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Coop

August 6, 1945

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Delegate:

Please post the enclosed notices in your mess-hall, laundry room or any other adequate place so that people might notice it. At your earliest convenience, please make an announcement in your mess-hall in regard to the above subject.

Very truly yours,

Jack Yamaguchi  
Executive Secretary

拝啓  
毎度組合の爲御協力被成下矣殿  
奉深謝矣  
同封のハリーテは何卒貴区食堂或  
は洗濯場に御掲示なし下さる様  
御依頼申上矣 尚 食堂に於て  
別紙の旨アツナウンス下さらば  
一層好結果を齎す事と存ト云何  
奉よろしく御願申上矣 敬具  
一九四五年八月十四  
ミズド力共同消費組合  
區代表者殿



謹告

店員事務員等人の不足の爲来り八月八日(水曜日)より左記の通り営業時間を變更の止むなきに立至りまゝしたから御通知申し上げます

営業時間

午前九時より 同十一時四十五分まで  
午後一時より 同 五時 まで

一九四五年八月六日

ミコドノ共同消費組合

各位



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ミニドリ共同消費組合

各位



謹告

七月廿五日開催の組合各區代表者會議  
に於て組合解散に因りて起る帳簿の整  
理を容易ならしめ資産の分配を迅速圓滑  
に遂行せしめむが爲特に「スタンプ」整理に  
關し慎重に審議の結果我が消費組合の定  
款に尤の修正が可決されました  
氣なる八月廿~~日~~迄に提出されざる  
購買「スタンプ」は期日後は無効とし

割戻請求権を喪失す

右御諒承の上皆さんが去る七月廿一日迄  
に各賣店より御買物の節受取られたる購  
買「スタンプ」は何卒八月二十日迄に「プ  
ク」に貼附して第廿二區組合事務所にて御  
提出を、御忘なき様呉々もお願ひ申し上  
げます

一九四五年八月一日

ふたりの消費組合

組合員 各位



謹告

七月廿五日開催の組合各區代表者會議  
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関し慎重に審議の結果我が消費組合の定  
款に尤の修正が可決されました  
前記の八月廿~~日~~可迄に提出されざる  
賠償スタンプは期日後は無効とし  
割戻請求権を喪失す  
右御諒承の上皆こんが去る七月廿一日迄  
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提出を御忘なき様呉々もお願ひ申し上  
げます

一九四五年八月一日

えねの消費組合

組合員 各位



CO-OP NOTICE  
AUG. 6. 1945

TO PATRONS;

PLEASE TURN IN YOUR  
PATRONAGE

REFUND STAMPS

BY

AUGUST 20, 1945

REFUND STAMPS NOT TURNED IN  
AT THE COOP OFFICE, 22-3-ABCD  
ON OR BEFORE AUG. 20, 1945 WILL BE  
CONSIDERED VOIDED AND NULLIFIED  
FROM FURTHER CLAIMS.

THE ABOVE AMENDMENT TO THE  
COOPERATIVE BY-LAWS WAS ADOPT-  
ED BY THE CONGRESS OF DELEGATES  
IN A SESSION HELD ON JULY 25, 1945  
TO FACILITATE LIQUIDATION BOOKKEE-  
PING.

MINIDOKA COOPERATIVE  
HUNT, IDAHO



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MINIDOKA COOPERATIVE  
HUNT, IDAHO



APRIL, 1943

MINIDOKA CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVE  
Hunt, Idaho

THE IMPORTANT FACT ABOUT OUR COOPERATIVE--  
OR ANY COOPERATIVE

Is that the customers own it !

That is a startling idea; but it works. The remarkable steady growth of the Cooperative Movement proves it.

When the customers own the store, they enjoy many advantages. Naturally their first concern is to provide themselves with best values at lowest net cost.

One cannot make a profit out of oneself. So Cooperators, serving themselves, conduct their business on a non-profit basis. When earnings are made, they belong to the member-customers as savings. Cooperatives CAN'T profiteer.

Customers in any store want to know what they are paying for. If you will look at a few of the Co-op labels you will note that they show the grade wherever possible and gives you all the facts you need to buy most effectively. Any item with a Co-op label has first been tested, tasted, and checked by a trained staff before it is given the Co-op label. Dependable quality is thus assured at reasonable cost, when you buy Co-op labelled products.

