

ever Mr. Eden has said with reference to British subjects in the occupied areas in France will apply equally to Canadians who are there.

Mr. BROOKS: Do I understand the Prime Minister to say that the registration of Japanese will apply only to British Columbia? If so, why should there not be a registration of Japanese all over Canada? Why pick out only one province?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Japanese population in British Columbia, as my hon. friend knows, is quite large in relation to the total population of the province. The Japanese in other provinces in Canada might be looked upon more as individuals. They are pretty generally known wherever they are. I feel that the purpose of the whole inquiry in British Columbia was to meet a British Columbia problem rather than one that was of equal concern to other provinces.

Mr. GREEN: Is the reregistration to be carried out exactly in the manner recommended by the special committee?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is, as my hon. friend knows, a standing committee which has been appointed to follow up the work of the commission which made the inquiry. The standing committee has made one or two modifications, I am told, of some of the recommendations, and to the extent to which they have made such modifications the original plan would be modified.

Mr. GREEN: May we know what the modifications are?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am informed that one is thumb printing in connection with the registration.

Mr. FRASER (Peterborough West): May I ask the Prime Minister whether in the event of a Canadian trade mission going to South America again it will also visit central America? The reason why I ask the question is this: the highway to Alaska has been mentioned, and central America is building a highway connecting with south America which will link up with the Alaska highway. I know that the people in central America are friendly to Canada. Is the government sending a trade mission to central America?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The original programme was for the trade mission to go to south America only, but I agree with my hon. friend that central America deserves quite as much attention as the countries of south America with respect to matters of trade, and I have no doubt it will be visited by a similar mission at some early date.

Mr. NEILL: To go back to the Japanese for a moment, would the Prime Minister indicate what steps will be taken to ensure that all Japanese will be registered? It is alleged that a considerable number of Japanese are in British Columbia illegally. I think the number alleged is greater than the actual number. Suppose there may be a comparatively small number, say two or three hundred. A previous investigation indicated that there might be only about one hundred Japanese in British Columbia illegally, but very few steps were taken to remedy that situation. There is now to be another registration, and there will undoubtedly be a number of Japanese who have reason to fear that investigation. Is there any way by which it will be known that every Japanese will be registered? The obvious thing for those Japanese to do who are illegally in the country would be to abstain from registering. What steps will be taken in that regard?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Every Japanese will have to have a registration card to identify him. I doubt very much if any Japanese would be able to continue in any kind of work in British Columbia without having a registration card on his person. Without it he would get into difficulties in short order. The Japanese population in the province would be pretty generally known to the authorities there.

I think I ought also to say this. As my hon. friend knows, there are many of the Japanese nationals who feel very keenly about not being regarded in the same light as other nationals, and they are only too anxious themselves to lend assistance to the federal government in seeing that all Japanese are registered in order to protect their position in the community. They are rendering valuable assistance to the government at the present time in this work.

Mr. NEILL: I can understand that those Japanese who are legally in the country, and they are a large number, will surely make it their business to register, but I cannot conceive that they will go out of their way to give information against those Japanese who have illegally entered the country, because whatever may be the opinion of the Prime Minister or of the government here, we in British Columbia are firmly convinced that "once a Jap always a Jap." The words "being naturalized" are just like a snowflake on a river. It is a mere gesture on the part of the Japanese to secure some privilege such as a fishing licence or something of that kind. The Prime Minister says that they are pretty generally known to the authorities. That might be true where there are twelve