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172  
meeting--1  
September 2, 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
with  
TRUCK CROP DIVISION

I. Topics:

1. Cultural practice
2. Cooperation
3. Coordination
4. Selection of Personnel

II. Discussion

1. The melon patch: Mr. Nitta, Mr. Takahash, and Mr. Yano will ask the cooperation of the Truck Farmers so that there will not be any competitive requisitions.
2. Celery patch, opposite Block #22 and #27: One-half of the patch will be in celery, and the other half in cabbage.
3. Firebreak 1A and 1B, highway 1A and 1B: Mr. Ishikawa and Mr. Kishiyama, will be co-managers.

Firebreak 2B; Mr. S. Takahashi will be in charge.

All workers will have to conform to the wishes of the managers of the particular plots.

Roll Call:

Executive Committee  
Frank Mizusawa  
Lyle Kurisaki  
Dr. W. Takahashi  
Mr. S. Nitta  
Mr. N. Yano  
Mr. S. Takahash

Advisory Board  
Mr. Morita  
Mr. Okuma  
Mr. Kishiyama  
Mr. Ishikawa  
Mr. Kamio  
Mr. Shiro Takahashi  
Mr. Mizutani  
Mr. Kitagawa



meeting--2  
September 3, 1942

Agricultural Executive Committee Meeting with Frank Fukuda,  
Mr. Tsuboi, and Harvey Suzuki. Mr. Nitta presiding.

I. Topics:

1. Clarification on Agricultural Program
2. Melon Patch to work with Department of Agriculture.  
Conformation to decision of Executive Committee



meeting--3  
September 5, 1942

Agricultural Executive Committee Meeting with Wade Head,  
Project Director of the Colorado River War Relocation Authority.

I. Topics Discussed

1. Approval of Agricultural organization
2. Equipment and materials purchase
3. 1943 Budget
4. Warehouse
5. Guayule
6. Transportation
7. Labor
8. Agricultural problem to be referred to  
Agricultural Executive Committee



172

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Truck Crops Advisor Meeting

September 8, 1942

8:00 p.m.

Rec. Hall #37

Summary of Discussion

Roll Call:

Executive Committee

Frank Mizusawa

Lyle Kurisaki

Dr. W. Takahashi

Mr. S. Nitta

Mr. N. Yano

Mr. S. Takahashi

Advisory Board

Mr. Morita

Mr. Okuma

Mr. Kishiyama

Mr. Ishikawa

Mr. Kamio

Mr. Shiro Takahashi

Mr. Mizutani

Mr. Kitagawa

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All workers will have to conform to the wishes of the managers of the particular plots.



172

5

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 23, 1942

The meeting was called to order by Frank Mizusawa. Roll Call was taken and the following were present:

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. S. Nitta     | 4. Dr. Takahashi |
| 2. N. Yano      | 5. F. Mizusawa   |
| 3. A. Takahashi | 6. L. Kurisaki   |

### I. Semi-Monthly Meetings with Administrative Heads

- A. The Department of Agriculture occupies the position of vital importance among the Projects in Poston. The problems which arise daily in the Department are naturally urgent and important. Consequently, they require serious consideration and proper approval or adjustment by the Administration. We fully recognize that the Administration Offices are extremely busy; therefore, we feel that our requests for urgent interviews or for special meetings, time and again, cause annoying effects on the daily schedule of the Administration Office, especially the offices of Mr. Head, Project Director; Mr. Mathiesen, Agriculture and Industry; Mr. Sharp, Supervisor of Agriculture and Industry; Mr. Sharp. Therefore, we hereby suggest to the Executive Committee that they arrange and establish the regular semi-monthly Executive Committee meetings of the Department with the presence of Mr. Head, Mr. Mathiesen, and Mr. Sharp, representing the Administration. Therefore, the accumulating important problems could receive timely attention; thus, in this way, it would enable both the Department of Agriculture and the Administration to make proper progress in solving the problems under the pressing needs.

### II. Letter to Mr. Gross from Project Director concerning Guepule Official Viewpoints

- A. That the general opinion of the Administration that Guepule is to be carried out purely from an experimental standpoint.
- B. That the Colorado River Relocation Authority is still in the policy-forming stage.
- C. That the objective of the Colorado River Relocation Authority is to supply as much as possible of the food required for the adequate diet of the evacuees. The production program for 1942 and 1943 should be almost wholly directed to this end.
- D. That the War Relocation Authority is behind in its schedule of subjugation and production due to the lack of needed heavy equipment; therefore, Guepule Project here in Poston cannot be grown on a large scale production, but from the experimental standpoint, they can be carried out nicely.



III. Subjugation of Land South of Poston--Area near the Canal

- A. It was the opinion of the Executive Committee that area south of Poston No. 1 should be subjugated and cleared first.
- B. Justifications
  - 1. That the main canal leading to Section 34 will not be ready until 1943 and probably too late for spring crop.
  - 2. Since the canal leading from the Recreational Strip to Camp No. 2 is coming along much faster, the area near the canal should be subjugated for immediate production.
- C. That the Executive Committee contact Mr. Rupkey of the Engineer Department and all those persons concerned to subjugate the said land south of the Poston No. 1 for the purpose of vegetable production.

IV. Contact

It was stated by Dr. Takahashi that the Project Director has a very efficient Executive assistant, Mr. L. L. Nelson. His job is to procure all needed materials for the Colorado River War Relocation Authority. It was suggested by Mr. A. Takahashi that we contact Mr. Nelson for an interview and discussion and present to him our needs.

V. Relationship of Poston Schools and Agriculture

- A. Dr. Takahashi stated that he was asked by Dr. Carey whether the Agricultural Department would cooperate with the Schools in their Project.
- B. It was the opinion of the Executive Committee that it is a very good idea, but we must know what Dr. Carey has in mind in regard to relationship of schools and Agriculture. Therefore, it was suggested that Dr. Takahashi contact Dr. Carey and discuss further what the program is.
- C. That the Agricultural Department should form a policy regarding the relationship; namely,
  - (1) That Agriculture Department should establish our own program.
  - (2) Select some date once a week for lectures or tours of the fields.
  - (3) In case of new developments in Agricultural Department that schools will be notified to that effect. etc.

VI. Dr. Toyo Shimizu

- A. Dr. Takahashi stated that Dr. Toyo Shimizu is making an intensive survey on diets, and that it would be educational to call on him for various food needs of the evacuees in Poston.
- B. It was suggested we meet Dr. Shimizu and discuss with him thoroughly on diets.



VII. Conditions Leading to Formation of the Department of Agriculture

A. Policies followed:

1. Personnel of the Agricultural Department to be distributed by region, by experience, and by character.
2. Delay of vacant position until all facts of personnel are compiled.

B. That Farm Management is a body of principles and procedure resulting from the experiences, observations, and studies of farmers, farm managers, scientists, businessmen, and others to guide in proper selecting, organizing, equipping, and administering of many farms or groups of farms under one management for the purpose of maintaining or increasing earnings; therefore, a thorough survey was made in this regard.

C. The following elements of Farm Organization were thoroughly investigated previous to the organization of the Department of Agriculture.

- (1) Location
- (2) Size
- (3) Shape
- (4) Boundaries (legal)
- (5) Nature of farming--including kinds and acres or numbers of crops, productive livestock, pasture, woodlots, etc.
- (6) Production per farm and per unit of crops, livestock, pasture, woodlot, etc.,
- (7) Use of product; namely, selling, feeding, home consumption, etc.
- (8) Objective of farming program.
- (9) Need for and suitability of equipment:
  - (a) Buildings
  - (b) Pumping plants
  - (c) Other improvements
  - (d) Motive power
  - (e) Implements and machinery, etc.
- (10) Suitability of farm arrangements
  - (a) Layout of fields
  - (b) Choice of farmstead site
  - (c) Arrangement of farm building
- (11) Gross incomes per farm and per unit of crops and livestock, including availability and suitability of markets and marketing facilities.
- (12) Expenditures per farm and per unit of crops and livestock including factors of hired labor, use of credit.
- (13) Earnings per farm and per unit of crops and livestock; amount and adequacy.
- (14) Amount of capital represented by:
  - (a) Current worth
  - (b) Investment
- (15) Operator duties, abilities, and capacities.



IX. Internal Structure and Functions of the Department of Agriculture

GENERAL MANAGER OF PROJECT  
(As part of his Total Duties)

Chief Agriculturist

Farm Manager

Transportation

Superintendent

One for each of the various departments or divisions.

Vegetable  
Field Crops  
Livestock and  
Range  
Wild Life  
Landscaping &  
Nursery

Foreman

Blacksmithing  
and repairs  
Yard Foreman\*  
Warehouse

\*Responsible for  
shelter and care  
of equipment

Purchasing Dept.  
Making requisitions;  
receiving supplies;  
safeguarding supplies;  
allocating to different departments on order of farm manager; keeping of records of orders, receipts, disbursements.

Farm Bookkeeping  
And Disbursing Dept.  
Maintaining records of labor; making out payroll checks; paying for materials and supplies on O. K. of purchasing Department keeping enterprise records, keeping records of cropping programs, rotations, yields, etc.

Experimental  
Work

Education



X. Membership of the Department of Agriculture

A. Divisions

1. Truck Crop
2. Field Crop
3. Citrus Fruit
4. Deciduous Fruit
5. Poultry
6. Hog
7. Dairy
8. Beef Cattle
9. Fish Culture
10. Miscellaneous Production
11. Nursery & Landscape
12. Agricultural Experiment Station--Technical Investigation
13. Marketing
14. Divisions of Operation
  - a. Transportation
  - b. Labor
  - c. Maintenance & Repair
  - d. Shops
  - e. Materials and Supplies
  - f. Statistics
  - g. Irrigation

B. Members of the Board of Directors are selected by specialty enterprise.

C. Executive Committees, officers, and general managers are selected by the Board of Directors.

D. Functions of the Department of Agriculture

1. Productions
2. Technical Investigation
3. Marketing
4. Obtaining and handling farm laborers
5. Financing farm operations
6. Keeping of farm records and books
7. Safeguarding legal rights
8. Rendering reports
9. Investigating leases and other contracts
10. Selection of farms; choices of enterprises, kinds and extent.
11. Determining, equipping--kinds, amounts, needs and costs.
12. Estimating capital requirement
13. Calculating earnings, analyzing farm business
14. Planning reorganization

II. Progress of the Department of Agriculture

A. Primary Development

1. Assignment of Frank Mizusawa to Department of Agriculture and Industry.



2. Creation of "Dust Control Crew" for Mr. Frazier.
  - (a) Transfeered to Engineering Dept.
3. Formation of Bermuda grass crew
  - (a) Transplanting grass sod
4. Landscape gardens for Administrative ground
  - (a) Harry Kikuchi in charge
  - (b) Consisting of old men between 50-65 years of age.
5. Soil Division
  - (a) E. A. Nieschmidt - Associate Soil Scientist
  - (b) Clifford Zuroosks - Assistant
  - (c) George Shibata - in charge of crew
  - (d) Soil Survey
6. Formation of Subjugation Crew
  - (a) Lyle Kurisaki of Department of Agriculture aided in formation of responsible crew
  - (b) Frank Fukuda in charge
7. Nursery Division
  - (a) H. Kikuchi in charge
  - (b) Mitsunaga - supervising foreman
  - (c) Construction of lath house
8. Guayule or Rubber Production experiment
  - (a) Under Poston Agricultural Experiment Station
  - (b) Headed by Dr. William Takahashi - Director of Experiment Station
  - (c) Frank Kuwahara, Superintendent
  - (d) Dr. Robert Emerson
9. Committee on work - hour control
  - (a) Frank Mizusawa, chairman
  - (b) Consist of
    1. Agriculture Department
    2. Factory Department
    3. Block Managers
10. Fish Culture Project
  - (a) Selection of site
  - (b) Planning
  - (c) Subjugation of land
  - (d) John Marumoto in charge
11. Hog Project
  - (a) Selection of site
  - (b) Planning
  - (c) Subjugation of land
  - (d) William Kobayashi - M. Nishi in charge
12. Poultry Project
  - (a) Selection of site
  - (b) Planning
  - (c) Subjugation of land
  - (d) Fred, Roy Kobayashi, and Minoru Nitta
13. Seed & Supply Division
  - (a) James Katayama & Joe Yoshimura in charge
    - (1) Field seeds
    - (2) Vegetable seeds



- (b) Fertilizer and chemicals
- (c) Small agriculture tools and hardware
- 14. Agriculture Equipment, Repair and Maintenance Division and Transportation
  - (a) Headed by Henry Sakemi
  - (b) Dispatching trucks and tractors
- 15. Supervisor of Agriculture, W. C. Sharp, selected by H. A. Mathiesen, Chief of Agric. & Industry
  - (a) To help various project
- 16. Firebreak Vegetable production project
  - (a) Heade by Hervey Suzuki
- 17. Entomology Division
  - (a) George Kido and George Adachi
- 18. Dr. William Takahashi - Director of Agriculture Experiment Station
- 19. Charles Onoye selected by Frank Mizusawa to head Agriculture Project in Camp No. II
- 20. Subjugation crew selected by Charles Onoye.
- 21. Nursery and Landscape crew of Camp No. II making plans
- 22. Discussion and selection of Farm Enterprise accounting system
- 23. Formation of Agriculture Board of Directors and selection of six members to Executive Committee
- Members of Executive Committee
  - 1. Frank Mizusawa
  - 2. Lyle Kurisaki
  - 3. Dr. William Takahashi
  - 4. S. Nitta
  - 5. N. Yano
  - 6. A. Takahash
- 24. Distribution of vegetable weeds to each block
- 25. Accomplishment of Each Project to Date
  - (A) Fish Culture Project
    - (1) Forty acres land cleared in underbrushes removed
    - (2) Waiting for Engineers' Department to make ponds
    - (3) Waiting for materials and supplies
    - (4) Waiting for fish stock
  - (B) Hog Project
    - (1) Fifty acres land subjugated
    - (2) Waiting for Engineers' Dept. to level off the hog pen site
    - (3) Waiting for materials and supplies
    - (4) Pumping system requested
    - (5) Stocks
  - (C) Poultry project
    - (1) Sixty acres subjugated
    - (2) Underbrush cleared and ready for building
    - (3) Waiting for materials and supplies
    - (4) Pumping system requested
    - (5) Stock



- (d) Nursery Project
  - (1) Construction of 60 x 100 lath house completed
  - (2) Ready for vegetable seedling planting
  - (3) Waiting for more lumber and supplies to construct eight more lath house for reforestation program
- (e) Vegetable Project
  - (1) Firebreak soil prepared and ready for planting
  - (2) First cucumber planted
  - (3) "Watermelon" patch squash planted
  - (4) Celery production under way in lath house ready to be transplanted in field
  - (5) Tractor and equipment and tillage tools not sufficient to do a good job.

B. Accessory Development

- 1. Need for and request for transportation if various projects are to become a success.
- 2. Need for communication, telephone for Agricultural building.
- 3. Labor--wages; clarification on "Cash Advances"
- 4. Warehousing
  - (a) Abuses among the Caucasians on warehouse requisitions
  - (b) Warehousing needs improvements
- 5. What are the Agricultural policies on the following subjects?
  - (a) Production and Utilization
  - (b) Financing
  - (c) Wage adjustment in relation to cash advances
  - (d) Distribution of income
  - (e) Marketing of Agricultural products--in camps, other centers, etc.
- 6. Request made to Mr. Head to organize, coordinate, and plan committee for Agricultural program consisting of both Japanese and Caucasians.
- 7. Clarification on Workmen's Compensation
  - (a) In field
  - (b) On furlough
- 8. Immediate need for dissimulation of information both in English and Japanese to keep harmony and understanding.
- 9. Shoes, clothing, and other essentials to health not adequate for workers.
- 10. Forgetfulness on part of the Supervisor of Agriculture creates embarrassment for Agricultural Division heads and workers; to a certain extent, it creates inter-departmental misunderstanding.

III. Possible Future Development

- A. Dr. Takahashi stated there is a possibility for livestock developments, truck and field crop in production, citrus and deciduous developments. He



stated that he will contact all Agricultural Experiment Stations for information.

XIII. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

- A. The Department is properly organized, both inside and outside activities, and is under full function and control. However, because of the fact that the much needed materials, supplies, and equipment are limited on account of rations and freezes, the future development of most divisions, except Truck gardening crops, is very discouraging.
- B. We recommend that the Administration give us more assistance in securing the materials and supplies and equipment in a more smooth and orderly fashion.
- C. We also recommend to experiment and investigate varieties of food producing trees, vines and productive livestock.

Meeting adjourned; 11:45 p.m.



172  
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September 23, 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND TRUCK CROP  
MEETINGS

The meeting was called to order by Harvey Suzuki, Truck Crop Superintendent.

