RETURN

To an Order of the House for a return of the Reports of all Immigration Officers and Deputy Immigration Officers to the Provincial Secretary in connection with "An Act to regulate Immigration into British Columbia."

D. M. EBERTS,
For the Acting Provincial Secretary.

Provincial Secretary's Office,
24th April, 1902.

REPORTS OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER FOR THE ISLAND DISTRICT.

W. H. Ellis.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 14th, 1901.

I have the honour to report to you that, as Immigration Officer under the "British Columbia Immigration Act, 1900," under date of January 3rd, 1901, I forwarded letters to all of the transportation companies in the Island District, enclosing copies of Act, regulations and forms, and requesting that they designate the persons who would furnish me timely notice of the arrival of immigrants destined for this district.

The agents of the companies concerned have expressed their willingness to aid me in every way in their power in the carrying out of the provisions of the Act, and in case of several arrivals have advised me verbally or by telephone of the presence of immigrants on their steamships.

On January 9th, twenty-six Chinese immigrants arrived at the port of Victoria, by tender from the C.P.R. SS. "Empress of India." I had previously engaged the services of Mr. E. W. McLean, of Vancouver, an expert Chinese interpreter, who proceeded to the Quarantine Station on the tender. I met the tender at the Outer Wharf, accompanied by a Provincial Police Officer. After the immigrants had passed the Customs, the test required by the Act was, through the interpreter, put to each one of the twenty-six; none of them being able to comply with it. I immediately swore out an information and served a warrant against one of the number named Wong Hoy Wo, aged 29, a labourer, and he was placed under arrest. The names, ages, and numbers of Dominion Certificates of all were also taken in case of need. The case against Wong Hoy Wo came up for hearing on Saturday, 12th inst., before Police Magistrate Hall, who ruled that the entry of Chinese was provided for by clause (*f*) of the Act. Proceedings against the defendant were stayed, and he was liberated.

Previous to the hearing on Saturday morning a visit was paid to the SS. "Glenogle" from the Orient. There were two Chinese immigrants for this port who could not comply with the Act, and their names and addresses were noted. Both set up the claim that they were coming into the Province on business.

Being advised by the agent of Dodwell & Co., Ltd., in the afternoon of Saturday that a Japanese passenger was aboard the "Sehome," a visit was paid this steamer on its arrival, accompanied by a Japanese interpreter. One passenger, Y. Charles, was able to read and write English, and made out the necessary declaration. He also proved to be a naturalised British subject, and resided at Skeena River during the fishing season, his calling being that of a blacksmith. To him was issued the first certificate under Schedule "A" of the Act.

VICTORIA, B. C., Jan. 24th, 1901.

I have the honour to report that since my previous report to you of January 14th, I have paid visits to steamship arrivals of the Pacific Coast SS. Co., and have kept constantly informed of the character of the passengers on the various Puget Sound boats calling at Victoria, but no immigrants, coming under the Act, were carried by them to this port.

On the 22nd January the SS. "Victoria," of the Northern Pacific line (Dodwell & Co., Ltd., agents), arrived from Yokohama with five Japanese immigrant passengers for this port. Three of this number were unable to comply with the educational test, and were refused entry. The officials of the company detained them on the steamship, and said that they would carry them back to Japan. They were on the steamship when it left for Seattle in the evening. This is the first instance where entry into the Province has been refused immigrants under the Act. The agent of the company, Mr. Hardie, informs me that in the future no immigrant passengers will be booked for British Columbia until they have demonstrated their ability to comply with the terms of the Act.

On the 23rd instant the SS. "Tosa Maru," of the Japan-American line (Nippon Yusen Kaisha), arrived from Yokohama. The single immigrant passenger destined for Victoria proved to be a naturalised British subject and a former resident of the Province. He, however, wrote out the form (Schedule B), and a certificate (Schedule A) was issued to him. The managing officials of this line also inform me that care will be taken that no immigrants will be booked for British Columbia who have not first proved themselves competent to comply with the terms of the Act.

In the case of the three Japanese refused a landing from the "Victoria," an endeavour was made by their counsel to induce the steamship authorities to land them, but this was positively refused unless authority was shown which would free the company from all liability.

Through the Japanese interpreter employed I am informed that Mr. Shimizu, Japanese Consul for this Province, has advised his Government to issue no further passports to enter Canada to any citizens of Japan.

From the foregoing facts it is apparent that the object of the Legislature in passing the Act is being attained, viz., by preventing undesirable immigrants arriving here from obtaining an entry into the Province, and through the assistance of the steamship companies who are refusing to book such passengers for British Columbia.

After inquiry from the Government Agent at Nanaimo as to persons available and desirable to fill the office of Deputy Immigration Officer at Nanaimo and Ladysmith, I respectfully recommend that H. M. McIndoo be appointed for Nanaimo, and Geo. Cassidy, constable, for Ladysmith. Both these gentlemen are at present in the service of the Government. They could be paid an extra fee for their services while enforcing the provisions of the Act as occasion arises. Such occasions would not be frequent.

VICTORIA, B. C., January 29th, 1901.

