

The New Canadian

The voice of the second generation

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COMMISSION ISSUES GENERAL RESUME People Urged To Discount Rumours

VANCOUVER, April 6 — When war-time evacuation of the B.C. coast has been completed, twenty thousand people of Japanese origin will have been moved to one of four projects now under way, according to a detailed progress report issued by the B.C. Security Commission today.

Male nationals will have gone chiefly to roadwork in the Province; the majority of second generation to Ontario roads or industry; farming and fishing families to farms in Southern Alberta and Manitoba; and thousands of women and children will have been placed in “Ghost Towns” in the interior.

(For complete text of the statement see page 3; for a Japanese translation, page 4.)

“Arrangements believed satisfactory to everyone” are being worked out under the “Interior Housing Scheme” Major Austin C. Taylor’s statement declares.

The plan is to move whole communities of women and children into the interior ghost towns, and authorization from Ottawa has now been secured. “Hastings Park will be the Clearing Station for persons going into this interior” under this housing scheme.

Discounting of rumours is stressed in the Commission statement, which urges that the people “pay attention” only to the true facts as released by the Commission itself.

Camp Projects

Camp projects in B.C. have already accounted for the majority of Japanese nationals, but projects in other provinces are being used to accommodate the Nisei. This is “because the Provinces expressed a wish to have Canadian Japanese” rather than nationals.

Chief feature of the beet project is that the “family unit will not be broken up”. A family engaged in this type of farm labor, the Commission considers, “can be self-supporting and can rest assured of a reasonable living.” Free housing, land, and staple furniture, such as beds, stoves, etc., are to be provided by the farmer.

The following is published for the general information of the persons of the Japanese race who are being evacuated from the Protected area under Order-in-Council number 1665, dated March 6th, 1942.

Excerpts from The New Canadian,
6 April 1942.

A good deal of speculation and rumours regarding the evacuation of millions of the Japanese race from the Protected area has been brought to the notice of the Commission charged with the responsibility of caring out the Government's orders of March last. The Commission has from time to time, endeavored to put a stop to these rumours by acquainting the Japanese committee, working with the Commission, with the true facts but the results are not very satisfactory as the rumours still persist.

One such rumor was to the effect that when the Nisei were sent to Ontario they would be put into uniform and made to join the Army. Also that they would be used to man tankers operating on the Great Lakes. These are quoted as an example of the baseless rumors being bandied about.

The following are the true facts of what the community is trying to do. **PAY ATTENTION TO THEM AND TO NOTHING ELSE.** The committee will keep you advised from time to time if there is any change.

PROJECT CAMPS

The Commission has had a great deal of difficulty in finding places to which the Japanese could be evacuated too in order that they might earn a living for themselves and their families. Their situation was different to that of the Germans and Italians who have also been ordered out of the protected area, but who have been given no assistance. The reason is obvious that there is no

need for the Commission to make any explanation on this point: suffice it to say comment that without government assistance, the Japanese people, Canadian or National, would have had great difficulty in finding employment. Because of this it was decided to open Project Camps. The projects, although necessary, could have waited until after the war was over. Therefore the wages paid had to be scaled down to fit the problem with which the government was faced and as a result the following notice was published and distributed.

NOTICE

In order to clarify any misunderstanding, which may exist in the minds of persons of the Japanese race who are being evacuated from the protected areas to work projects and camps, \$0.25 per hour is the rate of wage paid by the government with the following exceptions:

- Construction Foreman — \$0.30 to \$0.40
- Maintenance Foreman — \$0.30 to \$0.35
- Job-Foreman and Straw Boss — \$0.30
- Carpenters — .35
- Carpenters (rough) — .30
- Broadaxe man — .30
- Steel Sharpeners (hand) — .30
- Saw Filers — .30
- Axe men and Fellers — .30
- Timekeepers — .25 to .30
- Clacksmiths — .30
- Drillers (hand) — .30
- Powdermen — .30
- Hook Tenders — .35

Rigging Slingers — .35

First Aid Man — .30

Married men will be required to assign to their wives the sum of Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per month

And the Government will pay the following rates for each child:

1st Child — \$5.00 per month

Following 4 Children — \$4.00 per month

Twenty-five Cents per meal will be charged for board at the Camps.

These camps are being put into operation for the sole purpose of providing employment for persons of the Japanese race evacuated from the protected area who can not otherwise secure employment.

The Government will endeavour to find employment in private industries for large groups, particularly Ontario, in the Pulp Mills and Logging Camps and persons of Japanese origin so employed will receive the prevailing rate of wage paid by the industry.

