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TERM PAPER

MY MIGRATION FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA TO QUEBEC

by

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Geography 211, Section AA

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July 1968

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22 July 1968
Assignment: Term Paper

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To many a Japanese Canadian from days preceding World War II, the term "Jap" has always had a certain, unexplainable, but a penetrating sting. The first time that I experienced that sting was immediately after "Pearl Harbor". I was then in the first grade. At one recess time, a boy pointed at me and said out loud, "here's a Jap". As young as I was, being a hyper-sensitive child, I, for the first time in my life, sensed that, to them, I was different, inferior, unwanted, and worst, an enemy. The child possibly could not have realized what he was doing to me but most probably his parents must have been discussing "Japs" frequently at homes, thus, breeding racial discrimatory thoughts in the innocent child's mind. This was only the mild prelude of what led to many others such as "ya dirty yellow Jap", etc, and even to physical abuses by older boys against whom I fought back with all my small physical might.

Apart from these experiences in a child's world, I recollect the curfew which was then imposed upon the Japanese. I remember the terror I used to feel at the prowl cars coming around in the evenings for surveillance in the place I was born. That was the tiny Japanese fishing village of Celtic Cannery which was situated on the (north) west bank of the mighty Fraser, a few miles upriver from the University of British Columbia. I also remember the countless Japanese fishing vessels assembled (to be auctioned off at fractional prices or to be confiscated) in our village from other villages, such as, Ladner, Marpole, and Steveston to be sent away elsewhere "en masse" including our own village's boats. The majority of Celtic's inhabitants also were sent away by early spring of 1942, leaving behind most of their property intact.

Soon later, it was our turn to leave. With a minimum of belongings we moved into Hastings Park; Vancouver's Pacific National Exhibition grounds which then were the temporary detention point for all Japanese being shipped into interior British Columbia. Having been housed there in converted animal stalls for a few weeks, we proceeded to Slocan. This was just one of the "relocation centres" among many others such as: Green Wood, Kaslo, Lemon Creek, New Denver, Roseberry, Sandon, and Tashme, to name most of those I remember from boyhood. The trip to Slocan on a C.P.R. train was slow, tiring, and the food was bad by Canadian standard ---- such as, unbuttered, drying bread with bologna and cheap fruit cake which I distinctly remember, I swallowed with difficulty. After this experience and the bitter ones in Vancouver, the unspoiled wilderness of the Slocan valley was a refreshing, welcome sight. From the train, we immediately moved into army tents erected in forest clearings where deer skirted and bears roamed. Then, by early autumn we left the tents to move into better living quarters built by an army of Japanese "instant" carpenters. Most of the men there later engaged in logging, while the women kept homes, and the children were restored in school (also built by the Japanese men) by early 1943. The energetic and industrious majority of the men felt their unproductiveness, and searched for ways and means to busy themselves so as not to waste their leisure. However, I, even as a child, knew their deep resentment for the prohibition and fine imposed against them for fishing, when the Slocan Lake and the numerous streams in the vicinity abounded in various game fish. In this way for four years, we lived out the war.

By early 1946, my hard working and good father had decided to quit Canada. Being a naturalized Canadian, having lived here for fifty-two years, and having lost practically all his hard earned property, he had now completely lost faith and hope in Canada. His only wish now was to return to his birthplace and meet his second son, his favorite, who had gone there in early 1940 to seek success in the field of electricity for which he had studied so hard and so long in Canada and U.S. without reward. To him, went my father (with two sisters and myself) aboard a U.S. Troop transport, arriving in Uraga (Kurihama) in June 1946. But, theJapan that we hopefully went to, was a sorrowful, distressing, and disgusting place. The only Japan that I knew of was orderly, disciplined, and courteous (despite the intense militarism) back in 1940 when I first began my schooling there. However, now, there was nothing but chaos. Fighting for seats on the trains, hordes forced themselves in through the windows, or bullies squashed others against the sides, pickpockets infested the packed coaches, gangs raided to wrest away light luggages, and the view outside the train windows was a repetition of bomb-ravaged homes, schools, and factories. To further completely dampen our spirit, and to our father's great heart break, his favorite, dear son had been killed in action in Burma, in September 1944. Despite these crushing blows, we did our best to adapt to prevailing conditions. I attended the

local schools in my father's home town, Shiida, for the next eight years, graduating from high school in March 1954. Then, until March 1958——when I, at last decided to give Canada a "whirl"——I worked for the U.S. Air Force as an interpreter at a nearby air base.

Gratefully and politely declining offers for better positions within the U.S. Air Force, I returned to Vancouver in mid-May 1958, in the midst of a recession and lay-offs. Day in and day out, I "pounded" the streets seeking employment while gardening in between to earn sustenance. Finally, in July, I had found a shipper's job with Brooke Bond Canada, only to be laid-off in mid-November. I learned later that another man (a WASP) was seeking employment there, and he had been given my job. Ever frantically, I searched for any position but in vain. However, fortunately, I was entitled to some unemployment benefits, thereby narrowly being spared the humiliation of the Salvation Army's basement as my sleeping quarter. In late February of 1959, I had set out once more to pound the streets of Vancouver and its surrounding areas but no success was to be found. Soon, I learned the cold hard fact that most firms have only a tiny or no hiring quotas for "Orientals". Even without this grave disappointment, I had sensed enough of the ever, still persistant anti-Japanese climate, not to mention the frequent usage of "Jap" even among seemingly respectable and educated "ladies and gentlemen". In spite of the great geographical love (for the climate, the majestic mountains, the rivers, the ocean, and the deep coves) I have for Vancouver, I knew now that I needed to leave British Columbia. Therefore, I had struck out for Montreal where two brothers had lived since 1944. After three days, and three nights, on board the C.P.R.'s "The Canadian", I arrived in Montreal on 18 April 1959. In two weeks, I had found suitable employment and have lived here since.

