VOLUME 1/11: H.D. WILSON, RE: FISHING - 1940.

11/1

Native Sons of British Columbia

POST No. 4

E. M. COTTON
SECRETARY
~~1107 SEVENTH AVENUE~~
~~PHONE 1000X~~
338-9th Street

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

April 21st.
I 9 4 0

Alderman H.D. Wilson
% City Hall
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir and Brother,

Re renewal of Licenses to Japanese fishermen.

I beg to advise you that at the last regular meeting of Post #4, New Westminster, the following resolution was passed.

That Post #4, Native Sons of British Columbia go on record as endorsing the Notice of motion which you have given to the Vancouver City Council. and

That a resolution to this effect be forwarded to the proper authorities.

I would appreciate it very much if you would advise me by return just what steps we should take and any suggestions you may have in this connection.

Yours fraternally
Native Sons of B.C. Post #4
E. M. Cotton
Secretary.

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Native Daughters of British Columbia

POST NO. 1
VANCOUVER B.C.

3307 Royal Oak,
Vancouver, B.C.
April 27, 1940.

Dear Sir,

Your resolution, of which notice was given at the last meeting of the Council, has been brought to the attention of our Post executive.

We thoroughly concur in your motion to have the Department of Fisheries refuse licenses to Japanese Fishermen who return to Japan in the off-fishing season. The reasons are obvious to yourself, and we earnestly trust that you will receive the support of your Aldermanic colleagues, who , we believe, are all desirous of retaining British standards and traditions in our major industries.

Yours very truly,
Native Daughters of B. C. Post No.1
Mildred Willis
Mildred Willis
Chief Factor.

Alderman Halford D.Wilson,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B.C.

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

City Clerk's OFFICE

CITY HALL
April 30, 1940.

Alderman H. D. Wilson,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re Japanese Fishermen

I beg to notify you of the following motion which was adopted by the City Council on the 29th instant:

"THAT WHEREAS it is the custom of many Japanese Fishermen, presumably British subjects, to return to Japan at the close of the Pacific Northwest Salmon Fishing Season;

AND WHEREAS the granting of licenses to Japanese Fishermen who earn their money in Canada, and return to Japan each year to live in luxury under Japanese standards, is detrimental to the interests of Canadian Fishermen;

AND WHEREAS doubt is cast upon the loyalty of these Japanese Fishermen to British institutions, witness the case of Mario Sato, Peruvian citizen and fugitive from the Japanese Navy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council send strong protest to the Minister of National Fisheries against the renewal on their part of any licenses granted each year, to Japanese fishermen who return to Japan at the close of the Fishing Season."

Yours very truly,

City Clerk.

BHW:W
Sent to:
Minister of Fisheries
Ald. Wilson

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

City Clerk's Office — CITY HALL

June 18, 1940.

Alderman H. D. Wilson,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re Japanese Fishermen Returning to Japan Between Fishing Seasons

I beg to notify you of the following recommendation of the Harbours, Utilities and Airport Committee, which was adopted by the City Council on the 17th instant:

"Recommended that the communications (2) from Mr. Angus MacInnis, M.P., enclosing correspondence from the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Mines and Resources, in connection with statistics regarding the temporary return to Japan of Japanese Fishermen from the Pacific Coast, be referred to the Chairman (Alderman Wilson) for study and report."

Yours very truly,

City Clerk.

BHW:W
Sent to:
Angus MacInnis
Alderman Wilson - Encls.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

Canada

Ottawa, Ontario,
May 24, 1940.

Fred Howlett, Esq.,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Howlett:

In further reference to my letter of May 14th in reply to yours of April 30th re Japanese fishermen: As mentioned in my letter, I took the matter up with the Minister of Fisheries and I am in receipt of a letter from him under date of May 22nd, copy of which I am enclosing herewith for the information of the Council.

It is possible that you are aware of the point of view of the Department of Fisheries but I am forwarding this in order that the Council may know that I have gone as far with the matter as can be done at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) "Angus MacInnis"

Member for Vancouver East

AM-T
Encl. 1.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OTTAWA

May 22, 1940.

Dear Mr. MacInnis:

I have your letter of the 21st instant having reference to a resolution passed by the Council of the City of Vancouver on April 30, 1940, regarding the activities of fishermen of Japanese origin.

For your information, I may state that this resolution was forwarded to this Department as well as to several of my Colleagues and Members of Parliament who were kind enough to refer it to me.

As you are aware, fishing licenses are issued to British subjects only, whether by birth or by naturalization. The number of licenses issued to British subjects of Japanese origin has been arbitrarily limited for some years past. I have always followed the practice established in this regard previous to my tenure of office.

The officials of the Department inform me that it is difficult for them to keep track of the fishermen after they have ceased their fishing activities, and I am sure you will agree with them.

