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**GRAND JUNCTION, COLO.
SENTINEL**

JAN 6 1944

300 LOWER VALLEY RESIDENTS PROTEST ACQUISITION OF LAND BY JAPANESE AT MASS MEETING

Loma District Group Organizes Committee to Meet
With Other Bodies; Draft Message to Governor,
Vivian Seeking Definite Action



FARMERS' MEETING at Loma Community hall Wednesday night, attended by more than 300 persons, brought out opposition to purchase of lower valley farms by Japanese. Wayne Beede (left) presided. One of the extemporaneous speakers was J. L. Sellars (right), president of the Pomona Farmers' Union local. (Daily Sentinel photo.)

By BEN HERSHEY

More than 300 men and women from Loma and other lower valley farms, plus a sprinkling of delegates from other sections of the county, agreed last night that orderly action must be taken to keep Japanese from acquiring western slope farm lands.

Upshot of the dignified but determined session at the large Loma community hall was a decision to call in labor, civic and other organizations for a united protest against what farmer leaders have described as a threatened infiltration of Japanese-Americans into the valley.

A committee of the Loma district group scheduled a meeting at 3 p. m. today at the court house with representatives of the Mesa County Farmers' union, Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce and city manager, the American Legion, and other agencies.

The Loma committee, headed by Wayne Beede, was instructed last night to draft a telegram to Governor Vivian seeking definite action—possibly at the special session of the legislature this month—to prevent Japanese from acquiring farms. Sentiment was expressed last night that such a

step, if followed, should be made retroactive to Pearl Harbor. Such a telegram was expected to be prepared at the meeting this afternoon.

Last night's enthusiastic mass meeting brought out repeated appeals for a sensible analysis of the problem, and cautions against any kind of violence.

Beede, who presided, said he knew of "several farms" being purchased by Japanese in Mesa county.

"This is a very serious situation," he declared, "and we think it time in this community for something to be done. But we must proceed carefully."

Harry B. Ferrell, Grand Junction business man and principal speaker, also cautioned that "this thing can be done, but it must be done in a different manner than violence."

He charged that "if we continue to sell out to the Japs" Mesa county's growth would be drastically retarded.

"A sensible, but not a radical, consideration of the problem will reduce this menacing problem to a minimum," Ferrell said. He described the problem of Japanese location on Mesa county farms as one phase of the "war on the home front," and asserted it was owing to boys in service not to permit Japanese acquisition of land.

Numerous farm and business men of the Fruita and Loma districts joined in a general discussion of the problem, leading to the decision to present the matter to the governor. Similar action already has been taken in other parts of the state.

Congressmen Move For Probe Into Jap Land Grabs in West

Quiz Sought on Inroads, Sources of Ready Cash To Outbid Americans

By RAY RICHARDS

San Francisco Examiner Washington Bureau.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Alarming Japanese land acquirement and colonization in western States, always at the expense of Caucasian development, appeared today to be headed for major Congressional investigation.

Representatives William S. Hill and J. Edgar Chenoweth, Colorado Republicans, announced they will move for House committee inquiry on an extensive scale, either by the new committee on postwar problems, or by a special committee.

Japs Have Ready Funds

The great sums of ready cash with which the encroaching Japanese are provided is an insistently puzzling phase of every case, Hill said he had learned.

He declared the investigation should probe first into the possibility that the War Relocation Authority (WRA), sentimental champion of the evacuated west coast Japanese in all matters, is arranging for preferential Federal loans to the objectionable settlers, as well as for discriminatory priority for them in acquirement in rationed farm machinery.

Colorado Land Issue

So serious is the situation in Colorado that Governor John Vivian has called a special session of the legislature for the sole purpose of adopting an alien land law patterned after the California statute, and Hill and Chenoweth reported that conditions in the South Platte River Valley and around Trinidad are equivalent to last year's notorious Japanese land grab in eastern Oregon.

Senator Abe Murdock, Utah Democrat, said that Japanese released from the War Relocation Centers have clustered thickly around the great naval supply depot near Clearfield in Davis County, Utah, and are buying or leasing extensive land holdings in Box Elder County.

Idaho Protest

Caucasian farmers around the War Relocation Center at Twin Falls, Idaho, are complaining bitterly that Japanese are invading their district in ominous numbers, it was reported by Senator D. Worth Clark, Idaho Democrat.

Congressional Representatives of eastern Washington, Arizona and even the Mississippi Valley State of Arkansas expressed apprehension that land marked for Caucasian

development is gradually falling into the hands of Japanese in those regions, with the threat of enormous and destructive Japanese colonization in the future.

In Colorado and Utah, as in eastern Oregon, the coming of the Japanese is represented as more in the nature of a sudden, planned invasion than a gradual infiltration.

WAR OPPORTUNITY.

Citizens of all the States concerned invariably stress in their protests that the Japanese are taking advantage of the absence of American young men who have gone to war.

Senator Clark suggested that western State legislatures in general may find it advisable soon to follow the example of Colorado and move toward duplication of the California land law forbidding alien Japanese to own real property—a law based on the fact that Japanese invariably besmirch living conditions wherever they gather.

In California the attorney general's office is reportedly preparing to file about 400 suits charging Japanese evasion and violation of the land law.

JAPS RELEASED.

The War Relocation Authority admittedly is proceeding as rapidly as possible in emptying the War Relocation Centers, which now contain about 80,000 of their original population of 107,000 West coast Japanese evacuees.

Dillon S. Myer, director of the WRA, said recently:

"Japanese Americans have as much right as any other citizens to apply for and receive federal loans."

Representative Hill commented:

"Congressional inquiry should reveal first of all any loans made to Japanese by federal land banks, and who inspired these loans."

"It should be determined next if alien Japanese actually received the money through 'dummy' applicants, and whether citizen Japanese or alien

Japanese are actually the parties at interest in the deals.

SPECIAL SESSION.

"Governor Vivian has moved wisely in calling a special legislative session to block Japanese colonization in Colorado, and other western States may find similar actions necessary."

Hill said Japanese settlement had become intensive in Adams, Weld, Logan and Sedgwick counties in the rich south Platte River valley of Colorado. He went on:

"I know of a case—and such instances are reportedly common—in which a Japanese bid \$2,000 above the best offer of a Caucasian when a desirable tract of Weld County farmland was offered for sale. The Jap bid in cash, which was impossible for most of the Caucasian bidders. The Jap got it."

"The matter would not be so serious if the Japanese land buyers from the War Relocation centers were scattered thinly over the country."

"But, a gregarious people who want to live in swarms, they are being located in colonies, with the inevitable reduction of American living standards in each infested locality."

Representative Hill pointed out that a resolution adopted by the House recently sets up a general postwar planning committee which includes in its province "maintenance of the standard of the American way of life."

Therefore, Hill said, the Japanese western land grab is fittingly a matter for the committee's study, and he said he would urge it as one of the group's first subjects.