The following is a copy of a telegram received by R. P. Rithet & Co. from Goodall, Perkins & Co., San Francisco :—

"Is there authorised Immigration Agent here for Victoria? If not, suggest you get one appointed, so can issue certificates, Form A, before we issue tickets. Answer."

I have already written R. P. Rithet & Co., Ltd., pointing out the undesirability of issuing entry certificates at San Francisco, and suggesting that the ticket agent there can readily discover an immigrant's ability to comply with the Act by presenting him with one of the forms to fill out.

Victoria, B. C., February 26th, 1901.

I have the honour to report that in compliance with your instructions contained in your letter of the 21st instant, I visited Mayne and Saturna Islands for the purpose of investigating the reported smuggling of Japanese immigrants.

Accompanied by a member of the Provincial Police and a Japanese interpreter, I visited three camps of Japanese on Mayne Island, and also made a visit by row-boat to Saturna Island.

M. Furukawa owns the 150 acres of land from which he has been cutting cordwood for a number of years, and employs 55 men. The cordwood cut is for the use of the Victoria Canning Co., Fraser River, and the Japanese employed by the Canneries of this Company are the ones employed by Furukawa, and all the boats used are also the property of the Canning Co. After a careful inquiry, no evidence was forthcoming that any smuggled Japanese were present here.

Sam Matsunaga also owns the land from which his 24 Japanese are cutting cordwood, and adjoins Furukawa on the west. The wood is being cut for a Fraser River Cannery.

S. Suzuki employs 10 Japanese in a camp on Mr. Worge's ranch, started during the month. These men and their boats also hail from the Fraser River. Their story is that in endeavouring to reach the camp they wandered around for several days in the Gulf, and it is almost certain that they are the Japanese who put in at Saturna Island, and are the company that Mr. John Wessel states landed there on the 23rd January (*see* letter enclosed). A large number of Japanese are employed cutting wood on Waldron Island, in Washington, and it was believed that Japanese came into British Columbia from thence. I visited Mr. Wessel on Saturna Island, but no proof was forthcoming that his statement was correct.

I also examined the goods in one Japanese camp, but their flour bags showed Brackman & Ker's trade-mark. Flour and rice and a few groceries comprise their purchased supplies, the fish and wild fowl of the bay, and deer of the island, furnishing them with an abundant fare.

The ranchers are anxious that a Provincial Police Officer should be stationed on Mayne Island; one was formerly located there when there was less necessity than now. The population of the island has sensibly increased, and the presence of hundreds of Japanese on Mayne Island and vicinity renders it necessary that police protection within easy call should be provided. Such an officer could serve the needs of Mayne, Galiano, Saturna, Pender, Prevost, Salt Spring and Moresby Islands in the several capacities of police, licence and immigration officer.

I have to acknowledge with thanks the valuable assistance rendered me in my inquiries by Messrs. Worge and Goepel, of Mayne Island.

Another Japanese camp exists on Deacon's ranch, Mayne Island, and others on Pender and Prevost Islands, but these were not visited, it not being considered necessary in the light of the information forthcoming on Mayne and Saturna. In fact the only information as to the smuggling of Japanese met with was to the end that many had passed over into the American islands.

It is estimated that several hundreds of Japanese are engaged in the cutting of cordwood on Mayne, Pender, Prevost and Galiano Islands. So far they have not been guilty of any offence against the law other than a tendency to cut down trees belonging to adjoining ranchers. A case of this kind occurred during my visit, and Constable Cox secured names and information necessary to prove a case if one is brought against the contractor.

While no evidence was secured as to the illegal entry of the Japanese into the Province, the cordwood camps offer an easy method of bringing in Japanese from the American islands, and it would be advisable to appoint a deputy officer at this point to watch events.

[Enclosure.]

Mayne Island, 31st January, 1901.

Statement of Mr. John Wessel of Saturna Island.

I, John Wessel, make this statement and say that a large number of Japanese are landing on these islands from the American side every week; one boat load of ten I saw land on the 23rd instant, and they are continually coming and going, and there is no doubt but goods are brought from the American side to the Canadian side without paying duty, and if their camps were gone through such contraband goods would be found.

Complaints of a like nature are reaching me from South Pender Island.

(Signed) John Wessel.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 12th, 1901.

I have the honour to state that since my last report there have been no Japanese immigrants seeking entry into the Island District. A number of Japanese who sought entry into the United States at Seattle have been returned to Victoria from which port they embarked. Their refusal at Seattle, I am given to understand, was based upon the claim that they came under the Alien Contract Labour Law.

The various steamships entering Victoria have been carefully waited upon, but none of the Oriental liners have carried immigrants coming under the provisions of the Act, destined for this port. A considerable number have been in transit to Seattle, both from Yokohama and San Francisco, but these are not permitted to leave the steamer by the officials.

I would respectfully suggest that there should be some greater effort made to secure a desirable immigration into this Province. Of course there has been a constant distribution of literature, having for its text the advantages which British Columbia offers immigrants, but little apparent practical results have been achieved thereby, in so far as securing a character of immigrant that would eventually replace the Oriental in the labour market.

