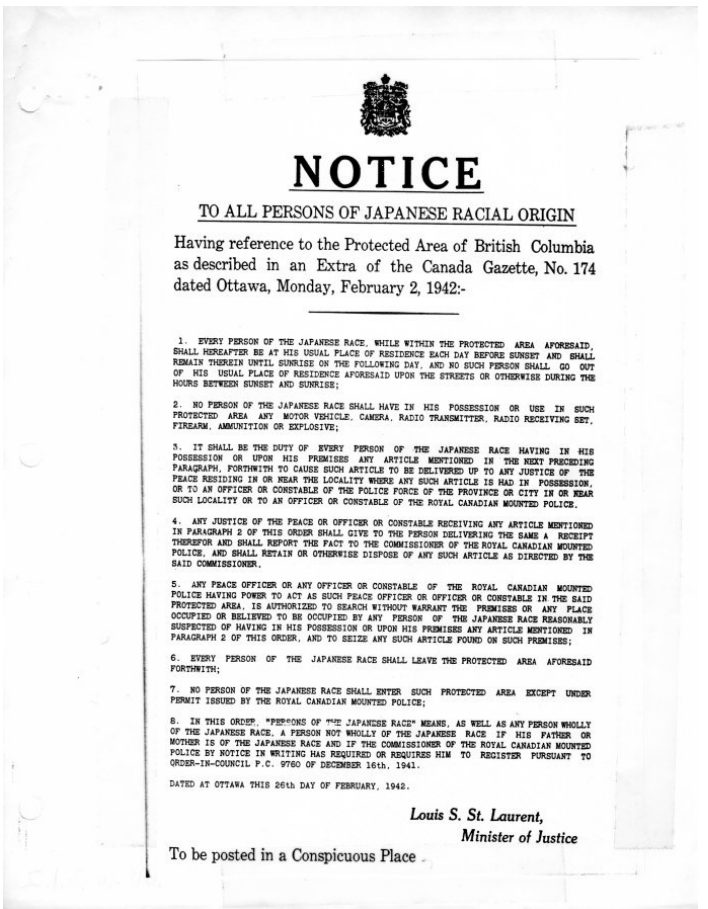


**Will We Wait Too Long?**  
*Editor, The Sun: Sir,—This is our country. If we want to hold it, we must take every step to safeguard it. This is a critical time. No Japanese should be allowed in the coastal area. They know our coast better than the average British Columbian. Rightly, or wrongly, we have never treated them as equals. They know it and resent it. There is little doubt that they think a lot of this country, but that does not make them loyal to our government. Will we do the sensible thing at this time, or will we wake up to find the little brown man prodding us with his bayonet and giving us orders we are not in a position to refuse.*  
**GEO. J. FELTON.**

**Ottawa's Timidity**  
*Editor, The Sun: Sir,—I am with deep concern the timidity with which the Jap situation in B. C. is being handled by Ottawa.*  
*Do our people not realize that out of a Jap population of 2,500 persons, a mere 200 are to be removed, thus leaving nearly 2,300 persons with no contact in our midst?*  
*The Ottawa Government asks B. C. to contribute its share towards the defense of Canada, but this last sell-out of the B.C. people will be remembered when we are asked to subscribe to War Savings on the next War Loan.*  
*After all, Ottawa is plodding along that she is not interested in the safety of Canada, so of what use are War Savings or War Loans?*  
*From now until the Jap push in properly dealt with, I for one shall not contribute in any way towards the war effort, and I know of others making the same resolve.*  
*After all, Ottawa says that B.C. is not in danger, who's wrong? That Canada is not, so why should I worry?*  
*I have lived for some years in Japan and I think I know these people and why they only inhabit the coast of B. C. or its navigable rivers.*  
*The words read Slave Path and Thunder Dams are full of Japs who know every trail or road, many of them run over a level of six feet. Remember, Vancouver, that electric light is a out and abroad with your die and home use.*  
*Yes, it can happen here as long as there is a single male Jap.*  
*Perhaps somebody can explain why the Japs did not observe the last blackout until reminded of the consequences?*  
*We look on The Sun as one more charlatan the cause of B.C. versus the Rising Sun.*  
**MISSION CITY. S. HENRY.**

Source: Letter to the editor submitted by S. Henry of Mission City, "Ottawa's Timidity" The Vancouver Sun, (February 5, 1942) vol. LVI, No. 107, p. 4, via Google Newspaper Archives: <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=xDR1AAAIBAJ&sjid=R4kNAAAIBAJ&pg=1035%2C4216562>



# Japanese Internment



## #3 Letter from an internee to his wife

Letters written by Mr. Kensuke Kitigawa to his wife, sent during his time in the Angler internment camp during World War II. Angler was considered a prison camp, reserved for males who spoke out or fought against internment.