As to whether some fishermen of Japanese origin go back to Japan after the fishing season, I have no information; it would be quite difficult for this Department to secure information in this connection unless it were from the Immigration Department.

I am asking the Director of Immigration to let me have whatever information he may possess on this matter, and I will be pleased to acquaint you with it as soon as it is received.

Trusting that this will be satisfactory, I beg to remain

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) "J. E. Michaud"

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COPY

HOUSE OF COMMONS

CANADA

Ottawa, Ontario
June 6, 1940.

Fred Howlett, Esq.,
City Clerk,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Howlett:

In further reference to our correspondence in regard to Japanese fishermen returning to Japan at the close of the fishing season: I am now in receipt of a further communication from the Federal Minister of Fisheries. He enclosed for my information copy of a letter from the Director of Immigration in regard to this matter. For the information of the Council, I am enclosing herewith copy of the letter received from the Director of Immigration.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) "Angus MacInnis"

Member for Vancouver East.

AM-T
Encl. 1.

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11/4D

COPY

9309 No. 17

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES

Ottawa, May 29, 1940.

Dear Mr. Michaud:

I have your letter of the 22nd instant relative to the resolution passed by the Vancouver City Council of April 29th concerning the return to Japan each year of Japanese fishermen, and I may say that our records do not confirm the inference that there is a large exodus to Japan of Japanese fishermen from the Pacific Coast. I understand there are approximately 1500 fishing licenses issued to British subjects of Japanese race on the Pacific Coast each year and our records show that between October 1939 and March 1940 both months inclusive, 167 adult male British subjects of Japanese race proceeded to Japan; if 80% of 133 of these were fishermen returning to Japan for the winter season, they would only constitute approximately 9% of the total licensees. These figures do not substantiate the claim made in paragraph (2) of the said resolution.

I may add that it has been a general custom for Oriental people to return to their native land for visits, but this tendency has not been so marked during the past ten years or so. Possibly the general economic conditions are largely responsible for this fact. In any event, our records establish quite definitely that there is not a general exodus of fishermen to Japan each fall.

I hope the above will be of assistance to you in dealing with the resolution in question.

Yours very truly,

(Sgd.) "F. C. Blair"

Director

Honorable J. E. Michaud,
Minister of Fisheries,
Ottawa.

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1945 West 1st Ave 1115
Ste 2.
Vancouver B.C.
Oct 29th 1940

Telephone
Bay 99184

Alderman Halford D Wilson
City Hall
City

Dear Mr Wilson

I would be glad if you would grant me an interview as soon as possible. regarding the following matter.

I have for the last 7 years been connected with the fishing industry working for the Canadian Fishing Co and during this time have had considerable experience and experiences with Japanese who as you know are strongly entrenched in this industry. I believe with my knowledge of the coast and the Japanese connected with the fishing industry I could be of value in the intelligence dept: in reference particularly to Japanese. There are as you probably know a lot of these people illegally in this country at different points north & I believe a civilian who knew his job could go a long way in ferreting them out. I am over age for Army Service, but young enough looking to get in I believe.

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any way you could help me in this matter, believe me, I am not prompted by getting a job, but rather in putting these people where I think they belong, & that is not Canada.

Hoping to hear from you a phone call making an appointment would be very pleasing to me.

Yours truly,

John Sloan

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CITY OF VANCOUVER

City Clerk's OFFICE CITY HALL

October 29th, 1940.

Alderman H. D. Wilson,
City Hall,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re Seine Fishing

I beg to notify you of the following resolution which was passed by Council on the 28th instant:

"That the communication from the Dominion Department of Fisheries, replying to a letter from the City Clerk dated October 17th, regarding seine fishing, be referred to Alderman Wilson, with a request that he take the matter up with the Provincial Department of Fisheries, and report."

Yours very truly,

Fred J. Howlett

City Clerk.

RT:W
Encl.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

OTTAWA

October 22nd, 1940.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of the 17th instant embracing resolution passed by Vancouver City Council that the use of herring caught by purse-seines be restricted to certain methods of processing, with a view to protecting certain markets in which herring gill-net fishermen are directly interested.

May I say that similar representations in behalf of the herring gill-net fishermen at Vancouver have already reached my Department and received consideration. Briefly, the situation is that by Privy Council decision it has been established that while regulating the catching of fish falls within the exclusive purview of the Dominion, the fish upon being legally caught immediately come within the category of property and civil rights and as such the Dominion has no jurisdiction to intervene in their disposal as the fishing operators may desire.

Hence, in the instance under review, while the herring seining is licensed by my Department, it has no authority to interfere with the sale of the catches in the fresh fish or other markets to which the licensees may wish to dispose of them.

Faithfully yours,

(Sgd.) "J. E. Michaud"

MINISTER

Fred Howlett, Esq., J.P.,
City Clerk,
Vancouver, B. C.