The question arises, would it not be possible to place the opportunities present in British Columbia before the industrial and labouring classes of the Atlantic coast of Canada, and those of Norway, Denmark and Sweden, where the inhabitants are engaged in fishing, sealing, mining, lumbering and farming, and where many combine several of them in their year's work, as is the case on the coast of this Province. Could a sufficient number of them be induced to immigrate into British Columbia, they would in time replace the Chinese and Japanese in the fisheries, mining, lumbering and farming industries, and their daughters in household service and in the lighter manufactures now occupied by the Orientals.

I have not sufficiently considered the subject to suggest the best method to be followed in bringing about so desirable a state of affairs. It would be necessary first to provide agricultural holdings of small area of easily cleared lands, so that immigrants could be placed thereon on arrival, and it would be also requisite that fully qualified agents of the Government should visit these communities to educate them in the matter, so as to induce their immigration.

The suggestion is made because of the apparent necessity of securing a desirable character of immigration, for if the undesirable is stayed there will be need of an acceptable class of immigrant to replace it.

VICTORIA, B. C. May 16th, 1901.

I have the honour to report that on the arrival of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamship "Tosa Maru," eleven Japanese stowaways were landed on informations entered by the steamship company's agent, charging them with having committed an offence under the Canada Shipping Act. When the cases came up for hearing in the Provincial Police Court, before Mr. Hall, P. M., he ruled that the court had no jurisdiction. Informations were then laid against the eleven Japanese by myself, under the "B. C. Immigration Act, 1900." I visited Vancouver and secured the assurance of H. I. M. Japanese Consul, Mr. Shimizu, that as the stowaways had left Japan without passports he would refrain from taking any steps in their defence, provided they were returned to the steamship without sentence being recorded. The cases were therefore adjourned from time to time, and on the arrival of the "Tosa Maru" on the return voyage, on the 2nd of May last, the Japanese were taken aboard and carried back to Japan. The Steamship Company paid all costs of their detention at the Provincial goal, and conveyance to and from the steamship and court, and the expense to the Government in the matter totalled but $15.

I visited Vancouver last week and interviewed the Japanese Consul in the matter of the suit entered by a Japanese against the Immigration Officer there, for false arrest. The Consul had no information in the matter, and pointed out that as the Japanese was a naturalised British subject he did not come within his jurisdiction. The case, as yet, has not come to a preliminary hearing, but as the Japanese held the necessary papers, proving his claim, it would appear that his case is a good one.

There has been but one application for entry to British Columbia by a Japanese immigrant in the Island District during the past six weeks, an evidence that the Act is having the effect sought in its passage.

VICTORIA, B. C., June 27, 1901.

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of letter and enclosure containing names of Japanese immigrants entering the Island District this year, forwarded to C. B. Sword, Esq., Dominion Fishery Inspector, as per your instructions of 25th instant.

[ENCLOSURE.]

Under instructions from the Honourable Provincial Secretary, I have the honour to enclose herewith list of Japanese entering the Island District during the past six months, with place of previous residence and month of arrival.

(Enclosure contains the names, etc., of 30 Japanese.)

VICTORIA, B. C., Sept. 30th, 1901.

In closing the records of the Office of Immigration Officer under the "British Columbia Immigration Act, 1900," recently disallowed, I have the honour to report as follows in respect to the Island District:—

From the inauguration of the service until the 20th of the present month, forty certificates of entry were issued solely to Japanese immigrants. Eighteen Japanese and eleven half caste Brazilian Gypsies were refused entry and returned to the ports sailed from, they failing to comply with the educational test. A number of Japanese naturalised British subjects, returning to the Province, were permitted entry on production of naturalisation papers.

While the terms of the Act were strictly enforced against all immigrants seeking entry it does not by any means follow that the work thereby accomplished represents all the good results of its operation; in fact it is a small portion of such results.

On my entry into office all transportation companies entering British Columbia ports from foreign parts were fully advised of the proclamation of the Act, and of the fact that its provisions would be strictly enforced. As soon as possible, after receipt of this information, these transportation companies refused passage to intending immigrants, who could not first prove their ability to comply with the terms of the Act, and as a consequence their emigration to this Province ceased almost entirely, and this was especially the case with the Japanese, the refusals of their entry referred to above occurring partly during the early days of the Act and principally in the case of stowaways. It can therefore be reasonably contended that the Act accomplished all that was sought for it in its being placed on the statute books, viz., the staying of an undesirable immigration that gave promise of working a serious menace to the best interests of the Province.

In a previous report I suggested that if a desirable class of immigrants were sought, further effort than that of simply circulating literature would have to be put into operation. I pointed out that there were certain fields where a valuable and acceptable class of immigrants might be secured if practical effort was made to place before them the advantages offered in this Province, and provision also made for their reception.

In a letter to the press I have also offered the suggestion that a much simpler, less costly and more satisfactory method of staying Mongolian immigration can be had by the entering into of treaties between Japan and China and Canada, limiting the immigration of subjects of either country into the other to a certain number in any one year, and this method of dealing with the vexed question has met with approval in many quarters, and two of the Commissioners, who inquired into the Oriental labour problem this year, verbally assured me of their endorsation of such a policy. Various of the Canadian newspapers have also agreed that it offers a fair and reasonable solution, among them being the Toronto *Globe*. In its issue of April 24th last the following editorial remarks appear:—

"Mr. W. H. Ellis writes the Victoria *Colonist* a letter containing a suggestion as to how the immigration of Orientals to Canada might be restricted without causing irritation.

