

Mr. MacINNIS: These people were not enemy aliens.

Mr. MITCHELL: I will agree with my hon. friend, but let him take his mind back to just after Pearl Harbor. I have a vivid recollection of having to go to British Columbia and arranging for the movement of these Japanese from the coastal area. At that time the United States, ourselves and Australia, and other parts of the orient, were in grave danger. It was decided, as it was decided in many other countries, that in the interests of the safety of the nation it would be necessary to move these people from the protected areas of British Columbia. When we look back at it in a broad way I think we acted with discretion; we acted in the good British way. We were humane. We moved these people with the least inconvenience to themselves and their families. I think that can be truthfully said. I have had some experience in Europe. I have seen the movement of people in one country or in some countries which some people look upon as their spiritual home, and I should not like to think that we would ever sink to the level to which they have sunk over there. I sincerely believe we have done a fair job with the dispersal and removal of the Japanese, and we have done it in their own interests.

Mr. MacINNIS: I do not wish to dispute that point at all. As a matter of fact I commended the minister on several occasions on the way in which the job was done, but what I do suggest is that we cannot justify our treatment of these people, having regard to the fairness with which we dealt with the matter when we were dealing with it as military precaution, and that is what it was at that time. I assure the minister that I appreciate the efficient and satisfactory way in which that job was carried out under the circumstances, but that does not answer the point I have made.

I put some questions on the order paper in regard to persons of Japanese origin who were taken from the mental hospital in British Columbia and sent to Japan on one or other of the ships which left British Columbia. I understand that some fifteen or sixteen were sent at their own request, and one was deported by the department of immigration. This matter was drawn to my attention in the first instance by a letter which I received in regard to one Kosho Matano, who served in the Canadian forces in the war 1914-18. This man had suffered shock on account of his war services, and had been admitted to a mental hospital in British Columbia in 1933. A friend of Mr. Matano had visited him in the spring of 1942, when persons of Japanese

origin were being evacuated from the Pacific coast, and asked that this man be allowed to leave with the other evacuees at that time. He was told by the superintendent of the hospital that they could not let him out because he was an extremely dangerous person. I find in the questions answered by the minister that this "extremely dangerous person"—I assume he was a lunatic—made a request for repatriation to Japan, that that request was granted, and that he left.

Mr. REID: Was that before he was in the institution?

Mr. MacINNIS: No, I understand he had been in the institution since 1933. I am just wondering how a person who is confined because of mental incapacity could make a valid application to do anything. It is the most amazing thing I have ever heard. How was the matter first brought to the attention of the authorities? It is said that fifteen made application to be sent, but that they did not make written application. The others who had made application did so on forms provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. These people, I understand, made application by word of mouth. To whom would such applications be made? What information was there on which to base such application? These are questions which should be looked into. In my opinion either the Department of Justice or some other department should investigate the matter, because it is serious. I should like to know if the captain of the ship on which these people were sent was advised that he had fifteen or sixteen lunatics aboard. Was provision made for confining them while they were aboard so that they would not constitute a danger to other passengers?

I accept the minister's statement when he says he believes in democratic methods, but I submit that these are not the methods of democracy. These are totalitarian, autocratic methods—methods which have no regard for human values, human decencies or human lives. I suggest we should have a great deal more information as to how these mentally incapable people who were in a mental hospital made application to be sent anywhere. Surely if they could make application to be sent to Japan, they could make application to leave the hospital and be sent to Quebec, Ontario or anywhere else.

Mr. MITCHELL: The arrangements with respect to these people were made through the provincial authorities—not by my department. I might add that sometimes people in institutions are saner than those outside. Perhaps it would be wise to read this letter from the