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MINIDOKA RELOCATION CENTER, Idaho--Thousands of Portlanders and Seattleites--members of the first mass of "citizens without a country" in American history--~~tramp~~ ankle deep in the Idaho mud and stare ~~bitterly at their~~ barbed wire enclosure.

They are charged with no crime; they are accused of no sabotage. They had the wrong ancestors.

They are part of the army of 110,000 Japanese-Americans assembled in coastal areas by the army who were ~~rounded up in coastal areas~~ last year and shipped off to ten "relocation centers" in the interior. Here in the Minidoka center, high on a sagebrush plain of south-central Idaho, are 9500 Japanese-Americans, principally from the two metropolises of Oregon and Washington. Two-thirds of the colonists in this camp--as well as in the other nine centers--are American citizens.

Are they being held illegally? Federal Judge Fee of Portland caused a national furore several weeks ago when he challenged the validity of the entire procedure. He ruled that, in the absence of declaration of martial law, the military had no right to regulate the life of ordinary American citizens.

But the authorities held that "the presence of all these ~~people~~ people clustered along the coast and scattered throughout the interior valleys enormously complicated the problem of far western defense".

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And even the staunchest defenders of the rights of the American citizens in the camps refrain from criticising the army for its initial action. The Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian churches, ~~was founded in the same spirit~~ which calls these "our war ~~with~~ victims", ~~now~~ concedes: "The benefit of the doubt should certainly be given to the motives of the army in ordering the evacuation. Because of the long record of doing everything too late that has had such tragic results for the democracies, the civilian has little right to criticise the army for acting ~~on~~ on the basis of the worst possible contingencies".

However, insists the council, "We must distinguish between the issue raised by the evacuation from coastal areas and the question of future policy. Even if this evacuation was necessary, it is still ~~an~~ a very evil thing to deprive American citizens of all of their liberties by administrative fiat, without due process of law".

~~What~~ What's to be done with them? It is becoming increasingly evident that the fate of ~~this~~ this minority will be a major ~~g~~ test of American democracy.

It must be remembered that the 110,000 members of these ten centers are, so far as the authorities can tell, ~~rank-and-file~~ rank-and-file residents. Known criminals and suspected criminals are locked up in internment camps.. ~~The same goes for the~~

Plenty of "tough guy" talk is heard. Everyone has listened to remarks such as these:

"Lock 'em up and throw away the key!"

"The only good Jap is a dead Jap".

"Ship 'em back where they came from!"

"Once a Jap, always a Jap".

The public at large takes a more sober view of the ~~problem~~ ^{majority} ~~citizen~~ ^{majority} ~~poll~~ ^{majority} ~~organization~~ ^{majority} ~~recently asked~~ ^{majority} ~~citizens~~ ^{majority} ~~whether the Japanese-Americans should be allowed to return~~ ^{majority} ~~to the Pacific coast after the war. The results:~~ ^{majority} ~~35 per cent would~~ ^{majority} ~~allow all to return; 26 per cent would allow only Japanese who are~~ ^{majority} ~~American citizens to return; 17 per cent would allow none to return;~~ ^{majority} ~~while 22 per cent remain undecided. Citizens in the five western~~ ^{majority} ~~states showed~~ ^{majority} ~~slightly~~ ^{majority} ~~greater hostility toward the Japanese-Americans,~~ ^{majority} ~~with only 29 per cent voting to let all return.~~ ^{majority}

There remains, however, a hard a core of burning
antagonism hatred in much of the population. ~~in Shoshone, Idaho,~~
~~where it is typified by a barrel-chested laborer in Shoshone~~
~~who growled: "We didn't build up the west to turn it over to any Japs..~~
~~They oughta ship 'em back where they came from".~~

The Denver Post, which still likes to pretend it

hangs

When it was gently pointed out to him that two-thirds of the ~~man~~ relocation-center residents were American citizens,, he barked:

"That don't cut no ice. Citizens? So are the rattlesnakes!"

~~But~~ But inside the barbed wire, citizenship is a ~~live~~ live issue. For years the young "Nisei" (pronounced born in this country, "knee-say"), had been boasting of their American citizenship. Some had even been a bit overbearing in their ~~flashing~~ expressions of superiority over the immigrant "Issei" (pronounced ~~nee~~ "ee-say").

~~Now~~ Now an occasional elder sneers at a youngster: ~~Minidoka~~ "So you're an American citizen! But I see ~~you're~~ you're in here ~~in~~ with the rest of us. A lot of good that citizenship did you! Now you know what being a second-class citizen means".

they're both going
Citizen and non-citizen, ~~Minidoka~~ "schlop, schlop" of Minidoka now.
in the mid ~~Minidoka~~ /No ordinary mud, this. ~~Minidoka~~
~~Minidoka~~ It's black, it's ~~Minidoka~~ deep, and it has suction-fingers.
ordinary
Only a neophyte attempts to wear/rubbers. First of all, ~~the~~ the mud is much too deep ~~reaching~~ above And, ~~is~~ ~~is~~ further, ~~the~~ the natural glue content of the mud ~~seizes~~ ~~the~~ ~~footwear~~ and ~~is~~ is strong enough to jerk off ~~the~~ rubbers after a few steps. Minidoka colonists and ~~those~~ who can afford them have bought rubber boots/ galoshes ~~and~~.