Problem of Japanese Settling in State May Call for Action by Legislature

By Norman A. Johnson
U. P. Staff Correspondent

DENVER — What heretofore has been a problem of the West coast alone — what to do with the Japanese — now looms as one of the major issues of Colorado.

Sentiment against the Japanese, which had mounted alarmingly in the state at the close of 1943, was fanned to a new peak by the announcement in Washington of the atrocities perpetrated by the Japs on captured American prisoners.

Not since the early history of the West has any racial problem developed which would match the currently developing problem. Only the Indian offered a complex social problem similar to that of the Japanese.

Only through government action, in establishing reservations for the Indian, and making other provisions for his welfare, was that social problem "cured". Now comes the question: Will the government be forced to continue, in the years that follow the war's end, the relocation centers which have provided temporary solution during World War II?

The sentiment appears to have passed the "talk" stage. Action is replacing words. Several members of the state legislature launched a movement to amend the state constitution to prevent Japanese nationals from owning property in Colorado.

Earlier, a group of Brighton farmers and businessmen started the ball rolling by appearing as a delegation at the state capitol and demanding that Gov. John C. Vivian take some action to stop the purchase of rich farming lands and other properties by Japanese—either Japanese nationals or Japanese-Americans — who have settled in the state after being relocated from the West coast.

The Brighton delegation was headed by that city's mayor, J.

prisoner by the Japanese in the Philippines.

Immediately following the Brighton delegation's trip to Denver, Governor Vivian received a petition from Grand Junction, which bore the names of many leading western slope farmers and business men, and voiced similar protests.

The governor's reply to both groups was that the state constitution permitted citizens and aliens alike to settle in all parts of Colorado without restrictions.

Under legislation proposed by Representatives L. Dale Shotwell of Aurora, and Jas. Jones of Manzanola, and Senator Willard Preston of Adena, only the Japanese nationals would be affected, while Japanese-Americans would continue to enjoy their full citizenship privileges.

The proposed amendment provided that "nationals of any country which at any time on or after Dec. 7, 1941, is in hostile occupation of any part of the continental United States, its territories, possessions or protectorates, will not be permitted to acquire, inherit, possess, enjoy or dispose of property, real or personal, as is enjoyed by native-born citizens." Although it did not name the Japanese nationals specifically, the proposed constitutional amendment's wording would confine the "teeth" of such a law to only them, since they cannot become citizens of the United States.

Recently, in an editorial that appeared in the Amache "Pioneer," weekly publication of the Japanese war relocation center near Lamar, the question was asked, in effect: What are the Japanese to do, without a place to go, or a means of earning their own living? The article appealed for a place for the Japanese in the production of the nation's vital wartime food.

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JAN 14 1944

Committee Draws Up Resolution Opposing Further Relocation of Japanese, Urges Group Meeting

**Resolution Asks Reconsideration of War Relocation
Authority; Total of 56 Families in Area, Figures
Show**

By GRACE LOWE

The holding of a mass meeting in Grand Junction would not aid the cause of a citizens' group opposing Japanese acquisition of real property in Mesa county, in the opinion of committee members who met at the court house Thursday night with J. H. Lewis, Denver, acting relocation supervisor of this area.

Instead, resolutions were drawn up favoring the holding of community and group meetings over the county—such as the meeting held by the Redlands Water and Power company this week. The committee asked that all of the service clubs, the board of county commissioners, the city council, and neighborhood groups such as Fairmount community in Grand Junction concur in the resolutions passed at the committee meeting and so inform the War Relocation Authority, 204 Midland Savings building, Denver.

Last night's meeting was a harmonious one with Wayne Beede, Loma, being named chairman. The resolutions as drawn up by E. B. Adams and passed by the group follow:

"Be it resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the War Relocation Authority be requested not to further recommend any area of Mesa county for relocation of people of Japanese nativity or citizenship.

"Be it further resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the War Relocation Authority should reconsider the problem of evacuation of people of Japanese nativity from their original places of residence with the view that the security of the United States will not be impaired by their return to their original places of residence.

"Be it further resolved that the real estate exchange of Grand Junction and its members be requested not to act further as brokers in the sale or exchange of lands in Mesa county to persons of Japanese nativity.

"Be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be submitted to The Daily Sentinel for publication and copies sent to the board of county commissioners of Mesa county, the city council of Grand Junction and all service clubs in Mesa county for their consideration."

Mr. Lewis, who came to Grand Junction for the committee meeting since Harold Routh, supervisor of relocation on the western slope is now in Washington, strongly recommended that a mass meeting not be held and suggested that repercussions from such a meeting might reflect unfavorably on Grand Junction for many years to come. He stated that the problem is a problem of the United States, and that as citizens of the United States a broad outlook should be taken. Following his recommendation the committee went on record as not favoring a countywide mass meeting.

Mr. Lewis' figures, which he said might be incomplete as he had not had time to check with Washington, showed that prior to evacuation there were 14 Japanese families in this area and that after voluntary evacuation there were an additional 18 families. Now on definite leave from relocation centers are 24 families (including 74 persons) in this area. He said he had learned of only eight land sales in the Grand Junction area since evacuation in the spring of 1942. Mr. Beede stated that 20 farms on Orchard Mesa were now owned by the Japanese and that he personally knew of 10 farms west of Grand Junction being sold to Japanese.

Mr. Lewis explained the relocation process, the types of leaves granted from relocation centers, and the concentration camp for Japs whose loyalty is questioned. No leaves are granted from the latter camp, he emphasized. He brought out that when Jap seasonal labor is furnished to a community, it is done so with the idea that there is possibility of permanent location. This point was repeated by Mr. Lewis after Ralph W. Atherton, Palisade, said he wished to carry the information back to the fruit growers of his section. The discussion was entered in by a number of the committee present, including J. P. Helman, Charles Thomas, L. O. Ficklin, A. E. Borshell, Atherton, Beede, Adams and others.

Anti-Jap Proposal Up in Convention

Support of a Brighton Chamber of Commerce anti-Japanese-evacuee resolution by delegates to the convention of the Colorado State Association of County Commissioners was predicted at opening sessions in the Shirley-Savoy Hotel yesterday.

The resolution, which assails arrival in Colorado of Japanese alien residents as a "menace to the public welfare of the citizens," will come up today, and Orest A. Gerbaz of Pitkin County, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, predicted quick approval.

Against All Aliens

H. V. Deakin, Adams County, explained yesterday that the resolution asks for legislation to prohibit property holding by all aliens because "we probably couldn't get this thing passed if we limited it to the Japs."

"WRA authorities were amazed when they found out there are 3,500 Japanese evacuees in Adams County today," he said.

"In the Prospect Valley district there are enough adult Japanese to run certain phases of the government."

Back Vail's Road Aims

Resolutions backing efforts of Charles D. Vail, state highway engineer, to see that Colorado is included on post-war inter-regional highways and demanding an adjustment of the salaries of elected officials will also be acted upon today.

The three-day convention opened yesterday with an address of welcome by George E. Cranmer on behalf of Mayor Stapleton.