Roll Call:

- |                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. Takahash   | 9. H. Suzuki   |
| 2. S. Nitta      | 10. Tsuboi     |
| 3. N. Yano       | 11. Kishiyama  |
| 4. L. Kurisaki   | 12. Morita     |
| 5. F. Mizusawa   | 13. Nakata     |
| 6. Wm. Takahashi | 14. Nagareda   |
| 7. S. Ishikawa   | 15. Okuma      |
| 8. Kitagawa      | 16. Miyagi     |
|                  | 17. G. Shibata |

I. Discussion of Planting and Seeding

- A. Plot South of 4 & 5 block 1 acre to plant under cabbage.
- B.  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres near the hospital to be broccoli headed by Okuma and Kamiyo.
- C. Recreation Strip South of canteen to be seeded in vegetables.

II. 80 Acres Field

On September 19, 1942, the following farmers of the Truck Crop Division accompanied Harvey Suzuki to investigate the 80 acres field next to the Indian Day School.

- 1. Mr. Ayaka Takahashi
- 2. Mr. Ishikawa
- 3. Mr. Kurisaki
- 4. Mr. Yano
- 5. Mr. Suzuki



6. Mr. Tsuboi
7. Mr. Kishiyama
8. Mr. Morita
9. Mr. Nagareda
10. Mr. Nakata
11. Mr. Okuma
12. Mr. Kitagawa
13. Mr. Miyagi
14. Mr. Shibata

Mr. George Shibata of the Soils Division accompanied and reported on the drainage, slope, alkali content, profile, and morphology.

It was the unanimous decision of truck farmers to reject the leasing of the 80 acres plot on the following reasons:

1. Because of the fact that materials and supplies and equipment are limited on account of priorities and freezes and cannot be had on a moments notice.
2. There is no facility for transportation to and fro from the field.
3. Labor management under the prevailing wage scale is too difficult outside of the camp.
4. Problem of distribution of equipment and its utilization.
5. No buildings for living quarter and subsistence.
6. That farmers who takes the responsibility of growing vegetable crops want the assurance of an even flow of materials and equipment, otherwise they refuse to accept the position.

The above points came out after analyzing the form on the following points.

1. Location of farm
2. Size of farm
3. Shape of farm
4. Boundaries of farm
5. Nature of farming
6. Production of farm
7. Use of products
8. Objectives of farming program
9. Need for & suitability of equipment



- a. Building
  - b. Irrigation water
  - c. Motive power
  - d. Other improvements
  - e. Implements and machinery
10. Suitability of farm arrangements
- a. Layout of fields
  - b. Choice of farmstead site
  - c. Arrangement of farm buildings
11. Operator's duties, abilities, and capacities
12. Labor Management and wages
13. Incentive for farming outside under prevailing conditions.
14. Environment conditions
15. Season of Planting
16. Lease requirements

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Frank Mizusawa  
Department Agriculture



172

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 26, 1942

Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Frank Mizusawa, and roll call was taken with the following members being present:

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. A. Takahashi | 4. Dr. W. Takahashi |
| 2. S. Nitta     | 5. L. Kurisaki      |
| 3. N. Yano      | 6. F. Mizusawa      |

I. Meeting with Dr. Carey - Education & Agriculture

- A. Dr. Takahashi announced a meeting is to be held in Mess Hall 32, 10:00 a.m., Monday morning, September 28, 1942. All executive committee are requested to attend.
- B. Dr. Carey and Hitoshi Nitta were in charge of the last meeting held with Mr. Shepard, as main speaker.
- C. Dr. Takahashi stated that during the discussion with Dr. Carey, the main purpose of the Agricultural program was to produce food for camp consumption, was stressed.
- D. Dr. Carey has no definite plan concerning the Agricultural program in school and requested a plan and advise of the Department.
- E. Dr. Carey tends to lean more toward the vocational and practical teaching and wants to work in close coordination with the actual production. A plan should be formulated as soon as possible and submitted to Dr. Carey.
- F. It was further stated by those present that good rigid training in fundamentals, the "three R's" should be stressed and taught more thoroughly, and then, the rest will follow. When Issei started farming, many of them lacked the proper educational background for successful farming; yet, a large percentage of them have proved very successful.
- G. It was the opinion of Dr. Takahashi that to stress agriculture too much would be unwise. Young people are trying to get away from it. It would be far better to draw them into it gradually. Subjects like history, political science, arithmetic, English, and languages (Latin, German, Japanese) should be included in the curriculum. Languages



like German and Japanese are essential; however, these might not meet the approval of the Army to be taught in schools here.

- H. Mr. Mizusawa stated that the majority of the young people lacked training in expressing thought, both oral and written. Courses in public speaking and English should be two of the major subjects, and students should be encouraged to enroll in these classes because of their necessity later in life.
- I. Therefore, our stand should be the teaching of fundamentals, and a program should be submitted when it is on a sound basis.

II. Report on Mr. Rupkey in Regard to 320 Acres West of Poston

- A. Water will not be available for the above acres.
- B. Mr. Rupkey, Engineer for Poston, is willing to open the southern section between Camp 1 and 2, Section 2.
- C. Mr. Armstrong requests that the Committee decide upon this question.
- D. Inspection tour on Tuesday morning, 3 a.m. was decided upon, calling for assistance from Messrs. Suzuki, Shibata, and Fukuda.

III. Proposition of Semi-Monthly Meetings with Mr. Head, Project Director

- A. A memorandum from this office was sent Mr. Head in connection with semi-monthly meetings with him. No answer has been received because the Project Director is out of town.

IV. Discussion on Labor

- A. Dr. Takahashi, in his interview with Mr. Shepard, was advised that some program or alternative should be formulated in regard to available manpower. Due to the acute shortage of men outside, some 50,000,000 men must be recruited to keep the assembly lines and agricultural farms producing, the WRA will permit those who have outside labor to leave the Center.
- B. Farms are being abandoned in the East and Middle East by farmers who are being attracted to defense work. There is a desperate need for able-bodied farmers to alleviate the shortage.
- C. Consequently, the Japanese evacuees might be called upon to recuperate these farms.



V. Discussion on Farm Program

- A. According to Mr. Shepard, the tendency of the Government is to do away with an elaborate plan for Poston due to lack of equipment, rationing, freezing, and other handicaps.
- B. Subsistence such as vegetables, hogs, poultry, etc., for home consumption only is being encouraged.
- C. If children, women, and old men are left in Camp, it was the consensus of opinion that the Government will provide for subsistence.
- D. A diversity of produce should be grown; and those managing these projects, should train others so in case of emergency or should they leave the Center, the protege could step in easily and take over.

VI. Community Enterprise and Private Employment

- A. Mr. Kurisaki stated that Mr. Kennedy of the Employment Office wants the Community Enterprise to take charge of the employment of evacuees who accept private employment. Two plans were submitted to the Community Council and were asked to indicate one of the following proposals:
  - 1. Such employees shall be able to retain all wages, but shall be required to pay to the War Relocation Authority the cost of their subsistence and all those dependent upon him residing in the Center; or
  - 2. Employees are required to deposit in a special fund known as the "Evacuee Trust Fund" wages received, to be held in trust for these persons who are entitled to share in the distribution of the Fund, an amount equal to the difference between their actual wages and cash compensation, and any other allowance which they might receive from the War Relocation Authority.
- B. Mr. Kurisaki further reiterated that this proposal was rejected by the Community Enterprise.

VII. Materials in Park

- A. Mr. Mizusawa said that 10,000 board feet of lumber is available for this Department at Park.

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.



172-5

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

TRUCK CROP MEETING

September 28, 1942  
8:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Harvey Suzuki  
Truck Crop Superintendent.

Roll Call:

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. N. Yano      | 8. L. Kurisaki  |
| 2. S. Nitta     | 9. F. Mizusawa  |
| 3. T. Jo        | 10. K. Morita   |
| 4. H. Suzuki    | 11. A. Kitagawa |
| 5. W. Takahashi | 12. K. Kanio    |
| 6. K. Kishiyama | 13. S. Okuma    |
| 7. Y. Nagareda  | 14. Tsuboi      |

- I. Lateral 1 1A-B  
1 2A- 2B to be planted in onion.  
Crystal wax variety and remainder  
in South Port

General supervisor to be decided later.

- II. Fencing around the north side of the town to keep  
out the cows and horses to be taken care of by  
the Nursery Department with the other departments  
assisting when the job is not accomplished. Mr.  
M. Kikuchi to take charge.
- III. The nappa to be thinned in F 1A to be done by  
the crew and the block gardeners of Block 53  
and distributed in Camp No. 3 and Block 53 where  
there is no greens.



172  
5  
September 30, 1942

# AGRICULTURE MEETING WITH ADMINISTRATION

## Agriculture meeting:

Wade Head, Project Director  
H. A. Mathiesen, Chief of Agric. & Industry  
Agriculture Executive Committee

That the Department of Agriculture occupies the position of vital importance among the projects in Poston. The problems which arises daily in the Department are naturally urgent and important.

That the Agriculture problems should be understood, coordinated, enlightened, and views presented by Project Director, Chief of Agriculture and Industry, Supervisor of Agriculture, and Agriculture Executive Committee.

Therefore, the regular semi-monthly meeting was established by Project Director Wednesday morning of first and third week of every month. Thus, in this way, accumulated important problems could receive timely attentions and would enable both the Department of Agriculture and the Administration to make proper progress in solving the problems under the pressing needs.

Place: Office of Project Director

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Schedule: Oct. 7, 1942  
Oct. 21, 1942  
Nov. 4, 1942  
Nov. 18, 1942  
Dec. 1, 1942  
Dec. 16, 1942

Frank Mizusawa

Dept. of Agric.



172

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WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
San Francisco, California

October 6, 1942

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Wade Head  
Project Director, Colorado River  
War Relocation Project

SUBJECT: Agricultural Conference

It is essential that plans for 1943 agricultural production be made in the near future. The production programs for the several areas are complicated by the fact that at one season of the year an area may be producing certain crops for shipment to other centers while at other seasons crops for shipment to other centers while at other seasons it may be receiving shipments from other areas. It is, therefore, necessary that the production program for each area be developed in relation to the programs on all other areas. It is also necessary that these programs be developed in relation to war needs insofar as the Department of Agriculture can give us information at this time relative to these needs.

The Director, Mr. Myer, therefore, has requested that a conference be arranged at each relocation center to outline the 1943 agriculture program.

Mr. E. H. Reed and Mr. D. R. Sabin of the Agricultural Division of the Washington Office, and Mr. C. E. Zimmer and Mr. P. G. Robertson of the Agricultural Division of the Regional Office will attend the conference to be held at your project November 1, 2, and 3.

It is suggested that the following persons should participate in this conference:

Project agricultural staff including:

Chief of Agriculture  
Farm Superintendent  
Key Foreman - Japanese

Chief Steward  
Procurement Officer  
Employment Officer

Note: The above group should be present at the first and fifth sessions. The other sessions should be composed primarily of those directly responsible for the agricultural program



with others being called in for consultation on specific problems.

Suggested Agenda for Agricultural Conference:

Inspection of the area

Previous to the conference a small group consisting primarily of the agricultural representatives of the Washington, Regional and Project Offices should make a tour (3-4 hours) of the area in order to obtain a picture of the agricultural layout, production possibilities, production problems, etc.

First Half-day Session

Objectives and scope of agricultural production

Subsistence  
War Crops

Land Development

Extent and kind planned for 1943

Relationship of outside employment, industry and land development to agricultural production.

Determination of subsistence needs for the area.

Second Half-day Session

Determination of subsistence needs for the area--  
crops and livestock products (continuation of previous session)

What part of these needs can the area supply and for what months

What products can be supplied from other areas and for what months

Third Half-day Session

(continuation of previous session)

What products should be produced on the area for shipment to other areas

What war crops should be produced -- how disposed of



3-Mr. Wade Head - 10-5-42

Fourth Half-day Session

(continuation of previous session)

The agricultural program for 1943 considering available labor, production possibilities, local subsistence needs, subsistence needs of other areas and war crops

Fifth Half-day Session

Purchase of livestock -- how and where

Marketing of crops

Records and reports

Cost account records

Weekly agricultural reports

General plans for future years

How program will differ from 1943

Summary of conference with entire group

Executive session with project director and chief of agriculture.

It would be well if your agricultural staff would prepare their outline of an agricultural plan so that they may present it at this conference. We realize that no definite plan be prepared at this time but the plan your staff presents will be of great help in determining the over-all 1943 outline.

We would appreciate it if you would arrange for accommodations on the project for the four Washington and Regional men who are to attend this conference.

Very truly yours,

E. M. Rowalt  
Acting Regional Director

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172  
October 7, 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
WITH ADMINISTRATION

Wednesday  
8:30

Roll Call: Administrative Staff

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. W. Head      | 3. H. M. Mathiesen |
| 2. R. M. Gelvin | 4. W. C. Sharp     |

Executive Committee:

- |                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. A. Takahash | 3. L. Kurisaki      |
| 2. N. Yano     | 4. DR. W. Takahashi |
| 5. S. Nitta    |                     |

General Discussion:

- I. The purpose and accomplishment of the Executive Committee meeting and Camp No. III, Agricultural Department.  
A. Messrs. Mathiesen and Sharp are to meet with these members, Thursday, October 8th.
- II. Shortage of manpower in Poston due to many of the residents leaving for private employment in Midwest.
- III. Create a plan for Evacuee Trust Fund by employees of the Work Corps as recommended by the WRA.
- IV. Project Director's recommendation for efficiency in personnel of all departments.
- V. Department of Agriculture to keep accurate records of production of commodities.  
A. Production of the Department of Agriculture  
B. Vegetables grown by block gardeners
- VI. Priority request with WPB  
A. Mr. Sharp made arrangements for fencing and other materials for Poultry and Swine Divisions with strong justifications.



- VII. Construction of Boundary Fences for 16 Miles
  - A. North boundary line--north bank of the main canal to River
  - B. East boundary line--west of the highway from main canal to south boundary, south of Camp No. 3
  - C. South boundary line--from highway to the River
- VIII. Construction of a temporary fence, protecting vegetables grown in Camp No. 1 approved by Administration.
- IX. Agricultural budget was not discussed due to lack of time.



October 7, 1943

Present:

Mr. Yano  
Mr. Nitta  
Mr. Takahash  
Dr. Takahashi  
Lyle Kurisaki  
Harvey Suzuki

Mr. Kishiyama  
Mr. Morita  
Mr. Kitagawa  
Mr. Okuma  
Mr. Kamio  
Mr. Eddow

1. Nappa Thinnings
  - a. 88 crates of nappa thinnings delivered to Camp III, Department of Agriculture, today
  - b. 32 crates of nappa thinnings to be delivered to Camp II, Department of Agriculture, on October 8, 1942.
  - c. Remainder to be delivered to warehouse- Camp I, Department of Agriculture
2. Ten pounds onion seeds (crystal wax) to be returned from Camp II. This will be planted in Lateral I
3. Broccoli definitely to be planted in South one-half of firebreak 1C (about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres). North one-half of firebreak 1C will be assigned to residence of Block 35 for athletic field.
4. Leveling by the heavy tractors of the Engineering Department cannot be controlled by the Department of Agriculture. But we would like to have their cooperation in our work. The Executive Committee will see Mr. Rupkey and request for his cooperation.
5. Cabbage to be planted - Canal 38

Truck Crop and  
Executive Committee Meeting



172

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
AND UNIT II MEETING

Camp II, Hall 211  
2:00 p.m.  
October 22, 1942

Meeting was called to order with Charles Onoye presiding as Chairman. The purpose of the meeting was to get better acquainted with one another.

Roll Call:

L. Kurisaki	Camp One
F. Mizusawa	Camp One
N. Yano	Camp One
W. N. Takahashi	Camp One
Y. Nakano	Camp Two
S. Nishi	Camp Two
I. Fukuhara	Camp Two
G. Fukunaga	Camp Two
J. Ogawa	Camp Two
H. Sakata	Camp Two
U. Shikuma	Camp Two
T. Yamamoto	Camp Two
C. Onoye	Camp Two
Y. Ishikawa	Camp Two
S. Sakamoto	Camp Two

I. Agricultural Conference - November 1, 2, and 3.

A. Government representatives

1. Messrs. E. H. Reed and D. R. Sabin of the Agricultural Division of the Washington Office
2. Messrs. C. E. Zimmer and P. G. Robertson of the Agricultural Division of the Regional Office

B. Paston representatives

1. Chief of Agriculture
2. Farm superintendent
3. Key foreman, Japanese
4. Chief Steward
5. Procurement Officer
6. Employment Officer
7. Those directly responsible for the agricultural program with others being called in for consultation on specific problems.