Bad as is the mud, the Minidokans vastly prefer it to the dust of drier months. When the evacuation trains from the ~~Portland and Puyallup~~ ~~evacuation~~ ~~centers~~ Portland and Puyallup evacuation centers pulled up to the Hunt, Idaho, siding last summer, ~~they~~ the settlers

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scanned a barren, rocky sagebrush plain, ~~rimmed by the distant mountains~~ and failed to find a spot of green in the whole parched landscape. They ~~man~~ stepped into an inches-deep layer of powder-fine yellow dust.

Every step raised a spurt of dust; a thick pall hung in the sky over the ~~man~~ three-mile-long cluster of ~~tarpaper~~ the tarpaper shelters that were to be their homes. ~~For they cannot they know not how to long~~ They learned to tie wet cloths over their noses and mouths, and to rinse them out repeatedly through the day. They learned to carry cleaning-tissue to the dining halls--to rub the dust from the plates. The ~~man~~ administrators saw its office staff go home at night as gray-haired women, and to come back in the morning shiny and black-haired.

The rains came, and with it, gumbo. But few complaints were ~~was~~ heard. It ~~man~~ ~~man~~ a part of the daily pattern of life--and a great relief from the dust. Winter has brought an increasing number of days with freezing weather, and this solves the mud problem by converting it into ~~black~~ black, solid pavement.

The oriental sense of humor has helped ease the situation. ~~Antisemitism~~ When friends ~~man~~ mention "walking in mud", a local artist grins and insists he's "walking on marshmallows ~~man~~". When the mercury drops to 32 degrees, ~~man~~ and a crispy ~~man~~ coating forms on top, he remarks: "The marshmallows' are toasted!"

The "city" is made up of 36 blocks of barracks stretching in a semi-circle stretching three miles from east to west, roughly paralleling the Twin Falls north-side irrigation canal. The "city" is near one edge of a 68,000-acre tract in the Minidoka Reclamation project. Because this area is broken up by huge outcroppings of lava, only one-quarter of the broad acreage is potentially suited to agriculture. The soil between the outcroppings is fertile ~~man~~ and needs only irrigation water to yield abundant crops.

In each block there are 15 building. Twelve are living quarters; one, a utility building; one, a dining hall, and another, a recreation hall (usually serving as a school, ~~mm~~ church or library). The tarpape red barracks buildings are 20 feet wide and 120 feet long. These are cut crosswise by ~~thin~~ partitions, forming one-room "apartments" of various sizes. A two-person family is ~~given mm~~ a room 10 by 20 feet; a seven-person family gets a room 24 by 20 feet.

Each "apartment" is furnished by the government with a pot-belly stove; a cot, ~~mm~~ and two army blankets mattress/for each person, and a bucket. The colonists furnish the rest, and the originality they display ~~mm~~ impresses the visitor.

Working with scrap lumber and cast-off material, many ~~mm~~ colonists have ~~mm~~ achieved real beauty in their barren barracks. The women launder burlap potato sacks and bleach white ~~mm~~ flour sacks; then run vari-colored threads through the sacking, ~~mm~~ and ~~mm~~ hang them across the windows for curtains. Craftmanship of a high order has produced comfortable chairs, and useful chests and tables.

A "pet" project of the War Relocation authority's administrative staff in Minidoka is a demonstration apartment being developed by George Nakashima, graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who helped design the New York State Park commission's buildings at Jones Beach, Long Island; designed a Ford factory for Yokohama, and painted murals in the Pennsylvania state capital. He was working on war housing in Portland and Vancouver when ~~mm~~ "caught" by the evacuation order.

The model apartment is designed to ~~man~~ show the colonists how a little material and a lot of ingenuity can go a long way in making their barracks more livable.

All the buildings were put up with the two-by-four studding exposed on the inside walls. In the demonstration room, Nakashima covered this studding with cardboard cartons. Over the cardboard he pasted several thicknesses of ~~newspapers~~ newspapers. A thin coat of white paint softens the black headlines. The walls were ~~in~~ given a final dramatically "modern" touch by pasting vertical strips of blueprint paper in ~~various widths~~ random widths.

Nakashima sawed a pickle barrel in half, and upholstered the open ends with potato sacks, to form two chairs. A third low ~~chair~~ chair was made of scrap lumber, using laced rope to form the seat and back. The chair ~~is~~ is bolted together "so that it will be easily demountable when we move". Nakashima made ~~screens~~ screens by fashioning grids of thin wooden strips, and then building up a dozen layers of newsprint with paste.

Residents of the Minidoka Relocation center smile grimly over the rumors that fly through Idaho about alleged luxuries in the camp. One of the first rumors was that the ~~barracks~~ barracks were being equipped with tiled bathrooms. The colonists think of that one often when sliding through the mud to the outdoor latrines--so ~~mp~~ amply ventilated that snow drifts in. Standard plumbing has been installed in the utility building, but cannot be used until two great pumps for the sewage system are built in the east~~xx~~. Several pumps have been built, but each time have been transferred to more vital uses.