In cases where wives and families of men in camps are residing in the clearing station at Hastings Park, a nominal sum will be charged for the board of the wife. This amount will not exceed Ten Dollars per month.

Children will be boarded free.

Work rooms will be provided at the clearing station equipped with sewing machines, etc., and in cases where a family has no funds available for the purchase of clothing, cloth and other necessary materials will be provided by the Commission for such purpose in the event that same is necessary.

“B.C. SECURITY COMMISSION”.

THIS NOTICE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

Most of the Japanese Nationals are working on Camp Projects in British Columbia, and the Nisei are being sent to other Provinces. The reason for this is because the Provinces expressed a wish to have Canadian Japanese sent there, and we endeavoured to comply with their wishes.

The Ontario Government is using Schreiber, Ontario as a Clearing Pool for Road Projects, and eventually for the work camps and places in Pulp Mill projects, etc., they will be paid the current rate of wages for the district and when this Commission considers it advisable to take Road camp workers and place them into industry it will insist that the current rate of wages in the district be paid.

Ontario Labour Department

The camps in British Columbia and Alberta are under the Department of Mines and Resources, with the expectation of those on the Hope-Princeton Highway which are under the Provincial Labour Department. The Camps in Ontario are under the Ontario Labour Department.

The policing of all these Camps is under the direction of the Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police. While it is not the opinion of this Commission that there will not be any molestation at the Camps, it was considered, as a precautionary measure, that such

policing was necessary.

This is all for the camps just now, and we will now pass on to some other activities which the Commission feels will interest the people to be evacuated.

BEET GROWING AND FARMING

The Commission, through lengthy negotiations, arranged for the movement into Manitoba and Alberta of farmers and their families who are used to farming and the handling of root crops. The Commission is glad to be able to send large groups to the Beet-growing areas in Southern Alberta and Manitoba for the reason that it means the family unit will not have to be broken up, which is something the Commission regrets very much in the case of those who have to go work in camps. We hope to settle several hundred families in these two Provinces to work in the beet-growing districts. The season for work is from the 15th of May to the 6th of November, and there is an interval of six weeks where work can be secured at harvesting, etc.

The prevailing contracts and wages will be paid to all families as are paid to the other people who are engaged in this class of work. The Commission considers that a family engaged in this work can be self-supporting and can rest assured of a reasonable living. Housing accommodation is provided free as well as an acre or two of land which the family may cultivate for their own use. Certain staple furniture is

provided such as beds, chairs, stoves, etc. Other assurances have been given to the Commission, and representatives will reside in the districts and see that they are carried out.

INTERIOR HOUSING SCHEME

One of the largest problems facing the Commission was the finding of places outside the Protected area where women and children as well as aged members of a family could live. We have secured such accommodation in the Interior of British Columbia and we are certain that arrangements are being made which will be satisfactory to every one concerned when the details are worked out.

This plan has taken us considerable time to develop but now that we have the necessary authority from the Government to move the people into those areas. We expect these towns to be put into good shape, and it is hoped that communities can be moved to these places intact insofar as the women and children are concerned, or so far as we are able to carry out such a plan.

Police protection will be provided in the towns just the same as it is provided in the Road camps. No one need fear molestation by any person, and the necessities of life will be provided as well as hospital accommodation and medical attention for all who need it.

Clearing Station

Hastings Park will be the Clearing Station for those persons going to the Interior and being evacuated from the areas outside of Vancouver. There are probably many questions which remain unanswered in what the Commission has had to say so far, but in a difficult understanding such as this, it is impossible to foresee every little contingency.

The Commission, however, would like to reiterate that it will allow no case of hardship among the evacuated people or those under its charge if the same is brought to its attention. This is a definite promise we are required to fulfill by the Government, and, with the cooperation of the people, we intend to carry it out.

The law gives the Commission full power in regard to the movements of the evacuated people and their protection, both economically and in every other way, while the war is on.

CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTY

A Custodian of (Alien) property has been appointed by the Government and charged with the protection of all property placed voluntary under his control. This is not confiscation and the Custodian will administer the property in the interests of the people which should prevent them from disposing of their assets at a sacrifice or in an unfavourable market. We mention this because there seems to be a lack of

understanding of the Custodian's position.

We repeat that property delivered to the Custodian will be administered in the interests of the Japanese evacuated, taking into consideration debts he owes in the Protected area, and such property will not be disposed of at a sacrifice to pay such debts.

We feel that it is in the interest of those evacuated to place their property under the Custodian's control, and if this is not done before leaving the protected area, the Custodian cannot protect the property during the absence of any person evacuated.

AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,
Chairman, B.C. Security
Commission