C. Purpose

1. Outline the plans for the 1943 Agricultural production.



2. Ascertain what subsistence would be available for shipment to other centers while at other seasons it may be receiving shipments from other areas.
- D. Suggested agenda for Agricultural Conference
  1. Inspection of the area.
  2. Objectives and scope of agricultural production
  3. Land Development
  4. Determination of subsistence needs for the area
  5. What products should be produced on the area for shipment to other areas.
  6. What war crops should be produced; disposition of crops.
  7. Livestock.
  8. Marketing of crops
  9. Records and reports
  10. General plans for future years

## II. General Discussion

- A. Mr. Onoye contacted the Engineering Department requested Mr. Barbour to prepare the strip west of the Agriculture Hall 21st for farming so it may be utilized immediately for farming.
  1. Agriculture Departments was notified until all firebreaks and recreational strips are levelled, Engineers cannot do the work.

## III. 80 Acres Plot near the Indian Day School

- A. Unit II accepted the proposition
  1. Received assurance that transportation, housing, and equipment will be available to farm.
- B. Unit I rejected on the following recommendations:
  1. Materials are not available when needed.
  2. There is no facility for transportation to and from the field.
  3. Labor management under the prevailing wage scale is too difficult outside of camp.
  4. Problem of distribution of equipment and its utilization.
  5. No living quarters and buildings for subsistence
  6. Farmers demand an even flow of equipment and materials; otherwise they refuse to accept.

Meeting adjourned 4:05 p.m.



172

5

TRUCK CROP MEETING

October 23, 1942  
8:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. S. Nitta         | 7. K. Kamio     |
| 2. N. Yano          | 8. S. Eddow     |
| 3. Dr. W. Takahashi | 9. F. Mizusawa  |
| 4. L. Kurisaki      | 10. Y. Nagareda |
| 5. A. Kitagawa      | 11. S. Tsuboi   |
| 6. S. Okuma         |                 |

I. Discussion and Conclusions of Meeting

- A. Cabbage thinning and spraying will be done during the last week of October.
- B. Messrs. Nitta & Yano to contact Mr. Ishikawa in regard to the continuation of employment.
- C. Solicitation for twenty laborers for Truck Crop Division through the Employment Office and Press Bulletin notices.
- D. Distribution of nappa thinned this week will be taken care of by the Marketing Division.
- E. The problem of organizing a harvesting crew will be discussed by the Executive Committee.
- F. Announcement to the Press Bulletin about the destruction of wire fence construction to keep cattle out of the vegetable patch.
- G. Contact W. C. Sharp about battery to charge wire fences.
- H. Seeking the cooperation of the Chief of Police Shigekawa in regard to trespassing and the destruction of wire fences.
- I. Firebreak 1C, west of the hospital, to be planted in dried onion;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres.
- J. Broccoli and onion to be planted in Lateral I known as the Administration Strip.



- K. Assignement to the Department of Physical Education and Health for recreational purposes Lateral II, south of Blocks 45 and 46. Approved.
- L. Truck Crop Division steak bake, October 31st.



1-12

5

## CAMPS I, II, III MEETING

October 23, 1942  
Camp II, Hall 211

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Mizusawa.  
Roll Call was taken and members from all three Units were self-introduced.

### Roll Call:

Charles Onoye	Camp Two
S. Mitta	Camp One
N. Yano	Camp One
H. Iwata	Camp Three
M. Matsumoto	Camp Three
Y. Tanase	Camp Three
H. Sakemi	Camp One
S. Nishi	Camp Two
H. Sakata	Camp Two
J. Tanda	Camp Two
J. Ogawa	Camp Two
T. Miura	Camp Two
L. Kurisaki	Camp One
F. Mizusawa	Camp One
J. Fukuhara	Camp Two
G. Fukunaga	Camp Two
K. Shikuma	Camp Two
K. Hatakeda	Camp Two
S. Sakamoto	Camp Two
Dr. W. Takahashi	Camp One

### Purpose

- I. A. To organize an Over-All board of the Department of Agriculture taking in Units I, II, and III so that any emergencies could be met in the most efficient manner.
- II. Progressive Agricultural Report
  - A. Divisions functioning in Unit I:
    1. Truck Crop
    2. Field Crop
    3. Technical Investigation
    4. Poultry
    5. Nursery & Landscape
    6. Fish Culture
    7. Hog
    8. Marketing
    9. Transportation
    10. Agricultural Work Crops
    11. Maintenance and Repair
    12. Shops
    13. Materials & Supplies



- B. Each division has its head and advisory board.
- C. From the entire advisory board, six members are elected to the executive committee.
- D. Plans and policies of each division made.
- E. All facing handicap of lack of material, supplies and equipment to work with.

F. Camp II

- 1. No water, land not levelled to farm, lacking in equipment and supplies.
- 2. Organized about the middle of July.
- 3. Functioning divisions are Nursery, Landscape, and Technical Investigation.
  - a. Determining the type of soil, climatic conditions, and what products could be grown here to an advantage.
- 4. Facing handicap due to lack of material to make any progress.

G. Camp III

- 1. Situation similar to Camp III.
- 2. Organized the first part of August.
- 3. Divisions functioning are:
  - a. Technical Investigation
  - b. Field Crop
  - c. Truck Crop
  - d. Miscellaneous

III. Dr. W. N. Takahashi, Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, prior to evacuation, in charge of Plant Pathology of Unit I makes the following recommendations:

- A. Through periodic als and previous experiences of those accustomed to desert agricultural farming, ascertained the desert climate and conditions.
- B. Temperature is similar to that of Phoenix except frost heavier here.
  - a. Citrus cannot be grown here to an advantage.
- C. Soil analysis shows a great deal of alkali.
  - a. Drain canals to be constructed to take salt a way.
  - b. Put in a large acreage of rice.
- D. Plant cover crop to improve the nitrogen contents.
- E. Follow through with the planting of legumes.
- F. Grow tobacco or pyrethum to extract nicotine.

IV. Procurement

- A. Make a request order for materials, showing the name of the company or companies it can be obtained and price of each item desired.
- B. Must have approval of Messrs. Sharp and Knutson.



- C. Goes to the Chief Administrative Officer, and if purchase is legal and funds available, it will go through.
- D. Where a priority rating is needed, strong justifications together with the requisition must be submitted to the priority board.
- E. WRA has no priority rating.
  - 1. To date, using the Department of Interior Indian Service rating in securing essential materials.
- F. Purchase over \$100 requires bidding.

#### V. Labor Management

- A. Camp III requests for some assurance in regard to injuries sustained while on the job.
- B. Requested what is to be done with produce grown above the needs of the three Units.
- C. Camp III no labor trouble due to Truck Crop Division not functioning.
- D. Statistics of laborers, Camp I Survey
 

1. Male	3045
2. Female	2909
3. Ages 16-20	756
4. Ages 21-30	798
Ages 31-40	293
Ages 41-50	270
Ages 51-55	218
Ages 56-60	237

#### VI. Planning and Coordinating

- A. All three Units were in agreement that coordinating body should be formed.

Suggestions made as to ratio:

- 1. 4-2-2 ratio
- 2. 2-2-2 " equal representation
- 3. 3-2-2 "
- C. Final decision 3-2-2 ratio

#### VII. Financing--Budget

- A. Operation of relocation center--Agricultural production
 

1. Personal service . . . . .	240,000
2. Travel . . . . .	7,000
3. Transportation . . . . .	5,000
4. Communication . . . . .	300
5. Rents and Utilities . . . . .	2000
6. Supplies . . . . .	2161,600
7. Equipment . . . . .	1285,000

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3,700,900



- B. See chart of appropriation for Japanese labor.
- C. Mr. Mathiesen stated that he will discuss the budgets for the three Units soon.

VIII. Marketing

- A. Includes the interchange of produce between
  - 1. Centers
  - 2. Camps
- B. Full time program
  - 1. Utilization of 15,000 acres

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



172

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OVER-ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Administration #3 Conference Room  
October 26, 1942  
1:30 p.m .

The meeting was called to order by Frank Mizusawa  
and roll was taken with the following people present:

Frank Mizusawa	Camp I
Lyle Kurisaki	Camp I
Dr. W. Takahashi	Camp I
N. Yano	Camp I
H. A. Mathiesen	Chief of Agriculture and Industry
R. H. Rupkey	Head Engineer
W. C. Sharp	Supervisor of Farm Management
Charles Onoye	Camp II
H. K. Sakata	Camp II
J. S. Ogawa	Camp II
T. Miura	Camp II
Sakamoto	Camp II
M. Matsumoto	Camp III
Shigeo Uota	Camp III
Takeichi Hadani	Press

I. Purpose of the Meeting

- A. To get acquainted and to coordinate work progress of the three camps.
- B. Introduced: H. A. Mathiesen  
W. C. Sharp  
R. H. Rupkey

II. Agricultural Problems

- A. Mr. Mathiesen confident about getting the equipment here in spite of difficulties.
  - 1. Placed a requisition for 100 tractors, and received only 35; other 65 distributed to Gila, Tule Lake, Manzanar, and Minidoka.
  - 2. Received 35 out of November allotment for 50 tractors.
  - 3. Other possibility is to appeal to the Japanese people to lease, rent, or sell their personal equipment.
- B. Question was raised whether the equipment will be sold on appraisal based on Blue Book price or price determined by WRA.



1. Mr. Mathiesen stated that there will probably be a compromise between the two.
2. Mr. Head is giving the Agriculture Department his full cooperation, going out personally to purchase tractors.

### III. Productive Livestock-Poultry

- A. Mr. Mathiesen brought up the question of Squabs and asked for suggestions.
- B. Dr. Takahashi stated that Squabs are more of a luxury item, not a basic food; therefore he did not think it feasible to have a Squab farm in Poston.
- C. He emphasized that concentration should be placed on chickens and the project be pushed forward as soon as possible.
- D. Discussion was held on acquiring brooders immediately.
  1. Home made brooder can be made of Redwood 1 x 6; holding capacity of 100 birds; electric lights for heating.
  2. It was suggested that second hand brooders can be used in case new ones are not available.
  3. Mr. Sharp stated that he was unable to find any brooders in Phoenix.
  4. Plaster boards are available; will stand rain if black roofing is placed on top.
- E. Mr. Mathiesen asked the committee's opinion on Fryer project.
- F. Mr. Onoye stated that Camp II was interested in conducting a hatching business.
  1. Mr. Crawford has given permission to use one of the warehouse for that project.
- G. Mr. Head figured on 5,000 meat birds per week; Poultry men estimated on 5,000 meat birds per month.
- H. Mr. Mathiesen suggested that requisition be made for 1,000 meat birds along with feed.
- I. Mr. Sharp explained that last week during the Fair the Agricultural staff worked on an itemized list of equipment and material needed for 30,000 laying hens. Mr. Pannell took the requisitions personally to San Francisco to get priority on equipment and get the project going.
  1. This meat bird plan is another project to be operated by the same group. Fryer project will work very well along with the other poultry project.
- J. Suggestion made to have an Over\*All Organization of Poultry Committee.



#### IV. Hog and Dairy

- A. Mr. Ogawa from Camp II, an experienced Hog and Dairy man, gave statistics as follows:
  - 1. 1250 gal. of milk per week for 1000 people.
  - 2. 17,000 pints - one pint for each person.
  - 3. 700 to 800 heads of cattle needed to feed 17,000 people.
- B. Dr. Takahashi stated that it will be advisable to have the committee get together from the three camps and plan the Dairy project.
- C. Mr. Ogawa requested explanation of the following points:
  - 1. The jurisdiction of the Arizona Dairy Law in Posh-ton.
  - 2. How are we to get 700 to 800 dairy cows.
  - 3. Concrete foundation for milking house or open farm.
  - 4. Miscellaneous detailed work of the project.
- D. Mr. Mathiesen stated that as far as Dairy cows are concerned there will be no difficulty with the Arizona law.
  - 1. Suggestions were that milking could be done in the field and brought indoors for pasteurization.
  - 2. Veterinarian will be needed.
  - 3. Milking to be done by machine but will not be portable.
- E. Mr. Mizusawa suggested that Mr. Onoye write to the University of Arizona or the Commissioner for specific information.
- F. Mr. Mathiesen suggested to write to Clyde Rowe, Dairy Extension Specialist.
- G. Tentative suggestions for 300 cows along with the feed.
  - 1. Approximate cost is \$175.00 a head for grade cows.
  - 2. Ogawa and Onoye to make some form of tentative plan for dairy enterprise.
  - 3. 100 heads to start with.
  - 4. Four dairy men in Camp I and 4 in Camp II.
  - 5. Feed supply for 8 months to a year will be plentiful.
- H. Beef Cattle discussion tabled for future date.

#### V. Apiary

- A. Mr. Ogawa gave statistics on honey as follows:
  - 1. 1 gal. honey for 100 persons.
  - 2. 20,000 people will consume 1000 gal. per month.
  - 3. 8000 gal. of honey a year.
  - 4. 5 to 10 gals. of honey from each colony of hives.
  - 5. 1600 colonists of hives sufficient to feed the population of camp.
  - 6. No feed required for bees.
- B. Albert Okano experienced Bee man in Camp I.



## VI. Agricultural Engineering

- A. Mr. Rupkey, the head engineer elaborated on the history of the canal that is being constructed.
- B. Explanation of the map
  - 1. Progress of work
  - 2. Laterals and gates
  - 3. General plans in making structures
  - 4. Evaporation
    - (a) 10 to 15 second ft. actually lost.
- C. The lack of man power is the main objective in slowing the construction of the canal.
  - 1. Mr. Rupkey stated that there is a need for two good crew, consisting of 200 men, working on shifts.
  - 2. 50 men working on each shift day and night will take 8 to 9 months to complete the job.
  - 3. Desperate need for carpenters, cement mixers, men to place reinforcement steel, and general labor to drive pipes.
  - 4. Water will go to Camp III about February.
  - 5. Camp II will get water sometimes next week.
  - 6. Major construction job between Camp I and II is just about completed.
  - 7. With 300 men the canal to irrigate 15,000 acres can be completed by July 1, 1943.
  - 8. Capacity of the canal is 57 second ft.
- D. Mr. Mizusawa questioned the possibilities of rounding up men from Camps I, II, and III to help Mr. Rupkey.
- E. Consensus of opinions is that Japanese people will be willing to work if prevailing wages are paid.
- F. If prevailing wages are paid to Japanese labor, budgets must be changed.
- G. Question of Trust Fund and Prevailing Wage Scale tabled for next meeting to be held Wednesday, 1:30 at Recreation Hall 37.

## VII. The committee was asked by Mr. Mizusawa to come prepared to the Wednesday's meeting on the following points:

- 1. Objectives and scope of Agriculture
- 2. Land Development
- 3. Determination of subsistence needs for the area.
- 4. What products should be produced.
- 5. Livestock production
- 6. Marketing
- 7. Records and Reports
- 8. General plans for future years, 1943-1944

## VIII. Mr. Mizusawa named the following persons as having had special training on farm management on far efficiency enterprise.

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. George Kitahara | 3. Harvey Suzuki  |
| 2. Charles Onoye   | 4. Frank Mizusawa |

Meeting Adjourned 4:20 p.m.



172

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# TRUCK CROP MEETING

October 28, 1942

7:30 p.m.

## Roll Call

H. Suzuki	A. Kitagawa
L. Kurisaki	Y. Nagareda
S. Eddow	Dr. W. Takahashi
F. Mizusawa	N. Yano
S. Okuma	K. Kamio

## I. Report by Harvey Suzuki, Chairman

- A. Planted green onion, two acres, Lateral I 2A, ten pounds; Southport.
- B. Planted dried onion, three acres, Lateral I, 1A and 1B; ten pounds, Crystal Wax.
- C. Planted broccoli in Lateral I-1B, 3/4 acres.
- D. Planted on October 27 and first irrigation on October 28th.
- E. It was decided to plant in Firebreak II-2C, lettuce No. 615, seven acres.
- F. Planted carrots in Lateral I-3A; 3 1/2 acres.
- G. Nappa and daikon in Lateral I-3B, 1 1/2 acres.
- H. Discussion of what is to be planted in recreational strip D to be decided in a future meeting.
- I. Marketing Division will take care of the harvesting nappa on Highway 1B, October 29th.
- J. Cucumbers will be harvested in Firebreak I-1B some time next week.
- K. Planting of dried onion in Firebreak I-1C west of the Hospital this week.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.



172

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Poston Units  
1, 2, and 3

A G E N D A

Frank Mizusawa  
Chairman

Agriculture Building  
Recreation Hall #37  
October 28, 1942  
1:30 p.m.