One construction feature that galls the colonists more than the mud or the inconveniences is the high barbed wire fence, with the top strand set on an overhang.

"Every barb in the wire punctured the hearts, pride, and self-respect of the colonists", recalled one young Minidokan. "We had been living for weeks in the center, ~~with~~ on our honor ~~to~~ to behave like true Americans. Our record was ~~when~~ completely clean. And yet, just because ~~when~~ someone miles away had decided that every camp had to be surrounded by barbed wire, contractors moved in and started to work.

"They set fence posts and strung the barbed wire. A few of the colonists, taking the fence as a personal affront, slipped out at night and took down some of the wire. Finally the contractor connected the wire to a generator.

~~"The~~ "The camp was stunned. In a matter of seconds, the word flew from one end to the other that 'the fence is electrified!' We really did feel then that we were in a concentration camp.

"The Minidoka ~~men~~ administrators got on the long-distance phone and got orders sent to the contractors to disconnect the generator. Within an hour, the charge was removed from the fence--but the barbed wire still keeps the wound open'.

(the fence was erected although)
 "And the amazing thing is that ~~when~~ ^{it!} during the day we are not ~~a~~ required to stay within ~~the fence!~~ We are free to wander through the sagebrush. ^{however,} At night, we are required to be inside the fence," but there is no way to tell whether every one of the 9500 ~~in~~ is back in the center.

The fence is still there, and the colonists still scowl at it when they move outside their barracks.

There has been plenty of work for the 2500 residents of the Minidoka center--now Idaho's eighth largest city--to do. Initial plans called for the colonists to concentrate on bringing into new cultivation thousands of acres in the Minidoka Reclamation project. It was planned that potatoes, beans and onions would be major crops. Also, alfalfa and clover would be grown, along with barley and oats. The colony would produce most of its food requirements, and perhaps a surplus for other relocation centers, according to early expectations.

But a critical agricultural labor shortage in the surrounding farm areas prompted the War Relocation Authority, operator of the center, to jettison this program. As autumn crops neared the harvest, it became apparent to the panic-struck farmers that only one-half or so of the normal labor supply would be available. With sugar beets, ^{potatoes} ~~potatoes~~, beans and apples ripening fast, ~~they~~ some appealed to the federal authorities to release members of the relocation center.

In order to protect the interests of both the evacuees and of the general public, the War Relocation Authority and the War Relocation Authority Civil Control Administration set up five requirements which had to be met before the colonists could be employed in any specific agricultural area. These were: (1) written assurance from the state governor and local law enforcement officials that law and

order would be maintained; (2) provision by the employer of transportation from the relocation center to the place of employment and return; (3) payment of prevailing wages; (4) no displacement of local labor; and (5) certification by the U.S. employment service that satisfactory housing would be provided to the evacuees in the area of employment.

Certain growers

~~growers~~ hastened ~~in~~ to meet the requirements--

and several installed bathtubs in their houses for the first time in order to ~~me~~ satisfy the federal agency's insistence on sanitary provisions~~!~~ for the Japanese-Americans!

The first evacuees moved out of the center to ranches nearby/~~from~~ of the more "daring" farmers. Their frightened neighbors held their ~~breath~~ breaths, fearing to be murdered in their beds. Wild tales shot through the land of armed Japanese hoodlums assaulting their benefactors and knifing passersby. But the exemplary behavior of the entire group soon revealed the absurdity of these stories. The experimenting farmers watched with satisfaction the Japanese-Americans ~~pick~~ harvest as much as ~~two~~ and three times ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~any~~ sugar beets per worker ~~as~~ the former migratory laborers..

Other farmers, who first had sworn they would "never allow a live Jap on my place" soon were eating their words, and were applying~~for~~ for workers to save their own over-ripe crops.

At the peak of the season, Minidoka had ~~2100~~ ²³⁰⁰ workers in the field. ~~It will be~~ ~~estimated~~ recalled that the entire center's population ~~is~~ ~~Three thousand~~ ~~is~~ 9500~~x~~. ~~are~~ employed in the daily operation of the "city"~~x~~. ~~When~~ the children and the ~~infirm~~ infirm are deducted from the total, it will be seen that virtually every ~~m~~ able-bodied

man and woman in the camp was laboring in the harvest fields..

In fact, ~~the~~ so many men went to work "in the ~~harvest~~ beets" that
center's
the ~~main~~/fire department was "manned" by women for several weeks..

Japanese-American doctors, lawyers, ~~a~~ mechanics,
studnets--as well as farmers-- turned out for the harvest..

~~Main experience~~ The inexperience of many evacuees in this
type of work was made obvious by the sudden appearance of
"BeetThinners' Supplies" signs in the drug stores of neighboring
towns. One display window carried these placards: "Back Ache? Try
a Good Liniment!" "Hands Sore? Use These Lotions". "Feet Sore? Three
Proved Preparations". "Pep Up with a Good Tonic".