"Briefly, it is as follows:—The Federal and Provincial Governments should petition the Imperial Government to enter into treaties with Japan and China on behalf of Canada, providing that subjects of either country as immigrants shall not enter the other in greater numbers than, say, one hundred in any one year. The idea is ingenious, and while its fairness could not be well impugned, it would be advantageous to Canada for the reason that the number of Canadians desiring to emigrate to China or Japan would be small."

Thanking you for your unvarying courtesy and consideration during the term that I have had the pleasure to act under your direction.

REPORTS OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER FOR THE MAINLAND DISTRICT.

ANGUS MCALISTER.

VANCOUVER, January 15th, 1901.

In answer to your letter of the 10th instant, which came to hand last evening, I beg leave to state that, acting on the advice of Mr. Eberts, having consulted him on his way east, I delayed action with "Empress of Japan," awaiting further instructions from Victoria.

Receiving a telegram from Mr. McBride, Minister of Mines, advising me to consult with Mr. Charles Wilson, Q. C., and having consulted with Mr. Wilson I was advised by him to at once stop all Japanese passengers who could not comply with the Immigration Act, but found on my arrival at the boat that all the Japanese passengers had landed.

Out of seven Japanese who landed on the afternoon of the 9th instant, I secured four on the morning of the 10th, but those four were able to comply with the Act, and three of them left the same day for New York.

I may say that it is and always has been my intention to fully carry the Act into force.

VANCOUVER, February 11th, 1901.

I beg leave to inform you that on the arrival of the C. P. R. steamship "Empress of China," on the 6th instant, I detained a Japanese passenger who could not comply with the Immigration Act. I left this passenger on board the boat, as the purser promised that he would take charge of him and have him returned on "Empress of China" to Japan. On the following day the captain of the vessel had the Japanese passenger arrested and sent to the Police Station, charged with being a stowaway.

I might say that the purser did not inform me at the time he took charge of the Japanese, that such passenger was a stowaway. I have been informed that his trial is laid over for one week, awaiting instructions from Attorney-General's Department.

VANCOUVER, February 12th, 1901.

I have the honour to report that since my appointment as Immigration Officer for the Mainland, I have furnished the different transportation companies, here and elsewhere, with copies of Act and Regulations and notified them that the provisions of section 6 of the Act would be strictly enforced from 1st January, 1901.

I have also complied with instructions No. 3 contained in your Regulations as to meeting steamers, trains, etc., carrying or supposed to be carrying immigrants, and have enforced the provisions of section 4 of Act, when necessity arose to do so.

In obedience to your instructions contained in No. 4 Regulations, I now beg to submit my report ending January 31st, 1901, containing names of transportation companies carrying immigrants, and details connected therewith.

On January 9th, by the C. P. R. steamship "Empress of China," there were seven passengers landed during the time I was consulting with Mr. Wilson, K. C. Four of these passengers I traced to the Commercial Hotel. They proved to be merchants travelling to New York. These were men of education and had no trouble in complying with the necessary requirements. I regret to say that I was unable to locate the other three, but of this I have already informed you by correspondence.

January 24th, American steamship Mainlander, Seattle to Vancouver.—I challenged three Japanese passengers by this steamer; one was able to comply with the Statutory requirements and the other two were held on board the steamer and returned to Seattle.

The above are the only cases of detention I have to report. On numerous occasions I have challenged men of nationalities other than Mongolian and have found in all cases they were able to comply with the demands of the Act.

My visits to New Westminster lead to the opinion that as yet there is no direct immigration to that place of the class that the Statute refers to.

This place, with others, will require stricter supervision as the season advances. If it should meet with the approval of the Government I would suggest going to Victoria when a C. P. R. passenger steamer is due. I could then ascertain the status of each immigrant during the passage thence to Vancouver and avoid a certain amount of friction that may arise in certain cases, and also effectually reach each immigrant of the coolie class.

Vancouver, March 7th, 1901.

I have the honour to hand you report up to February 28th, in connection with the Immigration Department of this District.

February 6th, Empress of Japan.—There were seven Japanese passengers. Six were merchants or traders bound for various parts of the Continent and fully able to comply with the Act. One was of the coolie class and was unable to comply, consequently was detained and returned by "Empress of Japan" to port of shipment.

I daily inspected boats and trains with a view to detecting any ineligible immigrants, but was unable to discover any up to the 26th, when, acting under your instructions, I proceeded to Blaine by one route and returned by another, inspecting all the places where Japanese would be likely to resort or harbour, and was successful in only one instance, in the case of a Jap who had crossed the line into British Columbia. He was promptly landed in the State of Washington and reported to the authorities there.

From information received from the customs authorities and others, the routes most used by this class of people are by the Great Northern Railway and Mud Bay Road, that is, at the present time. These routes shall be strictly watched, and also the New Westminster District generally, as the season for Japs congregating on the Fraser River is now rapidly approaching. I have given Deputy Officer Mr. Cooksley, of New Westminster, full instructions to this effect and will also give it personal supervision.