# I. Objectives and Scope of Agricultural Production.

## 1. Subsistence

- a. Determination of subsistence needs for the area.
- b. What products should be produced on the area for shipments to other areas. (relocation Centers)

## 2. Productive Livestock

- a. Poultry
- b. Hog
- c. Dairy
- d. Beef Cattle
- e. Apiary and Miscellaneous

## 3. Agricultural Production Plan for 1943

- a. Truck Crop
- b. Field Crops
- c. Poultry
- d. Hog
- e. Dairy
- f. Beef Cattle
- g. Apiary and Miscellaneous

# II. War Crops

1. Cotton
2. Flax, etc.

# III. Purchase for Agricultural Needs

1. Livestock Purchase - How and When
2. Farm Equipment - How and When
3. Materials & Supplies
  - a. Fertilizer - How and When
  - b. Chemicals - How and when
  - c. Etc. - How and When

# IV. Marketing of Crops - Disposition of Crops

1. Other Relocation Area
2. Army & Navy
3. Lend-Lease, etc.

# V. Land Development

# VI. Evacuee Credit

1. Production Credit
2. Land Development Credit
3. Miscellaneous Credit



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON

October 26, 1942

To: Regional and Project Staff Members:

The enclosed petition from residents of the Gila River Relocation Project and the reply prepared in the Solicitor's Office are forwarded to you for your information.

(signed) John H. Province, Chief  
Community Management  
Division



October 6, 1942

Mr. Ototaro N. Yamamoto  
Gila River Relocation Center  
c/o Pima Indian Agency  
Sacaton, Arizona

Dear Mr. Yamamoto:

I am addressing this letter to you because yours is the first name to appear on the letter that you and thirteen other residents of the Gila River Relocation Center sent me on September 18 enclosing a resolution adopted by the residents of twenty-one blocks in the Gila River Relocation Center. I feel, however, that I am addressing this letter to all those who considered the resolution, and I should appreciate your making this letter public to them.

The resolution calls attention to the fact that, in the procedure we have established for the organization of community self-government at the ten relocation centers, only citizens of the United States are eligible to hold elective office. The resolution notes that evacuees who are aliens are nevertheless also loyal to the United States and emphasizes that many of them would have become citizens of the United States if they were permitted to do so under the naturalization laws.

I am glad to have your resolution on this subject, and have carefully considered the reasons you have urged for making alien evacuees eligible to hold elective office in the community self-government offices.

Our reasons for limiting eligibility to these elective offices to evacuees who are citizens of the United States can be briefly summarized. In the first place, we believe that the citizenship status and privilege of the evacuees who were born in the United States needs to be given special recognition. The fact that, as a matter of military necessity, all persons of Japanese ancestry were evacuated from the West Coast, both aliens and citizens alike, has caused some of the citizen evacuees to wonder what value their citizenship has. We regret that fact very much. We understand, also, that a few among the alien evacuees have been taunting the young Niseis with this fact and have stated that the citizenship of the Niseis was valueless.

It is our intention, therefore, to help make up for this fact, as much as possible, by giving special recogni-



nition to the citizenship status of the Niseis.

In addition to making elective offices open only to evacuees who are citizens of the United States, it is our intention to give them preference in considering applications for leave from relocation centers, in assignment of work opportunities, and in other respects.

A second consideration had a great deal to do with our decision. In general, the Niseis are much more Americanized than are the Isseis. This has nothing to do with the question of loyalty to the United States but is simply a product of the fact that the Niseis, through having been born and educated in the United States, at least in most cases, are, to a greater extent, products of American institutions. We know that you share with us the belief that it is important that the Americans of Japanese ancestry should not be a separate group but should become amalgamated with the general population. We are of the opinion that if the Niseis alone are eligible for membership in the community council, the general character of the action taken by the community council will be more in keeping with American institutions and practices.

I am writing frankly to you because I feel that we have a common interest in achieving the best possible self-government within the relocation centers.

May I emphasize that the Isseis have not been completely barred from holding office in agencies of community self-government. It is only the elective offices that have been closed to the alien evacuees. This means that no alien evacuee can be elected to the community council. Which of the other offices will be elective rather than appointive can not be known until the permanent plan of government is formulated for each relocation center by its organization commission. The alien evacuees are eligible to hold appointive offices. Thus they can serve on committees appointed by the community council, and in other appointive offices.

I am confident that the wisdom and experience of many of the alien evacuees will become available through their being appointed to such offices.

For these reasons, although I welcome your resolution and am glad to have the benefit of your suggestions, I believe our decision was a sound one and should be adhered to.

Sincerely,

(signed) John H. Provinse  
Acting Director



COPY

GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

September 18, 1942

Mr. Dillon Myers, Esq.  
Director of War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is a copy of resolution which was adopted and passed by the people of Camp No. 2 of this Relocation Center at a mass meeting held on the 12th of September, 1942.

Your careful consideration on the within resolution will be deeply appreciated by the people of this Relocation Center.

Respectfully yours,

FOR THE PEOPLE OF CAMP NO. 2

/s/ Minoru Mayeda

Harry H. Angata

Frank Shokichi Ando

Ernest Iwosak

T. Askura

Blumeda

Ototaro N. Yamamoto

Shinpei Tanaka

George Nishimura

Tsutuners Dyo

M. Fujii

George I. Yanashiro

Tadachi Yukawa

Jimmy Syimoto



copy

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AND PASSED BY PEOPLE  
(BOTH CITIZENS AND NON-CITIZEN)  
CAMP 2, GILA RIVER RELOCATION CENTER  
RIVERS, ARIZONA

The following resolution was passed September 12, 1942, by the evacuees (both citizens and non-citizens) of twenty one occupied blocks in Camp 2 of this Relocation Center, accounting for approximately 6,500 people.

"THAT THE PRESENT STATUS OF NON-CITIZENS IN RESPECT TO RUNNING FOR AND HOLDING ELECTIVE OFFICES IN THIS RELOCATION CENTER BE MODIFIED SO AS TO PERMIT SAID NON-CITIZENS THE RIGHT TO RUN FOR SUCH ELECTIVE POSITIONS? AND IF ELECTED? TO HOLD THEM IN THE SAME MANNER AS CITIZENS."

This resolution is supported by the following facts:

"FIRST: SINCERITY OF PURPOSE. There is no better evidence than are found in the non-citizens themselves of a sincere desire on their part to cooperate with the citizens and with the War Relocation Authority in the development of this community as an ideal Relocation Center. To this end, they are entitled to an opportunity of expression not only in the physical development of this Relocation Center but also in the Self Government Council of this community."

"SECOND: UNITY OF PURPOSE. There is a strong unity of purpose between the citizens and non-citizens in all matters which are of vital concern to the people of this community. Insofar as this unity of purpose exist there are no two distinct groups. Both are one and inseparable and the one func-



tions. In view of this situation to permit the citizens alone to hold elective positions would undermine seriously the harmony which so happily exist between the citizens and the non-citizens."

"THIRD: ASSUMPTION OF EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY. In order that an even share of responsibility may be assumed by both the citizens and non-citizens equal representation in the Community Council is not only desired but is highly proper. For to allow the citizens alone the right to hold elective offices would be to place the burden of responsibility unduly upon the citizens when both the citizens and non-citizens should equally be assuming the responsibility.

"FOURTH: NON-CITIZENS ONLY IN NAME! Many of the non-citizens only in name, for many of them have continuously resided in the United States for over forty years; would have been American citizens by naturalization had there been no Congressional Act barring them the right to citizenship. They have also assimilated many of the finer American ideals; have worked continuously in America ever since coming to this country; have brought up their children to be loyal American citizens, many of whom now serve in the Armed Forces of the Nation; have also bought property and invested heavily in United States War Bonds with the intention of permanently making this country their home."

"FIFTH: NON-CITIZENS ARE ECONOMIC LEADERS. In the experience of the non-citizens, who are sometimes called Isseis,



lies the future to the development of the farm lands in this Relocation Center. In this Relocation Center alone there are several hundred farmers who each have cultivated and operated an averaged of over 500 acres of agricultural land; each of whom have worked on the soil, lived on the soil, and produced in the main a substantial portion of the green vegetables that were grown in the State of California prior to evacuation. They represented the sinewa of American agricultural productivity and were a credit to the farm industry in California. If these people are to be our agricultural leaders again here in this Relocation Center, reason and justice demand they be given a voice in the administration of the self-government of this Relocation Center. Theirs will not be one of jeopardizing the interest of the United States; to the contrary, it will be one of utmost cooperation for the well-being of the people of this Relocation Center and for the war efforts of the United States."



172 ✓ Aqueduct 5

OVER\*ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Mess Hall 37  
October 28, 1942  
2:45 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Frank Mizusawa.  
Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting held in Administration #3, October 27, 1942.

Roll Call:

Dr. W. Takahashi	Camp I
L. Kurisaki	Camp I
F. Mizusawa	Camp I
S. Nitta	Camp I
N. Yano	Camp I
Sumio Nishi (C. Onoye)	Camp II
Kiyokichi Umezasa	Camp III
Yoshio Nagano	Camp III
M. Matsumoto	Camp III
S. Uota	Camp III
T. Miura	Camp II
J. S. Ogawa	Camp II
W.C. Sharp	Supervisor of Farm Management
J. O'Harrison	Border Inspector

I. Objectives and Scope of Agricultural Production

- A. Chairman Mizusawa read the statistics of subsistence needs for 20,000 people in this area.
1. Poultry
  2. Hog
  3. Dairy
  4. Beef Cattle
  5. Apiary and Miscellaneous
  6. Rice

II. Purchase for Agricultural Needs

- A. Livestock Purchase - How and When
1. Mr. Mathiesen's opinion that Dairy cows may be purchased from the Indian Service.
  2. Dr. Takahashi inquired the possibility of purchasing cows from the Phoenix School, immediately and proceed with the project.
  3. Mr. Sharp answered by stating that he is unable to make any assured statement on the amount or the date of the purchase; however, he thought that the starting number of 50



- (farm unit) will be feasible.
4. Just to get the project functioning, the committee persisted in getting any number of cows immediately, 15 or 50.
  5. Dr. Takahashi suggested that if the number of cows are not sufficient to supply the whole community with milk, it can be donated to the hospital.
- B. Mr. Mizusawa requested Mr. Ogawa to make a complete report on dairy and submit to the committee who in turn will pass or reject it.
1. Mr. Ogawa's statistics on dairy farm are as follows:
    - a. 150 heads best milk grade \$175. per head.
    - b. One bull, 3 to 4 years, \$2,000.
    - c. Total cost of cows and bull \$28,250.
    - d. Feed: 8400 lbs. per year; 5,290 tons for period of 8 months. Figure on \$16. to \$18. per ton or \$100,000.
    - e. Fence, gates, pitch forks, milk cans, and miscellaneous items, \$900.
    - f. Average milk capacity of cow per day is 3 gallons.
- C. Purchase of Hogs.
1. Mr. Mathiesen was quoted as saying that the hogs can be purchased any time from now to the middle of November.
  2. Plans are to purchase Brood Sows and Feeder Hogs as soon as the Swine Division complete their project or when each feeding lot is finished.
- D. Purchase of Farm Equipment
1. Suggestions made to send out representative from Poston to appraise personal farm equipment of the evacuee.
  2. Only two Farmalls in camp - tractors but no attachments; some instance, attachments but no tractors.
- E. Purchase of Fertilizer and Chemicals
1. Nitrate and Pyrethum difficult to purchase.
  2. Need for substitute is very urgent.
  3. There is an absolute need for Arsenic and Phosphate.
  4. Possibilities are to produce Nicotine and Arsenic here in Poston.

### III. Land Development -- concerning laborers for Mr. Rupkey

- A. Chairman Mizusawa asked the opinion of the representatives in regard to the question of prevailing wage scale for the evacuee and the trust fund.
1. Camp III -- Consensus of opinion is that unless prevailing wages are paid not many people will be willing to work. People are dissatisfied with the \$19. scale and of putting the balance in the trust fund.



2. Camp II -- People are not acquainted with the question of trust fund; therefore, cannot form any definite opinion.
  3. Camp I -- The question was asked whether the community must provide 300 men and make use of three million dollars appropriated for the construction of the canal, or are we to disregard the project and probably wait another 10 years before the canal is completed.
  4. Whether the canal project is outside the Relocation Center or within, must be clarified before the subject of prevailing wage can be determined.
  5. Evacuees should work toward capital investment on work accomplished while in the Center.
- B. Mr. Mizusawa noted that there was some misconception of the duties of the representatives from Units I, II? and III and explained thus:
1. Liaison between the administration and the Agriculture Department.
  2. Duties are to find and deliver facts.
  3. Must be ready to present facts to Regional Directors when the Agriculture Department meet with them on November 1, 2, and 3.
  4. This body is to make recommendations of what we like to have and what we like to see done.
- C. Dr. Takahashi suggested that we should ask for the original account of the canal - "Act of Congress" and have the Legal Department verify the facts.
1. Get the facts.
  2. Formulates a plan based on facts.
  3. Refashion to suit facts better.
  4. Carry out this revised plan.
  5. Select the committee to look into the questions of the Agricultural Department.
  6. Get all the question together and find what is the basic program.
  7. Take it to the Fair Practice Committee, Council, Administration.
- F. Mr. Mizusawa selected a committee of seven to get facts in regard to canal construction and prevent it to proper authority.

Camp III - Mr. Matsumoto  
                  Mr. Uota  
Camp II - Charles Onoye  
                  Mr. Sakata  
Camp I - Ayako Takahashi  
                  Frank Mizusawa  
                  Mr. Nitta



172

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OVER\* ALL COMMITTEE MEETING

with

WRA DIRECTORS

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING NO. 3

October 30, 1942

10:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. H. A. Mathiesen. Representatives from the War Relocation Office of Washington and San Francisco Regional Offices were introduced:

Washington:

Mr. Donald R. Sabin  
Agriculture Production  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. E. H. Reed  
Agriculture Marketing  
War Relocation Authority  
Washington, D. C.

San Francisco

Mr. Paul Robertson  
Agriculture Marketing  
War Relocation Authority  
San Francisco, California

Mr. Walter E. Embrick  
Agriculture Specialist and Livestock  
War Relocation Authority  
San Francisco, California

Others present were, Camp I:

H. A. Mathiesen  
W. C. Sharp  
H. Suzuki  
N. Yano  
J. Katayama  
H. M. Knutson

L. Kurisaki  
F. Mizusawa  
S. Nitta  
Dr. Takahashi  
H. Sakemi

Camp II:

C. Onoye

S. Nishi



Camp III:

H. Iwata  
S. Uota  
G. Wumino

M. Matsumoto  
G. Nagano

I. Vegetables

A. Problems under discussion

1. What crops can be grown here from experience and observation.
2. Months of harvest.
3. Estimated yield per acre.
4. What months a shortage of vegetables will take place.
5. Production program for each area be developed in relation to the programs on all other areas.

<u>CROPS</u>	<u>HARVEST SEASON</u>	<u>YIELD</u>
Broccoli	Dec. 1 - Mar. 31	1 ton
Cabbage	Dec. 15- Mar. 31	5-8 tons
Carrots	Jan. 1 - May 1	4 tons
Cauliflower	Dec. - Feb.	300 crates
Celery	Jan. 1 - Mar.	400-500 crates
Lettuce	Dec. 15- Apr. 1	200 crates
Green Peas	Trial plantings this year	Very small
String Beans	Trial plantings this year	Very small
Spinach	Nov. 1 - Dec. 15	3 tons
Swiss Chard	Apr. 1 - Sept. 30	6 tons
Chinese Cabbage	Oct. 1 - Mar. 31	10 tons
Beets	Dec. 1 - Mar. 31	6-7 tons
Cantaloupes	June 15- July 10	5 tons
Honey Dews	June 15 -July 10	5 tons
Cucumbers	Oct. 15- Nov. 15	3 tons
	Trial plantings in spring	
Dry Onions	May 1 - June 10	5-6 tons
Green Onions		
Parsnips		
Summer Squash	May 15- June 30	4 tons
Hubbard Squash	Nov. 1-	4 tons
Pumpkin	June 30	4 tons
Corn	May - June 1	
	Oct. - Nov. 15	
Turnips	Nov. 1- Apr. 1	7 tons
Watermelon	June 15-Aug.	10 tons
Radish (Daikon)	Nov. 1- May 15	5 tons
Potatoes ( Iris)		



Sweet Potatoes	June	3 tons
Tomatoes (Earliana)	June 1 - July 15	3 tons
Eggplant	Octt 15- Nov. 15	3-4 tons
	June 1 - July 15	
Okra		
Strawberries		
Asparagus		
Bell Peppers		

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Meeting was resumed at 1:30 P.M. in the Administration Building #3. In addition to those present to the morning session were the following people:

Bill Kobayashi	Roy Kobayashi
Fred Kobayashi	John Marumoto
J. S. Ogawa	H. Sakata
T. Miura	O. Kushino
Y. Tanase	K. Umezawa

## II. Swine Division - Bill Kobayashi, Superintendent

- A. Statistics on pork consumption
  - 1. 5,000 hog, initial starting figure
  - 2. 4# a person per month or one pound a week per person.
  - 3. 2648 pounds of pork per day for consumption, or 83,000 pounds per month.
- B. General plan of slaughter house
  - 1. Size - 21' x 35'.
  - 2. Cost \$2,000 without labor, boiler, or shackling pen.
  - 3. Boiler (about 10 horse power) \$300.
  - 4. Pen - \$200.
- C. Disposal of waste, offal and blood.
  - 1. Blood used to make blood meal fertilizer.
  - 2. Offal can be converted into bologna.
  - 3. Place the slaughter house near the main sewerage disposal line for direct drainage.
- D. Acquisition of garbage pigs immediately
  - 1. 14 tons of garbage available to feed 3,000 hogs.
  - 2. Supplementary feed can also be grown.
- E. Cost of Project
  - 1. \$34,000 for equipment other than slaughter house.
  - 2. \$27,863.70 for the slaughter house.