**PRIMARY SOURCE**  
Daily life in Japanese internment camps

June 28, 1942  
On the 16th, 9:10 p.m., the special train loaded with 190 of our comrades left Vancouver. We passed through several tunnels and at dusk of the 17th we reached the border of the province of Alberta where the marker stands which says, "5332 feet above sea level." ... I wanted to send a telegram to you immediately but we were not allowed to. I am sorry.  
This camp is pretty well-equipped and from our group professionals were selected to become kitchen workers. So although the quantity is small, the food is quite tasty. The bugle wakes us at 6:30 in the morning. Breakfast is at 7:00, lunch at 12:00, and supper at 5:30. There are two roll calls: at 8:00 in the morning and at 9:30 in the evening. When we arrived here they were still heating with the wood stove, day and night. But two or three days ago, we stopped heating in the daytime. In this region the air is so dry that it is said to be very good for pneumonia and rheumatic problems. My upper right arm which was always aching is fine now, so I regard this new situation almost as if it were a spa. We all started to do some work for exercise. It was decided that I would begin working as a tailor, along with Mr. Kawai and Mr. Kimura, but since we still don't have a sewing machine, we can't begin to work. So please send me a thimble along with number four and sixteen needles.  
Please do not force yourself to work too hard, and take care. Please send my regards to the people from Duncan.

August 2, 1942  
I received your letter yesterday. Thank you for the photograph. You say you gained five pounds. Nothing can make me happier than this news. You say that Chinese people are now living in our house in Duncan. It does not matter who is living there. I hope that the government will settle the problem once peaceful times return. They say people in the interior camps like Sloan are living in tents. Even where you have been living now, a tent would be too cold for you with delicate health, and I doubt very much that you could survive winter there. Please do not listen to rumours. Don't follow what other people do, and instead please listen to your own better judgment.

—Kensuke Kitigawa



Seized Japanese Canadian fishing boats, 1942.  
Image 1352 courtesy of the Vancouver Public Library. Credit to the Province Newspaper.

by: Max Rasmussen



## Article by GEO J. Fulton

### Will We Wait Too Long?

*Editor, The Sun: Sir,—This is our country. If we want to hold it, we must take every step to safeguard it. This is a critical time. No Japanese should be allowed in the coastal area. They know our coast better than the average British Columbian. Rightly, or wrongly, we have never treated them as equals. They know it and resent it. There is little doubt that they think a lot of this country, but that does not make them loyal to our government. Will we do the sensible thing at this time, or will we wake up to find the little brown man prodding us with his bayonet and giving us orders we are not in a position to refuse.*

**GEO. J. FELTON.**

Many Canadians felt “uncomfortable” living with the Japanese. Pearl harbour had just been attacked by the Japanese, and people were scared. As the author points out, people thought that the Japanese “shouldn’t be allowed in the coastal area”. They thought an attack on their homeland was imminent, and that the Japanese people living on the coast would help their counterparts. The author also points out, that they’ve never treated them as equals, and the Japanese resent it. He’s insisting they do the sensible thing, by putting the Japanese into internment. This article represents the views of many Canadians at the time. People opposed the Japanese, and didn’t want them living in Canada. This was an unfounded view, as they had no real evidence, and were running off paranoia and confusion.

# Article by S. Henry of mission city

**Ottawa's Timidity**  
Editor, The Sun: Sir,—I note with deep concern the timidity with which the Jap situation in B. C. is being handled by Ottawa.  
Do our people not realize that, out of a Jap population of 25,000 persons, a mere 5000 are to be removed, thus leaving nearly 20,000 possible fifth columnists in our midst?  
The Ottawa Government asks B. C. to contribute its share towards the defense of Canada, but this last sell-out of the B. C. people will be remembered when we are asked to subscribe to War Savings or the next War Loan.  
After all, Ottawa is plainly showing that she is not interested in the safety of Canada, so of what use are War Savings or War Loans?  
From now until the Jap problem is properly dealt with, I for one shall not contribute in any way towards the war effort, and I know of others making the same resolve.  
After all, Ottawa says that B. C. is not in danger, which means that Canada is not, so why should I worry?  
I have lived for some years in Japan and I think I know these people and why they only inhabit the coast of B. C. or its navigable rivers.  
The woods round Stave Falls and Ruskin Dam are full of Japs who know every trail or road. Many of these men are over 40 years of age. Remember, Vancouver, that electric light is a necessity, and imagine a blackout and air-raid with your electric light cut off.  
Yes, it can happen here as long as there is a single male Jap.  
Perhaps somebody can explain why the Japs did not observe the last blackout until reminded of the consequences?  
We look to The Sun to once more champion the cause of B. C. versus the Rising Sun.  
Mission City. S. HENRY.