HOW A CO-OP GETS STARTED.

A cooperative is not only a local business---it is a community enterprise.

The way in which the Co-op started here is not the way it would be started on the "outside." Here canteens were needed immediately, and could not wait for an organizing period. It has become a Co-op because it is the best way that the WRA could foster to give as much advantage as possible to the colonists.

On the "outside" a Co-operative begins when a group of neighbors get together. They study what Cooperation is all about. As a "buying club" they test the idea on a small scale. When there are enough families, and they understand Cooperation well enough, they launch a full-fledged store.

That takes capital. To provide it, members invest in shares (usually at \$5.00 per share). Some buy one share, some two shares, some three and some more.

All aim to invest at least \$25.00 or \$30.00 in a complete food store---even though it may take a year or more to reach that goal.

It is their store. They own it, from rear door to front door.

OR YOU MAY JOIN A COOPERATIVE ALREADY IN BUSINESS.

As you go on the "outside" investigate any Co-op that may already be in business in the community. Patronize the store and become a member. If you can buy some shares, do so. Attend their meetings and get to be known in the community.

Especially under present conditions, it is not wise for Japanese to form competing Co-operatives in a community where a Co-op already exists. Remember that a Co-operative aims to carry out the principle of open membership---race, religion, or politics do not bar one from membership.

HOW A CO-OP IS CONTROLLED

In an ordinary corporation, the man with 10,000 shares controls 10,000 votes; the man with one share has only one vote. One man or a few men can control vast enterprises.



A Cooperative is controlled solely by its members, each member having one vote and only one vote, whether he has one share or twenty shares.

At regular membership meetings, reports are heard and matters of policy are decided. At one of these meetings, directors are elected for the year who serve without pay. The board of directors select a manager, who actually runs the store, with his staff.

#### CO-OP PRICES ARE REASONABLE

Cooperatives do not try to sell at cut prices, but aim to sell goods to themselves at the "lowest market price."

But---Co-op members keep a record of their purchases. (Stamps are your record of purchases in the Minidoka Consumers' Cooperative). At the end of each accounting period, the books are made up. Earnings are returned to the members in the proportion of their purchases, after a portion has been set aside for reserves and education.

In this way, the original cost is adjusted to a lower figure. Since you paid the "lowest market price," the refund usually means further net savings.

#### FAIR INTEREST PAID ON SHARES.

On the shares, most Co-ops pay a fair rate of interest varying between 2% and 5%. Our Co-op has put an upper limit of 8% interest on its bonds. The actual rate will be fixed by the Board of Directors soon. The shares are never sold above their par value. This prevents speculation.

Most Co-ops maintain the policy of promptly buying back shares at exactly the price paid.

#### CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES ARE PEACEFUL, PRACTICAL, AND GROWING RAPIDLY.

In America, more than 2,000,000 members own, use, and control Cooperatives, doing over \$600,000,000 of business a year. Our Co-op and other Co-ops in other centers are now in the nation-wide family of National Cooperatives. Since August 13, 1942 to April 1, 1943, our own Minidoka Co-op has done well over \$400,000 of business. Our earnings will total over \$40,000 for this period. This saving, instead of going into the pockets of an individual or a group of individuals, are returned to the customers on the patronage basis.

From a very small beginning 99 years ago in Rochdale, England, the world family of Cooperatives has grown to such an extent that the total volume of business is tremendous. In England alone, the volume of cooperative retail trade is more than \$1,200,000,000 annually. During the years from 1932 to 1934, when we in America were so drastically tightening our belts, the Cooperatives of England gave back to their members in patronage refunds more than \$600,000,000 that might have been pocketed by a few individuals.

#### A COOPERATIVE IS OPEN TO EVERYBODY.

You are welcome to buy in a Co-op without being a member. Prices are the same to everyone---but, of course, non-members may not vote, and usually, are not entitled to full patronage refunds. membership in a Cooperative is open to all regardless of race or creed or politics. A genuine interest in the welfare of the society is the only requirement and each member, of course, must provide part of the necessary capital to operate the business.

