

Treaty of Peace (Japan) Act

which it would come before the external affairs committee. It having been so agreed, I think it would be the unanimous opinion of those who were members of the standing committee that, the bill having been reported back to the house, it would be proper for discussion to take place here with respect to the Japanese treaty and anything connected with it. I would feel very badly if there were any ruling to the contrary, because I am quite certain that is the committee's desire.

The Chairman: I thank the hon. member for Peel for bringing these matters to my attention. I merely want to point out that I will have to ask hon. members for their co-operation because I do not have the treaty of peace with Japan before me. Members could speak about anything under the sun and say it was in the treaty and I would not know. It is quite unusual for the chairman to direct discussion when all he has before him is a bill with five clauses in it, with hon. members at the same time speaking on a treaty. I do not have the document before me.

Mr. Green: I raise this question because I think there is some danger that the treaty will again bring about difficulties in connection with Japanese immigration into Canada. I am not criticizing the peace treaty itself but this is one of the questions which may cause trouble in the future if the departments of government concerned are not aware of the difficulties which may arise and of the effort which is being made to bring about immigration of Japanese to Canada. I have here a clipping from the *New Canadian*, which is a publication of the national Japanese-Canadian citizens' association. In this particular article they are outlining the submissions which they made to a beet growers' association in southern Alberta. The article is dated February 23, 1952, and there are two paragraphs which are pertinent. The first reads as follows:

The work of the national J.C.C.A. in submitting a brief last year to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Walter Harris on restrictions upon re-entry and immigration of persons of Japanese ancestry and a subsequent reply that the government would issue an official statement was mentioned in connection with the desire of the association for Japanese migrants to meet its need for labour.

The second reads as follows:

The brief stated the belief that a new immigration policy would be the outcome of the ratification of the Japanese peace treaty by Canada at the coming parliamentary session. With the possibility of new immigration from Japan in the future and with the success of the national J.C.C.A. in effecting re-entry of certain cases of strandeers, it was stated that the present and possibly future shortage of beet labour could be lessened by making possible the entry to Alberta of strandeers and later on of new immigrants.

I believe the government should give very careful consideration to this problem, because we do not want it to grow and become a problem similar to the one we faced before the recent war. Some of the groups of Japanese whom this association is endeavouring to get back to Canada, and incidentally whom they refer to as "strandeers", are young Japanese who were in Japan when the war broke out. At that time the Japanese had a recognized policy of registering the births of their children with the Japanese consul in Vancouver as well as registering them with the British Columbia governmental authorities. They were taking advantage of a dual citizenship. A great many of these young people were sent back to Japan for their education and for training of one kind and another. At the time the war broke out different investigations made by governmental commissions and other authorities showed that there were about 1,500 children in Japan at the outbreak of war whose families were registered in Canada.

I have here the first report on the removal of Japanese from protected areas, issued by the British Columbia security commission covering the period of the commission's activities from the 4th of March to the 31st of October, 1942. On page 29 we find the figure of 1,500 children in Japan. In many cases, or in some cases at least, these young people served in the Japanese forces during the war. I would regret, and I think it would be a mistake, if the Canadian government adopted a policy of allowing them to come to Canada now. If they can, then of course they will ask that their families come too, and the first thing we know there may be several thousand covered in the group, being the children who were in Japan when war broke out and now their families.

In 1945 provision was made by the government for Japanese in Canada to ask to be sent back to Japan if they so wished. About 4,000 were sent back as a result of that policy. Transportation was paid by the government; they were allowed to remove the value of their property and assets held in Canada; they were given minimum financial credits; and in needy cases there was government assistance. As I said, about 4,000 were sent back under that plan.

I have here a further report on the re-establishment of Japanese in Canada from 1944 to 1946 issued by the Department of Labour. At pages 14 and 15 we find a summary of that movement. Also at page 23 there is a copy of a statement made in the house on January 24, 1947, by the then prime minister, Right Hon. Mr. Mackenzie King, dealing with this repatriation. At that time it was provided