Japan was starting to become a military powerhouse. People were wondering where they would attack next. This letter was written before the government set laws against the Japanese, the author mentions that Ottawa isn't doing enough to "control" the Japanese. People at the time embodied the same thoughts, as people were totally against the Japanese living in Canada. They didn't see them as "true Canadians". Also, everyone was stereotyping them, to seem like these "enemy aliens". This letter embodies the ideals of many Canadians at that time. People were paranoid, scared, and confused about the war and what it's outcome would be. Again, Canadians perspectives were unfounded in this case. The author has some pretty radical views, and "evidence" that is not indeed true.



## Wartime propaganda created by the Canadian government



During WWII, propaganda was a big thing for both the allies and the Axis powers.

They would use it to degrade their enemies, and present false narratives in an effort to sway public opinion.

In this example, Canada used it to convince their people that the Japanese were a threat, and could attack them at any given time.

The government wanted people to think that interning these “enemy aliens”, is in their best interest as a country.

Canada wanted to portray themselves as the “victim”, showing this big, bad Japanese person attacking a merciless woman.

# Government notice by Louis S. St Laurent, Minister of Justice

On February 2nd, 1942, the Government issued a notice to all Canadians of Japanese heritage.

This notice introduced new restrictions against Japanese people.

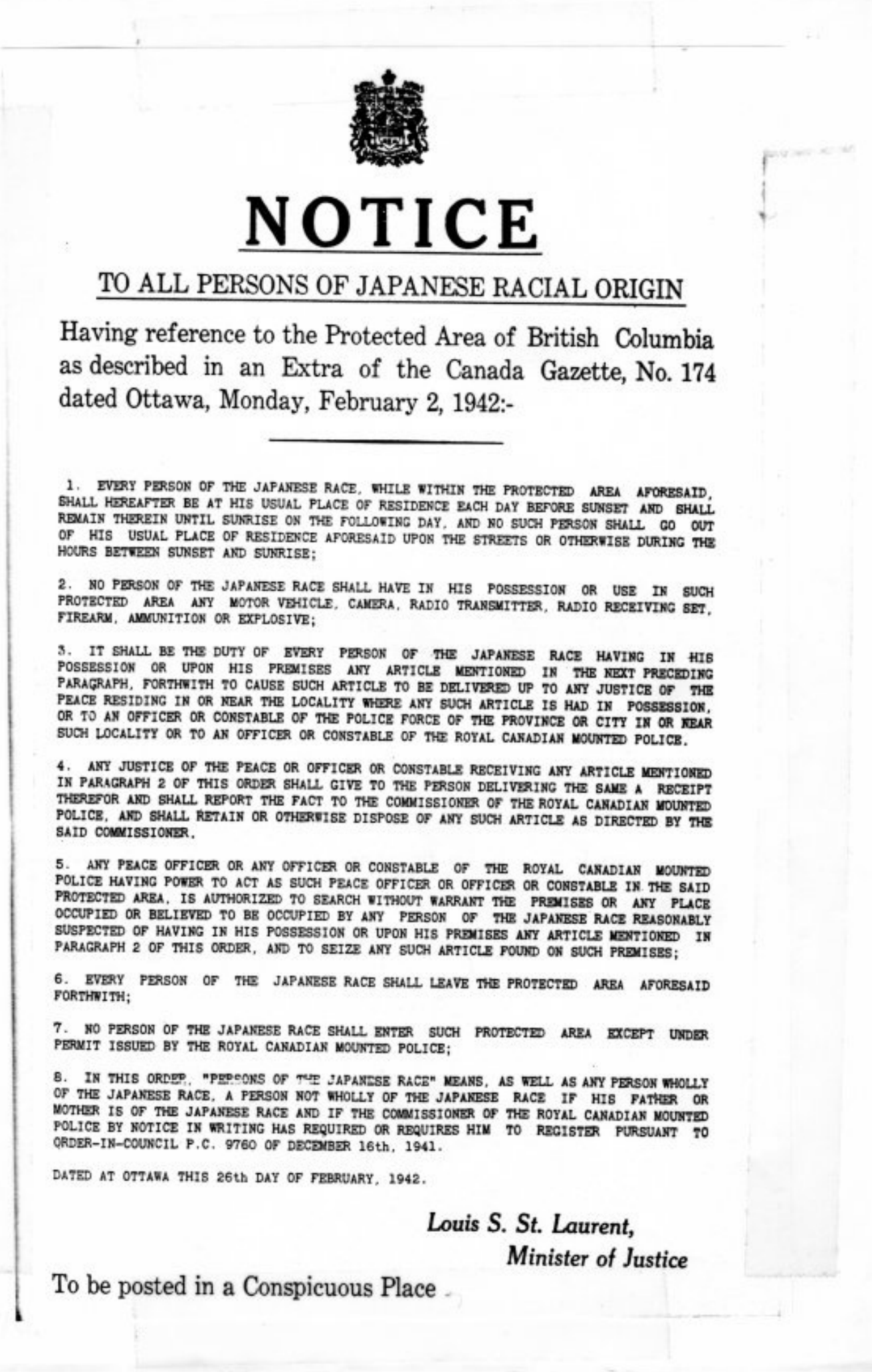
These restrictions regarded vehicles, radios, weapons, and businesses.