#### ROCHDALE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION

All true Cooperatives follow the Rochdale Principles of Cooperation, which may be stated briefly as follows:

##### 1. OPEN MEMBERSHIP.

Membership in a cooperative is open to anyone regardless of sex, religion, creed or politics, and the only persons that should be barred from membership are those that are known to want to do harm to the organization. There are some exceptions



to this principle of open membership, such as in the Credit Unions and Farmers' co-ops, but in the main the principle of open membership prevails in all cooperatives.

## 2. DEMOCRACY OF CONTROL.

Democracy is the very life blood of the cooperative movement. The basic principle is one member--one vote. In a corporation the voting rights are on the basis of shares of stock owned. In the cooperative the amount of investment in business has nothing to do with the voting rights. It is the person that is important and not the money that he may have invested.

## 3. REFUNDS TO PATRONS ON A PATRONAGE BASIS.

A true cooperative does not make "profits" but when savings are made they are then returned to the patrons on a patronage basis. That is why in the Minidoka Consumers' Cooperative the clerks are giving out green stamps which is the patrons' record of his purchases. It makes no difference what the mark-up might be the final cost to the consumer is cost plus the necessary expenses. Thus instead of the profits being pocketed by a few, the savings are distributed in the fair way according to the amount of the purchases.

## 4. LIMITED INTEREST ON CAPITAL.

On investments made by the members in the business a fair but limited rate of interest is paid. In the Minidoka Consumers' Cooperative the rate of interest on the bonds has been limited to eight percent. However it will be decided by the board what actual interest rate will be paid. This principle eliminates speculative sale and resale of bonds and at the same time assures the investor that a fair rate is paid for the use of his money. Along with this principle it should be stated that most cooperatives voluntarily and most states by statute place a limit on the total amount of investment that can be made by any individual member. Here the limit has been set by the co-op at \$20.00 for the present issue of bonds.

## 5. POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS NEUTRALITY.

On the whole the cooperatives do not enter into politics or advocate any religion. By being neutral the cooperatives are able to build strong organizations without danger of disruptions that arise from political or religious affiliations.

## 6. CASH TRADE.

One of the reasons that has kept the cooperatives strong is that the principle of cash trade has been adhered to as much as possible. Much of the failures in business has been due to the extension of credit. Particularly is this true in the consumers cooperative.

## 7. PROMOTION OF EDUCATION.

In order to keep the cooperative spirit alive among the members and to continue the growth of business through the acquisition of new members, the cooperatives have always set aside a small proportion of the earnings for educational purposes. The amount set aside for this purpose here is up to 2% of the net savings. As a business principle, it is necessary to carry on an educational program for the purpose of increasing the membership and thereby increase the business, also to insure that democratic control shall continue to exist in the affairs of the business and to attain greater efficiency in the business. The principle of cooperation should be continually taught and presented to the people because it is in itself a way of life that will help them in their daily living. The technical training of employees is deemed necessary in the larger cooperatives and many cooperatives maintain training courses for their employees or provide funds to send some of their employees to the Rochdale Institute in New York City.



CONGRESS OF DELEGATES

Rec. 22 April 25, 1945

*Copied file*  
*Seen*  
*JSD*

First roll call was taken by the Secretary at 2:30 P.M. and the quorum was found lacking by 2 delegates.

The president requested the kind indulgences of the delegates present for another few minutes of waiting.

The second roll call was taken at 2:45 P.M. and quorum was reached with bare majority present.

Due to the unavoidable delay in opening the meeting, president Hikida expressed the advisability of, and entertained a motion from the floor, to dispense with the routine procedure of reading by the Secretary the minutes of the previous meeting, and, since the said minutes had previously been circulated among the delegates through mail, that the said minutes be approved as submitted, contingent correction excepted.

It was duly proposed by Mr. S. Sasaki, seconded by Mr. Arai, and thereafter unanimously adopted, that due to the unavoidable delay, the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be herewith dispensed and that the said minutes be approved as submitted.

At this time, President Hikida reported on the proceedings and actions of the Board of Directors for the past, quarterly period. The substance of the same being similar in contents to the Secretary's mimeographed resume report, as previously circulated through mail to the delegates, the same, under separate cover, is herein attached and incorporated as a part of this minutes.

