

Supply—Japanese Nationals

provincial mental hospital at Essondale, British Columbia. It is addressed to Mr. T. B. Pickersgill, commissioner for Japanese placement, in Vancouver, and states:

Referring further to our telephone conversation of this date I wish to advise you that fourteen Japanese patients of this hospital were repatriated to Japan and one Japanese patient was deported to Japan through the Canadian Immigration department.

The repatriation was entirely on a voluntary basis. The individuals were all certified mental patients of this hospital but their mental condition was such that they were able to comprehend the matter and able to express themselves. No coercion or persuasion was used. Each patient was individually interviewed by Mr. T. B. Pickersgill, Commission of Japanese Placement, together with an interpreter and in the presence of the medical superintendent of this hospital. Each patient voluntarily expressed his desire to be returned to Japan. At that time a signed statement was taken to this effect. The context of this signed statement was as follows:

"I hereby express my willingness and desire to return to Japan at the earliest possible date— Signed Date."

The following is a list of patients of this hospital who were repatriated to Japan under the above circumstances:

Rosea Fugimato
Hirona Fujiyoshi
Sabara Kurishima
Kosho Matano
Matoru Motowaki
Tomoyuki Mukai
Jiro Nagayama
Fomikichi Ogawa
Tomichi Ozaki
Yoshikatsu Sawada
Buta Sakata
Kingo Tanitus
Unichi Kimura
Sukichi Kitagawa
Kuoje Tayi (Taiji) (Deported by Canadian immigration department)

Trusting that the above information will meet with your requirements, I am,

Yours truly,

A. M. Gee, M.D.,
Deputy Medical Superintendent.

Mr. MacINNIS: I am not satisfied with that explanation. I believe that before any such decision was made another opinion should have been sought than that of Mr. Pickersgill, who is an employee of the government and who, as I see it, is very unsympathetic so far as these people are concerned.

The minister has said that sometimes there are saner people in mental hospitals than outside. After seeing what is done outside on occasions, I am in complete agreement with him on that point. But these people were in a mental condition which prevented their being allowed out, or at large; otherwise the superintendent of the mental hospital in British Columbia was not performing his duty in that he did not advise the authorities

[Mr. Mitchell.]

that there were people in the hospital who had sufficient mental capacity to fend for themselves outside, and that arrangements should be made for their removal from the hospital before they went to Japan. The statements made are just not good enough.

Item agreed to.

Unemployment insurance commission—

535. General labour transference to industries and agriculture, \$650,000.

Mr. GILLIS: I should like to refer to the out-of-work benefits applicable to service personnel who through no fault of their own find themselves engaged in an industrial dispute. I know that the Minister of Veterans Affairs comes into this picture, and I have discussed the matter with him. In Ontario particularly, and also in other sections of Canada, there are hundreds of service personnel who have been granted certain rights and privileges under rehabilitation regulations. I refer particularly to the out-of-work benefits which are applicable up to eighteen months after the discharge of a service man. Many of these boys have taken employment in industry in which conditions and antagonisms which developed during the war have culminated in industrial disputes. Many of these men were employed only a month or two, or perhaps only a week or so, and then they found themselves out on strike and not able to take advantage of the benefits which ordinarily would be applicable to them had they not been engaged in a dispute through no fault of their own. I think the Minister of Labour has some responsibility in this matter, because the rehabilitation regulations were changed to conform with the Unemployment Insurance Act, and there must have been consultation between Veterans Affairs and Labour before that was done.

I appreciate the desire for uniformity in these matters, but the unemployment insurance is not comparable to the rehabilitation regulations. Many service personnel are suffering at this time through no fault of their own. I wonder if some consideration cannot be given by the Department of Labour in cooperation with the Department of Veterans Affairs to setting a deadline. If a service man is employed six or nine months before becoming involved in an industrial dispute, the unemployment insurance could be made to apply. Hundreds of these fellows normally would be entitled to come under the rehabilitation regulations, but they are losing those benefits because they have been brought into a new war through no fault of their own. Will the minister consult with the Minister of