Lois A Sato, a
~~antipathetic~~/A young Beaverton, Ore., woman, who graduated
a few years ago from Girls Polytechnic school in Portland, describes
the life: "We commuted daily in an aged Ford pick-up which threat~~ened~~
to have a breakdown constantly--and occasionally did. Unplanned boards
on each side formed the seats. Our alarms rang at 5 a.m. We drove
30 cold, dark miles to Filer, where we ate breakfast in ~~the~~ a
Farm Security administration camp set up in the county fairgrounds.
By 7:45 ~~was~~ we were swinging the hooked beet-topping knife
or heaving ~~the~~ the big beets on to trucks. We all learned what it was
like to be 'conked' by a ~~husky~~ husky beet thrown from the other
side of the truck by an over-energetic fellow worker. We found the
work hard but not monotonous, since we had pleasant company, and
alternated topping with loading.

"We worked for an incredibly good-natured man,
G. F. Smith, and his son...half a dozen truck breakdowns and not one
bit of ~~profanity~~ profanity!

"No all the ~~had~~ beet workers were so fortunate, especially those going to Montana--where the crop was only half of what it was in Twin Falls county, living conditions tended toward the primitive, and ~~then~~ more farmers were interested only in what they could get out of the workers.

~~Minidokans~~ "The grapevine is even now busy spreading word of ~~what districts and what farmers to avoid~~; next year they will suffer from a labor shortage due to their own fault".

The Minidokans point proudly to their recent harvest record. The "Irrigator", twice-weekly mimeographed newspaper issued by colonists, editorialized: ~~mm~~ "The community has suffered untold inconveniences during the interim that these workers have been out, inasmuch as the cream of our manpower has been drained off... Barred from participation in defense industries, evacuated by a 'military necessity' to relocation centers and hooted at, even assaulted by unthinking outsiders, the Japanese-Americans here have, nevertheless, contributed in no small way to the nation's victory program. They have proved, ~~that~~ in the only way possible, that they are loyal Americans".

The early months of 1945 find ~~mm~~ inter-mountain business and agricultural interests already concerned about the attitude of the evacuees. ~~They credit the Japanese-Americans with saving at least one-third the crops in themTwinxm Idaho's rich Magic valley. This yearthey will desperately need the evacuees for planting and makwmx cultivating the crops throughout the spring and summer, in addition to harvesting in the autumn.~~

causing
A new wave of rumor-mongering is making business and
to be
farm leaders/fearful that overt acts may occur which will make
the evacuees afraid to leave camp.

The Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce has just set up
a "Squelch the Rumor" committee. Its first act was to expose
in the Twin Falls News-Times the rumor that the local shortage
of anti-freeze for automobiles had been caused by
Minidoka evacuees buying up stocks for their
automobiles. The committee pointed out that the 9500 evacuees are not
permitted to have a single automobile.

A number of
store clerks have been "explaining" to customers
every new shortage/by blaming it on the evacuees. On Saturdays,
especially, people from surrounding small towns throng the streets
of Twin Falls. During the recent harvest season, when
the Japanese-American field workers would be buying their own
supplies, some of the out-of-towners would make loud,
pointed remarks about "yellow Japs". Except for "die-hards", the
Twin Falls people were
more restrained; they knew how important the Minidoka camp was to
local business.

drastically
Lately the Minidoka administration has been/reducing
the number of passes issued to evacuees. They now average only 10 a
day, and Twin Falls merchants are beginning to feel the pinch in
their pocketbooks.

Claude Detweiler, president of the Chamber of Commerce,
warned the public in a recent speech that "we'll suffer
dearly, in reduced crops and reduced business, if wagging tongues
and tough-guy attitudes make the evacuees
unwilling to leave the safety of camp".

14-- Detweiler insists the ~~manchurian~~ Japanese-Americans are "becoming favorite customers of the merchants--they don't crab or bellyache; they're fast in making selections, and they buy quality" .

J. J. Mullen, managing editor of the Times-News, says "We ~~in~~ ~~man~~ would have been in a jam without the help of the colonists. The attitude of much of the community has changed from open hostility to friendly acceptance. Of course, there are still ~~a~~ some hot-heads who think ~~the~~ ~~manchurian~~ the evacuees should not be allowed on the streets. But most of the local clubs have been out to the centerk, and they've seen that ~~man~~ thousands of the ~~manchurian~~ colonists are just some more Americans".

But Many a citizen, ~~man~~ especially after a few beers, ~~man~~ ~~manchurian~~ persists in thinking he has a "white ~~man~~ ^I man's burden" to maintain.

A country newspaper in an Idaho town sent an S.O.S. of search to Minidoka for a ~~m~~ printer, after all other avenues/failed to locate one. Minidoka had an experienced Japanese-American, and he left the barbed-wire fence in high hope of establishing himself in the outside world. ~~He~~ ~~manchurian~~ He proved an exceptional workman. The publisher was highly pleased. But one Saturday night a couple of toughies grabbed on the street, shoved a "Jap Hunting License--No Bag Limit" in his face, and gave him 24 hours to get~~m~~ out of town.. The printer is back in Minidoka now; and he's not looking for outside work..