Mr. Murakami, the new Acting Treasurer, was introduced to the delegates by the Chairman.

Mr. Murakami made a detailed report and explanations of the up to date cash standings and financial condition, basing his report on March financial statement. Mr. Murakami qualifies his statements by stating that all figures are subject to auditor's verification and adjustment.

It was Mr. Murakami's opinion that to his knowledge the financial standings of the corporation is more than strong and is in favorable position for impending liquidation.

The above Treasurer's report stood approved as made with Mr. Yoshida commenting that each delegates bring back to their respective block members the following informations: 1) Total sales for the fiscal period, 2) Net savings for the same period, and 3) Total amounts declarable for patronage refunds.

Upon request by the Chairman, the general manager at this time made a detailed report on business operations for the past quarterly period. The same report, mimeographed and under separate cover, the copies of which were distributed to all delegates of the body of Congress, is herein attached and is incorporated and made a part of this minutes.

Discussions were entertained by the Chairman on the above manager's business report.

Mr. Osaka inquired whether or not any new clue or development had been uncovered anent the recent cigarette robbery at the warehouse.

Mr. Hatate replied that each and all new rumors purported to divulge the whereabouts of the culprits had been referred to the Internal Security office, however, all had been found groundless.

The proposed by-law amendment, to Article VI, Sec. 2, Parts 4 -- 6(c), modifying the majority vote stipulation in the elections of the Board of Directors to plurality votes, was presented to the Congress for its consideration.



Upon request by the Chairman, the Secretary interpreted and explained the provisions of the existing by-law clauses as well as the proposed amendment.

In expressing himself in favor of the proposed amendment, Mr. Tsuboi duly moved, seconded by Mr. Azuma, and thereafter unanimously carried, to approve and adopt the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of this corporation at regularly called meeting held on the 4th day of October, 1944, had adopted a resolution proposing an amendment to the by-laws of this corporation in the following manner, to wit;

ARTICLE VI, Sec. 1 and 2 remain unchanged except for the following portions which at present read:

"Article VI, Sec. 2 (4). A majority vote will be necessary to elect at all of the elections. In case nominee or nominees fail to receive such majority vote, a run-off election shall be held. Candidates at the run-off election will be twice the number of position or positions to be filled and shall be selected as candidates in order of the largest number of votes cast at the preceding election."

"ARTICLE VI, Sec. 2 (6)c. Section (final) election -- last full week of February and August. (run-off)"

The above quoted sections to be amended so as to read:

"ARTICLE VI, Sec. 2 (4). A plurality vote will prevail at all elections."

"ARTICLE VI, Sec. 2 (6)c. The section is revoked. No further effect shall be given to this sub-section 2 (6)c from the date hereof."

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the action of the Board of Directors proposing amendment to ARTICLE VI Sec. 2 (4) and (6)c be and the same is hereby approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the By-Laws of this Corporation be and herewith amended as above designated.

The floor was opened for general discussions by the Chairman.

Mr. Osaka favored the proposal of a new amendment to our by-laws wherein the stipulations of a quorum for the Congress meeting be amended from majority to some other appropriate lower figures, in view of the fact that quorums for meetings are lately found difficult to reach.

The Secretary made note of Section 2 of Article VII, under Amendment, to the effect that: "The by-laws of the cooperative may be amended or rescinded by a majority of the delegates voting at a regular meeting of the Congress of Delegates or at a special meeting convened for such purpose, upon notice of the meeting sent to each delegate at his last known address at least ten days prior to such meeting and setting forth fully and clearly the proposed amendment or rescission." Any such new amendment proposal, therefore, could not be considered at this session but only at the next quarterly meeting or at a special meeting of the Congress so called for the purpose.

Mr. Tojiro Sasaki stated that as one of the delegates he is fully aware of and does recognize the existence of rice shortage. However, the actual evidence prevalent among some of the residents belie the activeness of the actual situation. It is generally known that for some reason or another rather obvious quite a few selected residents and intending relocatees are buying up and hoarding rice by the sacks, thereby depriving the regular residents the purchases of the same. It is his wish and request that this prevalent condition be fully considered by the management and take appropriate steps to equalize the distribution of the rice supply to the regular residents.



