

asked for an interview with me, and he was absent from Ottawa and in the United States when I returned. I understand he returned to Ottawa on Saturday, April 26th, and the interview was arranged for today.

Mr. Yoshizawa made to me representations identical with those which he had made, at an earlier date, to Dr. Robertson, [Acting] Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, regarding the refusal of the government to give permits for the exportation of wheat to Japan, and making permits applicable also to the export of wood pulp under a later Order in Council.

The Minister reviewed the gradual cessation of imports from as well as exportations to Japan. In speaking of importations, he referred to silk which, he felt, should have been differently dealt with from other classes.

Mr. Yoshizawa reviewed Canada's trade relations with Japan citing, in particular, the restrictions imposed on metals, etc., dealing specifically with copper concentrates, before coming to wheat and wood. He pointed out that cutting off wheat and wood virtually put an end to any trade with Japan.

Before he had completed his representations, I said that Dr. Robertson had brought to my attention what had been said regarding shipments of wheat and wood, on my return. That I had taken the matter up with my colleagues. That to avoid any misunderstanding, we had decided to grant permits for the orders that had been placed prior to the passing of the Order in Council requiring permits. I explained that our motives with respect to the latter had been to prevent trouble arising in Vancouver at the time of the loading of cargos. That the trip of the Japanese Foreign Minister to Europe, seeing Hitler and Mussolini and Stalin but not visiting London, had intensified the feeling which had been aroused against Japan by her joining with the Axis powers. As a government, we did not wish to allow that feeling to develop or find any unfavourable expression in British Columbia. There had been, in addition, in the minds of many, the feeling that wheat was being ordered for trans-shipment. Our people did not understand just how the Japanese could be fighting the Chinese and, at the same time, supplying them with food. There was, too, the thought that the wood might be used for explosives. These beliefs had to be taken account of in estimating how those opposed to the Japanese in B.C. might be tempted to behave, once loading of ships took place. Also one had to consider the kind of sensational articles which might appear in the press of Canada generally.

I told the Minister that we had heard from McGreer that our position was being misunderstood in Tokyo; also that the British Ambassador agreed with him in this representation; that our motives were not those which were supposed, agreeing at once to have the matters complained of, rectified. We were, therefore, quite prepared to allow the shipments of the orders referred to. I could not say what attitude might be taken with respect to future orders; that would be something which we would have to consider in the light of existing situation when the orders might be placed. Also we would see how well we