### III. Poultry Division - Fred Kobayashi, Superintendent

#### A. Statistics

1. Initial starting figure is 30,000 laying hens producing 5,000 meat birds per week.
2. One egg a person per day or 120 eggs a person per year.
3. One meat bird a person per month.
4. Poultry project is complete as could be.
5. If brooders unavailable, pullets of ten weeks old can be purchased.
  - a. \$1.35 to \$1.50

#### B. General plan of Project

1. 80 Acres provided for this division.
2. Use of an alternate range for sanitary purposes.

#### C. Cost of project

1. Total cost for 30,000 laying hens including brooders and equipment, \$56,000.
2. Meat bird project, \$17,000.

### IV. Dairy Project - J. S. Ogawa

#### A. Statistics

1. 700 dairy cows necessary to supply 17,000 people with one quart of milk per day.
2. 350-400 milking cows to supply one pint a person per day;
3. 500 gals. of milk available from 160 heads of cows per day.
4. 3 gals. of milk per cow on the above basis.

#### B. General plan of project

1. Recommendation for purchasing of 150 cows with feed as initial starting figure.
2. 8 experienced milkers available throughout the three camps.
  - a. Two types of workers needed for a successful dairy.
    - (1) Milk man
    - (2) Cow man
3. Possibility of obtaining feed from Gila for the first 8 months.
  - a. Raise feed in Poston after main irrigation lateral is completed.

#### C. Cost of Project

1. \$175 per head for Grade A cows.
2. One bull @ \$2,000.
3. Cost of milking cows and one bull, \$30,000.
4. Feed for 8 months, \$22,800 @ \$20.00 per ton.
5. Building costs including fences, concrete foundation and other miscellaneous items,



\$16,200.

6. Total cost, approximately \$75,000.

D. General discussion

1. Acute shortage of milkers outside as many are being attracted to defense work or to the Armed Forces.
  - a. Poston's allotment was 6500 quarts per day.
  - b. Due to shortage on the outside, the supply was cut down 1,000.
  - c. Arizona's population doubled, and 4% increases in the demand for milk.
2. No pasteurization included in the original plan - process of raw milk.
3. Emphasis should go to the production of milk, not in high-priced sires.
  - a. Mr. Mathiesen's suggestion and recommendation of the purchase of bulls from the Indian Service at \$50.00 a head.

V. Aplary - J. S. Ogawa

A. Statistics

1. To supply 20,000 people, 8,000 gals of honey are required.
2. Production of 7-8 gals. per colony.
  - a. 1000 to 1500 colonies needed.

B. General plan

1. 1900 colonies of two layer hives on sale.
  - a. Yield 19,000 gals. on good year.
  - b. 5000 gals on poor year.
  - c. Entire outfit can be purchased for \$20,000.

VI. Fish Culture - John Marumoto, Superintendent

A. General plan

1. Purpose: Camp consumption and fertilization of land.
2. Experimenting stage at present.
3. Urgent request for fish pond.
4. 80 Acres assigned to the project and increase as it develops.
5. Species of fish to be stocked: Carp, Crappie, Blue Gill, Perch and Bass.
6. Depth of hatchery: 2' to 3' deep.
7. For larger fish, 3' to 4' deep.
8. Intention of raising water lilies, water cress and water chestnuts.
9. Various species can be utilized for making fertilizer.
10. Utilization of Carps to make Vitamin pills.
11. Expense will not exceed \$1000.



## VII. Rice

- A. Possibilities of growing rice in Poston
  - 1. Blue Rose type of rice planted at Parker.
  - 2. Great deal of water needed for production of rice; therefore project cannot be considered on a large scale until major canal is completed.
  - 3. Request was made to experiment 160 acres inspite of handicap.
- B. Imperial Valley statistics on production of rice.
  - 1. Cost approximately \$25.00 per acre. (cheapest)
  - 2. Flood the field for 90 days.
  - 3. Drain water 45 days before harvesting.
  - 4. Yield  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton per acre.
  - 5. 50% lost during threshing process.

## VIII. Pyrethrum & Nicotine

- A. Background of pyrethrum as related by Mr. Sabin.
  - 1. Present market is Kenya Colony, Africa.
  - 2. McLaughlin Gormley King Company of Minneapolis, Minnesota interested in the production of pyrethrum.
    - a. Several hundred acres in southwestern Colorado, on non-irrigated land.
    - b. Army requested Company to grow 15,000 acres.
    - c. Commodity Credit Corp. made agreement with MGK Co. to buy seeds at \$3.00 per lb.
      - (1) Production of seeds very poor, less than 500 lbs.
- B. Requisites for the production
  - 1. Requires sandy soil
  - 2. Fair amount of alkali
- C. Nicotine
  - 1. Nicotiana rustica highest in Nicotine content.
- D. Seed Production in Poston
  - 1. Under the supervision of William Eto.
  - 2. Growing Japanese seeds that will soon disappear from the market.
  - 3. At present, purchasing seeds from the outside.

## IX Guayule

- A. Forest Service has received appropriation from Congress to carry on this program.
- B. No elaborate program to be carried on in Poston.
  - 1.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Acres allotted for rubber.



X. Marketing of Produce

- A. Field run produce
  - 1. Records of mess delivery kept.
  - 2. Market price determined and based on the cost of preparation.
    - a. Net returns is the deduction of brokerage and other expenses from the No. 11 price of commodity in market report.
    - b. Computed on the Los Angeles market.
- B. Acute shortage of shock and crates.
  - 1. Priority rating now required for purchase.
  - 2. Project being assessed 30¢ and 20¢ for crates shipped from other Relocation Centers.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.



172

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POSTON AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

AGENDA

November 1, 2, & 3 1942



November 1, 1942

Morning Tour by

1. Agricultural Division of  
Washington Office

Mr. E. H. Reed  
Mr. D. R. Sobin

2. Agricultural Division of  
Regional Office

Mr. Paul O. Robertson  
Mr. E. C. Zimmer



November 1, 1942  
Sunday Afternoon Session

Objective and Scope of Agriculture  
Production

1. Subsistence
2. War Crop

Relationship of Outside Employment, Industry  
and Land Development of Agricultural Production

Determination of Subsistence Needs for the  
Area

Comments



November 2, 1942  
Morning Session

Determination of Subsistence Needs for the Area  
Crops and Livestock Products.

What Part of These Needs Can the Area Supply  
and for What Months?

What Products Can Be supplied from other Areas  
and For What Months?

Comments:



November 2, 1942

Monday, Afternoon Session:

What Products Should Be Produced on the Area for  
Shipment to Other Areas?

What Ware Crops Should Be Produced--How Disposed Of?

Comments:



November 3, 1942  
Tuesday Afternoon Session

Purchase of Livestock How and When?  
Marketing of Crops  
Records and Reports  
    Cost Account Records  
    Weekly Agricultural Reports  
General Plan for Future Years  
How Program will Differ From 1942?

Comments:



November 3, 1942  
Tuesday Morning Session

The Agricultural Program for 1942 Considering  
Available Labor, Production Possibilities, Local  
Subsistence Needs, Subsistence Needs of Other  
Areas and War Crops.

Comments:



172

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TRUCK CROP MEETING

November 11, 1942  
7:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. H. Suzuki        | 4. F. Mizusawa |
| 2. T. Jo            | 5. N. Yano     |
| 3. N. Okuma         | 6. L. Kurisaki |
| 7. Dr. W. Takahashi |                |

I. Discussion and Conclusions of Meeting

- A. Will harvest thirteen acres of daikon and turnip from Highway 1B this week. Arrangements will be made with Dr. Takahashi to transplant daikon in Firebreak 2B for seed purposes.
- B. Will disk cucumber patch in Firebreak 1B after another picking. Will prepare same for carrot planting.
- C. Construction of wire fence on the west boundary line of Section 35 to keep cattle out from lettuce and spinach patches. Mr. Mizusawa will contact the proper authority for materials and also will make arrangements for a crew.
- D. Request Seed and Chemical Division for action in fertilizer and chemicals.
- E. Assignment of Recreation Area C for recreational purposes both sides of Canal to Blocks 35, 37, 38, 43, 44, 45. Approved.
- F. Remind the Marketing Division and Transportation and Maintenance Divisions to continue collecting empty crates and lugs.
- G. Request Mr. Mizusawa to ask for the cooperation of all divisional heads to assist the Truck Crop Division in harvesting.
- H. Mr. Jo was instructed to contact Mr. Takaki of Block 3 in the organization of a harvesting crew.

Meeting adjourned, 8:30 p.m.



172

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CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
and  
AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

11:00 A.M.  
December 12, 1942

Administration Building III

*administration*

The meeting was opened by Mr. Sugimoto, Vice Chairman of the Central Executive Committee requesting for plans to date of progress of the Agriculture Department.

Mr. Mizusawa stated that although he was chairman of the Department for the three camps, Dr. Takahashi was chosen as the new chairman at the last meeting.

I. Hog Project

- A. Subjugation completed and starting on well.
  - 1. Pump - either gas or electric.
- B. PD 200 sent to the Procurement Office requesting for material and equipment.
- C. Due to the inability of the Procurement, materials have not arrived.
  - 1. Holding requisition up because of critical material.
  - 2. Priority rating needed for the purchase of some material.
- D. Suggestions made by the Central Executive Committee:
  - 1. Start from the bottom and work up.
  - 2. Get the swines first.
  - 3. Use cottonwood trees as fencing post.
- E. Mr. Mizusawa stated that Procurement will not purchase materials for any Agriculture Project without submitting a plan of the Project.
- F. Swines should not be brought in unless proper facilities have been arranged for.
  - 1. If no medicine available, hog disease will spread rapidly.
- G. A survey had been made and found by the Agriculture Department that there are not enough cottonwood to fence the Hog Project.
- H. Mr. Mizusawa reminded the Committee that certain preliminary ground work must be done before hogs can be brought in:
  - 1. Subjugation
  - 2. Clearance
  - 3. Levelling
  - 4. Health
  - 5. Material
  - 6. Rearrangement of Farms



- I. Mr. Yahiro commented that there is a disposal of enough garbage of the three camps to feed 2,000 hogs.
  - 1. With this much garbage, the weight of each pig should increase 1½ pounds per day.
  - 2. Within 90 days, they should be ready for consumption.

## II. General Discussion

- A. Dr. Takahashi requested that the Central Committee investigate into Procurement to find the cause for delays and red tape.
  - 1. Find a method by which materials can be procured rapidly.
- B. Clarification was made by the Central Executive Committee of the relationship between Agriculture Department and the Committee.
  - 1. Committee represents the people, and the residents of Poston request progress of Agriculture Projects.
- C. Dr. Takahashi stated that this should be in writing as Camp I does not represent Camps II and III.
- D. Meat Rationing
  - 1. Rationing went into effect as of December 1st.
  - 2. Shortage of meat will occur in all kitchens soon.
    - a. Supplementary meat needed to meet shortage.
    - b. 2½ lbs. quota to each person per week will not be had without increase in the production of meat within the center.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 P.M.



172

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POSTON CAMP 1

AGRICULTURAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
December 14, 1942  
11. A. M.

Roll Call: Messrs. F. Mizusawa, Nitta, Yano, A. Takahash  
and William N. Takahashi

Business completed

1. It was decided that a meeting with the Administrative head of Poston and others connected with the Agricultural program should be called in order to discuss the effects of Mr. Dillon Myer's recent announcement of the fourth phase of relocation on the present Agricultural program of Poston. It was generally agreed that the agricultural program should be re-planned to meet the expected population changes and to suit its needs.

2. Mr. Henry Sakemi was appointed to fill the office of Farm Management which was vacated by Mr. Lyle Kurisaki who had found private employment outside of Poston. The committee regretted the loss of Mr. Kurisaki but rejoiced in his relocation to private life.

3. The appointment of Mr. Sakemi was recognized by Mr. W. C. Sharp, Supervisor of Farm Management.

The meeting was adjourned 12:00 Noon.



May 11, 1943

(The interviewee is Mr. K. Umezawa who is charge of the Livestock division of the Department.)

When the people settled in Unit III, the different departments were already functioning in the other two units. The Agriculture Departments of Unit II and I were both organized and operating with set plans. Mr. Wumino interested to begin a similar organization in Unit III, contacted the Block Managers and requested that they send representatives to the general meeting so that each block would be represented. This meeting was held in early September. In this meeting a temporary committee was formed to begin the organization; the committee was composed of seven men, all experienced in some form of agriculture.

This temporary committee was composed of Mr. M. Matsumoto as the chairman, Mr. K. Umezawa, Mr. H. Nagano, Mr. Y. Uota, Mr. H. Iwata and Mr. Tanase. Within this committee each member was made responsible of the different divisions that were formed, the livestock, nursery, Field crop, subjugation--the main divisions of the department. After serving for the designated term of about sixty days, the committee tendered its resignation to Mr. Mathieson, but the latter satisfied with the committee appointed them and retained them in their respective positions. From November the committee became permanent and continued its plans. Appropriate men with the most experience were appointed as the heads of the different divisions. For example, Mr. Umezawa was appointed as the head of livestock division since he has had an experience in the dairy farming for about twenty years, making his own butter and cheese;



Mr. Tanase has been a farmer in Imperial Valley for many years and knows about farming in regions like this and has been appointed in charge of the field crop.

Under each divisions there are some subdivisions and other minor divisions. Under the division of livestock come the poultry, dairy and hog. There are also small group in charge of the supplies and equipment and another group in charge of the garden work around the administration. There has been talk about having an apiary but there hasn't been anything definite on this matter. All these divisions and subdivisions are coordinated by the general manager who is directly under the Committee. Mr. Harvey Iwata was in that position but after his leave Mr. Uota has taken his place.

The department has been directly under Mr. Mathieson and there has always been close contact with him; also the three unit departments have been meeting together from time to time to solve mutual problems such as wages for the workers. Due to the shortage of equipment in the project the three units have been pooling for their use. Aside from the contacts with Mr. Mathieson, with whom they have close contact, and the other two unit departments, they have had very little association with the other departments.

Today there are only twenty acres that are available for farming. Of the twenty acres, five acres have turned over to the school, leaving about fifteen acres. At present melons--honey dew and watermelons, tomatoes and cucumbers are planted; one and half acre of "nappa" has been harvested and the squash is being harvested.



The people of Unit I were surprised to see the local nappa and suggested that the local acreage be increased; they did not believe that such good products would be produced locally as they had failed to get good results.

The poultry subdivision has at present 3000 chicken and expect to get 3,000 or 4,000 more on the twenty-fifth and attempt to have about ten thousand by fall so that sufficient amount of eggs can be produced for the residents. In Unit I the fowls are all fryers but in Unit III there are only about 900 fryers and the rest are layers, so a good supply of eggs could be expected. To date the fowls have been satisfactory.

The plans have been set for about 40 acres of alfalfa in the area north of Roku I as the canal is expected to be finished by or by the end of August. Eventually this acreage will be increased to about 200 acres for approximately 200 heads of milk cows. Since at present the residents consume about 260 gallons of milk per day, some 150 cows should be sufficient to supply the people. The department would like to start on this project as soon as it is possible.

The major problem today is the lack of sufficient supply of water, since with the present supply the acreage of farm cannot be expanded any further. For this reason not much can be accomplished; also new land have to be subjugated for expansion. The plan of the department is to make the center as much as possible self-sufficing but due to the lack of water and land this has been impossible.



Units 1, 2, and 3 Agriculture Conference at Blk. 30  
Mess Hall at 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Rupkey are seated at the head of the room. There are also Mr. Nakamura, the Mayor, Mr. Haas, Mr. Yoshioka, the interpreter, and Mr. Jimmy Takeshima and three or four secretaries. At 9:45 the delegates having arrived from the three camps the conference is commenced. There is a microphone. Mr. Nakamura, Mayor of the CC commences to speak. There is a loud applause.