By steamers from Puget Sound, which have been punctually and regularly attended to, there has not this month been any case to report in which the Act would take effect; this also applies to the American steamers from San Francisco and Alaskan ports. The incoming trains from the East and South have also been duly met, but in no case has it been necessary to put the law into effect.

The reports from the Northern Coast tend to show that at present there is no immigration of the class to which the Act applies.

In reference to the appointment of deputies in the different districts, I beg to submit for your approval the following names:—

District.	Name.	Headquarters.
Cassiar	James Kirby	Port Essington.
Kootenay	A. McLeod	Fernie.
New Westminster	H. M. F. Jones	Shoal Bay.
"	A. W. Lane	Mission City.
Yale	J. A. Dinsmore	Grand Forks.
"	Geo. Cunningham	Greenwood.

If necessary, further names will be submitted later on.

In accordance with your wishes, I met the "Empress of India" at Victoria. Before leaving Vancouver I had an interview with Mr. Marpole, General Superintendent of the C. P. R., in reference to possibility of interviewing the Japanese before arrival in Vancouver. He did not seem willing to allow any interference with those people until after they had landed in Vancouver. This, in the case where there are few passengers, would not signify, as they could be held upon the wharf for a time, but in the event of there being a large number it would be almost impossible to carry out your instructions without larger powers than I now possess. I think it only right to inform you of this, as nothing can be gained by going down to Victoria unless some arrangement is made with the C. P. R. Company.

I enclose report, dated March 2nd, from Deputy Officer W. T. Cooksley.

W. T. COOKSLEY'S REPORT.

NEW WESTMINSTER, March 2nd, 1901.

I have the honour to report that I this day returned a Jap, "Matzmato," over the boundary line with a through ticket to Seattle, from whence he came on the G. N. Railway train last evening. He had in his possession $200.91, but could not pass the educational test provided by the Act. I brought him before Capt. Pittendrigh, S. M., who committed him to the Provincial Gaol for safe keeping until he could be returned.

VANCOUVER, March 29th, 1901.

On or about the 5th inst., the Norwegian ship "Prince Albert" arrived at this port with a crew composed principally of Japanese. The vessel lay in the harbour until a few days ago, when she came in to the Hastings Saw Mill to load lumber. Since coming to the wharf eight of the Japanese deserted the ship. As soon as I was informed of the matter I at once interviewed the captain, who pleaded ignorance of the British Columbia Immigration Act, as he had left Honolulu about the first of this year. There are at present four Japanese sailors on board, and only one of these can fulfil the requirements of the Act. The captain has promised me not to allow the other three to leave the ship while here.

VANCOUVER, B. C., April 9th, 1901.

I have the honour to hand you report for the month of March, which would have been forwarded at an earlier date were it not that I delayed, expecting to receive reports from the Deputies in the various outlying districts.

March 5th, SS. Empress of India.—By this vessel there were only three Japanese passengers, two being merchants booked for New York, and the third was servant to an American missionary bound for Philadelphia; these were fully able to comply with the Act.

March 14th, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—There was one passenger by above steamer, a Spaniard by nationality, who was not eligible, and was returned by same steamer to port of embarkation.

March 23rd, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—By this steamer on above date I had to stop a Fillipino who could not pass the necessary test; he, also, was not permitted to land, but was returned per same steamer to Seattle.

The only report to hand at the moment of writing is from Deputy Officer Cooksley, in the New Westminster District, and he reports having returned to the United States, during the month of March, twenty-two ineligible immigrants. Special attention shall be given to this district as the fishing season approaches, as it affords the greatest facilities for evading the provisions of the Act.

Ship Prince Albert (Norwegian).—I wrote you on the 29th ultimo respecting the crew of this ship, twelve in number, eight of whom deserted, and of their whereabouts we have been unable to obtain any information. They are, no doubt, concealed by their countrymen, either in the immediate neighbourhood or in Steveston. The remaining four men are still on board the vessel, and the master notified that he will be held responsible for their retention on board.

With reference to the printed forms received from your Department facilitating the passengers by steamers passing through the City to points East or in the United States, etc., would it not be as well that I should be in a position to be able to administer the oath to such persons as are passing through Vancouver, and not intending to remain in British Columbia. For instance, the "Empress of India" on her last trip arrived at midnight, and there was no possibility, at that hour, of securing the attendance of a Justice of the Peace or a Commissioner of Oaths to attest the declaration of such passengers, if required. As many of the passengers to this port arrive here during the night, I beg respectfully to submit this for your consideration; it is a difficulty that can hardly be overcome under the above conditions unless some such power is vested in the officer undertaking these duties.

I beg to submit, for your approval, the following names as Deputy Immigration Officers for the Kootenay District:—Alan Forrester, Robson; F. R. Morris, Cranbrook.

Vancouver, B. C., May 2nd, 1901.

I have the honour to hand you report for the month of April of action taken in the several districts, as follows :—

Vancouver.

April 3rd, SS. Empress of Japan.—There were only four Japanese by this vessel; two were merchants for New York, and two were bound for Steveston, B. C. Being old residents of B. C., they were all fully able to comply with the requirements of the Act.