~~He~~ ^{He} and a few others ~~manchurian~~ prefer to work in the camp at the official wage scale--\$12 monthly for ^{apprentices} laborers, \$16 for ^{ordinary workers} skilled workers and \$19 for those using professional skills ~~man~~ ^{and supervisors} ~~possible~~ ^{possible} rather than face the/cuffs and rebuffs of other ~~manchurian~~ employment.

6-

11/5/43

JB:

Thanks for
checking that
Hara is 2d part of
installment 2
to follow
3rd
mon.

MA

mmmmmm Much of the sting of the barbed-wire fence was removed by an overwhelming outpouring of Christmas gifts from "outside Caucasian" sources--~~primarily~~ principally from Baptist and Episcopal churches throughout the country, and numerous churches in Seattle. Minidokan children were deluged with 17,000 gifts. ~~xxxxxxskersxxeriedxxwithxxexcitementxx~~ The colonists were stunned at the expression of goodwill. ~~mm~~ Some decided the gifts were rewards for the ~~mmmmmm~~ colonists' ~~gmm~~ honorable behavior record.

"For the first eight weeks we didn't have a single policeman inside the camp", recalls Harry L. ~~Stannum~~ Stafford, project director. "And there wasn't so much as a black eye. Without any ^{nationality} 9500 disrespect to their ~~imagine~~ 10,000 Irish cooped up, with a record like that!"

residents
Minidoka~~xx~~ point out that few cities of their size can get along without a jail. Original ~~phmmmm~~ project plans provided for a calaboose, ~~mmmmmm~~ but when New Year's went by without a single drunk case, it was decided that ~~mmmmmm~~ plans can gather dust on a shelf for a while.

Captain Clarence D. Lee, formerly head of the
 a detective bureau in Berkeley, Cal., and now chief of Minidoka's
 internal security division, estimates: "A typical American town
 of this size would have ~~mm~~ at least four times as much crime as we do.
 A typical town would certainly have armed robberies; and we have none."

Worst crime in the camp was a frustrated knife
 attack. The offender, who pulled a blade in a dining hall and
 threatened a ~~neighbor~~ neighbor, is serving a ~~jxx~~ 30-day sentence in ~~the~~ the
 county jail. One "major" burglary has occurred, staged by teen-age
 boys who stole \$80 worth of cigarets, candy and other goods from
 Sannetomo Kaneko, assistant chief, traced footprints left in the dust.
 a canteen. Traced by footprints in the dust, the youths were

The youths were captured, most of the goods recovered, and the offenders placed on probation
 for three months.

The ~~police force~~ police force of 90 Japanese-Americans
 maintains a day and night patrol of the streets. It also ~~maximizing~~ keeps an eye
 out for any evidences of a disloyal attitude toward the U.S.
~~maximizing the police force of 90 Japanese-Americans~~
~~maximizing the police force of 90 Japanese-Americans~~

Not only do the Japanese-Americans provide
 the police service, but also they operate, with only nominal Caucasian
 supervision, the large-scale community enterprises. These enterprises
 handle all ~~business~~ supplies and services not provided by the
 government.

In four general stores, colonists spend \$1000 a day
 (an average of a dime per person) for household supplies, soaps,
 confections, fresh fruits, canned goods, newspapers and magazines.
 No sugar or coffee is sold.

In the community barber shop colonists get haircuts
 for 20 cents. Eight beauty shop operators are rushed, ~~giving~~ with

"de luxe" permanents advertised at \$2.25. The low prices are made possible by the \$12, \$16, and \$19 monthly wages paid ~~minimum rates~~ minimum employees for unskilled, skilled and professional work in the center.

~~men's apparel~~ enjoy the heaviest sale, followed by women's and fashion magazines~~xxxx~~. After getting ~~men's~~ fashion designs from the magazines, the women buy yard goods from two drygoods stores, \$12,000 which enjoyed a ~~\$20,000~~ volume in ~~unprecedented~~ the latest month.

John Essene, superintendent of community enterprises, project says the ~~shops~~ provide "effective training in democracy! A cooperative formed organization, owned by the colonists, is being/~~organized~~ to take over the ~~xxxxxxaxnabxhixabillixmm~~ enterprises, with one vote to each member. A former Portland merchant, Reno Yoshmura, is assistant superintendent.

It is the Caucasians who boast of the colonists' ~~efficiency~~ efficiency, not the Japanese-Americans. The other day, when the newspapers ~~had~~ headlined the action of the Japs in falling into an American trap on ~~San~~ Guadalcanal, Russell Sprinkel, senior administrative officer, chided a group of evacuees who were sitting around a pot-bellied stove.

"I thought the Japs were smart!" he ~~smarm~~ remarked, in an effort to test the reaction of the "apenese-~~americans~~d. "And here

they walk right into our trap!"

