

Only Solution

Would Deport All Japanese

Tom Reid

(1) By *Daily Province* Staff Correspondent

BURNABY, Jan. 15 Deportation of all Japanese was the solution offered to the British Columbia Japanese problem by Tom Reid, M.P., at a joint meeting of the McKay, Highland Park and East Burnaby Liberal associations Wednesday night in the Edmonds Community Hall.

“Take them back to Japan,” said the speaker. “They do not belong here and there is only one solution to the problem. They can not be assimilated as Canadians for no matter how long the Japanese remain in Canada they will always be Japanese.”

Mr. Reid denounced the dual-citizenship policy of Canadian-born Japanese.

Mr. Reid questioned whether the military and police authorities of Canada are not “locking the door after the horse has been stolen” in regard to the ban just announced on Japanese possessing radios and cameras. Japanese have photographed numerous military objectives in recent years.

In Protected Area

At Steveston Mr. Reid said he had previously protested against five Japanese families living in a protected area. He had been informed then that they were loyal Japanese, yet after the Pacific war broke out one of them had been removed. Others, however remain living in the area.

“Is there any other country in the world that would permit this?” asked Mr. Reid.

While he was not in favor of harsh treatment of the Japanese as residents, they should not be treated any more kindly than Canadian nationals living in Japan. “We should not let

them all drive trucks and cars,” he declared.

Elimination of the Japanese from the British Columbia fishing industry is a step in the right direction, said the speaker. However, he did not favor replacing the 1100 or so Japanese fishermen by other fishermen. Instead, Mr. Reid suggested that the total of coast fishermen be reduced approximately this number, leaving a better livelihood for those remaining in the industry.

Many on Relief

Prior to 1941, when there was a good salmon run, many of the fishermen on the Fraser River were on relief. This was brought about to a great extent by the fact that far more fishermen were licensed than the industry actually needed. In the last 20 years the number of British Columbia fishermen had increased by 5000 to 6000, yet there was not much difference in the total annual catch of fish.

As far as the Fraser River is concerned, it does not need another boat on it, said Mr. Reid. The only result of more fishermen will be less catch per boat.

From Ottawa there is talk of providing the Japanese with work. There is no immediate necessity as the Japanese fishermen particularly have earned enough money during the past season to keep them until April.

This article from the *Vancouver Province* represents a view commonly held by leaders in British Columbia at the time. The January 19, 1942 edition has Tom Reid, Liberal Member of Parliament, demanding that Japanese Canadians be deported to Japan.