

THE JAPANESE IN VANCOUVER EXPRESS LOYALTY TO OUR KING AND COUNTRY

Hold Three Days Celebration In Honor of the Coronation—Love Canada—Many Are Christians

Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell, formerly of this city, but now residing at Vancouver, writes entertainingly to The Daily Mail about a recent three day celebration held at Vancouver in honor of our King and Queen's coronation. Mrs. Carvell gives an interesting description of Japanese life on the Canadian Pacific.

(By Mrs. M. I. F. Carvell)

Japanese Coronation festivities in Vancouver, B. C., August 11-14, 1937.

The 7000 population of Japanese in Vancouver and suburbs, staged a 4-night celebration August 11-14 in honor of the coronation of King George VI, to show their loyalty and as a mark of appreciation to the Canadian and English people for the reception accorded their Prince and Princess Chichibu enroute to, and attending the coronation in England. By popular subscription (among themselves) they raised \$1500.00 for this purpose. Powell Street from Main to Jackson Avenue (several blocks) was gaily decorated with banners stretching across the street. "Long Live Their Majesties", God save our King and Queen, the Crown with G. R., Union Jacks, and the Red Ball of Japan predominating.

On the evening of August 14, a procession started, headed by the police pipe band, which was followed by the civic car carrying his Worship Mayor George Miller, and a car bearing outstanding Japanese citizens. Gaily decorated floats drawn by 50 men and boys in Japanese regalia, depicted garden scenes of Japan. On one of these floats a cherry tree in full blossom made a delightful bow for a bevy of beautiful Japanese girls clad in native kimonos. Another float with loud speakers, bore a complete band of Japanese players, who furnished music for 300 girls gowned in gorgeously colored kimonos, as they danced their way along. Crowds on the street demanded the procession to halt for a longer period to watch the perfect rhythm and grace of these young dancers. It took two hours for the procession to pass on, arriving at the Square, a large platform had been erected with more than 100 Japanese lanterns, the rear of the platform being decorated with pictures of their Majesties, a Union Jack and Japanese flag on either side.

Returning home at dusk that evening, I took a "look in" on the proceedings, and one of their marshalls learning that I wished to report their programs to an eastern paper, invited me to a cushioned seat in the front row. I was surrounded by thousands of happy interested Japanese faces, and I have never in any gathering seen so many babies in arms, or children from two to ten. Said a nearby Canadian, "They'll own British Columbia some day". There was perfect order, loud speakers conveying the songs, speeches, instrumental music, and dances for blocks. The spacious grounds were alive with people. The program began with God Save our King, and the manner those children stood to attention and sang "the King" would be a good example to those who feel they must prepare for home during their rendition. I was fortunate to be seated next to the Japanese Court interpreter, who provided me with a Japanese program and interpreted it. Its very pleasing to note the profound bows Japanese people make to those whom they wish to honor or respect. They make not only one but several low bows with delightful grace.

The program was called off first in English then in Japanese, by two young men, some of the young performers were so tiny, the master of ceremonies had to hold the receiver at an angle to get their voices, one little chap, 4 years old, sang "O Rose Marie" in English he had it from the radio.

The Japanese are a people who will to obtain knowledge. Their children attend the public schools and at the close, march to their own. I asked a bright young miss, if she found her native language hard to write? She said, yes! Personally I hate to write and read Japanese, she was Canadian born—a Vancouver high school girl who graduated last year stated that in her class of 45 the first year there were six Japanese students the second year one quarter of her class were Japanese, the third half and half, and few of the native born white Canadians could compete with these Japanese students, not because they could not, but because of mental indolence.

During the first evening's programme, several very young girls played

quite difficult piano solos very creditably, there was toe and tap dancing, weird songs greatly enjoyed by the Japanese and one young lady, who had studied abroad, favored us with several operatic selections well rendered. The third evening, was given up to Japanese folk dancing. This was done most gracefully. The stage being a riot of beautiful colored kimonos. Dancing is done by the girls alone, with fans, umbrellas and movements of the arms and body. I

counted over fifty different positions in one dance done by twenty girls from 12 to 14, perfectly timed and executed. After each dance the teachers were introduced and we were thanked for applauding them. Mr. Ide told me the boys go to look on the dance, but do not join them. I asked him if Japanese boys born in Canada were willing to sit back and watch, and he replied, with a shrug of his shoulders, "Oh, no, we older folk of 50 and 60 hang to our old ideals, but these young Canadian Japanese they want to do just like this country. The names of their dances were also interesting, as Green Mountains Under Blue Skies; Oh Could I See You; Misty Moon; Harvest Festival; The Turtle and the Crane; Picking Cherry Blossoms, etc. At times, music for the dances were furnished by three stringed instruments, 'Sanisens' not unlike a banjo, there were many instruments, however, I had never seen or heard one made of bamboo sketched about 5 feet on pedestals and was played by picks on the fingers. The young folk, however, seemed to enjoy keeping time to American or Hawaiian music.

In conversing with Mr. Kagetsu, chairman of the committee who owns and operates an extensive logging business,—I learned that the Japanese were very sincere in their homage to Canada's king, they love this country and hope to be duly franchised. Very few of their number are holding to the Buddhist's religion, they are members of the United, Baptist, Anglican and Catholic Churches of the city. Their young people prefer to attend churches of Canada—I noticed also that as the young lady musicians waited for their numbers, they followed the habits of their so called "smart set" Canadian young women, as they lighted and smoked cigarettes.