Study Reclassification

A three-point discussion of the budget law, the inventory bill and reclassification of counties as to fees and salaries was led by El Roy Nelson, director of the State Planning Commission.

Delegates decided to appoint a five-man committee to study the reclassification proposal, which would base payments to officials on census figures more recent than the 1913 count now in effect. The budget law now in effect was approved and it was decided that an attorney should be hired to clarify the inventory bill killed during the last session of the State Legislature.

PLEA MADE FOR LAWS TO BAR COLORADO LANDS TO JAPANESE

Mesa County Labor, Farm and Business Groups
Call on Governor to Promote Legislation at Special Session.

Grand Junction, Colo., Jan. 7.—(A. P.)—Protesting against Japanese purchases of farm and residential properties, Mesa county labor, farm and business groups appealed Friday to Governor Vivian by letter to "lend your office" to the task of enacting special laws prohibiting Japanese ownership of Colorado real estate.

It was the second appeal made to the governor within the week. A delegation of farmers and townspeople from the Brighton area, headed by Mayor J. W. Wells of Brighton, protested against Japanese purchase of tract and garden lands at "twice their value" in Adams county, Tuesday.

COUNTY'S FUTURE WELFARE MENACED.

The Mesa county letter said: "Japanese are purchasing farm lands and residential property to the extent that it constitutes a threat to established residents and to the future generations of our county. At a public gathering of a large group of representatives, it was decided that a committee meeting be called representing all organizations within the county to devise ways and means of combating this menace.

SEVERAL GROUPS INDORSE LETTER.

"Today, the committee petitions the governor to lend his office to the convening of the legislature in the extra session to enact appropriate laws prohibiting Japanese from owning real estate property in Colorado."

The letter was indorsed by officials of county farm unions, the American Legion Grand Junction

deep opposition was expressed to any acquisition of farm lands by Japanese-Americans.

Thomas W. Beede, representing the Loma area farmers, said several farms already had been purchased by Japanese-Americans.

COLORADO LEGISLATURE MAY MEET AGAIN SOON TO DRAFT BAN ON JAP LAND OWNER

By MORRIS CLEAVENGER

DENVER, Feb. 2.—(AP)—The Colorado legislature neared the end of its labor on soldier-vote legislation Wednesday as the house approved unanimously on second reading a compromise draft of legislation that has appeared before both branches of the general assembly.

At the same time, final approval was given by both houses to a \$10,125 expense bill for the special session.

So sure were leaders that the house will pass the soldier-vote bill on final reading, and that the sen-

ate will adopt the version without change, enrollment of the measure in form to receive the signatures of the speaker of the house, the lieutenant governor and the governor was ordered to begin Thursday morning.

Running through the legislature was an undercurrent of speculation as to whether a second special session will be called to consider a constitutional amendment proposal, to be voted upon at the next general election, which would bar Japanese aliens from purchasing or holding real property in Colorado.

Republicans of both the senate and the house caucused to discuss the proposed session, and leaders conferred twice with Governor Vivian. Nothing definite was decided.

Governor Vivian telegraphed U. S. Senators Ed C. Johnson and Eugene D. Millikin asking them to ask the state department at Washington if legislation preventing Japanese aliens from purchasing property would in any way interfere with the department's program.

Some senators said they felt that restrictive alien legislation might jeopardize the safety of Americans

held prisoners by Japan. They said they wanted some assurance on this score from the state department.

Members of the house, obviously more in favor of a constitutional amendment aimed to prevent property from being acquired by Japanese aliens, had no statement to make.

It was indicated that whatever stand is taken by the governor on the basis of Washington information, a resolution calling for a second special session may be introduced. More than a majority of

(Continued on Page Seven—Column 1)

Colorado Legislature May Bar Japs From Owning Land

(Continued From Page One)
the house were said definitely to favor a move.

A second-session resolution that had been prepared by Rep. Jack Evans (R-Grand Junction), majority house floor leader, was scheduled to have been introduced Wednesday morning, but was withheld following a conference of legislative leaders and the governor.

There appeared virtually no doubt but that the soldier-vote legislation as approved by the house will carry thru to enactment, altho it still was criticized in some quarters.

Sen. Curtis P. Ritchie (D-Pueblo) asserted that the bill was faulty in that it made no provision concerning possible federally-issued election ballots, and set up no machinery for their recording and counting.

Under the bill, federal ballots, especially those providing for the election of the president and vice president, might be void, Ritchie insisted.

Indicative of the legislature's temper in this regard was a memorial approved by the house which insisted that congress must not as-

sume the right of determining the qualification of voters on the manner in which balloting shall be done.

Congress should only have the responsibility of seeing that ballots which have been prepared by the states for service men are properly distributed and returned to the states for counting, it was declared.

The memorial, which said that service men's absentee ballots "should not be subject to censorship and the congress should insure that ballots of military personnel shall not be censored," declared:

"The determination of the form and contents of the ballot, the time, and the method of casting the same, and the canvassing of the results of the election are solely the right and responsibility of the states."

The house-approved soldier-vote bill would grant a minimum of 45 days in which absentee ballots could be sent to members of the armed forces and returned for counting. Members of the services would be required only to sign the ballots in the presence of a sergeant or commissioned officer.

Mayor Tells Governor Well Financed Organization Appears to Be Backing Move and Investigation Is Promised.

Japanese newcomers to the state are buying choice Adams county farm lands at inflated prices, taking over business properties in Brighton, and embarking upon a program of agricultural and commercial exploitation that is "a grave threat to established residents," Governor Vivian was told Tuesday by Mayor J. W. Wells of Brighton, who headed a delegation of farmers and businessmen on a protest visit to the statehouse.

Mayor Wells' son, First Lieut. Robert Wells of the army engineers, was on Bataan when it fell. He is a prisoner in a Japanese camp today. "That makes the situation pretty hard to take," the mayor declared.

"We believe an acute situation has arisen in our community," he told the governor. "In the last six months some twenty-six transfers of property have been made to Japanese landowners, including both town and farm holdings."

JAPANESE BACKED BY UNLIMITED FUNDS.

Mayor Wells said the Japanese appear to be backed by "unlimited funds."

"They are paying any price for land—sometimes \$500 to \$1,000 more than a farm is worth—just to get hold of it," he added. "It looks as tho they were fostered by some sort of organization with all the money they need. Price is no object in their deals."

F. S. Mancini, truck grower and stockman, said the Japanese were "impossible for us to compete with."

"They are buying up choice land," he asserted. "They grow products upon which there are no ceiling prices, and they don't raise things the government needs to win the war—lettuce, cantaloupes and such things, while we try to grow what will help the nation. They always undersell on the competitive products."

that the Japanese intend to become permanent residents.

"They are entering all sorts of businesses," he added. "They took over two business houses in Brighton not long ago and applied for, but were denied, liquor licenses. They wanted to sell only sake."

"I am told alien Japanese are behind some of the purchases, but there is no proof of that just now."