NAKAMURA: I think that I shall sit as I speak. I heartily appreciate your presence here today. I firmly believe that the evacuees and the administration should meet together and freely work for better understanding which naturally will create better feelings. I have been the past member of the Gyoseibu. Here it is July. It is now a year since we have arrived in Poston. We have an important subject to discuss today. The purpose of the conference will be stated very briefly. I shall ask for your indulgence for a short time. When the CC met for the first time we had a memo from the Agriculture Department expressing to us their status. I think you all know about this. The Japanese are the best agriculturists in the world. Vegetables, chicken, pigs, corn, are nothing new to you. We should all realize the importance of this necessity for growing part of our



food. The research into this by the CG has found it important to disseminate information about agriculture to the residents. This is the purpose for this conference. Our budget has been cut, but I would like to stress this point that even money will not buy food stuff that we need because of the shortage all over the country so we must determine to work it out among ourselves. I hope at this meeting you will all feel free to discuss this problem with us. Please discuss it thoroughly today. I want you to decide and carry out thoroughly what you decide finally. The Pacific Ocean is not very peaceful. You all realize the difficulty of evacuation. The Japanese people were brought into the relocation centers such as Poston, but I wish that we can all create a happier life within the center, so that in the future history will look back to Poston and comment on its set up as an ideal place of habitat. The world will look upon this settlement as good as any part of the world. I have occasionally wondered how the administration looks at the alien evacuees. The future is dark. However, even in this difficulty the U.S. government has allowed us a freedom in the community where the Japanese can have their own government. This is primarily due to the democratic government and we appreciate it very much for this humane treatment. To Mr. Head I would also like to extend my heartiest appreciation.



He is the father of all of us. He has done a wonderful job. In return I want to tell him that the people will abide by the rules and regulations set by the government, by the WRA and by the local government. Thank you. (applause)

(Yoshioka translates into English)

NAKANURA: Next, we will have a talk by the vice chairman, Mr. Takeshima.

TAKESHIMA: (speaks in English) Being inexperienced as I am I want to guarantee to you that I am doing all that I can do along with the other members of the agriculture department for this mornings problem. First of all we were to have Mr. Head this morning to address us in this conference, but due to a business call on the outside he left. So he has left Mr. Nelson of the Unit I administratio to address in his place. At this time I would like to introduce Mr. Nelson, Unit I Administrator in place of Mr. Head. (applause)

NELSON: Mr. Chairman, and members present here today.

I want to correct one thing. I am not going to make an address. Your Project Director, Mr. Head, was supposed to be here, but at 8:15 this morning he received a call and therefore left for the outside. He wanted me to express his regrets at not being able to address you. However, I am sure that this group of men will study carefully your common problems and find a solution. Until now we have all felt more or less as belonging either to Unit 1, 2, 3.



And that was a good sign. Competition adds spice to our daily life. However, for this morning we have a problem which is a Poston problem which evacuees each and everyone regardless of his identification with department or units. Problems in the past have caused much misunderstanding because information as not gone directly to the people. I want you representatives to be responsible for getting the information back to the people. In the past I presume that you have all found that Mr. Head has been working for the welfare of the people of Poston. He has been carrying the torch outside. It is, therefore, our responsibility to click inside and uphold him and back him up. The past 14 months seems the inception of Poston. There has been many discouraging things as the shortage of materials and shortage of workers. We have always received various instructions from Washington in the past from the Director of Budget. We have just received an instruction that the food money will be reduced during the 1943 fiscal year. (1) The first point that I would like to express is that it is not a question of monetary value or the Congressional budget. You people should realize that it is just difficult to get any stuff in here. I read a story. During 1918 in the first World War an aviator was shot down from an airplane. He was very, very



seriously injured. The sergeant called the chaplain and told him that the aviator had no chance to live. The chaplain went to the cot of the injured soldier and went to talk to him. The chaplain asked him if there was anything that he could do for his family. The aviator gasping for air told the chaplain to look into his inside pocket. The chaplain put his hands into the inside pocket and withdrew a ten dollar bill. The injured aviator looked up and smiling said, "Bet you ten dollars I don't die." He didn't. The same spirit is necessary here. I wish you would show the same spirit here and carry on until the last man. I have come here to talk in place of Mr. Head. I hope you will make a decision and do it. Cooperate and push it through.

TAKESHIMA: Thank you. Mr. Yoshioka will now translate Mr. Nelson's speech. (Yoshioka translates) (He seems to the observer to be better in translating English into Japanese rather than Japanese into English. He is a kibe and he is very thorough in his translation of Nelson's speech to the last detail. It requires time. There is loud applause after the translation.)

TAKESHIMA: Now we would like to have a few words on the technical point by the Chief of Agriculture and Industries department of Entireposton who has been



a great help and a great leader. He has cleared lands of mesquite and has been active in bringing into production/such <sup>in</sup> a short time. He will make a speech to you. Mr. Homer Mathiesen, Chief of the Agriculture Department. (applause)

MATHIESEN: Members of the agriculture conference. It is sort of hard for me to stand in one place so I will not use a microphone. I am happy to see not only a large crowd here today, but to see real farmers. I feel somehow that you are betting your \$10 that Poston will pull through. I don't want to talk anything about the past or the future right at this moment. We should know the facts where subjugation has been completed. How much land is available. How much equipment is available. We should also decide how to get the job done. I think this meeting is being held at an ideal time. Farming obligations for the winter will be under way. Those of you who have come from Salt River Valley in Arizona or from Imperial Valley will know. We will have a big job in July. Water will be have to put through the large structure just outside the camp. That is a job that I wish to be done this month. Mr. Rupkey is trying with adequate assistance to get the water through to Block 34. When you first came into Poston, you knew nothing about Poston. That was the case with us. The plans



have already been formulated before hand without any participation by you. They were imposed on us. We knew nothing about the land or anything about it. There were talk of subjugating 40,000 acres of land the assumption being on large scale farming. In November Mr. Myer then emphasized relocation. This speech rather than giving anything else rather kicked the spirit out of agriculture department. The change from that day was to subjugate rather than to large scale farming. This change came directly from Washington. We turned our attention to subsistence farming. My wife went to Parker the other day to buy a watermelon. It cost seven and a half cents per pound. She bought one cantaloupe which cost thirty-five cents. According to the new instructions 14% of our own meal will have to grown within Poston. I think we would go broke if we had to buy cantaloupes at thirty-five cents a piece. Mr. Myer began to talk about six or seven thousand acres for all farming. I say seven thousand acres just for vegetables. With the help of evacuees we have 619 acres truck crop. 120 acres hog farming, 80 acres dairy and cattle corral. 80 acres for fish. 40 acres for nursery for flowers, trees, and etc. 120 acres for berries; 200 acres for .....; 3,280 acres for greening to feed the chickens and the hogs; 580 acres for pasture; 1,000 acres for alfalfa; 300 acres of rice. So you see it's



not only 7,000 acres of vegetables, but a very diversified farming. I believe this information is correct. The bureau of budget has<sup>asked</sup> Congress for .31 a day for the appropriation for the coming fiscal year. Our job is, therefore, to raise only 14 cents worth of food per person, which I think would be relatively simple. Our camp requirements as I remember the figures needs 10 million pounds of vegetables to feed the camps. Rupkey will tell us the land subjugation and those contemplated this year. He was asked by the representative to say a word on the agriculture budget whether we have enough money. I would like to say that the budget that I made up total over three hundred thousand dollars. The break down to be something like this. \$2300 for travel expenses necessary for myself and Mr. Sharp and others. \$15,000 for cost of freight. \$600 for contractual service such as rent with the Unit if 80 acres being formulated and the valley farms will be expected to operate most of this. We had asked requisitions for one hundred seventy thousand dollars for supplies and materials. \$134,000 for equipment. This requisition was sent in from our department to Mr. Empie who in turn has submitted it to Washington. Maybe it will not go through. But I think you must be a very poor farmer if you cannot pull through with approximately \$100 put in per acre. I don't feel that we should feel hard pressed. It takes organi



organization of crew and so on. I have been told that there are not enough equipment in Poston, but not all depends on the view point. If we are going to work only four hours <sup>a day</sup>/then "no". But if we work straight through for 8 hours a day then we will pull through. The squeeze is on the administration. Two men were here from the war production board, but they didn't take one piece of equipment out of Poston. However, if we go in for much more farm equipment we will run into trouble with the War Production Board. Some of the folks say that procurement is slow. That seems to be the chronic complaint in entire Poston. But I feel that if you realize it the Procurement Department is not at fault. We need more workers. Mr. Sharp can use all he can get. I am sorry to say this, but I plan to leave next week. I have been loaned by the Indian Service to the WRA and I am now being recalled to my old job. I think that after I have done that all that I have said is translated into Japanese it will be time for Mr. Sharp to speak so that I shall not say any more. However, let us not get bogged down in this meeting. The first thing we have to do is work and get that water through to 34. May I say that it has been a pleasure to work with you all. I hope that I may come back someday. Thank you.



(Yoshioka translates. There is some mix up of numbers as he translates it. He calls 6,019 as 619, 177,000 as 17,700. Applause after translation.)

TAKESHIMA: Next on the list is a man representing the Engineer's Department. He is Mr. Rupkey, the Chief of Engineers. (applause)

RUPKEY: Mr. Chairman and members of this conference. I am glad to see you all here. I would like to divide my talk this morning into two main points. --a short discussion on the past program and a short discussion on the future program. Approximately fifteen months ago I was asked by the army men in Los Angeles and by the WRA and the Indian Service to plan the subjugation and irrigation of land covering 40,000 acres. According to the plan the land was to be prepared mostly by the evacuees, especially, the farmer. And it was planned that some of them would make their living permanently in this valley. Well, I have been engaged on an irrigation project which costs fourteen million dollars putting a dam in the Colorado River for the Indian Service. This is an old project. I have been working on it three or four years before I came here. Relocation started and another program which had already been started by the Indian Service. The Indian Service had already taken Indians into the valley. It was then that I was told to come here to Poston. They



They called mechanics and more from the Indian Service project, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Montana, and they also brought with them dredgers and other equipments. We also were able to get some tractors although they are hard to get a hold of. We were asked to do the work here, but we had no money with which to buy them. The government told us to do what we could using second hand equipment and equipment borrowed from other government projects. We worked two shifts a day. Seven days a week, for a year and now the irrigation is 95% through. When the army started to set up barracks. Well, the first thing that was important was to get irrigation here. As you know when we first came to camp there was nothing but dust. Bringing up the irrigation was the most important work. We finally got the water in July. All the available machinery and manpower were concentrated there for the purpose. We continued excavation although only part of the tractors was available, therefore, the levelling of the land is very slow. But the canal excavation has been going along very well. 90% is already finished. We hope that by the end of this month it will be completed. However, for six months we did not hire any outside worker but planned to use evacuee labor. We tried to use workers among the evacuees workers, but was not very successful. At that time we had lots of money. Four million dollars. We, therefore,



decided to hire whites and Indians. There were need to get machinery parts and labor. However, according to our new budget we will be able only to hire nine Caucasians. So we will depend on the evacuee to put across the canal structure. This is a brief history of the project here today. Next, what are the tentative plans? Do we have enough money? Twelve hundred thousand dollars for equipment, twenty thousand dollars for labor, so if we can get the labor from you the residents of Poston then we will be able to complete this job. The water that we have here is waste water from the old Indian project. (speech becomes inaudible) Less water is coming down into Poston. Therefore, this camp should have an independent canal now. 95% is already finished. So we need help to finish it up. We now have about 12,000 acres including the dam site which is already in use. Large amount will be needed in forms of laterals to be constructed. We have succeeded quite well in structures of laterals in Camp 2. We need the same thing to be done here around Camp 1. I have no doubt of its being done. We will have to build some roads, too. Drainage work and certain amount of groundwork. But I am sure that we can do the entire work if the evacuees are cooperative. I think that I have given what I want at this time.



Mr. Mathiesen has asked me to make a statement on the land already for cultivation. 1200 acres are now available. contracts call for a thousand more. We are planning to have 2000 acres ready for cultivation by November 1st. 1500 acres will be ready by September 1st. However, the water has not reached there yet. Thank you. (applause)

YOSHIOKA: Translates.

TAKESHIMA: Since it is already twenty minutes passed 11:00, I believe we shall cut the morning session at this time. We will meet here again this afternoon at 1:30 at which reports from three agriculture departments will be given. Then we plan to have questions and answers from you representatives to Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Rupkey and discussions into further topics. For representatives from Units 2 and 3 there are meal tickets available so that you may eat in the various kitchens here in Camp 1. Camp 2 persons should see Roy Furowa and Camp 3 persons should see Mr. Kubota. (Translates into Japanese himself.) (applause)



AFTERNOON SESSION

1:30 P.M.

Mr. Nishimura who seems to be in some sort of capacity at the conference and who resides in Block 35, same as the observer asks the observer to go to Block 35 and to call the interpreter, Mr. Yoshioka, who resides in Block 35 to come to the afternoon session for translation. Upon going to Yoshioka's apartment observer found him sleeping in bed with an electric fan set on the table nearby. I relayed the message to him, but Yoshioka didn't seem anxious to report to the new session. He asked the observer to relay to Mr. Nishimura that the observer was unable to find Yoshioka at home and, therefore, didn't know where he was. This message the observer takes back to Mr. Nishimura who in turn tell this to Mr. Nakamura, the Mayor. Due to this errand observer was unable to get the beginning of the noon session and the speech by Frank Mizushawa. (See notes taken by either EHS or TS) (Applause to Mr. Mizusawa's speech.)  
TAKESHIMA: We are going right down the list to Camp 2.

Will Mr. Takeshi of Camp 2 Agriculture Department give his report?

TAKESHI: Since many of the representatives here are Isseis I think that I will speak today in Japanese. I am representing the Camp 2 Agriculture Department. On June 5th 1942 we were organized. At that time we had 137 workers, 49 of whom were volunteers and



and the rest were full time. We have the smallest personnel of all the three camps. We have got underway under the suggestion of Mr. Mathiesen. We had 80 acres of spinach, carrots, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew and onion and truck crop. Poultry was started in February. The agriculture department had much hard work. At that time we had 340 chickens. In July 400 chickens will go to the mess hall.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  pounds will be the average weight of the chicken. The landscape scenery in Camp 2 has more or less run very smooth. This was primarily due to the labor shortage. In camp 2 we have asked each kitchen to save crates. Now we are getting much honey dew. However, we have no containers. This is a very serious problem with us and so we ask your cooperation on this problem. Our future plan should make some provision to have adequate containers on hand in which to pack fruits and vegetables grown within the camp. For our future plans we have been outlining a super crop. Some of us used to be in the Industry department. First we tried soy beans. We are planning to grow neri ba daikon for tsukemono. Also we plan to have sheds for moyashi. The truck division will start the autumn tomatoes on July 7th. In Camp 2 we have 20 acres of spinach which will yield a crop in four months. We have planted onions, white and brown,



which we expect to be ready by October 1st. We hope that we may get some by September. Cabbage, we have two kinds. Copenhagen and Cannon Ball. By the middle of October we've slated 20 acres of carrots. We want to get this under way as soon as possible. The lettuce will be planted in 20 acres. We expect to harvest it the first of September, first of November, and first of December. On the Indian school project we have cantaloupe, honey dews, watermelon will soon be ready as they will ripen soon. After this we plan to plant sweet corn. Let me explain about the contract of the Indian school. Last September we had a contract of one year lease. On September this will elapse. This 80 acre, however, will be needed very much. Honeydew, watermelon, cantaloupes if grown near the camp inevitably people will swipe them. But the reason we <sup>just</sup> ask for a new contract on this land ~~with this~~ <sup>say</sup> ~~doesn't mean~~ <sup>just</sup> the camp was detrimental to the fruit crop. Thus we ask Mr. Mathiesen and Sharp to renew the contract again. We plan to use the fire break areas in Camp 2 for turnips, carrots as soon as possible. We are now working on it. I would like to repeat my request for containers, baskets, and crates once more. Next, I would like to ask Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Sharp if we can have tractors ~~as~~ we



have 200 acres which needs to be worked upon. There is a labor shortage in Camp 2, especially. Recently, Mr. Myer has sent a memo which asked for reduction of evacuee workers and yet our plan was to request that the truck crop and poultry need much more persons to carry on its work. Also I would like to ask Mr. Mathiesen about the supplies and also about the trucks. I think, however, that we should all watch ourselves and not make complaints without first determining that we would do work. I think too much of us are making complaints without determination to work as much as possible under the circumstances. Thank you. (applause)

VICE-CHAIRMAN TAKESHIMA: Next, we will have Camp 3, Mr. Matsumoto.