The ~~m~~ evacuees were a bit startled by his
~~brashness~~ brashness. But immediately one grinned and asked:

"You don't see a hell of a lot of brains here, do you?"

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1/14/43
John Bigelow:

I am leaving on extended news
trip (3 weeks) Tuesday afternoon, so
please wire any corrections
by Tues. a.m. Thanks
Mel Arnold

MINIDOKA RELOCATION
CENTER, IDAHO

Out of a barbed-wire enclosure on the Idaho sagebrush
lava plains a thin trickle of America's "citizens without a
country" is slowly beginning to flow eastward.

Mostly Portlanders and Seattleites, their homes
since last summer have been the tar-paper barracks of the
Minidoka Relocation center in south-central Idaho.

Here are approximately one-tenth of of the 110,000
Japanese-Americans who were removed by order of the army from
military areas of Washington, Oregon, California and Arizona.

They were put into ten camps "pending development of orderly
plans", according to a government statement,
plans "for their re-assimilation into American life".

These plans are now in operation. American citizens
who happened to have Japanese ancestors are now moving out--to the east.
From this one camp, about two dozen persons a week are being
released. Plans call for a steady acceleration of this program.

The program of the War Relocation authority calls
for the re-establishment in useful jobs, principally in the
middle-west, of 30,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry by
next summer.

P.S.: 1st group scheduled
for Jan. 31; others in
succeeding 2 weeks.

Informed persons close to the relocation picture are holding their breaths over the political bombast that is certain to develop as the outward flow of evacuees continues. ^{Certain fire-eating} ~~Members~~ congressmen are already bursting their galluses making speeches about ~~alleged~~ the Japanese-Americans allegedly living in ~~in~~ luxury in their camps. All through the west, the evacuees are being blamed for the shortages of everything from meat to butter to canned goods.. A little ^{have revealed} investigation would ~~reveal~~ that the evacuees are fed by the quartermaster corps of the army--which would certainly have no incentive to ~~stagnate~~ cheat the boys on Guadalcanal in order to fatten the Japanese-Americans at home. The fact is, the colonists ~~gratulate~~ ~~gratulate~~ are supplied army ~~ration~~ basic rations, ~~less~~ with deductions to comply with consumer rationing restrictions. This means, for example, no butter half the time.

One politician protested loudly in a speech the other day that the War Relocation authority was actually attempting to give standard schooling "to the Japs"!

A good many yellow-skinned ~~American~~ kids who are American citizens are feeling increasingly grim about that sort of comment.

They know that a federal court, in Portland, has held ~~that~~ they are being held illegally--that they were deprived of their freedom without due process of law..

They know that incarceration in the Idaho mud, behind barbed wire, is sapping loyalties/ to America. For years the second and third generations have been cutting more and more ties with the older folk. Many of the ~~ma~~ oldsters are delighted that the Americanized younger people are being forcibly brought closer to them--in fact, they could ask for nothing closer than the present housing of each family in one room.

It is obvious that there are axis sympathizers among the one-third of the ~~ma~~ colonists who are still Japanese citizens; and even some such sympathies among the two-thirds who ~~needxhemman~~, legally, are full-fledged American citizens.

~~But it is remembered that the well known friends and many suspects, of the axis, are held in entirely different camps--in internment centers~~

in the camps

The Loyal Americans/realize these must be rooted out, and report "suspects" to the authorities. The existence of axis sympathizers leads some outside observers to say: "Keep 'em all locked up until we can tell the bad apples from the good". "Being locked up behind barbed-wire is But the loyalists in the camps counter with: ~~the axis camps are turning~~ turn good ones bad".

The dynamite inherent in locking up ^{together} good and bad, young and old, was dramatized in this editorial of Pacific Citizen, publication of the Japanese American Citizens league, ~~in which~~ discussing the December rioting in the Manzanar camp of southern California:

"This is a practical demonstration of the combustible result of forcing mutually incompatible groups to live together in the restrictive atmosphere of a camp such as ~~Manzanar~~ Manzanar. No group of citizens or loyal aliens can be kept for eight months behind barbed wire and under the eyes of armed sentries without that experience ~~somehow~~ somehow affecting their faith in democratic processes. The fact that many of those residents of Manzanar actively resisted the defeatist propaganda of politically-inspired agitators and, in the face of threats of bodily violence, spoke out for democracy, speaks stirringly of their ~~innate~~ fundamental faith in America.

"The answer to the question posed by the ~~Manzanar~~ Manzanar situation is that of segregation and isolation for those who oppose America--for ~~those~~ the apostles ~~of~~ of defeatism and ~~a~~ despair. The answer is that of greater freedom for those who stand by America~~practically~~ --for those who look to democracy. Anything less would be to rebuke those loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry who have fought, in the bleak, unglamorous setting of a desert relocation center, the same battle which men of freedom fight ~~in~~ throughout the world".

The Portlanders and Seattleites in ~~this~~ ^{the} Minidoka colonists were ~~much~~ furious at the behavior of ~~those~~ the Californians, referring to them ~~as~~ as "more of a coolie class; while we, you know, are more of a business and professional class".