PERSONNEL OF DELEGATION.

The delegation was composed of Mayor Wells, Mancini, Hattendorf, T. J. Luttrell, rancher and stockman; R. R. Briggs, petroleum distributor; William F. Marshall, secretary of the Adams county agricultural conservation association; R. E. Bergman, farmer; F. T. Demaree, farmer; F. T. Mancini, truck farmer and cattle feeder; Y. Austin, vegetable farmer, and E. M. Whytal, farmer.

Wells did not mention his imprisoned son at the meeting, but others told the governor. The mayor, however, brought up discussion of military aspects of the situation from another angle.

"Almost none of the Japanese boys has been taken into the army," he said. "They have received deferments for war necessity while our boys have been taken for duty. Why is this?"

"Have you taken this up with your draft board?" the governor asked.

"They tell us the army doesn't want Japanese boys," Wells replied.

"I think that is something to take

up with Major Reed (state selective service director)," the governor declared. "I intend to go into this whole situation very thoroly."

JAPS BRINGING IN BEST MACHINERY.

"I have a son overseas in the army and I have promised to stick to the wheel here until he comes back to take over. I don't know what there will be for him to come back to, if this sort of thing continues. I have been offered big prices to sell or rent, but I won't do it. I'm trying to keep our land and property for better purposes, but what's the use if other lands go into undesirable hands and our whole future is ruined?"

A. Hattendorf, a vegetable farmer, said the Japanese were bringing in "the best of farm machinery." He told of one Japanese who unloaded several costly pieces of equipment—"far more than he could possibly need for the forty acres he has taken over."

Governor Vivian told the delegation its reports "indicate a very serious situation—one that I intend to get to the bottom of."

"I suggest you gentlemen take this matter up with your county attorney, also the deputy district attorney in your county, and determine what legal questions are involved," the governor said. "It is purely a legal question, but it raises what is probably as serious a problem as we will have after the war."

The governor asked where the Japanese lived before coming to Adams county.

Mayor Wells said he understood they came from California, Washington and other areas where Japanese have been evacuated. He said most of those buying the properties are newcomers.

"We had Japanese before Pearl Harbor, but not in the numbers we have now," the mayor said. "Before the war they were renters. Now they are landlords."

ENTER ALL SORTS OF BUSINESSES.

"It has come about gradually. They had a Buddhist church before the war, but it's growing into more of an institution every day. But the purchase of property is most alarming. It is one of those things that sneaked up on us. It started in a small way, and now in the last six months it has gone so far concealment is no longer possible."

Wells said there was "no question"

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DENVER POST

1944

Aroused Citizens

of Brighton and Adams county told Governor Vivian Tuesday that increased ownership of property by persons of Japanese descent is a "grave threat" to their economic future. The governor (seated) is shown here going over some of their evidence. Standing are, left to right: Mayor Wells of Brighton, F. S. Mancini, A. Hattendorf, T. J. Luttrell and F. T. Demaree.



JAP INFLUX WORRIES BRIGHTON

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MONTROSE, COLO.

PRESS

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FEB 1 1944

Water Users Board Condemns Plan Of People in Selling Their Land To Japs as Resolution Is Passed

Recent action by the board of directors of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users' association in the form of a resolution condemns the practice of permitting Japanese people to purchase land in this area or any place in the state of Colorado.

In the past several months various communities over the state have protested bitterly that the Japanese were buying up lands in many sections of the state. Protests have been filed with the governor and other state and federal officers. Various public officials have ruled that there is no law on record which prevents Japanese from buying property in the state.

The opinion of the board of directors of the water users' association is that the remedy for the whole condition rests with the people themselves. They declare that the people should refuse to sell them land.

In making known the resolution as passed by the association board of directors, President W. J. Dodd of the association made some enlightening comments as follows:

"It is the opinion of the water users' board, based upon their past experience, that the Japanese do not become a part of the communities in which they settle; that they are not assimilated by the white race; that as farmers, at least on the western slope, their whole aim has been to mine the land in an effort to make quick profits and in the past when profits have been made the money was sent out of the community; that when they incurred losses it was impossible to make collection from them. Substantial losses were incurred a number of years ago by our merchants thru dealings with the Japanese.

"The remedy, of course, is for the people of the community to refuse to sell to them. However, there are always some who will put their own selfish interests above community interests and to avoid this we feel that the legislature should enact appropriate laws in this connection."

Sanburg and Mr. J. C. Kerr; that they be urged to support the passage of appropriate laws to carry out the spirit of this resolution.

The above resolution was duly passed at the regular meeting of the board held at Montrose, Colo. the 17th day of January, 1944.

Board of Directors of the
Uncompahgre Valley Water
Users Association,

W. J. Dodd, President.

H. D. Galloway, secretary.

The resolution follows:

It has been called to the attention of this board that farming lands in western Colorado are being purchased by Japanese. That in particular, a material acreage has been purchased in Mesa county, Colorado, and some purchased made on the Uncompahgre project in Delta county.

It is the opinion of this board that it is for the best interests of Colorado that Japanese be not permitted to purchase our lands.

Therefore, be it resolved that this board of directors expressing its opinion that sales of our lands should not be made to persons of Japanese nationality; that if such sales are made it will lead to the purchase of large acreage and the settlement of our project to a large extent by the Japanese; that they do not assimilate with the present residents of Colorado; that they retain their foreign language, customs and habits to a large extent, and retain their allegiance to the Japanese government, all of which is inimical to the best interests of this community.

We therefore recommend to the officials of our state government, including the governor and state legislature, that laws be passed to prevent the acquiring of real estate holding in the state of Colorado by Japanese and in particular Japanese aliens.

We further recommend and urge that land owners on the Uncompahgre project refuse to sell land to Japanese; that real estate agents refuse to take any part in proposed sales of land to Japanese, and that the people of this community as a body make known their wish and desire that settlement of Japanese in this project area be not permitted.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be furnished the newspapers within the Uncompahgre project for publication; and that a copy thereof be sent to the Honorable John C. Vivian, governor of the state of Colorado, and to our state senators who reside in this project, Mr. C. E. Blaine and Mr. Edgar W. Bray; and to our state representatives, Mr. Harry

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G.J. Daily Sentinel
Grand Junction
2/7/44 THE DA

CITY COUNCIL ENDORSES ELKS RESOLUTION

Unanimous Vote for Ac- tion Opposing Further Japanese Settlement

The city council by a unanimous vote last night, with all members present, gave its endorsement to the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, That Grand Junction Lodge No. 575 B. P. O. E. recommend to the board of county commissioners of Mesa county, the city council of Grand Junction, the service clubs of Grand Junction and Mesa county, and all farm organizations of Mesa county, their careful and considered attention to the following sentiments heretofore adopted:

Be it resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the war relocation authority be requested not to further recommend any area of Mesa county for relocation of people of Japanese nativity or citizenship.