MATSUMOTO: I, too, will speak in Japanese. Camp 3 differs from Camps 1 and 2. We were the first one in camp. However, Camp 1 and 2 were the first to get irrigation water. We have absolute no irrigation water so we were the last to begin operation in the agriculture field. Last month it was finally started. First it was necessary to improve the irrigation facilities. 20 acres have been started on the suggestion of Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Sharp. Two acres of this was turned over to the high school students which was taken over by the school for student purposes. This left 18 acres. We had an old engine to pump water which caused some diffi-



culty. We had some landscaping and nursery, but the main concentration was on food supply. We had nappa- $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres, squash- $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, tomatoe- $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, eggplant- $3\frac{1}{4}$  acres; up to date we have totaled nappa-4,4845 lbs., squash-17,937 lbs., cucumbers-17,616 lbs.. We have started to commence harvesting tomatoes which has yielded 1500 lbs. which is not bad for beginning. With the arrival of hot days we have been worrying about further yields of tomatoes. We have started harvesting eggplants and thus far we have several hundred pounds. We have three acres of watermelon which we expect a good crop within one week or ten days when they are ripe. This is the program in that field. I would like at this time to make the announcement on the poultry farm. We received 3,600(?) chickens in Camp 3. Out of this 384 died. We have already supplied to the mess halls and to the hospital 595. The total pound of these 595 was 919,000 pounds. We have now 2,101 birds left in Camp 3. Second shipment made a total of 4,600 birds. Of these 462 have died. Many were chicks, and, therefore, they were not yet ready for mess use. We have now 3,598 left of which 2,101 are adult birds. Thus making a total of 5,699. Now, it is becoming hot and commencing from October to March we expect every month to receive 2,000 birds. And, therefore, in Camp 3 we expect to have 16,000 birds to always be on hand. This is our desire and plan. I think



that covers our report. The most important thing is water. We cannot do anything without water. We are handicapped, but we will do research work to see what will grow. We think, however, that daikon, cabbage, spinach, nappa will probably be the best. We hope that the high school students will still go on with the small acre that they have so that future boy farmers will have a place for experiment if they want to. Concerning the <sup>7</sup>weather division I think 1, 2, and 3 are very much alike. We are also experimenting on maguro beans to grow moyashi and soy beans from which tofu is made. Here we will cooperate with the Industries Department. We have tried out growing soy beans and the moyashi beans. The manto beans have fared fairly well and will not fail. The soy beans, however, shows only vines and didn't have any flowers and, therefore, no beans grew in profusion. We had a very inferior crop. I am not saying that soy beans will not grow in Poston but that was the result of our experiment. The vines were short and poor and just doesn't grow. I would like to say something about the camp 3 workers. During Feb. 3, 4, 5, 6 we had an average from 117 to 118. Part time workers number 120 with full time workers 98. This covers the report from Camp 3. Thank you. (applause)

TAKESHIMA: Thank you. I know that it is hot in this room and appreciate all of you for bearing it out



with us. I think that many of you probably desire to ask questions directed to Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Rupkey and to an agricultural evacuee personnel. I hope that you will all ask questions. Please feel free to discuss whatever you want. You may ask the question in Japanese to Mr. Mathiesen and Mr. Sharp. I shall send for an interpreter. Are there any questions? (pause) (silence)

SAKAMOTO OF CAMP II: (Sakamoto is the Vice-Chairman of the <sup>city</sup> local council of ~~Camp 2~~. He seems to be one of the active leaders of the community there. Observer knew him back in Fresno, California where he was a very active member in the community affair, being the one time president of the Japanese association. At the outbreak of the war he was reported to have bought much war bonds as a demonstration of his faith in this country. In other words he bought enough bonds to keep the FBI from taking him to an internment camp. With the evacuation rumor coming to Fresno he and his family managed to escape into a white zone, but was later evacuated here to Pæton and, therefore, separated from the other Central California people. He used to run an insurance business, but had recently turned toward selling fertilizer and insecticides where he seemed to prosper very well. He was probably one of the more wealthier Japanese in the community. There were, however, much rumor in the community at that time that Mr. Sakamoto had used clever methods and was



not so honest in his method of obtaining money. However, he had a very "politician" personality and, therefore, could cater to people very well. It seemed obvious to the observer that Mr. Sakamoto in this conference is trying to weave a way through to become one of the leaders in the three camps. )

Mr. Mathiesen, the Council has called the representatives from the three units and we have been asked to inquire about a few things. In Unit I they have 100 acres of land in Section 34 which is suitable for vegetable growing. Unit II has at least 80 acres and Unit III has 20 acres making a total of 200 acres and we understand and have been informed that another 140 acres will be ready in Section 10. We have been asked to farm these lands. What I would like to ask is what about equipment? In Camp 2 alone there was equipment enough for 20 acres. In Unit 3 113 to 200 acres is truck crop. In Unit I there is equipment for 200 acres at the most using all the equipment and therefore, in July there will be about 450 acres or approximately at the least 400 acres which are under cultivation. But the plan seems to call for at least 700 acres. Now, what I would like to inquire is do we have enough equipment and implements to farm the 300 acres?

MATHIESEN: That goes back to how many hours we are going to farm. We have now 24 Fergusons tractors, 14 caterpillars. One Cat has never been operated. It is still broke down. These 4 caterpillars work on 300



acres and I don't think it is overloading those equipment by any means. You asked that we have 300 acres more and so what of more equipment. I think that it will all go back to the hope whereby the WPB will take away from us equipment, if we are going to work on the four hours a day basis. You folks all farmed back home. Of course, I don't expect you to farm as hard as you did then. But I think we might as well use the machinery to meet the requirements of the WPB. The yard stick is not to be on the four hour basis. And I think so far there has not been much refusal for requisition to use the Ferguson. Mr. Takeshima has petitioned for the Ferguson. That is the only Ferguson we have at the time. I don't know, but does that answer your questions?

SAKAMOTO: Yes.

MATHIESEN: We should have had this meeting a year ago.

I feel thus far that the Councilmen has not had an opportunity of knowing what kind of poultry were in Poston, what program was in progress and what it meant. We had made plans for our dairy., in order to get priority. The job of farmers and the landscapers has made very green this camp. I think it all goes to the credit of the agriculture department and the landscaping department. We have written to Dearborn, Michigan and requested for machinery. However, they have not come here yet. But I don't want you to blame us. But if you understood the



situation you would understand why we are unable to get some of the material.

SAKAMOTO: You know land has to be cultivated?

MATHIESEN: Now you are getting down to practical questions. You have to do more work day and night and the rest of the week. I would like to further say that the agriculture department is really appreciative of the interest the Council is taking in the agriculture program. Are there any questions?

TAKESHIMA: Any questions?

SAKAMOTO: Mr. Mathiesen, isn't it possible to get insecticides in a shorter time than three or four months?

MATHEISEN: Oh, it's you again. That goes back to the Procurement Department. I think all of you know the set up of the Procurement Department. It is the government regulation that procurement has to go through this department. A thousand years cannot change it. The thing to do is to anticipate the need three or four or six months ahead of them and put in the requisition. But the fault lies in the fact that last May that if anybody told me that we would have four large farms I would have told him that he was crazy. You can blame me for not anticipating operations of these four farms. Now, cantaloupes are without crates. What's the matter with the agriculture department, Mathiesen, or the Procurement Department? But the only way to remedy this is to anticipate our needs. I am



procuring more now although we will not use this until October. I wish Mr. Empie was here to make a statement to this effect.

SAKAMOTO: Last year was different. Farmers would all go out and grow vegetables and the insects would all eat them up and just make us all sick.

MATHIESEN: Yes, I realize that. It is a wonder that today you can all grin after going through what you did. With the soil so full of alkali that hardly anything will grow.

TAKESHIMA: Are there any other questions to other members of the Caucasian staff here? You may ask it in Japanese.

FUKUDA: Mr. Rupkey how many men do you need for the construction job to carry out the water over to Section 34?

RUPKEY: We have been continuing the work right along as we build irrigation ditches, reconstruction laterals and checks and drops along the laterals. The thing we would like to do is to immediately get across the road to Section 34. We need about 50 to 75 men for two <sup>or</sup> three weeks. We need about 50 men to work continuously on the laterals. al. Didn't you plan Monday and Tuesday that your crew will help us out. We could readily use fifty men. Does that answer your question Mr. Fukuda?

ISSEI: May I ask Mr. Rupkey a question?

RUPKEY: Yes.



ISSEI: Will you explain about the twenty thousand dollars on the budget?

RUPKEY: This WRA is not final, but we are exchanging one million two thousand dollars for building construction roads outside the works. Twenty thousand dollars has been supplied for irrigation, labor, carpenter, skilled and common labor, who are not salary workers. This, however, doesn't improve the evacuees. As you probably know the evacuee workers will be limited to 5,600 people.

SAKAMOTO: Mr. Takashima has told us how hard <sup>it is</sup> to get crates. It is the same story in Gila. I made a recent visit there. They have no crates in which to ship it out. I wonder if there are any regulations affecting this situation.

MATIESEN: I know that the situation over the crates is bad. This is probably due to the fact that sugar is crated and sent over seas. In the last order we ordered 600 dozen baskets. Last week we ordered thirteen thousand dollars worth. But the problem is that we have to get the food in here. It is not a matter of how much money because the food may not be there. Roughly we have three land lay outs which are about equal in acreage. But 34 directly west of Unit 1 between Unitland 2 and to their opposite the west side of the land road is 500 acres.



Mizusawa tells me that there has been some discussion about moving Camp 3 down to Camp I. Unit II will work the land between 1 and 2. However, this is not as yet been decided. Rupkey, will you check me here? The thing we want is to get the water down to 34. No water will be there until the structures are finished. This is a job for July. Let us all come out with some concrete planning in this meeting. This is the bottleneck.

SAKAMOTO: (unable to record due to noise)

MATHIESEN: Now, the vital and the most important thing would be to get that job done. It would be a suggestion and maybe a committee could work over this job about the crate and baskets. That's the biggest worry we have today. We have two truck loads of cantaloupes which came in today and they phoned me to come and unload the truck. The cantaloupes are all packed up in the trucks without any container, but thanks to the meeting I got out of unloading it today.

TAKESHIMA: Are there any other questions?

SAKAMOTO: May I speak in Japanese so I can tell these people here why I asked the questions that I had to Mr. Mathiesen. (translates his own speech into Japanese)

TAKESHIMA: Any other questions? Mr. Sakamoto, have you any other questions?

SAKAMOTO: No. But I think that the CC and the farmers



should get together.

TAKESHIMA: Today the problem is not only that concerning the agriculture department, but it involves all residents of Boston and we, especially, need the help of the experienced farmers. This agriculture department needs your advise Mr. Mathiesen as suggested that a committee be set up because this body is too big to bring about concrete results of planning. So I wonder at the feasibility of going ahead with the formation of the committee. I think this is also the original plan of the Council. If anyone else has any other suggestion we would like to hear them.

ISSEI: Committee? We have had too many committees already. I believe that the agriculture department has already been working on the problem so they should be able to decide for themselves.

ISSEI: The first thing that is necessary is insect control. We plant seeds, but the insects all eat them up so we are unable to go ahead. Another thing to farm, we need farm equipment. Without equipment it is pretty hard to do good farming. Until these things are decided first I think it is no use going ahead planning big ideas. Even if we do have committees what is the use if the above things are not remedied. For farming first you need water. Second, you need insect powder and third, you need adequate equipment. Fourth, we need adequate supply of labor. Also may



maybe we could use crates. What I would like to hear from Mr. Mathiesen is more concrete facts.

TAKESHIMA: Even if you ask me about nature such as insect powder I think I can say nothing definite. The thing we have to do is to order three or four months ahead so we can't tell what we are going to need right at the moment. So I asked that you make a committee as planned originally by the council before we adjourn at this meeting. I would like to see not only the agriculture department included in this, but also some of the other groups who are interested in the agricultural program to make up a committee and to decide and plan on future policies. Are there any other suggestions?

ISSEI: Concerning this committee, I think that since we have here in Poston an agriculture department and also a personnel that an added committee would not be feasible. Don't forget that we also have a manpower shortage. So I think it is not for us to work on this. But I think that the agriculture department should all get together and decide for plans. Another committee would only add more trouble, so that they could not do the best work. My suggestion is that the agriculture department and that division be looked upon as a committee.

MIZAWA: Mr. Mathiesen, what department is under you. I



believe if we receive an order from you we would obey, but if we get orders from other persons, say a councilman, what are we to do? We would like to have it so that we would have to take no orders from anyone but from you. It is too complicated when committees or individuals aside from you coming and telling us exactly what to do. It just perplexes the problem that much more.

MATHIESEN: I don't want to make an elaborate speech, but I am glad that we are holding a meeting like this. It will be one good way to get the information back to the people. What we need is a cooperation. We have to have the help of the people to be under this agriculture program. We need cooperation between the Council and the agriculture department. However, men in the agriculture department have made farming their life work. We have another agriculture department, evacuees not only working as soil farmers, but also some of the pest scientific men. They have had ideas on how to grow better onions. How to enlarge the poundage of cantaloupes. Isseis like the farm. I don't think the Council should go out and tell these farmers what to do.

ISSEI: There seems to be much discussion about the committee. I think that a ~~theater~~ <sup>committee</sup> would probably be just the same as holding a mass meeting such as this. I think it would be much better if we had two men who would



qualify for the job to take over the entire rein.

TAKESHIMA: Must that be from the agriculture department?

ISSEI: No, they may be from anywhere and it may be anybody.

TAKESHIMA: Do you mean two from each camp or two from all the three camps?

ISSEI: Two from all the camps.

MATHIESEN: I missed what he said. Would you tell me what he said?

TAKESHIMA: Well, he wants two men who would take over the entire problem. They would make requisitions and coordinate the entire program. It would be up to these two qualified men.

MATHIESEN: I wish that they would be dirt farmers. I still, however, believe that not only one or two or three can do the job. It is a quarter past three now and I think we ought to get down to business. All of Poston should cooperate. The problem is to get the water over. Get that done. Well, I am out of order I will sit down.

ISSEI: I thought we were here to discuss about systems. But it seems we are here to discuss about committees and about irrigation water. If these are necessary; then let us appoint a committee. But one thing that we have to realize is that it is hard to tell who is who. We can't tell which men are qualified in such a large crowd as <sup>this</sup> ~~xxx~~ and it would only take time. The important thing now is the manpower



reduction scheme of the new policy. Why can't we transfer those men over to the agriculture department? They could leave it to the Manpower Commission, even if we did have a big committee to decide all plans. What's the use if we did have a manpower shortage due to the fact that we cannot get more workers, due to this new WRA policy.

ISSEI: The Community Council has an agriculture committee so why not let these three committees in the three units manage the agriculture problem. They could meet and make definite plans and may be presented to this body.

TAKESHIMA: I think that's a good idea, Baba-san, but I think not only the agriculture department, but also have people from other sources.

FUKUDA: Mr. Nelson, how will the priority over manpower be faced in the future?

NELSON: What are you trying to do? I have been trying to hold Mathiesen down from talking too much. The work corp of Poston will be set down to a definite number according to the teletype. It decides definitely the exact quota of the evacuees that will work in Poston. Also only certain percentage will obtain \$19 jobs. Last Tuesday, as the chairman of the Manpower Commission I called a meeting of all the three camps. Provisions of this new WRA policy was studied. I have a heckler here. (Referring to Mathiesen.) Our quota has been definitely



set up for 5,600 employee evacuees in Poston. On April 31st we had 8,049 working. This will have to be reduced to 5,600 by September 30. However, we have been allowing a gradual cut. The first cut of one-third will be made by the end of the month of July. The rest will be made by September 31st so by October 1st we will be on the quota set. Naturally the essential jobs will get the first consideration. I won't be surprised if we only have essential jobs on 44 hour basis. So the thing will be less jobs and more workers. It will be just the reverse of the situation we have now. As I look around this crowd I am glad that the people are those interested. I don't think we have to worry about reducing the Manpower according to the <sup>agriculture</sup> program as it will be an essential work. However, it will mean a 44 hours work, as it will to all others as hospital, administration and so forth. I know now that many are working way under the 44 hours, but I also know that some are not. Does that answer your question, Mr. Fukuda?

FUKUDA: How will we increase the quota for the agriculture department?

NELSON: Well, the non-essentials are definitely out. We have to expand the agriculture somehow.

TAKESHIMA: Mr. Mizawa, do you want to say something?

MIZAWA: Mr. Nitta has said that besides the members of the agriculture department that others should be added



to the committee. But I feel somehow that the agriculture department already knows its problem so I wonder if it is any use getting new set of members to study over the problem which the agriculture men already know. Somehow I know that there will ~~not~~ be added friction between these groups. So I just suggest that we make a committee out of the agriculture department before a misunderstanding develops.

NAKAMURA: (Chairman) Today the reason we are having the meeting is not only to invite the agriculture members, but also the farmer. This was on the request of the agriculture department themselves not only one, but of all the three camps. But you say that we should only have agriculture members in the committee. Of course, I have no power to say yes or no, but I feel that the committee should include other members beside the agriculture department. I think in this way we should all work together. I am sorry I have a cold today and I am not able to speak very plainly.

TAKESHIMA: I am from Camp 2. In Camp 2 I must always appeal to the Council to help me out. For example, when there was a manpower shortage in the poultry in fact I begged for the Council's aid. I believe that it is good to have a meeting such as this where the various blocks are represented and also the Council members. I would like to ask the block



representatives once more to bring the facts about the crates back to the block. That is the one thing that I would like to appeal for we really need crates.

ISSEI: Why don't we go ahead and form a committee and let them decide a plan. No matter what we do we seem to be doing the same thing over and over again and this heat is getting hotter with each moment.

ISSEI: Will the agriculture department be left as it is now? On the same basis or will the people put in a new personnel?

TAKESHIMA: Of course, we will have the old group. They understand the problem.

ISSEI: It's just too difficult to grow truck crop. We have bad winter all the time. It is hot today and cold tomorrow. We have funny soil. It is either too alkali or too salty. Another thing is that we ought to have tractors so that we may use it any time when it deems necessary or desirable. Is it possible to get equipment allotted to certain groups so that we may use machinery when and where we want to. I think this machinery equipment business is very important. For example we may water the same soil and wish to cultivate the land. But as you know within three days the soil may become hard as rock so we may need the equipment before the three days, but you know how difficult it is to get any equipment on such short notice, but some plan



should be worked out so that we can obtain equipment when it is desired. This is the most necessary point. Even if you worked out the other problems the chaos of equipment will upset the program. If I go to the office to ask for equipment they just merely pass the buck from one person to another until you get sick and tired of running around trying to get equipment and finally get it when it is too late to do us any good. I think another thing that will help will be the attitude of the office workers. If they could have the attitude to help us and to cooperate with us workers I think things will run more smoothly. If there is any need for added equipment then we should get it right away. (applause)

ISSEI: As Mr. Nakamura has said, it would be useless to have this meeting if we have a committee which is only composed of members of the agriculture department, but this is too cumbersome. So we do have a definite need for a committee who will plan on the increase of farm acreage in Poston so let's go. The three units "kanbus" could meet and formulate programs. I think that this would be the best in my estimation. If it doesn't work then we can change and you who know who's who in this body could push and work up this committee. (The meeting now is very dull and uninteresting and drab. The heat



has the effect of making many restless.)

NAKAMURA: There doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm in this body so my suggestion is to bring the problem to each unit and they can formulate their own problem.

TWO ISSEIS: That's all right. That's all right.

TAKESHIMA: You mean the three units work with their own committee.

SAKAMOTO: (of camp 2) Would you want to make each unit committee without any connection between the three camps? I wish you would make that point clear.

NITTA: Why don't we make use of the community council committee who already have agriculture committees within them.

SAKAMOTO: Then let's do that. (loud applause)

OKAMOTO: (Vice-Chairman of the Unit I Council) Well, we had a plan and this is it. (He reads a copy of the plan in Japanese. There seems to be some dispute over the wording of the document by some of the members of the body.)

ISSEI: That document sounds as if the agriculture department has failed and that isn't true at all. They have done a good job and I think we should have faith in our agriculture department.

NAKAMURA: This problem pertains to all the three camps.

ISSEI: The agriculture department should be left as it is.



NELSON: I will have to be educated on what's been going on. I haven't understood anything that has been said in the last fifteen minutes or so. I don't want to talk too much. Oh, but I would like to congratulate what has been completed by the agriculture department of Units 1, 2, and 3, under Mr. Mathiesen. I know that they know their stuff and will back them up and we should all try to put over the program. As someone has said before we needed this meeting about six months ago.

TAKESHIMA: Will each one think over what has been said here today? All of you should back up the agriculture department. I wish that after this sort of a conference each of you will go back to your blocks in each of the units and relay what has been going on. If there is anything interesting bring it back to us. The Council will discuss it thoroughly.

Would you like to speak, Mr. Nakamura?

ISSEI: I would like to say something first. This is for reference in the future. (mumbles) Dr. Takahashi .....I am on the truck crop of the high school.....tobacco. In the canteen they may have no candy or other sweets, but they always have cigars and tobacco. ....(very noisy)

NAKAMURA: If there are no other comments I would like to give my final say. Today has been very hot and we appreciate very heartily for you who have been



sitting and listening so intently for such a long time. We want to express to all of you from all of us our deepest appreciation. The problems are many, but let's cooperate and work together and may I also express an added thank you to those of you from Camps 2 and 3 who have come down here for this meeting. Thank you. (applause)

ADJOURNMENT 4:00 P.M.

(YM)



July 8, 1943

## Special Agricultural Meeting Held in Block 37 Office by J.D.

Meeting was scheduled for 2 o'clock and there were 25 members present. Most of them were section heads and members of the Board of Directors and Agricultural Division of Unit I. The representatives from the fishery section were noticeably absent. Principle characters were, Hidemi Ogawa, Chairman; Mathiesen, Head of Agriculture; and Thomas Sonoda, newly appointed Head of Agriculture. Before the meeting started, Ogawa, Mathiesen, Matsumoto and Kamimura of the Executive Board was holding a private conversation when I came in. I missed the first of the conversation, but I understood only that Ogawa was trying to coax the Executive Board members to attend the meeting. However, they soon went and Ogawa and Mathiesen went into the library in the Agricultural office where the meeting was held.

The meeting was called to order by Ogawa in Japanese and then read the agenda for the meeting which included: (1) the appointment of the Agriculture head of Poston I, (2) approval of the Executive Board and (3) canal construction problem.

Mr. Mathiesen was then introduced.

In a very loud and somewhat irritating voice, he began by saying, "Poston is made up of changes and in the past 14 months all of us have seen many different changes. Somehow, I feel guilty for I, too, am contributing to this changing situation in Poston. As I told you at the meeting last Saturday, I am expected to leave this project sometime in the next week. I have been called back by the Indian Service.

"There are also other changes, young people are leaving daily to re-settle on the outside. The burden is thrown upon the Isseis more and more in our Agricultural program. Last year, the original plan was to cultivate 40,000 acres. Now we have cut that down to a small percentage of this plan. As a consequence, our Agricultural personnel is also cut down to probably 1% of the original personnel planned for.

"As you all know, Frank Mizusawa who has been faithfully working in this Agricultural division has been wanting to resign for sometime. I was sorry to hear that he was in the hospital and that he will be there for 2 weeks and will take another 2 weeks to convalesce. Next month will be very important in this Agricultural project, it is a critical month. The responsibility of the Agricultural program is falling directly on the Isseis. We are all conscious of the 14¢ per day food allotment that must be raised by the Agricultural Department. Therefore, this coming month is an important month for all of us.

"Yesterday, July 7, there was a letter written with Mr. Head's approval which I will read now. (and he reads the letter, which states that Mr. T. Sonoda will be the new head of the Agricultural Department of Unit I and Mr. F. Otsuka and Mr. M. Yano for the Executive Board.)

(This speech was translated to Japanese by Mr. Nitta.)



Ogawa asked the vote of confidence and approval of the newly appointed Executive Board. The vote was unanimous. Sonoda gets up after pausing for a brief applause. (Sonoda talked in Japanese and since my Japanese is poor, this translation may not be entirely reliable.) It was a rather prepared speech in which he talked about himself as being a dirt farmer. He told of the difficulties that this department has faced; of the new WRA directive necessitating the making up the difference between 31¢ and 45¢ that was "thrust upon us": of Tule Lake, Gila, Jerome and Rohwer, which did not have any subjugation *problems* prepared as Poston had. He repeated several times something about "Mizunomi animal." He talked also of the present difficulties of Mr. Sharp on vacation, of Mr. Mathiesen leaving and Mr. Mizusawa in the hospital.

~~"We are faced with 3 fields of concentration, (1) truck farming, (2) poultry department and (3) hog problem."~~

He stressed this problem of getting water and the ~~necessity that there are~~ 3 things that a truck farmer must have. Dirt, climate and water. In Poston, we have dirt and climate but no water. In order to have crops for this coming season, we must have water in the canals by October 15 in order that the land will be ready for planting." He stated that section 34 was to have 80 acres which must be flooded by October." Then he read from a list saying that there are approximately 29 working in this truck farming section, 25 landscape section and 34 in the harvesting crew. He asked that wherever possible, he wanted workers even though only 1 or 2 from each of these sections to work on the canal.

(There is no comment from the floor on this and apparently had the approval of all.)

Then in English, he directed his attention to Mr. Mathiesen. He said in an ambiguous way that he wanted the function of the Board of Directors clarified. He said, "According to the memorandum, the members are to plan a program for Agriculture in Poston. Having full responsibility for carrying out his work being tied down <sup>and</sup> by ~~in~~compelled to conform under the WRA program, it seems to me that the Board of Directors can <sup>only</sup> plan a program and recommend things, but if we do not get the cooperation and the understandings of the WRA officials, how can we carry out our program successfully? (Sonoda was inferring here that the Board of Directors recommend the need for a lot of equipment, seeds and supplies, but for some unknown reasons, were not sent and therefore, the program was impeded.)

Mathiesen: "As I understand your question I mentioned in your letter sometime ago, a need for closer cooperation in the community. I made a statement that I wanted this plan to be made by the evacuees. When we said that we should not plant turnips or beets, it was really your ~~blame~~ <sup>plan</sup> for it was your wish. We want you to plan. We feel that the 4 or 5 heads of Caucasians appointed personnel are not better than the 250 evacuees who are working in the Agricultural program in Unit I or better than 450 working in the total Poston Community. I know that we have bought lots of stuff that we do not need and have not bought the



things that we do need. You know that as well as I do."

Sonoda: "You know we make lots of plans at these meetings and we make many requisitions but we find them scratched off by your office. We want to feel that we have your backing. We want to know how much assurance we have in having our requisition through."

Mathiesen: "Let's be frank. I am going to put the cards on the table. Sometime ago \$7,000 worth of fertilizer was requisitioned but it was scratched off because, frankly, it would have over-stepped our budget. At other times there is a feeling among Units 2 and 3 that we here at I are being favored over them, but I can make one recommendation in this respect, I think we will ask the secretary to make a memorandum to Mr. Sharp for an agreement to notify this division of any cut in the requisition on the next day."

"I know there is a feeling among us to always request more than what is needed. If we need only 1,000 feet of lumber, we ask for 2,000. To be sure to get your requisition through, I would like you to put in exactly what you need and no more."

Sonoda: "I understand that there is \$9,000 worth of seed in the warehouse. I can't understand why it's there without any requisition from the Agricultural Department on it."

(Shimomaye, Head of the Warehouse (?) ): <sup>That</sup> ~~They~~ came in last year in July. It is wheat, corn, oats and barley which were never used. Probably amounts to \$5,000."

Sonoda: "I want to know exactly what understanding we have."

Mathiesen: "I think we should check over everything that we have and what we don't need we should dispose of immediately. Last year we thought we were going to have a dairy and bought some machinery and supplies, in expectation that these will be frozen but now we have no dairy."

Ogawa: "It seems to me there is not enough coordination in our office and your office in this budget business. If you don't let the people know what the budget for the Department is, how do you expect to come within the budget, or how do you expect them to plan satisfactory?"

Mathiesen: "Well, we don't know exactly what the budget is ourselves until a certain time."

Ogawa: "I wonder if the evacuees can't be taken into confidence when the budget is approved?"

Mathiesen: "Yes, that should be done. Let's show in the minutes that this Board recommends to be informed when the budget is approved."

Sonoda: "We have been having quite a lot of conflict between Camps I, II, and III. Do you suppose that you can have separate warehouse for each camp?"



Mathiesent: "I admit the warehouse is poor. We are open to suggestion. Here is one suggestion, let's let 1, 2, and 3, get together say, once a month in allot supplies proportionately."

Shimomaya: But this means that also, we have to check inventory every 3 weeks. This is impossible to do. However, if Mr. Sharp's office can turn in carbon copies of bills of the seeds put in the warehouse, I can keep track of it."

Mathiesent: "I don't know. I feel Mr. Sharp should not be bothered about these technical stuff and details."

Shimomaya: "Every time I go over there to Mr. Sharp's office to ask about the prices of things that are sent into the warehouse, they seem to want to keep it a secret. They refuse to give me the prices several times."

Mathiesent: "We ought to change our attitudes, too."

Ogawa: "I think Mr. Sharp doesn't keep up to date with many of the things."

Mathiesent: "Of course one must understand that Mr. Sharp is taking a terrific job."

Sonoda: "One thing more, I would like to have the privilege to talk with the engineers, for example, I would like to talk with Mr. Rupkey in connection with subjugation problem. The last time I talked to him about engineering problem of section 34, Mr. Rupkey says, "I can not get around to it until the 1st of September," but the land has to be ready by the middle of October."

Mathiesent: "I am sure you have the privilege in going into Rupkey's office and discuss freely your problem just as you do with me."

(pause) Mathiesent: "Thank you very much for your unanimous approval of Executive Board ~~from the future of confidence~~ Mr. Sonoda. I would think it would be nice to send a letter of appreciation to Frank Mizusawa, who has been working so hard with us. I am looking forward to your full cooperation ~~for your water in our project.~~"

*in the canal irrigation project*  
"Oh yes, one thing more, several days ago we received a wire from Washington to limit all job in the Center to \$5,000. I'd like to ~~say~~ *have* at a discussion <sup>ed</sup> in another meeting, a question on whether or not the reduction in the Agricultural Department is possible. I know and you know ~~however~~, that there are divisions where reduction is ~~more~~ <sup>not</sup> possible such as the school and hospital. In the same wire, there was another announcement about the \$19. and \$16. wage classification. I would like to have this board decide definitely who the \$19. wage earners will be."

"This next thing is a touchy subject. Let's talk about the 8 hour day. There are divisions working here in Poston, who work 8 hours day, and there are some that don't. We don't want anybody quitting an 8 hour day division to work in the Agricultural Department because we only work 4



hours a day. We know that this 8 hours day is to develop good working habits and we want to support the program of the WRA. This is off the record but the Dies Committee made one of its complaints on the basis of the evacuees here not putting in full 8 hour days. You know that I am leaving but I want you to know that I won't be like Townsend, nor like James. I want you to know my attitude. I am wanting you to know that my going to Phoenix Indian School is not my wish but like the soldier in the army, I was asked to go there by the government. I want you to know that I am having four Japanese working there with me. And about what James said about that sabotage on the Santa Fe Railway, I would like to have you know that it paid me all my hospital bills, doctor bills, and medical care. I will have you know that the Santa Fe Railway does not pay for damage in event of any accident due to sabotage." then Mr. Mathiesen, left the meeting saying that he had to attend a meeting of the Unit 3 Industry Department.

Mr. Sonoda, taking the floor again said, "as far as dirt farmers are concerned, I know my business but when it comes to inside office work I don't know anything about it, so I suggest that we have an office manager and I can think of no one better than Mr. Ogawa." (everyone enthusiastically applauds)

Ogawa gets up and politely refuses and says that he came to help Mizusawa while he was convalescing.

Ogawa took this opportunity to say something about the Central Executive Board. I couldn't understand what he said but there <sup>were</sup> a few snickering. I think however, that he made facetiously excuse why the Executive Board members did not stay for the meeting.

By this time, Mathiesen had left and Sonoda suggested that the members of the Agricultural Department have a dinner for Mathiesen before he leaves. He received favorable comment on this but somebody wanted to have translated what he said about Townsend and James, and <sup>the</sup> Dies Committee.

Ogawa explained that Mathiesen said he was not like Townsend or James and his attitude toward the Japanese is good. Ogawa explained further that two Nisei are working there now and he will have two more with him. Then Sonoda commented, "I wish he had taken me with him."

Mr. George Nakamoto, Head of the Harvesting Division brought up the question of what to do with his section when the harvesting will be completed in the near future. Sonoda said, "I don't want to say much about this now but my feeling in this is, to have the truck crop division take up harvesting responsibility instead of having separate divisions of harvest ~~crew~~ and truck farm ~~area~~. This might result in better care of the plants during harvest time because persons who raised the crop would naturally take more care than those who harvest them only.

Some discussion was had on a need for a construction branch in the Agricultural Division. This was caused from the difficulties experienced in the swine division when they built that slaughter house. Nothing definite was ~~discussed~~ <sup>decided</sup> on this.



Mr. Sonoda appealed to the members to work together under this new program and again pointed out the difficulties involved. He mentioned the similarity of this desert farming to the situation most of the people present experienced in Imperial Valley. He reminded the members, "changes are necessary but they can be done only gradually but ~~not~~ *and* dramatically."

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.