He also contended that unfair discriminatory attitude is also prevalent among the Co-op stores and that a form favoritism is being practiced by the employees. A fish sales discrimination was described by him as an example.

Mr. Hatate replied that as far as rice situation is concerned the management was aware of this tendency on the part of the few to hoard. This is one of the primary reasons that we have inaugurated the rationing of rice sales to a fixed quantity to a customer. The rationing, however, is merely a means to ease and ameliorate the situation and it can never hope to be instrumental in the 100% stoppage of hoarding by the residents. Such a result is impossible to attain and is beyond the power of any system or management.

Mr. Hatate added that at present the Shoyu supply is anticipated to be plentiful and should be the least of worries of the residents. As far as the necessity goods are concerned, there is no limitation placed by the management on the placing of the orders and purchases thereof by the buyers, albeit all purchases and placement of orders be subject to the approval by the General Manager.

In the matter of unfair favoritisms and discriminations of patrons by the store employees, such malpractice, if existent, was never been, is, nor will be in the future tolerated by the management. However, 100% satisfaction by all the patrons is beyond attainment of any human management and occurrence of a few isolated instances may be unavoidable. Such isolated cases, however, should be brought to the attention of the main office, submitting the facts and not mere rumors, and afford management an opportunity to investigate and consider both sides of the case.

Mr. Miyahara stated that there apparently seems to be discrepancies in prices of goods sold by the different stores. This was pointed out by him to one of the store managers and he was made to understand that the setting up of the prices is a privilege exercised by and an authority given to the individual store managers. Mr. Miyahara wished to ascertain whether or not this is true.

Mr. Hatate replied that all prices are set by the office of the Price Controller located in the Main Office.

The prices of all goods, consequently and to all practical purposes, are uniform throughout all the Co-op stores. If any of the store managers believed that it is within his discretionary power so to do, then he was totally and irrevocably in error. Exceptions must be noted, however, of special prices on the goods found damaged, short, unwholesome, or otherwise impaired; in this one isolated case only a special discretionary power is given to the individual store managers to establish and set selling prices on goods on hand, this step is taken to avoid unnecessary and additional work and expense of having the store managers return such unsalable goods to the warehouse, have the price controller re-set the price and re-ship such goods back again to the stores.

There being no further discussions, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:30 P. M.

Secretary

Attested by:

Chairman



RAILROAD WORKER FOR 35 YEARS TAKES VACATION: An elderly

evacuee, often seen squatting against a building and sketching a far-off landscape, when questioned by the Reports Officer said that he had worked for the Great Northern Railroad in the Pacific northwest for 35 years day in and day out, Sundays and holidays, and now he was taking a vacation, the first in his life. During his days at Minidoka he had turned to religion, he said, and was quite philosophical about his being here. He said the whole matter was "in God's hands."

Minidoka  
Report  
No. 11



WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Minidoka Relocation Center  
Hunt, Idaho

OP. MIN. 1  
December 9, 1943

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*Handwritten:* K.S.

*File opinion*

TO: Mr. Shosuke Sasaki, Executive Secretary  
Minidoka Consumers Cooperative

FROM: Irvin Lechliter, Project Attorney

You have asked me whether the Minidoka Consumers Cooperative may sell merchandise through its stores located on the Project to appointed personnel. The question has been raised because License No. W1987, dated July 3, 1943, from the Treasury Department to the Cooperative, in addition to generally licensing the Cooperative, also licenses it:

- (a) "To issue shares of its stock or membership certificates to any national who is both within a War Relocation Center and subject to the control and supervision of the War Relocation Authority, and to receive payment from any such national for any such share or certificate;
- (b) "To sell goods, render services and furnish entertainment to any national who is both within a War Relocation Center and subject to the control and supervision of the War Relocation Authority;
- (c) "Subject to paragraph 3 hereof, to engage in any other transaction with, on behalf of, or with respect to, any national who is both within any War Relocation Center and subject to the control and supervision of the War Relocation Authority; and
- (d) "To pay patronage refunds, interest, dividends or any other obligations to any national who is within a War Relocation Center or who has been granted leave from a War Relocation Center."