Be it further resolved that it is the sense of this meeting that the war relocation authority should reconsider the problem of evacuation of people of Japanese nativity from their original places of residence with the view that the security of the United States will not be impaired by their return to their original places of residence.

Be it further resolved that the real estate exchange of Grand Junction and its members be requested not to act further as brokers in the sale or exchange of lands in Mesa county to persons of Japanese nativity.

with the request that they take affirmative or negative action on the same and that the secretary send copies of this resolution to such organizations with the request that they notify him of action taken by them.

EUGENE M. WELCH.
Secretary.

CITIZENSHIP OF U. S. JAPS IS CHALLENGED

Coloradan Says Nips Never Lose Fealty For Emperor.

The theory that American-born Japs are automatically American citizens, and as such cannot be prohibited from purchasing farms or other land in Colorado, was challenged Friday by Vincent Cope of Fort Lupton, Colo., in a letter to Governor Vivian.

Cope also sent the governor a copy of a letter he sent to Secretary of State Hull a few weeks ago questioning the constitutionality of the present policy of regarding all American-born Japs as citizens. The governor's only comment was that the contention advanced by Cope is "interesting."

FARMERS PROTEST JAP PURCHASES.

A number of farmers in several Colorado communities have been protesting vigorously against Jap purchases of farm lands in their neighborhoods.

"The fourteenth amendment of the United States constitution does not by its terms confer citizenship upon everyone born 'within the United States,'" Cope argued in his letter to Secretary of State Hull, "because to be a citizen one must also be 'subject to the jurisdiction thereof.' American-born Japanese are not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States because they have dual citizenship which is based upon Japanese law and its application seems practically identical with expatriation.

EXPATRIATION WAS RECOGNIZED IN 1868.

"The congress recognized expatriation as early as 1868. The government of the land of birth or naturalization must consent to expatriation and the expatriate must renounce such government to dissolve his political connection therewith.

"The twenty-fourth article of the Japanese dual nationality law provides that 'A male of full 17 years of age or upwards does not lose Japanese nationality, unless he has completed active service in the army or navy, or unless he is under no obligation to serve.' There can be no 'completed active service' (for a Jap) until death, nor can there be a living Japanese who is 'under no obligation to serve' because fealty to the emperor ends only with death."

NEW DRIVE STARTED TO BAR JAP ALIENS

996
Senator Preston Heads Move to Place Issue of
Land Ownership Before Voters Next
November by Petition.

Denver
Post 2/10/44
Sponsors of an unsuccessful attempt to obtain legislative action against the ownership of Colorado property by Japanese aliens began a statewide movement Thursday to place the issue before the voters next November by petition.

State Senator Willard B. Preston (Rep.) of Adena, one of the proponents of the anti-Jap resolution which was killed at the second special session of the general assembly this week, announced as he left Denver for Brighton, he was going to rally support among farmers and businessmen of Adams county.

"It will cost money to start the petition, but we'll raise it quickly," Senator Preston said. "I'll put it up myself if necessary, and if anyone believes this is a political move on my part, I'll tell them I don't care what they think. If it came to that, I'd announce right now I wouldn't run for re-election. I believe, however, most people are with me."

Senator Charles P. Murphy (Rep.) of Spicer, who also supported the
(Turn to Page 8—Col. 1.)

NEW CAMPAIGN AGAINST JAP ALIENS STARTED

(Continued From Page One.)

resolution, said the petition would be filed with the secretary of state "within a few days." He believed there would be no difficulty raising money to support the movement.

"The farmers who stand to lose thousands of dollars from Japanese encroachment surely would be glad to pay the small amount needed to carry on the fight," he declared.

It will cost several hundred dollars to start the petition, a title for which must come from the secretary of state's office. The cost is for publication of the petition in every county of the state.

To get the proposed amendment on the ballots, the petitions must be presented by March 6 with 26,943 names on them.

VETERANS WILL DISCUSS QUESTION.

A public announcement from the Colorado headquarters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars said Department Comdr. Clinton M. Gosorn had issued a special call to every post and district commander for a meeting at the veterans' home Sunday to discuss the Japanese question.

The members, he said, will discuss what the organization can do to "force the issue of permitting citizens the privilege of voting to prohibit Japanese aliens from owning or possessing land or other property in Colorado."

"What competition can be offered by the wounded American soldier against the Japanese alien who is paid a salary and given all the privileges of the relocation centers where everything is furnished?" Gosorn asked. "Our boys are given a discharge and told they must turn in their uniforms within ninety days, given \$100 and told to shift for themselves. Will they think they have been treated fairly while they have been away?"

MOST LEGISLATORS HAVE GONE HOME.

Most of the members of the assembly left for their homes immediately after the second special session adjourned at noon Wednesday after the senate's rejection of the resolution by a 15-to-12 vote after its overwhelming passage by the house of representatives.

Senator Preston said he would send copies of the petition to all supporting senators and representatives as soon as possible, adding:

"They will be able to do a lot of good in their home districts and should get hundreds of signatures without effort. The people are anxious to sign them, I have found."

Pueblo, Colo.

DATE FEB 4 1944
P.

FARMER GROUP ASKS STATE BAR JAP LAND PURCHASES

The signatures of the three Pueblo county commissioners headed a list of 65 landowners of the Avondale-Vineland district on a petition addressed to Governor John C. Vivian to call a special session of the Colorado legislature to pass legislation preventing alien Japanese from buying choice farmland in the state of Colorado.

Immediately following a meeting of the principal landowners of the Avondale-Vineland district, at the Banner school house, in which a talk on Americanism by W. M. Hunsaker keyed the affair, the petition was circulated.

Hunsaker posed the question:

"What was the use of buying bonds to take little coral islands from the Japs," he asked "while our boys are fighting for America, and while so doing, the choicest land in the community which they will want to purchase when they come home is taken over by the Japs?"

Twenty-five farms in Crowley county and one in Pueblo county have been purchased during the past 10 days by Japanese aliens, Hunsaker disclosed Thursday noon

at a Lions club meeting at the Vail hotel.

Various other members of the group made talks against buying of land by alien Japanese.

James Peabody then took over

and gave an inspiring talk for the betterment of the community.

A committee, composed of Percy Sutcliffe, Ed Yacklich, George Smith, Jim Colian, James Peabody, Frank Van Galder, C. S. Sanford, with W. M. Hunsaker as chairman, was elected to contact anyone in the Vineland-Avondale area on the verge of leasing or selling land to alien Japs, for the purpose of dissuasion.

WESTERN PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

12th & Stout Streets
DENVER, COLORADO

This clipping from
GREELEY, COLO.
TRIBUNE

FEB 4 1944
1001

51 Sign Letter To Gov. Vivian On Alien Property

Fifty-one Greeley business and professional men signed a letter addressed to Governor John C. Vivian which informed the governor that the signers believe "something should be done to discourage the ownership of real property by aliens."

The text of the letter sent Wednesday was: "We respectfully urge that you give due consideration to the request made to enact legislation relating to property rights of aliens."