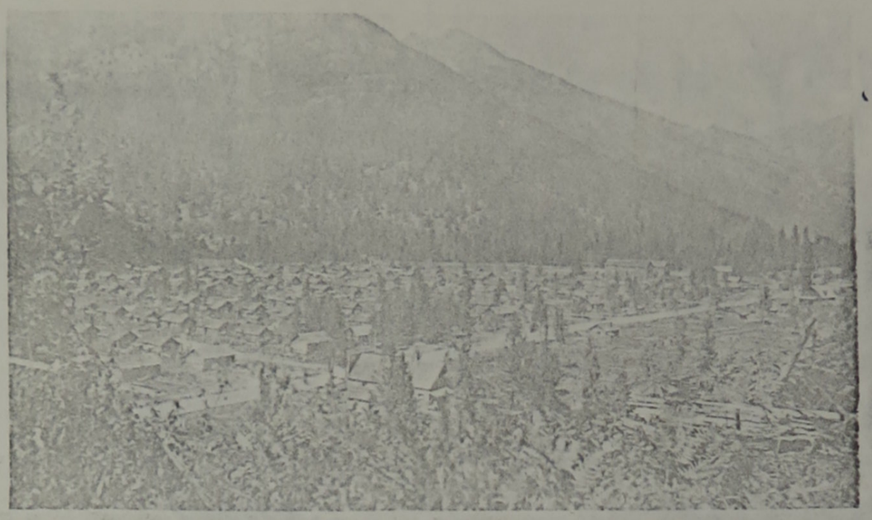
To me, it is not surprising nor horrifying to see South Africa or Rhodesia stir up trouble with their extreme policies. Even here at home in Canada, a supposedly democratic and civilized country, whose laws are based on Christian beliefs and principles, one of the governments has dealt with the Japanese unjustly with an absolute, tyrranical hand in collaboration with West Coast racists whose only interest was not detaining or restricting enemy aliens (the enemy treatment was bad enough) but rather to expel us from British Columbia on racial grounds.

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Reference Material:
1 MAPS
1 PHOTOGRAPH

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EXHIBIT 1/1



BAY FARM, SLOCAN B.C.

1. ONE OF THE MANY EVACUATION CENTERS OF 1942-1946.
2. ALL UNIFORM-SIZE WOODEN COTTAGES. ALLOCATION: ONE TO A LARGE FAMILY, HALF TO A SMALL FAMILY.
3. TWO LARGE, DOUBLE STORIED BUILDINGS IN RIGHT DISTANCE (WAS. (IS) THE PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE, GRADES 1 TO 8.
4. THE GRAVEL ROAD RUNNING LEFT TO RIGHT IS THE PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY LEADING TO SLOCAN CITY (UNTIL THE EVACUATION, A GHOST TOWN FROM THE KLONDIKE DAYS OF SILVER MINING).
5. THE BARN SEEN AT THE RIGHT HAND SIDE BELONGED TO A DOUKHOBOR FAMILY WHICH OPERATED A COMBINATION SERVICE STATION-GROCERY STORE, MAKING A "KILLING" FROM ITS WARTIME OPERATION OF CATERING TO THE NEEDS OF THE EVACUEES.
6. THE SMALL BUILDING STANDING ISOLATED IS THE RCMP DETACHMENT OFFICE WHERE ALL PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN WERE REQUIRED TO HAVE (HIS) THEIR "ENEMY ALIEN REGISTRATION" CHECKED PERIODICALLY TO SEE ALL WAS ORDERLY AND UPDATED.
7. LARGE WOODEN STRUCTURE IN THE FOREGROUND (IS) WAS A PRIVATE PHARMACY STOCKED WITH THE USUAL ITEMS OF A DRUGSTORE.
8. A SISTER SETTLEMENT, ~~POPOFF~~ (about 3/4 the size of Bay Farm) LAY SOME TWO MILES TO THE LEFT OF BAY FARM — TO THE SOUTH. SLOCAN CITY LAY ABOUT TWO MILES TO THE NORTH. LEMON CREEK LAY SOME SEVEN MILES TO THE SOUTH.

20-13

WEST VAN

NORTH VANCOUVER

MARINE DRIVE

C.P.R.

STRAIT OF GEORGIA

FIRST NARROWS

BURRARD

SECOND NARROWS

INLET

ENGLISH BAY

MARINE DRIVE

HASTINGS STREET

FALSE CREEK

BROADWAY

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA ENDOWMENT LANDS

VANCOUVER

KINGSWAY

B.C.E.R.

B.C. ELECTRIC R'WAY

B.C. ELECTRIC R'WAY

BURNABY

B.C. ELECTRIC R'WAY

B.C. ELECTRIC R'WAY

MARINE DRIVE

GRANVILLE ST.

OAK ST.

MARPOLE

NORTH ARM FRASER

SEA ISLAND

METROPOLITAN VANCOUVER

Scale: 0 1 IN MILES

- ▲ - CELTIC CANNERY
- ■ - HASTINGS PARK
- ▬ - DEPARTURE POINT - SLOCAN '46
- ▬ - ARRIVAL POINT FROM SLOCAN '46
- ▬ - DEPARTURE POINT - JAPAN '46
- ▬ - ARRIVAL POINT FROM JAPAN '58

MIDDLE ARM

RICHMOND

LULU ISLAND

WESTMINSTER HY

ANNACIS ISLAND

RIVER

NORTH ARM

STEVESTON HY

STEVESTON

DEAS ISLAND TUNNEL

DELTA

FRASER

THRUWAY

TO U.S. BORDER

LADNER TRUNK ROAD

LADNER

MAP 2/4

BRITISH COLUMBIA

SCALE: 0 5 10 20 40 MILES

ARTERIAL & OTHER ROADS

RWY ROUTE TO & FROM SLOCAN

N

QUESNEL

MT ROBSON

JASPER NAT'L PARK

PROV PARK

WELLS GRAY PROVINCIAL PARK

BANFF NAT'L PARK

YOHO NAT'L PARK

GOLDEN

GLACIER NAT'L PK

REVELSTOKE

TO CALGARY

ALTA

BC

LILLOOET

CACHE CREEK

KAMLOOPS

SALMON ARM

SPENCES BRIDGE

MERRITT

LYTTON

VERNON

NAKUSP

ROSEBERRY

NEW DENVER

SLOCAN LAKE

KASLO

SANDON

GARIBALDI PROVINCIAL PARK

PENTICTON

KELOWNA

SLOCAN

LEMON CREEK

VANCOUVER

SIMILKAMEEN

PRINCETON

CRANBROOK

NELSON

TASHME (HOPE)

GREEN-WOOD

ABBOTSFORD

BC

WASH

GRANDFORKS

TRAIL

IDAHO

MONTANA

BELLINGHAM

KETTLE FALLS

COLVILLE

EUREKA

VICTORIA

TO SEATTLE

MAP

N

WAKKANAI

NAYORO

ABASHIRI

ASAHIKAWA

SAPPORO

NEMURO

KUSHIRO

OBIHIRO

NOBORIBETSU

MURORAN

HAKODATE

MATSUE

YONAGO

TOTTORI

SHIMONOSEKI

KITA KYUSHU

HIROSHIMA

OKAYAMA

HIMEJI

KYOTO

KOBE

FUKUOKA

SHIMA

SAKAI

TAKAMATSU

OSAKA

OITA

MATSU-
YAMA

TOKUSHIMA

WAKA-
YAMA

NAGA-
SAKI

KUMA-
MOTO

KOCHI

SHIKOKU

KAGOSHIMA

MIYAZAKI

MAP 3/4

AP OF JAPAN

N

HIROSAKI
AOMORI
AKITA
MORIOKA
NIIGATA
YAMAGATA
MATSUSHIMA
SENDAI
FUKUSHIMA
NAGANO
TOYAMA
NIKKO
MITO
GIFU
NAGOYA
TOYOHASHI
SHIZUOKA
HAMAMATSU
ATAMI
TOKYO
CHIBA
TOGA
YOKOHAMA

NAT'L RY MAINLINE. MY ROUTE TO PRESENT'S DOMICILE — JULY 1946. HAVE TRAVELLED THIS ROUTE EIGHTEEN TIMES IN ALL.

NAT'L RY MAINLINE. HAVE TRAVELLED ON IT ONCE OR MORE.

NAT'L RY MAINLINE UNTRAVELLED

0 50 100 150 KM

1:1,000,000

20-10

MAP 4/4

GREAT BEAR LAKE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SOUTHAMPTON ISLAND
BAFFIN ISLAND
N
COATS ISLAND
MANSEL I.
NOTTINGHAM I.
GREAT SLAVE LAKE
HUDSON BAY
UNGAVA BAY
LAKE ATHABASKA
REINDEER LAKE
SASKAT-CHEWAN
ALBERTA
MANITOBA
LAKE WINNIPEG
ONTARIO
JAMES BAY
QUEBEC
GOOSE BAY
LABRADOR
CALGARY
REGINA
WINNIPEG
FT WILLIAM
SAULT STE MARIE
SUDBURY
NORTH BAY
MONTREAL
RIVIERE-DU-LOUP
QUEBEC
ANTIGONISH
GANDER
NFLD
GULF OF ST LAWRENCE
P.E.I.
ST JOHN'S
SYDNEY
HALIFAX
YARMOUTH
SUPERIOR
L. MICHIGAN
CHICAGO
DETROIT
CLEVELAND
TORONTO
LONDON
WINDSOR
BOSTON
NEW YORK
BALTIMORE
PHILADELPHIA
WASHINGTON
UNITED STATES

CANADA

CPR ROUTE-MONTREAL FROM VANCOUVER AIR 89

HWY ROUTES FREQUENTED OR TRAVELLED ON ONCE

MILES 0 100 200 300 400 500

KILOMETERS 0 200 400 600

THE JAPANESE IN CANADA

EVACUATION AND RELOCATION

By Umeo Uyeda

Lecturer, Professor B. Slack

Geography 441

March 16, 1970

Preface

The Japanese Canadians are a minority of minorities, now thinly spread from coast to coast. Therefore, our history in Canada, especially, at the outbreak of World War II may be quite insignificant to the people living in the east, say, east of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border. Nevertheless, that segment of our history, or rather, of our country's history was of grave profundity in many respects to the Japanese, mainly, and to the country as a whole as well.

This study's main focus is placed on the geographical locations of the Japanese population ~~since~~ at "Pearl Harbour" and thereafter. Its aim is to cite the reasons and happenings which led to the round-up of the Japanese whose bulk (over 90%) of the population was concentrated along the west coast of British Columbia, from where they where evicted from their homes and livelihoods to be shipped inland hundreds of miles away or more, of how they were settled in the "evacuation centers" to wait out the War, of how some of them were repatriated to Japan, of how they were dispersed across the Dominion --- of how they eventually settled in such places as Montreal and Toronto.

Concentration of Japanese in British Columbia

The reason for so many and practically all of the Japanese in Canada to be so concentrated in British Columbia before the second World War is its proximity to Japan --- the first point reached with the least money expenditures. Very few Japanese immigrants had upon arrival any money with which to go elsewhere and what they made was needed to establish themselves or help relatives in Japan. Additionally, the economic life of British Columbia enabled them to find ready means of making a living. British Columbia was particularly attractive to the Japanese because it not only shared in the Canadian boom of 1896 to 1911 when over 2 billion dollars of British capital poured into the Dominion, but also because it was too remote from the eastern seaboard and thus free of being run over bythe low standard of living Central Europeans coming to Canada. To the Japanese, the province had a peculiar charm --- agreeable climate and incomparable mountain sceneries, its waters teeming with various species of fish like in the homeland, and valleys beautiful like those they remember from their birthplaces.

Friction between the concentrated Japanese and the Occidentals

The Occidentals' feelings of distrust, fear and hostility towards Orientals prior to World War II goes back even to the Yukon gold rush days. These feelings stem from the assumed low standard of living (never always, but in many cases true), inassimilability due to cultural and racial differences, and in particular case of the Japanese, a fear that the Japanese immigrants and their children were loyal to the Emperor of Japan, that the immigrants were purposely sent to Canada as a projected military campaign for eventual control of Canada through the "peaceful penetration".

That is to say, they tended to crowd out the whites in industry and mercantile occupations. The Japanese monopolized production of small fruits, hot-house vegetables, and had a tight hold on wholesale-retail distribution of other commodities of the fertile acreage along the Fraser valley. Also, they comprised the largest racial group engaged in some of the most important branches of the fishing industry. The fishermen were usually very skillful and daring in their exploits of the sea as this writer recalls his own brother who was outstanding even among his own people.

Further, on the west coast of Canada, there had been a long established fear of an attempted Japanese invasion should war come to the Pacific (there had been thick rumours of Japanese naval officers infiltrating into British Columbia and working on the numerous Japanese Canadian owned fishing vessels in preparation for eventual outbreak of hostilities) and equally long established desire on part of certain individuals and groups for an opportunity to rid the Japanese for good from British Columbia. The attack on Pearl Harbour created the anticipated dangerous situations and also created an opportunity. All these factors raised strong public opinion immediately after the attack that it sent the governmental machinery into motion resulting in the great evacuation of all Japanese living along the west coast of British Columbia.

After fighting broke out in China in 1937, relations of Britain, Canada, and the United States with Japan worsened progressively and charges were repeatedly being made that there were infiltrations of Japanese from Japan which might threaten the internal security of British Columbia and the national defence in general. Therefore, the R.C.M.P. in early 1941 conducted

investigations and took census of the Japanese.

Official Dominion Census for Japanese
June 1941

Canadian born	14,119	)	
Naturalized Canadian	3,159	)	43.4% female
Japanese Nationals	5,924	)	56.6% male
U.S. Citizens	22	)	
Total	23,224		

	Male	Female
Children up to 19	39%	50%
Youths (20 - 34)	23%	24%
Middle Aged (35- 59)	31%	25%
Old (60 and over)	7%	1%
	100%	100%

Location of Japanese Majority - 1941

Almost 22,000 lived in B.C., majority resident along B.C. coast and up the Fraser River Valley. About half lived in cities and large towns. They were concentrated in:

(1) Fishing along coastal waters of southern B.C. and Vancouver Island, with related occupation of cannery work and boat-building.

(2) Logging and mill work along B.C. coast.

(3) Growing vegetables and small fruits along Fraser Valley.

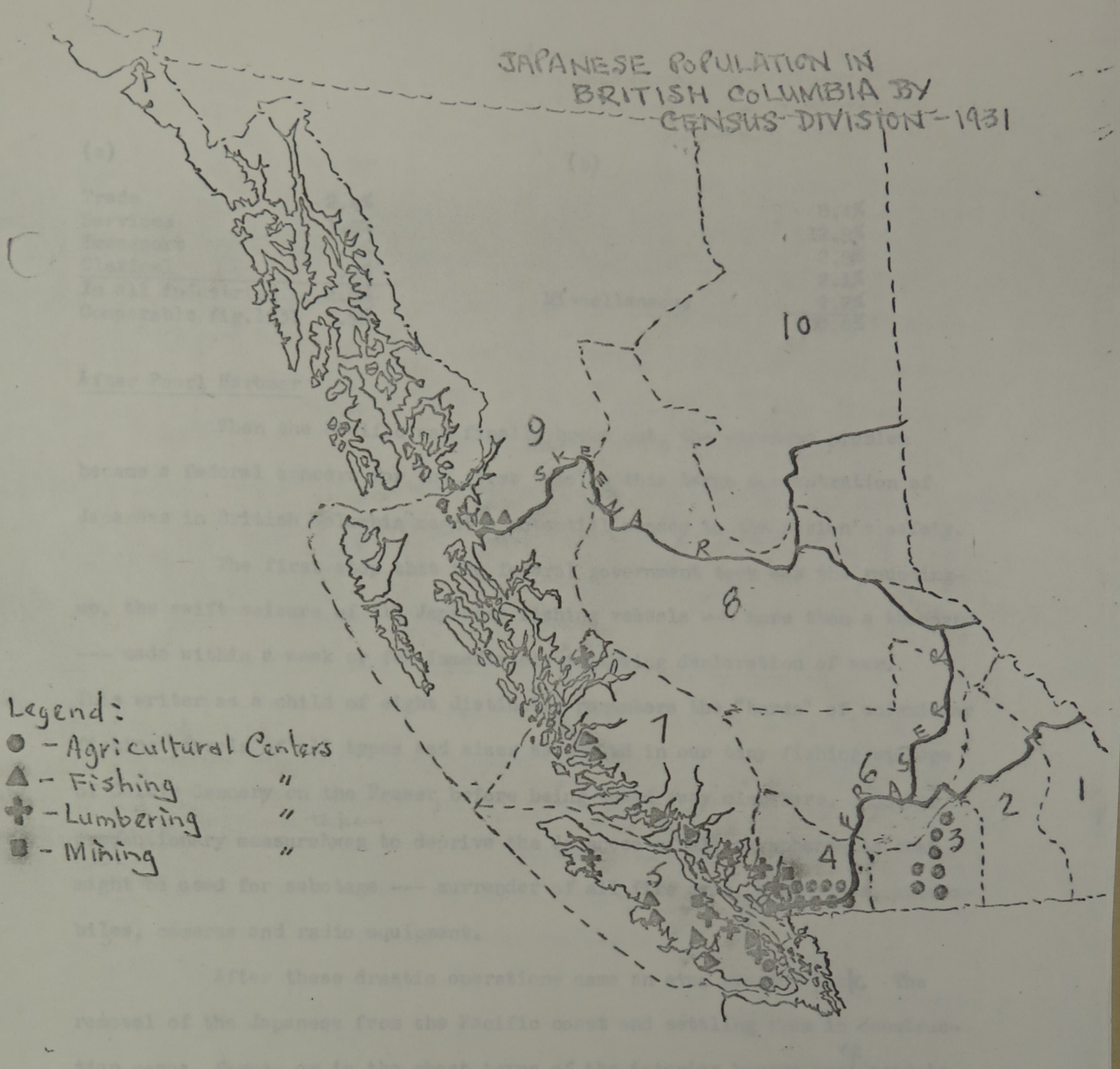
(4) Miscellaneous small business and occupation in Vancouver and Victoria - restaurants, dry-cleaning, tailor, grocery and fruit stores, gardening and domestic service.

Japanese Occupation Status

In twenty years preceding 1941, number of Japanese in fishing and lumber industry in B.C. declined with corresponding increase in agriculture and manufacturing.

Percentage of gainfully employed Japanese (14 years and Over)

	(a) Compared to total gainfully employed in various industries	(b) According to distribution in various industries
Fishing	15.0%	16.3%
Lumbering	5.1%	8.3%
Labor	5.1%	14.7%
Agriculture	3.9%	18.8%
Manufacturing	2.5%	13.4%



Distribution of Japanese in B.C. by Census Divisions

Div #	Japanese Pop	Total Pop	Div #	Japanese Pop	Total Pop
1	72	22,566	6	17	30,025
2	64	40,455	7	828	12,658
3	876	40,523	8	12	21,534
4	16,195	379,858	9	995	18,698
5	3,086	120,933	10	0	7,013

(a)

Trade	2.4%
Services	1.8%
Transport	.9%
Clerical	.7%
In all industries	2.8%
Comparable fig.1931	3.9%

(b)

	8.4%
	12.9%
	2.9%
	2.1%
Miscellaneous	2.2%
	100.0%

After Pearl Harbour

When the Pacific war finally broke out, the Japanese problem became a federal concern for the first time as this large concentration of Japanese in British Columbia meant a potential menace to the Nation's safety.

The first step that the federal government took was the rounding-up, the swift seizure of all Japanese fishing vessels --- more than a thousand --- made within a week or few immediately following declaration of war. This writer as a child of eight distinctly remembers the "horde" of unfamiliar fishing vessels of all types and sizes assembled in our tiny fishing village of Celtic Cannery on the Fraser, before being towed away elsewhere. Another precautionary measure taken was to deprive the Japanese of all paraphernalia that might be used for sabotage --- surrender of all fire arms, explosives, automobiles, cameras and radio equipment.

After these drastic operations came an even greater task. The removal of the Japanese from the Pacific coast and settling them in construction camps, farms, or in the ghost towns of the interior became one of Canada's toughest wartime assignments. In the spring of 1942, British Columbia had to execute this wartime task dwarfing all others in some respect. To carry out this immense task, the British Columbia Security Commission was appointed by the Order-in-Council P.C. 1665 on March 4, 1942, comprised by:

Chairman - Austin Taylor (Vancouver industrialist and ex-army officer)
Assistant Commissioner- F.J. Mead (R.C.M.P.)
Assistant Commissioner- John Shirras (B.C. Provincial Police)

This body was aided by an advisory committee of twenty British Columbian residents. This commission functioned under authority and supervision of the Federal Minister of Labour, Hon. Humphrey Mitchell and Deputy Minister, A.J. McNamara. This commission was to finally carry out this security measure, one of the greatest compulsory mass migration in Canada's history which for a while threatened to dislocate a few of British Columbia's most vital industries.

Evacuation of Japanese from Protected Areas

The primary function of the B.C. Security Commission was to plan, supervise, and direct the evacuation from the protected areas (coastal zones) and to provide for housing, feeding, care and protection of such evacuees. Originally, the evacuation was intended only for enemy aliens but was extended to all Japanese except Eurasians, Japanese married to other races, the hospitalized, the imprisoned, and the asylum patients. The remainder of approximately 21,000 were evacuated by the Comrission assisted by the R.C.M.P. Their properties were placed in charge of the Custodian of Alien Property for protection and management.

The evacuation of the Japanese excluding the few hundred in detention and in sanitoriums was carried out from April 1942 as follows:

8,000 - processed through Vancouver's Hastings Park clearing center to the interior Housing Centers.

3,600 - direct from Fraser Valley to Alberta and Manitoba sugar beet work.

3,500 - direct from their homes to the interior Housing Centers.

3,000 - left voluntarily to self-supporting projects and employment.

2,150 - went to road camps in British Columbia and Ontario.

750 - went to internment in Northern Ontario.

Interior Housing Centers

The sick, aged, and families of internees and men in road camps were not self-supporting in the transition period. There were other thousands who were unable or unwilling immediately, for a variety of reasons, to take up new life in interior British Columbia or east of the Rockies. For these, the Commission provided housing and other community services in six old mining towns in the interior of British Columbia --- Greenwood, Slocan City, New Denver, Roseberry, Sandon and Kaslo. Two completely new towns were established on leased land in autumn of 1942 --- Tashme (near Hope) and Lemon Creek (near Slocan City).

These temporary Housing Centers were popularly termed "ghost towns" --- at one time thriving mining towns. The influx of 12,000 Japanese re-activated these areas. To receive the evacuees, the Commission built with Japanese crews under white superintendents, 1,100 small houses for one large family or two small families. Many large abandoned buildings in towns were renovated and re-equipped into apartments, bunk houses for bachelors, offices, hospitals, and schools. New schools, staff houses and hospitals were constructed principally at Tashme, Lemon Creek, Slocan,and New Denver by spring of 1943.

These Housing Centers were for temporal accommodations but the policy was to operate them as nearly as possible to normal communities. Each town was supervised by an Occidental supervisor with one or more assistants and staffed by Japanese. There were also Occidental welfare and treasury officers, doctors, and nurses. The Japanese were employed as doctors, dentists, optometrists, nurses, teachers, clerks, cooks, construction and maintenance

workers, wood-cutters, electricians, plumbers, etc. The schools were run by provincial curriculum in English, staffed by specially trained Japanese teachers. The various Christian churches held regular services in all the centers, and took charge of high school and kindergarten education. The R.C.M.P. took charge of security by establishing check points at the few outlets from the mountainous valleys of the settlements --- all adults were required to carry travel permits. About twenty percent in the settlements required full maintenance and another twenty, partially, at provincial relief rates. For these also, free housing, fuel, light, medical care, and special allowance for medicine and clothing were made. Since little food was produced in the locality, it was shipped in. Local stores assisted by expanding their business. The Commission also ran its own stores.

To reduce cash maintenance costs and provide excellent farm training for the future, all Japanese were encouraged to maintain private garden lots. (As this writer recalls, every conceivable type of ~~crop~~ vegetable was grown in addition to raising of chicken and rabbits). The Commission itself operated farms at few towns employing Japanese who also took charge of raising hogs for the government.

Along with farm training which was a part of the Government Work Project, the bulk of employable men were engaged in the forest industry to aid in Canada's need for manpower in essential industries. Therefore, besides construction lumber and fuelwood for the settlements, saw logs, fence posts, railroad ties, etc. were produced and sold through the regular market channels in British Columbia and on the prairies.

Relocation Program

On February 5, 1943, the British Columbia Security Commission was dissolved after having successfully evacuated all Japanese from the Pacific coast to the Housing Centers, or to self-supporting projects in interior British Columbia or to sugar beet farms on the prairies, or to communities as far east as Montreal. In place of the Commission, another body for Japanese administration was appointed:

Commissioner of Japanese Placement — George Collins
(Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Works of Manitoba)

Advisory Committee — George Pearson
(B.C. Labour Minister)

" " — Dr. L. Hodgins

" " — Commander, R.C.M.P. Vancouver

The head office for Japanese Placement was established in Vancouver with branch offices in Nelson, B.C., Lethbridge, Alberta, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Fort Williams - Toronto, Ontario, and Montreal, P.Q. These worked in close cooperation with the Selective Service in placing Japanese in employment outside British Columbia. Eastern Canada's Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., and voluntary committees of church and social workers aided in looking after the welfare and accommodation of the Japanese who were endeavoring to re-establish themselves in normal community life. These bodies encouraged the Japanese to join churches and other community organizations and gave emergency assistance when ill, and advice on any problems.

Prairie Farm Placement

In May 1942, a formal agreement was signed by the British Columbia

Security Commission with Alberta (exchange of letters made with Manitoba to the same effect) to bring in Japanese families with farming experience to work in the sugar beet fields provided that:

(a) B.C. Security Commission would provide transportation, welfare and supervision.

(b) The Japanese would be employed in agriculture at the regular pay rate.

(c) The Japanese would be removed after the war should the province so demand.

A prairies supervisor for the Commission was appointed in 1942 and placement offices established at Lethbridge and Winnipeg to supervise the Japanese in each province. They arranged placement of newcomers and transfers, provided welfare services, and trouble-shooting, etc. The Japanese were mainly concentrated on sugar beet work, but they also helped in general farm operations. Many elderly farmers with sons in the war testified that they would have been lost had it not been for the Japanese. Others, such as canners and packers had found them very useful to process farm products.

As such, the Japanese played an important part in sugar beet production in Alberta and Manitoba since 1942. They provided forty to fifty percent (about $750,000 worth) of the labor force in the production of sugar beet. They had won reputation for industry and integrity. Some for various reasons were unable to make a living at it so were permitted other employment in Alberta or were relocated to eastern Canada. Sometimes troubles were eliminated by rotating the farmers by bringing in new families from British Columbia.

During winter of 1942-1943, the Commission supported many Japanese due to insufficient earnings. From 200 to 300 men from Alberta and Manitoba

went to work in the northern forests of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario returning in the spring to farm work. This was repeated in the winter of 1943 - 1944. This time, about 500 men went to bush work. As a result of this and better wages, only ten to fifteen percent of Japanese on the prairies required partial maintenance.

As for the Japanese children on the prairies, there were about 1500 of them at the time. In the autumn of 1942, the B.C. Security Commission arranged for the evacuee children to attend local schools and provided financial assistance.

A few hundred Japanese, mostly young women also obtained winter work in the towns and cities of the prairies engaging chiefly in domestic service. The Japanese were in demand for miscellaneous industries as well. In the summer of 1943 a group of experienced Japanese were employed in fish processing in northern Alberta. Others were employed at salt depcsits in Western Saskatchewan.

The population status of the Japanese on the prairies as of 1944:

Japanese on Prairies

	1942		1943		1944	
	Jan. 1	July 1	Jan. 1	July 1	Jan. 1	July 1
Alberta	534	3,160	3,231	3,420	3,469	3,569
Saskatchewan	100	130	129	177	153	143
Manitoba	30	1,080	1,084	1,110	1,094	1,123
Total	664	4,370	4,444	4,707	4,716	4,835

Relocation and Employment in Eastern Canada

The policy of the government was that undue concentration of the Japanese on the Pacific coast led to antipathy at social and economic levels.

Therefore, dispersal across Canada is a must and not only to provide for labor shortages. Also, the Japanese were to be paid prevailing wages and to receive benefit of the provincial workman's compensation. This dispersal policy was immensely difficult to carry out. However, a good start had been made in early 1942 by the sending from protected areas, a few thousand to the prairies, a few hundred to internment, and another few hundred to employment in Ontario and Quebec.

The new administration for the Japanese placed heavy emphasis on the relocation program by not giving aid to employable single men in the centers who were jobless due to termination of construction and other projects. People willing to go east were given free transportation, food allowance, and a month's maintenance sum. Later in the year, all Japanese Canadian single men were placed under Selective Service (civil) Regulations and a closer connection made between Japanese Placement Service and the Selective Service Employment Organization at the local and regional levels.

In 1943, move of Japanese to Ontario and Quebec was slow but steady as in 1942. Farming in the Niagara peninsula and lumbering in north-west Ontario received only a small share, mostly because such work was more convenient and just as short of men in British Columbia and on the prairies. Few hundred adults and families migrated to such places as Toronto, Hamilton, London, and Montreal. Another 150 girls came east mostly for domestic and hospital work although a few score of girls went into factories and offices, laundries and stores. Gradually, the Japanese came to take on jobs in steel plants, foundries, chemical works, radio factories, etc. They had proved keen and competent at many skilled trades.

In the first half of 1944, three hundred Japanese came east mostly in family groups. The Japanese Employment Office in Nelson, B.C. close to the Housing Centers and road camps channelled all job vacancies across Canada.

The Japanese in eastern Canada in 1944:

	1942		1943		1944	
	Jan. 1	July 1	Jan. 1	July 1	Jan. 1	July 1
Ontario	147	1,200	1,650	1,939	2,424	2,613
Quebec	37	70	96	185	334	451
Maritimes	2	2	1	1	1	1
	186	1,272	1,747	2,125	2,759	3,065

There were obvious obstacles which slowed down the relocation program and they are cited as follows:

(a) - fear among older people of the "foreign territories" east of the Rockies.

(b) - reluctance to let unmarried sons and daughters go east alone, especially, girls.

(c) - lack of training for work in east --- ex-fisherman, business men and youth just out of high school.

(d) - refusal to break up families --- married men reluctant to go without family.

(e) - lethargy and pseudo-security of Housing Centers working against decision to break away from the past and go east.

(f) - rumours of eastern discrimination and complaint from maladjusted persons in east distorted and magnified to discourage the faint-hearted.

(g) - distrust of offers by the Commission and the Government policy in urging them to move out east to independent employment in their own interests.

The reception of the first evacuees to eastern Canada in 1942 was

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of caution and scrutiny by employers and by the public alike who knew very little about them. However, the first arrivals had made a good impression. They were young, usually well-educated, obliging, industrious, spoke good English, and enthusiastic to make their home in the east. The great majority worked hard and employers appreciated their valuable assistance on farms, in camps, in shops, and in homes. Thus, the relocated Japanese won respect and friendship overcoming any protest or opposition by their industriousness and loyalty even in taking full share in community war efforts. These early arrivals blazed the trail for later arrivals encouraging employers to seek newcomers' taking up employment with them on farms, lumber - saw mills, fertilizer plants, tanneries, laundries, hospitals, domestic help, etc.

Relocation and Re-establishment, 1944 - 1946

By January 1st, 1947, in British Columbia there were only 6,776 Japanese of whom 900 resided in the one remaining settlement at New Denver. These were the aged and the infirm. Therefore, for practical purposes the relocation program from the Housing Centers was completed. In 1944 only about 600 moved east of the rockies. In 1945, about 925 relocated; mostly single persons and married couples. In 1946, approximately 4,700 moved eastward from British Columbia, mostly in family groups. In five years, relocation from that province exceeded 13,000 persons.

In addition to Japanese Placement Offices set up in 1944 at Lethbridge, Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto, and Montreal, offices were also opened in 1946 at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan and Ottawa, Ontario to further the program.

The reason so many Japanese moved east in 1946 is because of the

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intensive interviews made in 1945 of individuals who had chosen in that year to remain in Canada rather than repatriate to Japan. The government had given assurance for welfare in the east, and good education for the children. Many took advantage of these offers.

Change in distribution of Japanese in percentage

Japanese in Canada	B. C.	Prairies	East.Canada	All Canada
1 January 1942	96.2%	2.9%	0.9%	100.0%
1 July 1944	66.4%	20.4%	13.2%	100.0%
1 January 1947	32.9%	28.6%	38.5%	100.0%

Of the total 4,700 persons relocated from British Columbia in 1946, about 25% settled on the prairies and about 75% proceeded to Eastern Canada. At least two thirds went direct to self-supporting employment or to join relatives already established in the east who had arranged for their living accommodations. When accommodations were short, hostels, Y.M.C.A.'s and Y.W.C.A.'s and ex-national defence camps provided temporal quarters. Hostels in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and Transcona, Manitoba assisted establishing Japanese families in those provinces and northern Ontario. At January 1st, 1947, there were still 280 persons in Moose Jaw hostels awaiting transfer and placement in employment.

Resettlement on Prairies

Japanese in Prairie Provinces:

	1944	1945		1946		1947
	1 Jan.	1 Jan.	1 July	1 Jan.	1 July	1 Jan.
Alberta	3,569	3,559	3,650	3,681	4,176	4,180
Sask.	143	157	158	164	320	505
Manitoba	1,123	1,052	1,103	1,052	1,740	1,186
	4,835	4,768	4,911	4,897	5,746	5,871

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Re-establishment in Eastern Canada

Population of Japanese origin east of Manitoba:

	1944	1945		1946		1947
	1 July	1 Jan.	1 July	1 Jan.	1 July	1 Jan.
Ontario	2,613	2,914	3,194	3,742	4,852	6,616
Quebec	451	532	589	716	1,046	1,247
Maritimes	1	1	1	1	18	17
	3,065	3,447	3,784	4,459	5,916	7,880

General Effects of Resettlement

Large numbers of Japanese relocating east from British Columbia in 1946 were surprised at the success of re-establishing of those who came east earlier. The beneficial results were undoubtedly the change to "country-wide perspective" from their restricted activities and interests on the Pacific coast. As their economic and social basis grew, their educational and occupational employment widened also and they tended to keep their children longer in educational institutions to prepare them better for their own future. An increasing number began attending colleges, universities, and various other schools. Another large increase was the number of girls in employment over that of pre-World War II. The 1941 census reports 8,778 Japanese employed in British Columbia of which only 1,159 were females. In October 1946, there were 9,624 Japanese employed across Canada of which 3,046 were females.

Repatriation

Between 1942 and 1944, Spain, the protecting power for Japanese interests in Canada had received applications for repatriation to Japan from a few thousand;others were undecided. Therefore, to find out more definitely

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who wanted to repatriate to Japan and who wished to stay in Canada, a survey was conducted by the R.C.M.P. in early 1945 as a preliminary to an intensified program of re-establishment on a wider geographical distribution throughout Canada. Great care was taken to plan and conduct the survey so that every adult would freely make his own decision. Instead of permitting the head of each family to sign for the whole family as in previous requests, every person sixteen years and over were given the right to speak for himself. When this survey was completed in August 1945 a total of 10,813 had signed for repatriation. However, in another survey made just before Japan signed the surrender on September 1st, 1945, a total of 285 had cancelled their wish to go to Japan. By the end of December 1945, this had increased to 4,720 and still increasing to 6,313 by March 1946.

Finally, the government issued a statement clarifying that the following categories were subject to deportation:

1. Japanese nationals who requested or were in internment on September 1st, 1945.
2. Naturalized Canadians who requested repatriation and had not revoked it before September 1st, 1945.
3. Canadian born Japanese sixteen years and over who requested repatriation and had not revoked it before September 1st, 1945.
4. Wife and children of any persons in above categories.

There were five actual sailings from the Vancouver immigration shed where this writer as a dependent child embarked on board a U.S. troop transport on the second trip:

May 31st, 1946	S.S. Marine Angel	668 persons
June 16th, 1946	S.S. General Meigs	1,106 "
Aug. 2nd, 1946	S.S. General Meigs	1,377 "
Oct. 2nd, 1946	S.S. Marine Falcon	523 "
Dec. 24th, 1946	S.S. Marine Falcon	290 "
Total		3,964 "

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Conclusion

The decision to evacuate the Japanese from the west coast was a joint U.S.- Canada operation for protection of the Pacific coast of North America following declaration of war against Japan. It was considered as a paramount military necessity. In name of this necessity, many kinds of injustices and mistreatments had been meted out to the Japanese despite the federal government's policy of fair play such as in the actual disposal of Japanese properties. Many private Japanese citizens sometimes through lawyers, have protested strongly to this but most have been in vain. However, whatever the humiliation, misery, and pain suffered by the Japanese, their dispersal and better assimilation in Canadian society had been constructive and beneficial in the long run. Therefore, as a Japanese Canadian himself, this writer wishes to conclude this study by borrowing that passage from the Bible: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28.

Distribution of Japanese by Province

	1942 Jan. 1st	1947 Jan. 1st	1961 Jan. 1st
British Columbia	21,975	6,776	10,424
Alberta	534	4,180	3,721
Saskatchewan	100	505	280
Manitoba	30	1,180	1,296
Total on Prairies	664	5,871	5,297
Ontario	132	6,616	11,870
Quebec	25	1,247	1,459
New Brunswick	0	10	18
Prince Edward Island	0	6	0
Nova Scotia	2	1	28
Newfoundland	0	0	3
Total in Eastern Canada	159	7,880	13,378
Yukon and N.W.Territories	39	31	58
Total in Canada	22,837	20,558	29,157

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