The ~~maximum~~ exemplary behavior of these evacuees from Oregon and ~~E~~ Washington is being rewarded with a stepping up of the relocation program.

Great strides in this program have been made since September, when the Minidoka camp newspaper, the "Irrigator", morosely concluded in the editorial of its first issue:

"We are not here by choice. But it is not likely that ~~you~~ protest will alter the fact that we are here, or ~~dissipation~~ ~~disruption~~ dissipate the probability that we will be here until we win the war. With minor exceptions, we are here to stay until the 20th century tyranny is routed from its seats of power in the axis capitals".

Now the government is encouraging the colonists to register for release--technically known as "indefinite leave". Applications are sought especially from ~~the~~ men and women between 18 and 55 years of age, who have been trained in American schools.

It ~~is~~ is felt that these members ~~of the program~~ will be able to face more aggressively "the difficult task of relocating in a strange area and again finding themselves economic security and happiness," explains Harold James, ~~pharmaceutical officer, whom~~ senior employment officer for the 10 evacuee centers.

"The problem is a stupendous one in view of the war, lack of knowledge of large sections of the country about ^{and} the Japanese-Americans, /the natural prejudices that spring from a lack of understanding~~y. and~~ ~~unparaphrasing~~

~~that~~ "We are pressing forward with all possible speed because mass idleness is not only damaging to ~~the~~ the morale of loyal American citizens and friendly aliens, and is costly to the taxpayer, but is also inexcusable in a national period of decreasing manpower and all-out production.

"Full prosecution of the war demands the positive use of evacuee skills and energies in the battle of production behind the fighting fronts of the war".

Operation of the relocation machinery at ~~Minidoka~~ ^{Minidoka} is being continually prodded ~~by Harry L. Stafford, project director, who was formerly Idaho director of the Agricultural Adjustment administration. Stafford, incidentally, has two sons in the service, one of whom was critically injured in the sinking of the tanker Pecos in the south seas. He has a ready reply for would-be toughies who snarl~~ "Turn me loose with a machine gun in this camp ~~and I'd settle this here Jap problem in ten minutes".~~ Stafford quietly asks: "Are my sons fighting for an America bossed by machine-guns?"

James Stafford emphasized: ~~the~~ "The prime objective is dispersal. ~~The~~ The colonists are not being released in batches. There will be no case of '50 Japs' heading for Chicago. It will be of, say, a case of Dick Yasui, skilled mechanic, and his wife, Mary, both graduates of American schools, with their two well-behaved children going to a Springfield, where Dick already has a job lined up.

"Dick and Mary will have a chance, provided their neighbors and fellow citizens really believe in democracy, to become members of the community life--to become active in the church, school organizations, business groups, and others.

"Maxwell Anderson, author of 'The Great Day' and 'The Long Day's Journey Into Night'.

"It is up to citizens of good will to help these people take their rightful place in American life. If these people are insulted and rebuffed, they will have only one choice--to seek again the prisonlike isolation of the 'Little Tokyos', the ghettos of Pacific coast cities."

"The public can count on in that those persons who are given indefinite leaves are loyal Americans."

Before an application for indefinite leave is granted, the evacuee is subjected to searching inquiry by the F.B.I. Opera dives go into his behavior record and utterances. They find out what kind of publications he read, in his home-town and in the camp. His work history record is checked. In addition, if the colonist plans to work on the Atlantic coast, the army intelligence service makes a thorough investigation of its own, in addition to the F.B.I. search. *Finally, the applicant must have permanent employment arranged.*

Once cleared, the evacuee is given a form letter testifying he is entitled to travel freely within the continental limits of the U.S., except in the Pacific coast military area.

Then the relocation camp is through with him--except that it remains as a haven if the going gets too tough.

The released evacuee must still report to the War Relocation authority any changes in jobs and addresses.

"It takes plenty of guts to go out into the hostile world right now", James stated, "especially for the young fellows who are leaving their families for the first time."

It is planned to have ~~maxtm~~ nearly all of the 30,000 relocated in the ~~middle-western~~ broad spaces of the middle-west, where it is felt they will encounter the least blind prejudice.

To speed the ~~main~~ program, the War Relocation authority is opening field offices in Chicago, ~~and St. Louis and Milwaukee,~~ and a half-dozen other middle-western cities. First ~~field~~ man to be selected ~~a s~~ a field representative of the authority was Fred Ross, young associate of James at Minidoka.

~~first~~
His job, and the job of succeeding field representatives, will be in each city to set up committees who will sponsor individual evacuees. ~~These committees~~ An attempt will be made to have church, chamber of commerce, union and youth group representation on these committees.

The representatives will next ~~a~~ line up specific jobs utilizing the ~~h~~ skills of individual colonists. Lastly, they will serve as trouble-shooters where discrimination and other difficulties appear.

Working strenuously with the War Relocation authority on this program is the U.S. employment service, the Friends church, and the interdenominational Fellowship of Reconciliation.