These Canadian Japanese are entering every known vocation, trade, or pursuit, already Canadian born Japanese doctors, lawyers, real estate, money exchangers, etc., have their cards out, in English and Japanese signs. They (with the Chinese) have the monopoly of the garden truck industry. As cleaners they started the slogan (2 suits for \$1.00) and its remarkable what they do for this price, with the result all others had to come down to this price or give up business. They are friendly, industrious intelligent class of peo-

ROYAL COMMISSION ON OUR DOMINION-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

Commission Instructions Stress Financial Rather Than Constitutional Aspect—Personnel Carefully Chosen

OTTAWA, Aug. 20—As Parliament Hill reads the terms of reference, issued this week to the Royal Commission on Dominion-provincial relations, the Federal Government is appealing to that body in the strongest possible terms to constitute itself a group of "Fathers of Re-Confederation" for the Dominion.

Throughout, while the problem facing the Commission is set out in the guise of a constitutional one, the financial aspect is given significant stress.

In as plain language as is used in any governmental communication the Royal Commission is invited to give its opinion on the measures necessary to control the growth of taxation and indebtedness in Canada by eliminating duplication in government and overlapping in taxation.

The Commission is invited—at least inferentially—to constitute itself a critic of governments and particularly of their expenditures. Then, having criticized, the Commission is asked to submit to the federal Cabinet its ideas for government reform subject to one proviso alone: any recommendations which may be made must contemplate a Federal system. (That is to say, there is to be no proposal for scrapping the provinces).

Provinces Protected

Such a Commission, in the opinion of Parliament Hill, may very well prove the most important in the history of Confederation, but only if the

ple, who stay by themselves, mind their own affairs, and have very cleanly habits. The colony is only 40 years old. Their families average from two to five, and it is interesting to see a mother with her well dressed children board a street car or whole families strolling in Stanley Park. The other day I noticed a tow headed Canadian boy of 10 walking on the street with the arm of a Japanese lad of his age about his shoulder, enjoying a spirited boyish conversation and I thought how much Canadians have on their shoulders to make good citizens of the foreign element within our borders.

The four evenings of entertainment were absolutely free to the public not one dull moment in the 3-hour program. I listened with intense interest and admiration, while the restless small children drew beautiful designs with stones in the soil at our feet.

provinces can later be prevailed upon to acquiesce in the acceptance of its recommendations.

The important thing to note about the terms of reference are their breadth. While the Commissions attention is directed to three or four specific questions, it is explicitly stated that consideration of them is not to be taken as "limiting the general scope of the enquiry."

The ministry had in mind the importance of acquiring the co-operation of all the provinces including Alberta. It sought to avoid any suggestion that the investigation was linked with the so-called "vested interests," therefore no representative of Canadian business or finance has been appointed, although the problem is fundamentally financial, and the Government itself is directing attention to the business phase of it.

Undoubtedly the absence from the Commission of a representative of Canadian finance or business is a weakness, but it is a weakness that Parliament Hill considers to have been largely unavoidable.

Constitutional Experts

The result is a personnel which, while not outstanding in the realm of economics, is regarded as particularly strong in judicial qualities and knowledge of constitutional history. It is a personnel, furthermore, which is recognized as sincere, while each of the individuals included has an excellent reputation for diligence and industry.

While nominally the enquiry has a constitutional background, its chief interest lies in the financial phases of the investigation. The clue to the ministry's attitude in this regard is furnished by the Order-in-Council appointing the Commission. The whole tenor of the document is to emphasize the heights to which the taxation burden upon Canada's citizens has soared. Attention is called specifically to "the overlapping and duplication of services as between the Dominion and provincial governments in certain fields of activity. The importance is also emphasized of keeping the "burden of public expenditures to a minimum" and of ensuring for the revenue-raising powers of the various authorities "the adequacy

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and the elasticity required to meet the respective demands upon them."

Survey of Taxation

And finally, there is a declaration that representations have been made to the Dominion that "necessary municipal expenditures have placed an undue burden on real estate and are thereby retarding economic recovery." That statement accomplishes a dual purpose. In the first place it makes economic recovery a specific subject for the Commission to consider. And it makes it perfectly clear that municipal governments are not to be excluded from the investigation.

The Commission is specifically instructed to investigate the character and the amount of taxes collected from the people of Canada and to consider them, among other ways, "in the light of financial and economic conditions. It is instructed also to

"examine public expenditures and public debts in general. And it is to report what in its opinion, "will best effect a balanced relationship between the financial powers and the obligations and functions of each governing body, and conduce to a more efficient, independent, and economical discharge of governmental responsibilities in Canada."

Quite obviously, any recommendations which the Commission may make will involve constitutional revision. And, traditional experience has indicated the overwhelming difficulty, if not actual impossibility, of securing agreement among the provinces to any major constitutional change.

In this fact, it may be inferred lies the explanation of the Government's reason for making the investigation so predominantly a financial enquiry instead of one preliminary to so-called constitutional reform. For constitutional changes based simply upon a project for constitutional reform, inevitably contain within them selves the germ of controversy fatal to their acceptance.



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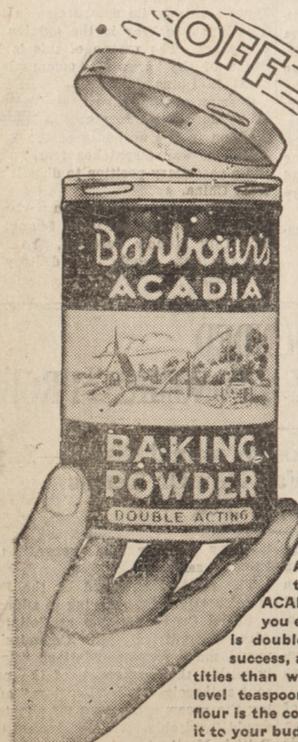
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