

*Excluded  
Losses*

JL.15 B 8

Masaki reported also that he had negotiated for the families who left for Crystal City yesterday as to their claims for refund of shares and profit dividends. There were great many technical difficulties to pay the money to the families, which is prohibited by the WRA. (Evidently, the WRA does not allow an withdrawal from the Cooperative, or it does not allow a pay-

Jan 19

Local  
Council  
Meeting

JANUARY 19 -- (3)

ment of money to a person any more than to another person.) Inagaki, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Cooperative, advanced money out of his own pocket and paid off the Crystal City bound families. This is an expression of sympathy toward the interned families.

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Jan 20  
Evacuee  
Losses  
(Cross ref  
in Agric)

T, the Block Manager of 19, a man in 70's, told me that the Japanese farmers who had started farming in Colorado after the outbreak of war have lost lots of money. These farmers are those who had evacuated voluntarily from California before the mass evacuation.

Other Japanese farmers who had gone out of relocation centers on share-crop contracts did not fare any better. They barely made enough money to pay for their food bills. Most of these Japanese are now back in relocation centers, and are awaiting for better terms of farm contracts to relocate again. They had their lesson, and they would not go out unless their subsistence are guaranteed by the land owners on share-crop basis.

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Feb 1

A regular weekly meeting of the Block Managers was held in the conference room this afternoon.

*Examine  
Losses*

The matter of baggages for the internees' families who had left for Crystal City, Texas, was brought out. (Cf: January 17, page 1). Their <sup>of</sup>bagges are still left at the Parker depot, becuase they were not accepted by the railroad ~~for~~ *due to* defective packing. The crating was done with inferior lumber and many of the crates were broken.

The families had already reached the Texas city, and their inquiries made the representatives of the Local Council to act upon the matter. They went to Parker yesterday to inspect the baggages.

Tom Sakai, the Supervisor, requested those blocks from which the families had departed to rejoin the internees to furnish volunteers to go out to Parker and to repack those damaged crates.

Feb 8.

Momita of the Evacuee Property Department requested the Managers to inform the residents that those who storaged their properties with the Nishihongwanji and the Kôyasan Temple in Los Angeles at the time of evacuation should report to his office, as the storaged goods would be transferred to the WRA warehouse. He reported that they had been plidferred.

April 13

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The following article appeared in the Los Angeles Times  
of the April 13th issue:

### Howser Files Suit to Seize Alien Jap Land

First of a series of suits, intended to return to the State  
hundreds of acres of valuable Los Angeles County land, secretly  
held by alien Japs through "dummy" titles, was filed yesterday by  
the office of Dist. Atty. Howser.

Enclosed  
Howser



APRIL 13 -- (9)

Acting under the California alien land law, a suit was filed against Yukichi Yamaguchi, wealthy alien who returned to Japan in 1935, calling for seizure by the State of a four and one-half-acre tract, near WALTERIA, valued at \$40,000.

The action, a "petition to declare escheat to the State of California," alleges that Yamaguchi acquired possession of the farm land, located near the intersection of 242nd St. and Hawthorne Blvd. in August, 1930, through a "dummy" title transaction.

Hideo Suyenaga, an American-born Jap, is alleged to have purchased the land in his name for Yamaguchi.

Investigators Thomas Slack and Philip T. Tower, who found Suyenaga in Arizona and interviewed him recently, said that he told them that he acted only as a "dummy" for Yamaguchi and that all he received for his part in the transaction was \$20 and a necktie.

Yamaguchi, following his return to Japan and up until the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, received regular monthly payments from relatives who acted as custodians of the property. The tract is now held in trust by Stanley C. Mellier, harbor district banker. He is also named a defendant in the suit.

Learning that Yamaguchi was planning to return to Japan, Suyenaga is said to have asked that the property, which had been improved with expensive greenhouses, be taken out of his name. As a result, Yamaguchi is asserted to have had the tract deeded to the American-born wife of his alien nephew, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, who held it until the Jap evacuation from the West Coast in 1942. Hiroshi is asserted to have made regular payments on profits from the land to his uncle in Japan.

Dist. Atty. Howser explained that the procedure will constitute a "test case" in California. He said it is his intention to require Mrs. Hiroshi Yamaguchi, who is now in the Middle West, to prove that she acquired the land in good faith. The alien land law is also said to provide for the return of such land to the State if it is shown in court that the land was ever held illegally by an alien.

Howser declared that it is his opinion that many valuable acres of California land are held by alien Japs through "dummy" titles.

April 14

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The following article appeared in the Los Angeles Times of the April 14th issue:

Twenty Farms Involved in Jap Property Suits

San Diego, April 13. -- Preparation of escheatment proceedings against Japanese-owned properties in San Diego County was under today after conferences between Dist. Atty. Thomas Whelan and Everett Mattoon, Deputy State Attorney General.

When filed in Superior Court, the proceedings will allege that the property involved -- 20 farms valued at almost \$200,000 ---was acquired fraudulently, in violation of the Alien Land Laws, Whelan said.

If it can be proved that alien Japanese fraudulently placed title of the land in the name of other persons eligible to own property, the land would revert back to the State, he explained.

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