"In the last two years there has been a steady influx of those, other than of American nationality, moving into this area and we believe something should be done to discourage the ownership of real property by aliens."

American Temporary Snag

(Continued from Page 5)

be called by the governor if conditions warranted.

The first special session adjourned at 12:40 p. m. yesterday, after enacting soldier vote legislation.

The call for the second session was issued after a two-hour meeting in the governor's office, attended by Attorney General Ireland, Lieutenant Governor Higby, Speaker of the House Homer Pearson, Republican Senators Averill, C. Johnson and Willard B. Preston, Senator Curtis P. Ritchie (D.), and Republican Reps. Jack Evans, David A. Hamil and L. D. Shotwell Jr.

The call includes also a provision for revision of the soldier-vote legislation in case federal action should affect the Colorado legislation.

Following the conference in the executive office, Governor Vivian issued the following statement: "The call was issued on what seemed to be an overwhelming demand from the people of Colorado.

LAND BUYING BY ALIEN JAPS TO BE PROBED

Governor Suggests That
Owners Have Remedy
In Own Hands.

An inquiry into the reported purchase of Colorado rural and town properties by enemy aliens was promised Saturday by Governor Vivian after he had received a letter of protest from western slope farm and business groups.

The protest was the third of its kind presented to the governor within the week.

"There is hardly any question of the right of any citizen to buy such property in Colorado," Governor Vivian said. "However, it is reported alien Japanese are doing some of the buying. If this is true, I intend to find out if it is legal."

"I shall send the western slope letter to Attorney General Ireland with a request for his opinion on the matter. I would like to know whether aliens, and especially enemy aliens, can own real estate in Colorado."

The governor said he would not call a special legislative session to go into the issue, as urged by the western Coloradans. Referring to the Jan. 28 special session on soldier balloting, he asserted, "We have called the only extraordinary session that's going to be called unless something of foremost importance arises."

"I recognize a very serious situation in regard to the protests I have received this week, but the question is purely one of legality."

Governor Vivian said he had asked war relocation authorities whether enemy aliens had been released from the Amache camp near Las Animas, and was told some had been given freedom some months ago, but not recently. The federal officials, he said, could not tell him whether any Japanese aliens were coming into Colorado from other areas.

The governor agreed one way to prevent the purchase of property by Japanese was for the owners to refuse to sell it to them, even at the high prices reportedly being offered.

Commissioners Rap Land Sales to Aliens

Resolutions urging a curb on further federal acquisition of land, proposing federal contributions in lieu of taxes on tax-exempt land, and calling for a ban on ownership of Colorado land by aliens were approved at closing sessions of the Colorado Association of County Commissioners in the Shirley-Savoy Hotel here yesterday.

Federal aid for local rural roads in the post-war period, and reimbursement from the U. S. government for county funds spent for enemy alien assistance were also urged.

Defense of State Welfare Department authority to pay burial benefits for old age pensioners was voted, and the State Welfare Board was asked to revoke the revised compensation plan and salary increases "which bring department employe salaries above elected county officials."

Proposals for liberalization of Colorado statutes to permit heavier truck loadings on highways were denounced.

Election of officers for 1944 concluded business of the three-day parley.

R. W. Lambert, Agate, became president; William F. Perkins, Grand Junction, first vice president; T. E. Breezely, second vice president, and Claude Luekens, Steamboat Springs, third vice president. Fred O. Pearce, Brighton, was re-elected secretary.

PUEBLO, COLO.
STAR-JOURNAL

JAP ALIENS BUYING CROWLEY AND PUEBLO FARMS, LIONS TOLD

Twenty-five farms in Crowley county and one in Pueblo county have been purchased during the past 10 days by Japanese aliens, members of the Lions club were told Thursday noon at the Vail hotel by Floyd Hunsaker, one of the sponsors of a meeting set for tonight at Banner school to draw a protest and petition the state for a law banning ownership of land by aliens.

Lions voted its appreciation to the recreation commission for its work in the past.

Robert Griffin and Raymand Porter gave two whistling duets.

Lions and Lionesses will have a dinner-dance at the Pueblo Golf and Country club on Feb. 16.

WESTERN PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

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This clipping from
BOULDER, COLO.
CAMERA

999 FEB 2 1944

Boulder Legion Favors Anti-Alien Property Laws

Boulder Post No. 10, American Legion, went on record last night as favoring an extra session of the legislature to pass property laws, preventing aliens from acquiring land in Colorado. Telegrams to this effect were addressed to Gov. John C. Vivian, and to Boulder county's representatives in the legislature, Sen. Theo. G. Lashley, Representatives Lyman P. Weld and Leslie R. Steele.

Much of the meeting was given over to a discussion of the sub-district meeting of the Legion to be held here Sunday, Feb. 6. The meeting will be at the Legion hall. There will be a dinner at 5.

Trevor Thomas, Denver, department commander, and M. L. Lyckholm, also of Denver, department adjutant, will be present. Post war program of the Legion will be discussed.

Membership of the Boulder post has reached 189. New members are Donald L. Dayton, W. A. Hering, Hugh Cleveland, O. K. Joseph, Leonard D. Tripp, Lynn G. Curtis, Roy V. Wylie and Christy W. Plank.

GRAND JUNCTION
SENTINEL
JAN 13 1944
527

Redlands Power Group Opposes Jap Settlement

Pass Strong Resolution;
Board of Directors Is Re-
elected

Stockholders of the Redlands Water and Power company are on record as opposed to any settlement of Japanese on the Redlands project.

A resolution terming Japanese as "undesirable both as citizens and as neighbors" was passed this week at the company's annual meeting, at which the present board of directors was reelected to a one-year term. The board is composed of Robert Cutter, president; Charles F. Imp, vice president; W. A. Groom, Fred Clymer, George Standiford, Frank Dessert and W. A. Freeman.

Alvin E. Borschell has been secretary-treasurer of the company for the past 10 years. The board will reorganize for the coming year at the February meeting.

Stockholders in the company were well represented at the meeting.

The annual report of the officers showed the company to be in an excellent financial condition. The bonded indebtedness, which covers equipment only, was shown to have been reduced to \$66,000, all of which will be paid off during the next five years under the present schedule of debt retirement. This bonded debt includes indebtedness incurred in the installation of the Redlands power plant.

The following resolution was unanimously passed at the recent meeting and a copy will be submitted to every land owner on the project:

WHEREAS, the United States of America are now defending themselves against a war begun by Japan; and,

WHEREAS, the expressed bitterness engendered by this conflict and openly expressed against the citizens of this country, by the Japanese within the United States, makes them undesirable both as citizens and as neighbors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the stockholders of the Redlands Water and Power company, in annual meeting assembled on this, the 10th day of January, 1944, that we are opposed to the sale of lands in the Redlands area to members of the Japanese race and that we hereby request owners of lands in this area to refuse to sell, and to refrain from selling, their properties to members of that race; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby request the realtors who serve the Redlands area that they refuse to act as agents in the sale of any property therein to any member of the Japanese race whether he be an alien or a non-alien.