A question has been raised as to the proper interpretation of the term "national" as used in the License, and you seek a definition of that term.



December 9, 1943

The term "national" as used in the License was not intended to embrace all evacuees residing in the Center, nor was it intended to mean evacuees only. The term, under Executive Order No. 8389, as amended, is applicable to any individual within the United States (1) if the individual has been domiciled in or has been a subject citizen or resident of a blocked country at any time on or since the effective date of the Order, or (2) if the individual is acting for the benefit of or on behalf of any blocked country or national thereof.

Most of the persons of Japanese ancestry living in relocation centers who are "nationals" of a designated enemy country have been generally licensed under General License No. 641. The License to the Cooperative was issued in order that the Cooperative might do business with these "nationals" living within the relocation center and subject to the control and supervision of WRA.

In the absence of this License, the Cooperative would not be authorized to carry on business transactions with any person who is a "national" within the meaning of the Executive Order, but there would be nothing to prohibit the Cooperative doing business with any evacuee or appointed personnel who is not a "national" of a foreign country. The effect of the License, therefore, is to authorize the Cooperative to do business through any of its stores with any person on the center, irrespective of whether that person may be a "national" of a foreign country within the meaning of the Executive Order No. 8389.

/s/ Irvin Lechliter

Irvin Lechliter  
Project Attorney



MB  
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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICAN FALLS  
RESERVOIR DISTRICT NO. 2 AND THE  
MINIDOKA RELOCATION PROJECT

Due to the fact that a bona fide emergency does exist, the following agreement will be effective for a period of 15 days commencing April 6, 1944.

The American Falls Reservoir District No. 2 will employ 8 men at the rate of  $57\frac{1}{2}$  cents per hour with transportation furnished from the Bureau of Reclamation Office in the Center to the place of employment and return. The Reservoir District will be responsible for any accidents that might occur during the working hours or while en route to or from the place of employment. Reservoir District will also be responsible for any damage that might occur in connection with the employment of the men, such as range fires, etc.

During the period of this emergency, not to exceed 15 days, the Minidoka Project will permit the workers to reside on the Center without cost to either the Reservoir District or the workers.

All men assigned to this work will be eligible for leave clearances. However, due to the fact that the employment is all within, or immediately adjacent to the boundary of the Project, no leave or passes will be issued.

*J. I. Tapper*  
AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR  
DISTRICT NO. 2

*H. L. Stafford*  
Project Director  
Minidoka Relocation Center



advisable because of the lack of time. It was pointed out that the boys and girls were too tired at the end of the day. However, some assistance in planning programs for Saturday nights was desired. For the last three Saturday nights the recreational hall in the F.S.A. camp has been used for dances while the orchestra practiced, and this Saturday, October 24th, they were sponsoring a dance. They hesitated about asking for the recreation building every week as the camp also has some Caucasian residents who were entitled to its use.

Some program for Hallowe'en, October 31st, was discussed. Since it was on a Saturday night, Kaz and Mary felt that campers should be discouraged from going into town. Abe Hagiwara announced that the Recreational department at Hunt was sponsoring parties on the Project. The committee was asked to investigate the possibilities of obtaining a truck from the Project to help transport a group from the F.S.A. camp to Hunt on Hallowe'en night. Some of their employers could be asked for the use of their cars and about three trucks might be found to transport some of the campers to Hunt.

On November 7th, they wished a community sing with leaders and talent from Hunt. They requested that the song sheets be provided. Further programs will depend upon the success of the events so far planned. It was announced that the YW. rooms would be open for their use on Saturday and Sunday, but Kaz and Mary felt that with the programs at the camp, it would be unnecessary to open on Saturday. On Sunday, however, some boys and girls attended churches in town which were over from 11 to 12 o'clock. The Catholic services were over at 11 and the Protestant churches at 12 noon. The shows did not open until 1:15 p.m., thereby leaving a space of time where they had no place to rest. They felt that it would help especially, if the rooms were open at this time.

Kaz thought that some of the boys wanted to play basketball and wondered if Mrs. Reed could help them in finding a gymnasium.

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,