April 8th, Ship Lynton (British), unloading cargo.—Two Japanese reported amongst the crew; as they could not comply with the Act they were kept on board, and left with her when the vessel sailed.

April 16th, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—A Japanese passenger by this steamer, upon being questioned, could not reply satisfactorily, and as there was no security for his detention on board the steamer during the day until sailing hour in the evening, I took him to the office of the Provincial Police until such time as it was necessary for him to be returned on board, his friends having free access to him, amongst others Nagao, a Japanese employment agent here. From some source or other naturalisation papers were produced during the course of the day by some of his friends. No mention of such papers being in existence was made when the man was detained, or for many hours afterwards. (The Jap having meanwhile secured legal assistance). These papers did not at all satisfy me as being genuine, or that they represented the man under detention, there being, amongst other things, a discrepancy in the spelling of the name. At the hour of sailing I endeavoured to return the man on board the "Mainlander" when, by some preconcerted arrangement with those on board, at the moment the steamer was leaving the wharf the Japanese was thrust ashore and the gangway plank withdrawn. I at once applied, by telephone, it being after 10 p.m., to the Police Magistrate for a warrant for the man's arrest, and he instructed me to take the lawyer's and Jap's friends' (who were all present) word, undertaking to produce the man in the morning at the Police Magistrate's Office, and so release him for the night. On the morning of the 17th the Japanese attended before Mr. Russell, P. M., accompanied by his lawyer, friends and Nagao; the latter now swore to the man's identity, though he had not made any statement of this nature the day previously. Upon consideration, the Magistrate decided the Jap was the man referred to in the naturalisation papers, and I, of course, had to bow to his ruling and let the man go. This case was reported to the Attorney-General at the time by Messrs. Wilson & Senkler.

New Westminster

Reports having returned across the line into the United States, during the month of April, twenty-two Japanese who were unable to comply with the Act.

Mission.

The only report from this district is the case of two Italians who had left here to go to the United States, but were detained at the line and returned to B. C. on the score of being paupers. I could not refuse their entry into Vancouver, they having previously been residents here.

Shoal Bay

Reports no cases having occurred during the month of April to which the Act would apply.

Steveston.

I visited this place and made arrangements with the Chief Constable to at once inform me of any case that may come under his notice that may require my attention.

Other Outlying Districts.

No reports from these districts other than letters asking advice on unimportant matters. All the officers in the outlying districts now appear to have settled down to their work, and are, I presume, fully posted as to the nature of their duties.

VANCOUVER, B. C., June 4th, 1901.

I beg to hand you report for the month of May. There has been nothing of special moment to remark upon this month, further than that the Act appears to work well and to meet all the requirements of the cases as they arise; and the outlying districts are also being well looked after.

May 15th, Empress of India, from China and Japan.—By this steamer there were twelve Japanese passengers, ten of whom were bound for the United States and two for British Columbia, who were returning to this country after a visit to their homes, and were in every instance eligible.

May 21st, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—There were three Japanese passengers from Seattle on this vessel, and as they were all provided with naturalisation papers which were in order, they were duly permitted to land.

May 23rd, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—A passenger by this steamer proved upon investigation to be a Siwash, who was sufficiently educated to comply with the requirements of the Act, and was of course passed.

May 25th.—I visited Steveston, and after diligent inquiries found that so far there had been no influx of Japanese into that port direct, but the place is being closely watched and immediate information will be forwarded to me should any such occur.

May 29th.—I visited Ladner's Landing with Deputy Officer Cooksley, hearing that several Japanese intended landing there by boat from the United States side, but after waiting two days they did not put in an appearance. I therefore left instructions with the local fishermen to send myself or Mr. Cooksley immediate word should any Japs arrive, which they readily promised to do and also to afford us all the assistance in their power in the prosecution of my duties.

NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

May 4th.—Mr. Cooksley detained at Blaine a carload of Japanese (48 in number) who had been engaged by the Great Northern Railway to work upon the road in British Columbia limits. The superintendent declined to accept the responsibility of guaranteeing to return these men to the United States upon the completion of their engagement, so they were sent back same date.

Mr. Cooksley further reports that for the balance of the month he has sent back into the United States 13 Japanese who were attempting an entry into British Columbia.

Mr. Kirby, officer at Port Essington, informs me that he will be removed to Hazelton. I would beg to suggest that Mr. Berryman, who has been appointed to succeed him at the former place, be also nominated to fill the position of Immigration Officer. Mr. Kirby reports that, so far, he has had no occasion to enforce the Act.

KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

From reports received there have been no cases to deal with this month in this district to which the Act is applicable.

It is my intention during the present month to visit the neighbourhood of Mission City, where there will be considerable fishing operations carried on during the coming season, and where the means of access from the American side are not by any means difficult. This vicinity shall be carefully watched when the time arrives, and I have no doubt a strict application of the clauses of the Act will suppress any attempt on the part of those persons who intend to commit an infringement of the law.

VANCOUVER, B. C., June 26th, 1901.

In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., I beg leave to state that in accordance with your request I have furnished Mr. Sword, of New Westminster, and also Capt. McPhaden, of this City, with a list of names and dates of arrival of Japanese to this port for the month of June. I have also instructed Deputy Officer Cooksley, of New Westminster, to furnish Mr. Sword with a list of names of Japanese who may be allowed to land at that port.

Vancouver, B. C., July 5th, 1901.

Herewith I have the honour to hand you the usual monthly report for June:—

June 5th, SS. Empress of Japan.—There were eleven Japanese passengers by this vessel, of whom three only were for British Columbia. These men had left this country some months previously on a visit to Japan, and were returning to Vancouver. Their papers were in order. The other eight passengers were all bound for other points on the continent, and were, of course, not interfered with.

SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—During the month of June there were by this steamer about 240 Japanese passengers, from the United States, and in nearly all cases they had naturalisation papers, and in the few instances in which they were wanting these individuals were able to comply with the requirements of the Act.

In reference to the case of M. Ota, who was a passenger by the SS. "Mainlander" on the 16th of April, mentioned in my report of that month, to which I beg to refer you; his case came before the Court, presided over by Chief Justice McColl, and held in this city on the 14th and 17th of June, the verdict being given in favour of plaintiff, and damages with costs, $100 (one hundred dollars), awarded to him. Messrs. Wilson and Senkler conducted the case on behalf of the Government, and I was, of course, entirely under their directions. I cannot help feeling very strongly that had I been permitted to produce my witnesses, of whom I had four important ones, provincial officers and two newspaper reporters, the result might have been different, but I had, of course, to bow to Messrs. Wilson and Senkler's judgment.

June 10th.—From the reports I received from Steveston I instructed Deputy Officer Cooksley to go over to Whatcom, Anacortes, and the surrounding neighbourhood. After close investigation and inquiry, he found the intelligence I had received about there being considerable movement among the Japs towards British Columbia, and especially the Fraser River, was without foundation, and that no such reported immigration had or was likely to take place.

Mr. Cooksley reports having during the month of June returned 17 Japanese from his district to the United States, and in one case, it being the man's second attempt to illegally enter the Province, he was brought before the Magistrate in New Westminster, who sentenced him to six months' imprisonment.

June 28th.—I proceeded to Sumas and neighbourhood. This district appears to be well watched, and the Provincial constable who is filling the duties as deputy, states there is practically no entry of Japs through his district, and since his appointment he has had only one occasion to deport two Japanese across the boundary, who were trying to effect an entrance into this Province.

Kootenay and Northern Points.

My reports from these districts state that during the season no cases have arisen in which it has been necessary to enforce the provisions of the Act.

The trouble caused by the reckless issue of naturalisation papers (whose numbers appear to be almost limitless) to Japanese will, I fear, continue and increase unless some check is put upon the easy acquirement of such documents.

Vancouver, B. C., August 2nd, 1901.

I have the honour to hand you report for the month of July:—

There have been comparatively few cases demanding the application of the Act during the month, probably caused by the prevalence of the plague in the East, and also that the fishing season is now on in full blast, and the supply of labour for that industry is already satisfied.

SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—By this vessel, during the month of July, there have been 67 Japanese immigrants, but in a very large majority of the instances they were provided with regular naturalisation papers, and those who were not so provided were fully able to comply with the requirements of the Act, so they were, of course, allowed to land.

July 20th, SS City of Seattle, from Seattle.—One passenger arrived by this steamer; his naturalisation papers were in order.

July 24th, SS. Hating, from Skagway.—One Japanese arrived by this steamer, booked straight through for Seattle by 9 a m. train.

July 4th, SS. Empress of China, from China and Japan.—There were no Japanese or Chinese immigrants whatever by this vessel, or any steerage passengers.

July 16th, SS. Empress of India, from China and Japan.—There were no steerage passengers and only three Japanese saloon passengers, who were bound for Eastern points.

NEW WESTMINSTER DISTRICT.

On July 7th four Chinamen were arrested in British Columbia territory, who had come from Washington. They were deported to Blaine and handed over to the United States Immigration authorities, and by them shipped back to China.

The Deputy Officer of the above district also reports having returned 26 Japanese to the United States, allowing one, whose papers were in order, to pass through British Columbia territory.

MISSION JUNCTION DISTRICT.

July.—The Deputy Officer of this district reports three arrests of Japanese in this district, whom he deported to the United States, by way of Sumas, and gave in charge of the authorities at that place.

In the case of the two Japanese arrested in New Westminster and committed for trial at that place, in the one instance for inability to comply with the Immigration Act, and in the second case aiding and abetting and trying to conceal his compatriot, came before the Court on the 10th instant, and through the refusal of the first Jap to give evidence, the case was postponed until the 20th idem, on which day Muskin Taro, the first Jap, begged to be allowed to go back to the United States, which was accordingly done, and the second case was postponed until the 23rd. I attended on this date, when a further remand was granted until the 25th, upon which date the Magistrate sentenced the remaining prisoner, Toku Tamashita by name, to a term of two months' imprisonment, or a fine of $500. The Magistrate wished to impose a much longer term of imprisonment, but I, having regard to the fact that the fishing season would be over by the end of two months, considered that the ends of justice would be met by the shorter term, and requested His Worship to alter the sentence, which he kindly did, but retained the amount of the fine. I had to personally attend the Court during these several hearings, as the Deputy Officer was away over his district and could not be certain of appearing when required, and I considered it important that any cases of harbouring and granting help to ineligible Japs should be severely repressed.

Within the last few days there have arrived in Vancouver a number of Italians, some 28. I have interviewed 13 and can hardly feel justified in refusing them admittance. The other 15 are at present not to be seen, but I hope to place my hands on them in a day or two. I may have to report to you specially upon this influx of Italians very shortly.

I found it necessary to give the Deputy at New Westminster some assistance during the present busy season, but the services of this man can be dispensed with in a short time

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VANCOUVER, B. C., September 3rd, 1901.

I beg herewith to hand you report of result of action taken by this branch of your Department during the month ending August 31st on the Mainland of British Columbia, so far as it has been found necessary to put the clauses of the Immigration Act into force.

August 7th, SS. Empress of Japan, from China and Japan.—There were no steerage passengers by this steamer, either Chinese or Japanese, and only two saloon Japanese passengers, who proceeded to Eastern points.

August 13th.—One Japanese passenger arrived on the train from Seattle this day. He was, however, an old-timer in the Province, but not having reported himself the question arose as to his admissibility. He, however, complied with the requirements of the Act and was allowed to pass.

August 22nd.—Two Japanese passengers I allowed to land ex SS. "Mainlander" from Seattle. These men were in charge of the master of the American schooner "King Cyrus," to sail from this port, and had been engaged as sailors to ship on board the vessel. I saw them on board the schooner, on which they duly sailed without having any communication with the shore.

August 24th.—One Japanese passenger was allowed to land ex SS. "Mainlander" from Seattle, on his way to Japan, per "Empress of Japan."

August 27th.—Two natives of the Phillipine Islands, holding return tickets and in this country on business, were allowed to land ex SS. "Mainlander." They remained here until the 31st, when, their business being completed, they returned by the same vessel to Seattle.

August 27th.—SS. "Empress of China" arrived this date, having no steerage passengers. There were only four Japanese saloon passengers, who proceeded to points East in each case.

Deputy Officer Cooksley reports six cases of deportation from the New Westminster district. In each case these were Japanese who were sent back to United States territory. I have not had a complete report from this district for the month of August. I have also to report that there have been no cases from the outlying districts.

August 30th.—I proceeded to Point Roberts this day, to meet the United States Immigration Officers on the 31st. The meeting was a very satisfactory one, with the result that most friendly relations have been established with the authorities on the other side, who were pleased to acknowledge the assistance they had at all times received from your staff, and readily proffered to reciprocate in every way they could and to the utmost of their power.

Vancouver, B. C., September 30th, 1901.

I have the honour to lay before you report for the month of September, and cannot but express my regret that it will be the last one my duty demands me to submit to you. It is to be regretted, I think, that the Dominion authorities have seen fit to close this branch of the Department just as it was in thorough working order, and was recognised and respected by both Japanese and Chinese.

September 3rd, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—A Japanese shipped as passenger here for Seattle, but on arrival at that port was refused permission to land by the port doctor, on account of sickness, and was returned to Vancouver, where he was permitted to go ashore to his people.

September 5th, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—A Japanese passenger for this port by the above vessel was allowed to land here on this date; his naturalisation papers were in order.

September 7th, SS. Dolphin, Seattle to Skagway.—A Japanese passenger by this vessel *en route* to Skagway requested permission to land here for an hour or two. As he was able to comply with the requirements of the Act I allowed him to do so, and he afterwards continued on his journey to Skagway by the same vessel.

September 12th, SS. Mainlander.—Two Japanese passengers by this steamer to Seattle were refused permission to land, on account of sickness, and returned to this port by the same vessel, when I permitted them to return to their former homes.

September 14th, SS. Mainlander, from Seattle.—Two Japanese passengers were returned to this port by above steamer, having been refused landing at Seattle on the plea that they were paupers, having no money or effects.

September 17th, SS. Empress of India, from China and Japan.—There were no steerage Japanese passengers per this steamer and only three Japanese saloon passengers, one of whom resided at Vancouver and the other two were business men bound for Eastern points. They were of course all privileged to free transit.

New Westminster District.

Between the 24th of August and the 21st of September Mr. Cooksley reports from the above district having deported eleven Japanese from British Columbia territory to the United States.

Mr. N. Condy, assistant officer also of the above district, further reports during the month he was employed, viz., July 15th to August 15th, having returned to Washington State from British Columbia nine Japanese and three Chinese, who were illegally attempting an entrance into British Columbia.

Mission District.

The officer in charge of this district has no cases to report, no attempt at entrance having been made.

OTHER OUTLYING DISTRICTS.

There are no reports from any of the other outlying districts, so presumably there is nothing of interest to bring before you.

It may not be amiss to give expression of the obligation I and my deputies feel towards the officials of the United States Immigration Department, and to thank them through you for the ready assistance in the discharge of our duties they have at all times afforded us.

It is also gratifying to know that Mr. Healy, the United States Immigration Agent, has expressed to me feelings of a similar nature, and has notified his intention of reporting very favourably on this subject to the Department at Washington.

VICTORIA, B. C.:
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