**WESTERN PRESS
CLIPPING BUREAU**

12th & Stout Streets
DENVER, COLORADO

This clipping from

LA JUNTA, COLO.

TRIBUNE

529

JAN 15, 1944

MESA COUNTY ASKS WRA NOT TO SEND ANY MORE JAPANESE

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo., Jan. 15—(AP)—A committee of Mesa county residents, headed by Thomas W. Beede, Loma farmer, proposes that the war relocation authority case "to further recommend any area of Mesa county for relocation of people of Japanese nativity or citizenship."

The committee also declared in resolution passed last night that the WRA "should reconsider the problem of evacuation of people of Japanese nativity from their original places of residence with the view that the security of the United States will not be impaired by their return to their original places of residence."

It was the second time in two weeks the group had expressed opposition to settlement of Japanese on farms of the county.

The committee announced cancellation of plans for a public meeting in connection with the opposition J. H. Lewis of Denver, acting relocation supervisor for the area, advised against such a meeting. He

also told the committee he had learned of only eight land scales in the Grand Junction area since the transfer of Japanese inland from the west coast early in 1942.

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WAR VETERANS SUPPORT BAN ON JAP ALIENS

Colorado V.F.W. on Record for Amendment to Colorado Constitution.

Colorado Veterans of Foreign Wars and a Spanish workers' protective association of Colorado and New Mexico declared their support Monday of a petition to place on the ballot in November an amendment to the state constitution making possible a law to bar alien Japanese from holding property in Colorado.

The V. F. W. state council, representing thirty-nine posts in Colorado, met in Denver Sunday afternoon and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Be It Resolved by the council of administration, department of Colorado, V. F. W. of the United States, That the council go on record as being opposed to alien property ownership in Colorado and that the council support any referendum or petition that will carry out this idea."

Joseph J. Jacques, junior state vice commander, announced the action.

Fred Sanchez of Antonito, Colo., secretary-treasurer of the Sociedad Proteccion Mutua De Trabajadores Unidos, wrote Monday to THE DENVER POST that the organization wants to "help force the issue of permitting citizens the privilege of voting to prohibit Japanese aliens from owning or possessing land or other property in Colorado by circulating petitions to put on the November ballot the constitutional amendment rejected by the state senate."

"We are not glad," Sanchez stated, "to hear of the atrocities the Japanese have committed against our boys, friends, members of this lodge and all good citizens of the United States."

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
1194 - Soc. Sec. Bldg.

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Post (I)
Denver, Colo.

DATE

p. _____

RESIDENT TELLS HOW OTERO COUNTY HAS KEPT OUT JAPANESE

How residents of the western part of Otero county have kept Japanese from taking over farms and businesses as they have in other parts of Colorado was described Saturday in a letter to THE DENVER POST from Chester Norton of Fowler.

By erecting a solid front of anti-Japanese sentiment, Norton said, the people in the area have been successful in keeping unwanted persons from settling there and have induced one Japanese, who moved in earlier, to leave, obtaining another lessee for the property he had taken over.

PROTEST PETITION USED AS WEAPON.

Norton told his story to THE POST at the suggestion of State Representative James A. Jones of Manzanola, who backed anti-Japanese legislation in the recent unsuccessful second special session of the thirty-fourth general assembly.

"About six weeks ago," Norton wrote, "it became known that a landlord who lives in another state had leased his two farms in this neighborhood to Japanese.

"One of my neighbors came to me and we decided on a time and place for a meeting. About forty men assembled and decided to circulate a petition of protest, then interview the Japs who held the lease.

JAP RELIEVED OF HIS LEASE.

"The petition was prepared and we obtained around 275 signatures. Then a committee of ten men called on the Japanese, showed him the petition and explained the people's attitude.

"While there, we obtained his

promise to sell his lease if we could get him as much cash as he had paid out. In a few days we succeeded in selling his lease to another party.

"We are now preparing to organize for a petition campaign to place the amendment Representative Jones introduced, and which the senate killed, on the November ballots."

PRESS INTELLIGENCE

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Denver, Colo.

DATE

p. _____

FIGURES SHOW HEAVY INFUX OF JAPANESE INTO ADAMS COUNTY

Figures showing Adams county has had a three-fold increase in Japanese residents since Pearl Harbor were cited Friday by Representative L. D. Shotwell Jr. of Aurora, leader of a group of Republican house members who urged Governor Vivian to call the second special session of the thirty-fourth general assembly.

Shotwell, whose constituents from the Brighton area were first to raise official protests against the growing influx of Japanese to Colorado, disputed what he termed "utterly erroneous and misleading" figures prepared by federal agen-

cies on the Japanese situation in his county.

He called Mrs. Thelma C. Gregory, Adams county superintendent of schools, to the statehouse to give what he termed the true picture. Here are the statistics he obtained from her:

Before Pearl Harbor there were about 200 Japanese families in the Brighton trade territory. Today there are more than 600.

JAPS OPERATING 60 LEASED FARMS.

Japanese are operating from eighty to ninety cash-leased farms in the district.

They have taken over six Brighton businesses—two garages, a dress shop, a market and grocery store.

Six of the better pieces of residence property in Brighton have been bought by Japanese. (The six are recorded; there may be more contracts of purchase not yet on the records, Shotwell declared.)

The county clerk's office reports that "never a day passes" without one or more Japanese taking out Colorado license plates on automobiles—some of them big, costly ones.

Last year, of eighty-eight graduates from the Brighton high

school, twenty were Japanese. In the Hazeltine school, a small one with only four rooms, there are thirty Japanese. At Henderson, eighty children enrolled, thirty are Japanese. At Adams City, twenty-seven of the 200 in high school, and ten of the 279 in grade school are Japanese.

At Brighton, thirty-three, or 7 per cent of the grade school, twenty-seven, or 9 per cent, of the junior high school, and fifty-eight, or 17 per cent, of the high school enrollments are Japanese.

Mrs. Gregory said she had obtained the figures at Shotwell's re-

quest, from her own records and from the federal agricultural adjustment administration.

"The Japanese are receiving the same educational advantages as other children," she said, declaring there is no discrimination whatsoever in the school systems of her county.

PETITION TO BAR JAP ALIENS FROM COLORADO LAND FILED

Five Adams County Sponsors Hope for Sufficient Signatures to Place Proposal on November Ballots.

Five Adams county businessmen and farmers filed with the secretary of state Thursday a petition to amend the Colorado constitution so as to bar Japanese aliens from owning real estate property in the state. The group, leaders in an unsuccessful fight to obtain similar action by the legislature in its recent second special session, hope to get nearly 27,000 signatures on the petition by March 6. The proposal then could go on the November election ballots.

Going further into the Japanese ownership question than any of the three plans rejected by the general assembly, the petition would allow the legislature to pass laws on alien property rights, but in the absence of such legislation would deny Japanese aliens all right to own real estate.

GOES FURTHER THAN ASSEMBLY MEASURES.

It would make it impossible, except by specific legislation, for any Japanese national to own property as a member of a corporation, as by shares or voting privileges.

Sponsors whose names were written on the original petition as filed Thursday were Mayor J. William Wells, F. T. Demaree, George J. Mancini and Albert H. Hattendorf, all of Brighton, and C. H. Bell of Keenesburg.

Milnor E. Gleaves, Denver lawyer, who drafted the petition at request of the group, said he believed it would meet the wishes of most of those who sought anti-Japanese legislation at the special session of the assembly.

PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

The amendment proposed by the petition would change the constitution to read:

"Aliens eligible to citizenship in the United States may acquire, inherit, receive, possess, hold, enjoy and dispose of property, real and personal. Provision shall be made by law for the right and power of aliens who are or shall become ineligible to citizenship to acquire, inherit, receive, possess, hold, enjoy or dispose of real property, or any right, title, control or interest therein; or otherwise there shall be no such right or power as to them, directly or indirectly, or by the attempted use of shares or voting privileges, excepting only to

the extent of the vested rights already acquired and guaranteed by law, as to which may be made by law for the dissolution, liquidation or termination thereof."

State officials began immediate preparation of a title for the proposed amendment. Meanwhile, a statewide campaign for signatures was being organized. Members of the house and senate who backed the legislation were expected to take an active part in their districts and various veterans' organizations were being rallied to support the petition.

23 Japs, but Not 3,000, Buy Land In Adams County

Only 23 Japanese have bought land in Adams County in the last two years, despite charges that more than 3,000 such purchases have been made by Japanese aliens alone, according to records in the county clerk and recorder's office in Brighton.

Legislation Sought

A survey going back more than two years was made about two weeks ago, showing that 23 parcels of land had been transferred to Japanese, the recorder's office reported in a telephone conversation to The Rocky Mountain News. The survey included land purchased both by Japanese nationals and American citizens of Japanese descent.

A group of Colorado legislators has called for a special session to place a constitutional amendment prohibiting purchase of land by Japanese nationals on the ballot in the November election.

7,961 at Large

In calling for the special session, Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. (R.), of Aurora, wrote Governor Vivian that more than 3,000 purchases of land by Japanese nationals had been made in Adams County recently.

There are an estimated 7,961 Japanese in the state, exclusive of those in relocation centers. About 2,000 of these are Japanese nationals, half of them women, according to estimates.

La Junta, Colo. DE MOORE Starts Movement 2/13/44 To Halt Buying of Land by Japanese 1902

A movement is getting underway in Bent County to urge Gov. John C. Vivian to call a special session of the state legislature to pass a law prohibiting alien purchase of Colorado land, it was reported today.

The Las Animas Chamber of Commerce, the Bent County commissioners, the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, and many individuals have been contacted with the purpose of making the position of the community clear to Governor Vivian.

Protest against purchase of land in the state by Japanese has been voiced in many communities and Governor Vivian has the problem under study and advisement now.

Denver Post
2/17/44

Colorado House Votes Alien Land Measure

(Continued from Page 5)

we are not abrogating the Bill of Rights."

Pointing out that he lived near the WRA Japanese relocation camp at Amache, Rep. C. R. Strain, (R.) of Lamar said the 8,600 persons of Japanese ancestry at the center are wards of the government the same as people in public hospitals. Eighty percent of the Amache population, he said, are American born and those disloyal to the United States have been weeded out by the army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the WRA.

"The state should not discriminate against any minority group because a few communities have problems they can't solve," he said. "Japanese-owned stores in Brighton and Rocky Ford can't succeed unless they are patronized by persons of other nationalities. This proposal is prompted by jealousy and prejudice."

A plea for further information on alien land ownership in Adams, Weld, Crowley and Otero Counties was made by Rep. Arthur A. Brooks Jr., (R.) of Denver, who pointed out his brother is a prisoner of the Japanese. He read a telegram from V. H. Spensley of Albuquerque, president of the Bataan Relief Assn., urging the Legislature to drop the proposed Japanese ban.

"Let's not do anything to prejudice the chances for life of the 36,000 American prisoners of the Japanese," Mr. Brooks said. He displayed a sheaf of 25 messages from Denver constituents, opposing the legislation and said he had not a single request for support of the proposal.

Rep. Floyd E. Cobb, (R.), a Denver meat market and hotel owner, said he made a canvass of

Denver businessmen, "who are too busy to come up here and tell the Legislature what they want," and all favor banning Japanese property ownership.

"The government loves the Japs," Mr. Cobb said, "at least OPA does. One who bought an 18th st. hotel was allowed to raise room rents \$1, but I can't do it. We don't want cheap labor in Colorado. When I was on WPA I worked alongside Mexicans, who were paid the same wages as I got, and I didn't like it."

In a sergeant's uniform was Rep. Wayne W. Hill (R.) of Denver, who flew to Denver in an army plane yesterday to attend the session. Representative Hill has been discharged from the army to apply for a commission in AMG or accept a commission as a medical entomologist, for which he has been recommended, he said.

"I am as horrified as anyone at Japanese atrocities and I hope to have an opportunity to retaliate," Representative Hill said. "But we should distinguish our Japanese enemy from the American citizen of Japanese ancestry."

"Once you take one freedom from a minority you can take all the freedoms from the majority. Are we, by our votes, going to tell the world Colorado does not want to operate under a democracy? This proposal violates one of the basic canons of freedom for which you expect us to give our lives to defend."

"I have been cautioned that I will be sorry if I vote against this amendment. My reply is that I am just as willing to die a political death as I am to die in battle to preserve American freedom."

A roll call vote on the proposed amendment will be taken when the House convenes at 10 a. m. today.

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This clipping from
LOVELAND, COLO.
REPORTER

3462

MAY 26 1940

Start Another Drive To Halt Jap Property Owning in Colorado

DENVER (UP) — Another campaign has been started to prevent Japanese aliens from owning land in Colorado.

An organization known as the American League of Colorado has been formed for that purpose. The organizers said they would work for a constitutional amendment which would deny undesirable foreigners from owning property.

One of the directors of the league is Mayor J. William Wells of Brighton, one of the original leaders in the anti-Japanese movement. Another director is C. H. Patterson of Grand Junction.

WASHINGTON—Illinois and Colorado are the favorite states of Japanese-Americans who are seeking new homes after being evacuated from their former homes on the Pacific Coast.

A report by the war relocation authority shows that more than 5,000 Japanese-Americans have re-settled in Illinois. Colorado has the second largest number, 1,144. Boulder has received 183 of these up-rooted citizens, and Grand Junction 120.

VINELANDERS WILL REFUSE TO SELL LAND TO ALIENS

Japanese land tenancy in the Lakeside-Vineland area was opposed in a resolution adopted Monday night at a meeting of land owners at the high school. It was agreed by those present that they would refuse to sell or lease any land to undesirable aliens, especially Japs.

The meeting was called to order by James Colian, district chairman, with W. M. