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INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ENEMY INTERESTS IN CANADA
AND CANADIAN INTERESTS IN ENEMY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Present - Messrs. Read and Scott of External Affairs,
Messrs. Brown and Pammett of Labour Department,
Messrs. McPherson and Mathieu of Custodian's
Branch, Department of Secretary of State,
Mr. Turk of Foreign Exchange Board,
Mr. McPhail of Immigration Branch, Department of
Mines and Resources,
Mr. Wardle of Surveys and Engineering Branch,
Department of Mines and Resources.

Subjects Discussed:

I. Disposition of Japanese Property in Canada

Mr. McPherson outlined the background of the present procedure and stressed the fact that his Branch was merely carrying out a decision made in January last by a Cabinet Committee to liquidate all Japanese real and household property in the interests of the Japanese themselves, because it would deteriorate rapidly otherwise.

The Rural Property Committee consists of Judge Whiteside, Mr. McClellan, Mr. McLennan, Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Yamaga (now resigned). Of the thousand Japanese farms in the Fraser Valley 89% has been rented to Mennonites, Hindous, Chinese, etc., in general a low class of tenant who does not farm satisfactorily or pay regularly.

769 of these farms were valued by field men of the Soldiers' Settlement Board at \$867,000 and by the Western Superintendent at \$837,000. After negotiations these farms have now been sold to the Director of Soldiers' Settlement for \$850,000.

Mr. Yamaga concurred in the policy of disposition of these properties, and resigned over the prices received which he considered too low.

The City Property Committee consists of Justice Smith, Alderman Jones of Vancouver and Mr. Kimura. A catalogue of this Vancouver property has been prepared and the properties are presently being offered for sale, with the concurrence of Kimura.

Up to January, 1943, no property except fishing boats and automobiles was sold without the owner's consent, but perishable goods were sold immediately they were placed in the hands of custodian in order to prevent spoiling.

In property liquidation no distinction has been made between the property of Japanese nationals, naturalized Canadians, and Canadian-born Japanese, and Mr. Read considered that it was regrettable that our approach to this problem should be on a racial basis, instead of restricting our more severe measures to Japanese nationals, as is done in the United States. Mr. Read pointed out further that in the United States no Japanese property

was being sold, but all was stored at Government expense.

The chattels of the Japanese have been stored at the expense of the Custodian in warehouses, churches and other buildings, and fire insurance has been placed on all. Radios and cameras have been stored by the R.C.M.P., and the Cabinet Committee decided in January that these would be released to Japanese moving East of the Rockies. Chattels when requested have been shipped to Japanese outside the restricted areas at their expense, and the Custodian's agents have been made available to the British Columbia Security Commission to locate and forward chattels. The policy now, at the request of the B.C.S.C., is to refuse to ship chattels to the Interior Housing Centres, as there is no room for them there. All chattels, except articles of religious and sentimental value, are to be auctioned off as soon as possible.

Mr. McPhersonⁱⁿ closing stated that custodian controlled all assets of internees, but not the liquid assets of other Japanese except moneys accruing when property was sold, which is being released to Japanese at \$100 per month and the B.C.S.C. Treasury Office advised accordingly.

II. Maintenance to Japanese

Mr. Wardle pointed out that during the last decade a white reliefee did not have to sell real property in order to get relief, although he had to live on his liquid assets if any. The property of the Japanese is being sold compulsorily however and the question is whether we should force them to use most of the proceeds to live on before granting relief.

Messrs. Brown and Pammett pointed out that employable Japanese, after they refused to work, were being required to live on their own assets above certain limits decided by the Commissioner of Japanese Placement, or if they had no assets to live on the charity of their friends or relatives. It was pointed out that under present labour conditions it was felt unjust to the tax payer to keep employable persons in idleness on relief in the Housing Centres, especially if they had money of their own.

Mr. Read made the following suggestions:

- (a) Japanese with capital in the hands of the Custodians producing a fair income should be required to live on this income.
- (b) Japanese able to work should be required to work.
- (c) Japanese unable to work who have a small capital producing a small income should be required to live on their income down to a certain level, which he suggested as follows:

single men,	\$260,
couple,	\$520,
children,	\$50 - \$100 each.

This amount of \$260 per adult is approximately the amount of 1,000 yen, which a Japanese being repatriated is allowed to take out of the country.

III. Compulsory Transfer and Employment

The Labour Department Officials explained that except for the actual evacuation and transfer of men to internment camps, no Japanese to date had been compulsorily transferred to

employment, although one undesirable character had been removed from Tashme and ordered to Schreiber, Ontario, under the Commissioner's powers by Order in Council P.C. 946. The point was raised concerning Japanese in highway construction camps who complained that they were forced to remain there, and it was explained by Mr. Wardle that individuals and small groups were permitted to leave these camps for other jobs, but that no mass placements from the road camps were permitted.

As regards compulsory employment, it was pointed out that it had not yet been decided to apply the compulsory features of National Selective Service Civilian Regulations to Japanese, although they are required to follow Selective Service procedure in obtaining and leaving jobs. Employable men in the Housing Centres have been taken off work in most cases as an indirect mean of persuading them to move out to private employment, but the dependents of married men still obtain full maintenance, and compulsion has not yet been used to force these men to take outside employment in any special occupation or locality.

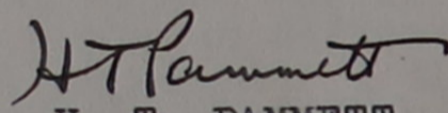
IV. Licensing Japanese to Purchase Land

After discussion, it was decided that it would be inadvisable to have Japanese purchase land in any part of Canada, which might inflame local prejudice. It was decided therefore that the present system should continue whereby the Department of Justice when it receives an application from a Japanese for purchase of land refers the matter for opinion to the Provincial Attorney General. Japanese may at present lease land on a yearly basis, and this is felt to be sufficient for the duration.

V. Migration of Japanese from United States to Canada

The War Relocation Authority has inquired whether Canada is prepared to allow the entrance of United States Japanese for temporary residence and employment. After discussion, a negative decision was reached, as it was felt by all concerned that our difficulties were sufficiently great in obtaining employment in Prairie and Eastern Canada for Canadian people.

(Japanese)


H. T. PAMMETT.