of the Hope-Princeton Highway. The townsite so-called is situated on a ranch of some 600 acres, leased for the duration of the war by the Commission. The land was already cleared and under crop and supported besides a considerable herd of pure-bred Jersey cattle. The altitude is 2,410 and the temperature ranges are from 95 degrees in summer to as low sometimes as 10 below in winter.

The Commission has built a total of 347 houses at this point for the evacuated Japanese, constructed of rough lumber, sealed on the outside with tar paper and with building paper in the interior. Each house is designed to accommodate eight people. Use was also made of the existing large barns leased with the property which have been completed into 38 apartments which will house five people. Accommodation can therefore be found for 2,966 evacuees and there are already 2,636 settled.

A general store is operated by the Commission; a butcher shop with a refrigeration plant is doing business; cook houses and mess halls are in full swing; bath houses; laundries and drying rooms are in constant

use. In fact a sizeable town with all its necessary services has taken the place of the broad grazing fields of the ranch.

The sawmill which was already on the premises, has been reconditioned and is in constant use, and is now cutting about 6,500 feet per diem, which amount will be largely increased as more labour becomes available.

A hospital to accommodate 50 beds is almost complete and a competent white doctor has been placed in charge with an adequate nursing staff partly white and partly Japanese. Dental treatment is supplied by a Japanese dentist and X-ray facilities are also available.

A large modern barn is being converted into a schoolroom where elementary grade pupils will receive the usual British Columbia education, and high school students will also continue their studies on a voluntary basis, as in the other interior housing projects.

A water reservoir has been completed and six-inch mains now carry the excellent mountain water all over the settlement. Electricity is supplied to the main buildings only by means of a 25 kilo plant installed by the Commission, and a telephone line has been brought in from Hope and is in operation.

A number of employable Japanese males are working on the Tashme end of the Hope-Princeton Highway, their families being housed at Tashme itself and 150 men will be employed continuously for some time to come, cutting and hauling the large amount of firewood necessary. Other gangs of Japanese labourers are working from the Princeton end of the above-mentioned highway, but they do not come under the supervision of Tashme.

As in other interior housing schemes, a large acreage will be devoted to the growing of vegetables for which the soil of this fertile valley is eminently suited. It should perhaps be pointed out that the valley in which Tashme nestles is about one mile wide and about 15 miles long, surrounded by precipitous mountain slopes closing in at each end into very narrow and easily guarded entrances. A better place could hardly have been found to house a large number of Japanese evacuees.

THE HIGH PROTECTING POWER

On July 14th the Spanish Consul General in Montreal, coming in his official capacity of Representative of the High Protecting Power, in connection with Japanese in Canada, arrived in Vancouver. He was accompanied by a high-ranking official from the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa, by a Representative of the International Red Cross Association and a Senior Officer of the R. C.M. Police.

The party was given full facilities to visit any of the projects under the authority of the Commission, and every assistance pos-

sible was freely extended. Hastings Park, which was then filled to capacity, was thoroughly inspected and representative Japanese were enabled to interview the Consul General in private. He and his party also visited most of the Interior Housing Projects and also made an inspection of the Sugar Beet Farms in Southern Alberta where Japanese are employed. Road Camps in the Jasper area were visited, the officials of the Department of Mines and Resources on that project making special endeavours to make the inspection as comprehensive as possible.

In all the different places which were visited, the Consul General had carte blanche to question and interview whom he pleased, and at the conclusion of his duty he expressed himself as being satisfied that the Commission was doing everything possible to deal with the Japanese evacuees in a humane manner.

REPATRIATION

A movement was under way to repatriate a number of Japanese Nationals in exchange for Canadian Nationals held in Japanese-controlled territory. A great deal of time and effort and also considerable expense was involved in this connection but, unfortunately, no results have yet developed. A small party of some half dozen Japanese is, as far as is known, in the vicinity of Montreal awaiting further developments, but as far as the great majority of the proposed repatriates is concerned, the matter appears to have ended in futility, and they have been evacuated to our various projects. However, should the matter again be brought up, they could, of course, be easily reached.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITY COMMISSION

DISPOSITION OF EVACUEES

As at Nov. 14, 1942.

SUGAR BEET PROJECTS:			
Alberta	2588		
Manitoba	1053		
Ontario	350	TOTAL	3991
ROAD CAMP PROJECTS			
Blue River - Yellowhead	258		
Revelstoke - Sicamous	346		
Hope-Princeton	296		
Schreiber	32		
Black Spur	13	TOTAL	945
INTERIOR HOUSING PROJECTS			
Greenwood	1177		
Slocan	4814		
Sandon	933		
Kaslo	964		
Tashme	2636		
New Denver	1505	TOTAL	12029
SELF-SUPPORTING PROJECTS			
Christina Lake	109		
Bridge River	269		
Minto City	322		
Lillooet	309		
McGillivray Falls	70		
Assiniboia	19		
Swing Crew (Okanagan)	63	TOTAL	1161
INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS			
Ontario Industries	85		
Westwold	77		
Taylor Lake	180		
Miscellaneous	97	TOTAL	439
SPECIAL PERMITS TO APPROVED EMPLOYMENT			
British Columbia	925		
Alberta	90		
Saskatchewan	14		
Manitoba	24		
Ontario	253		
Quebec	52		
Yukon Territory	1	TOTAL	1359
			19924

DISPOSITION OF EVACUEES (Cont'd.)

Forward	19,924
REPATRIATED TO JAPAN	42
INTERNMENT CAMPS	699
IN DETENTION - VANCOUVER	111
HASTINGS PARK (T.B. Hospital awaiting to New Denver Hospital)	105
TOTAL EVACUATED.....	20,881
OUTSIDE RESTRICTED AREA PRIOR TO B.C.S.C. EVACUATION	2,428
RETURNED TO JAPAN - 1941	203
TOTAL R.C.M.P. REGISTERED JAPANESE POPULATION..	23,512

MEMO.

Children in Japan (Family registered here)	1,500



Japanese Group Working in Manitoba Beet Field



Type of House Provided Japanese in Manitoba