The American Friends Service committee has sent trained social workers into the camps to help smooth the way for relocation. In an open letter to members of Minidoka, the Quakers promised:

"We shall welcome you as neighbors, and we trust that because of this sad experience we shall be better neighbors to you than we were in the past".

The Quakers' representative here, Floyd Schmoee, is currently helping one group of 40 families

In the interests of wartime production of food and other necessities, an occasional exception to the "diversification" rule is felt justified. Currently, Floyd Schmoee, Quaker representative here, and WRA officials are trying to relocate one group of 40 families in Washington on unoccupied land in Western Colorado or Kansas. These families make up almost the complete membership of the Puget Sound Vegetable Growers association, which formerly in 1941 shipped 700 carloads of fresh product to the Atlantic coast. In the Minidoka camp are the management and the sales force. The Japanese association has \$80,000 capital--enough to finance its resettlement.

"At a time when every carload of food is a contribution toward a victory, patriotic policy requires that we get this

group on to the land in time for 1943 planting", declared ~~Sahox~~ Schmoe.

A similar vegetable ~~hm~~ growers' organization, with staff and capital, is included among the colonists at the Heart Mountain Relocation center in Wyoming.

Holding a sheaf of letters, ~~Sahoxm~~ Schmoe explained: "We receive many ~~amplifications~~ requests ~~fan~~ from people in the middle-west and east who want Japanese-Americans for domestic service. It is true ~~m~~ that many evacuees, including college graduates, are eager to take such work in order to get indefinite leaves. However~~k~~, the WRA is wisely refusing to grant leaves in such cases, ~~mutuam~~ because ~~them~~ they would merely delay assimilation of the Japanese-Americans, and ~~hm~~ would not contribute to the war effort.

"There is a ~~mutuam~~ false public impression that the Japanese are a servant people. But there is no greater ratio of chauffeurs and ~~m~~ servants among them than in our population as a whole. The fact~~x~~ is, no minority is economically self-sufficient. Almost none ever ~~wantum~~ went on relief. There's no chance of the Japanese-Americans ever becoming soft like the Indians--unless through some calamity we keep them penned up on these reservations".

Government agencies are helping break the job bottleneck by ~~takingm~~ beginning to take evacuees as stenographers, auditors, bookkeepers and clerks.

In Denver ~~ta~~ two relocated evacuees are working on the production line in an arms plant, and a third is ~~makingm~~ helping make precision military instruments.

One hundred ~~Japanese~~ colonists are teaching the Japanese language to Caucasians ~~in a navy school~~ on the University of Boulder campus in Boulder. When ~~citizens~~ real estate interests refused to rent quarters to these Japanese-Americans, the navy inserted a full-page newspaper advertisement telling the citizens: "You would want rent to sails; this is just as important". This ~~had~~ broke down the ~~barrier~~ barrier.

Another group of qualified linguists is doing similar work at the army Japanese language school in Minnesota.

To arm themselves ~~far~~ with knowledge for tackling new jobs, 900 ~~men~~ are enrolled in adult education classes, organized by Jerry Fogarty, director, in cooperation with George L. Townsend, chief of community services.

Three hours daily, five days a week ~~270~~ 270 are taking classes under the federal vocational education program. These include training in operating, repair and care of tractors, trucks and automobiles; general metal and wood work; elementary electricity; gardening; shorthand, bookkeeping and accounting.

Others are ~~taking~~ night classes in American history, American government, arts and handicrafts, mathematics, and first-aid.

Operation of the relocation machinery, with its educational adjunct, is being continually prodded by Harry L. Stafford, project

director, who was formerly Idaho director of the Agricultural Adjustment administration. Stafford, incidentally, has two sons in the armed services, one of whom was ~~a~~ gravely injured in the sinking of the tanker Pecos in the south seas. Stafford has a ready reply for would-be toughies who snarl: "Turn me loose with a machine-gun in this camp and I'd settle this Jap problem in a hurry".

Stafford quietly asks: "Are my sons fighting for
to be bossed
an America/~~xxxxx~~ by machine-guns?"

Harry Stafford and ~~him~~ Philip Schafer, former field representative of the social security board in New York state, have lived with the ~~maladjustment problem from~~ relocation program from the beginning of Minidoka.

The first week, confronted with the unanticipated crisis of a death in the community, they drove out into the sagebrush at midnight to the improvised graveyard when they
recalled
suddenly/~~xxxxxxxx~~ that, after the impressive sunset service, ~~no~~ one had remembered to cover the grave. They parked the ~~a~~ car with the headlights ~~shining on the~~ shining on the romping jackrabbits, and without a word took two shovels ~~from the back~~ and did the job.

"After going through one dust storm after another, everyone's nerves were edge", Schafer explained. "We ~~mm~~ knew the colonists' ~~xxxxxx~~ morale would have been shattered if the burial had been botched".

Schafer insists that while most people ~~h~~ think of the evacuation and relocation as a problem of the war, "actually

it's a problem of the peace. After all, if we can't solve
now this problem of a minority in our midst, how can we hope to
tell the world after the war how to live democratically and
how ~~to~~ to live with ITS ~~ma~~ minorities?"