

OFFICE OF
DEPUTY MINISTER AND SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTITUTES

In replying, write only on one side of the paper
and refer to one subject in a letter



THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VICTORIA, B. C.,

April 12th, 1922.

The Hon. J. D. MacLean,
Provincial Secretary,
Parliament Buildings.

Sir:-

The Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture
has informed me that you desire a copy of my reply to
resolutions received in this Department having reference
to the Oriental question and I enclose herewith a copy
of a letter received from the Secretary of the Willow
Point Women's Institute together with a copy of my reply
thereto.

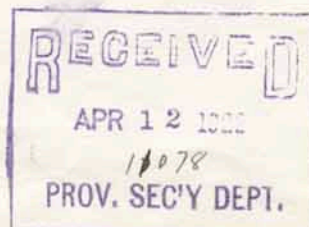
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DW/GML.

Encl.



D. Hancock
DEPUTY MINISTER.

Provincial Secretary correspondence pertaining to the Women's Institutes' motion
to exclude Orientals from owning property

Creston Institute.

Whereas Orientals are gaining such a foothold in Canada as to be detrimental to the best development of the country Be it resolved that the Women's Institute request that measures be taken to exclude Orientals and to prevent those resident in the country from buying and owning real estate.

Moved by Mrs. Malleudaine
Seconded by Mrs. Laelick

endorsed by the Rock Creek Women's Institute

May Lindsay
Secretary

Creston Institute

Whereas Orientals are gaining such a foothold in Canada as to be detrimental to the best development of the country, Be it resolved that the Women's Institute request that measures be taken to exclude Orientals and to prevent those resident in the country from buying and owning real estate.

Moved by Mrs. Malleudaine
Seconded by Mrs. Laelick

Verso:

endorsed by the Rock Creek Women's Institute

May Lindsay
Secretary

, B. C.,

April 11th, 1922.

Mrs. H. Townshend,
Secy. Willow Point W. I.,
R.R. No. 1, Nelson, B.C.

Dear Madam:-

recruit data

I have your letter of the 6th inst., enclosing a resolution passed by your Institute which has reference to the question of excluding Orientals and preventing those already in the Province from owning or occupying land.

In this connection I would say that at the Spring Session of the Legislature, 1921, a sum of \$2000. was voted for the purpose of defraying the cost of a survey of the Oriental situation. During April and May, 1921, by order of the Minister of Agriculture, a careful survey was made under direction of staff officials of this Department; the names of all Orientals leasing or owning land were secured and complete data as to acreage owned or leased, nature and amount of production, etc., was carefully tabulated. As a result of this survey it was found that the Chinese are lessees of land, own very little and engage in truck farming chiefly, while, on the other hand, the Japanese are landowners and are occupied in the growing of small fruits, dairying and mixed farming. *Govt*

The above information was forwarded to the Right Honourable Arthur Meighen, then Premier of Canada, and he brought it to the notice of the Imperial Conference held in London, England, in June last. Later the question was dealt with by the Washington Conference and no doubt the findings of these Conferences will be recognized by the Government of Canada when its Immigration Policy is being formulated.

From the above narrative of facts you will readily see that all Governments are doing their utmost to deal effectively with the Oriental question, but, the

Mrs. H. Townshend.

-2-

April 11th, 1922.

powers of Provincial Governments and Legislatures are limited and some phases of the question do not come within the scope of their jurisdiction. Perhaps you may have noticed from recent Press despatches that enactments passed by the B.C. Legislature, designed to restrict the employment of Oriental labour by contractors doing Government work, were disallowed by the Courts on the ground that the Legislature had no power to pass such legislation.

Women's Institutes in B.C. and in other Provinces are doing valuable service in promoting public welfare, and may I suggest that you forward a copy of your resolution to landowners who are known to be leasing land to Orientals-at an annual rental of \$50. to \$100. per acre. I have made this suggestion to other Institutes during the past year and already they have succeeded, in some districts, in persuading owners of land to agree not to lease land to Orientals. It might be worth your while to bring this before members of your Institute at next meeting.

Answering the first paragraph of your letter, I would say that I do not think any fault can be found with your Institute for having debated the Oriental question and passed the resolution forwarded to the Department and I am glad to have had this opportunity of explaining the Government's position to you.

Yours very truly,

DW/GML.

Deputy Minister.