These laws stripped away the livelihoods of all Japanese Canadians, and left them with almost nothing.

These laws were put in place to prevent any chance of an “attack” on Canada’s west coast.

People were degraded, and left with practically nothing.

The government wanted them to feel isolated in Canadian society.





## Images of confiscated vehicles



As a result of these new restrictions, people's vehicles were taken away, and so were their livelihoods. Many Japanese people relied heavily on the Fishing business, and without a boat, there's nothing. And without cars and other vehicles, they couldn't travel anywhere, and live a normal life. The government wanted to reduce these people to nothing, and make them feel isolated in Canadian society. The seized cars were held in the PNE, which today, is a well known area in Vancouver. The seized vessels were taken, and sold to white fisherman.

## Image of the men's dormitory at the PNE



After pressure from many citizens, BC chose to intern all people of Japanese heritage.

The men, women, and children were all separated.

As a result, many families were separated and didn't reunite for over 7 years.

In most cases, people had to sleep in the barns with the animals.

Privacy was non-existent, as people had to hang drawsheets to have a sense of privacy.

The PNE was used as an area for interned Japanese.

It's pretty crazy to think that the PNE, an area we all know and love, was used to intern people in the 1940's.



# Letter from an internee

#3

## Letter from an internee to his wife

Letters written by Mr. Kensuke Kitigawa to his wife, sent during his time in the Angler internment camp during World War II. Angler was considered a prison camp, reserved for males who spoke out or fought against internment.

*Comments in brackets are not part of the original document. They have been added to assist the reader with difficult words.*



June 28, 1942

On the 16th, 9:18 p.m., the special train loaded with 190 of our comrades left Vancouver. We passed through several tunnels and at dusk of the 17th we reached the border of the province of Alberta where the marker stands which says, "5332 feet above sea level." ... I wanted to send a telegram to you immediately but we were not allowed to. I am sorry.

This camp is pretty well-equipped and from our group professionals were selected to become kitchen workers. So although the quantity is small, the food is quite tasty. The bugle wakes us at 6:30 in the morning. Breakfast is at 7:00, lunch at 12:00, and supper at 5:30. There are two roll calls: at 8:00 in the morning and at 9:30 in the evening. When we arrived here they were still heating with the wood stove, day and night. But two or three days ago, we stopped heating in the daytime. In this region the air is so dry that it is said to be very good for pneumonia and rheumatic problems. My upper right arm which was always aching is fine now, so I regard this new situation almost as if it were a spa. We all started to do some work for exercise. It was decided that I would begin working as a tailor, along with Mr. Kawai and Mr. Kimura, but since we still don't have a sewing machine, we can't begin to work. So please send me a thimble along with number four and sixteen needles.

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August 2, 1942

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-Kensuke Kitigawa

Kitigawa, Kensuke. Diary, in *Stone voices: Wartime writings of Japanese-Canadian Issei*, Koibo Ota, Ed. (Montreal: Vehicule Press, 1991), p. 99, 101.

For the interned Japanese, the quality of life was horrible.

Families were separated due to these camps, so they used telegrams and letters to communicate.

In these letters, it depicts how people were moved away from home, to places they have never seen.

They describe their schedules, and what they could and couldn't do.

They also describe the intense workload, and how they were driven to exhaustion day in and day out.

It would take months for these letters to arrive, so communication was difficult.

They talk about how their homes have been inhabited, and hope that they can get it back when peace is restored.



## Prime minister Mulroney's apology



On September 22nd, 1988, Canadian Prime minister John Mulroney formally apologized for the Japanese internment.

He promised 21,000\$ to each Japanese person affected by the events.

This gesture didn't fix the past, but it safe guarded the future.

He also created the "Canadian race relations foundation", to make sure such discrimination never happens again.

The internment during the 1940's had affected over 22,000 Japanese, and for many people this bill was a good thing.

This was a first step towards a better future for the Japanese, and for Canada.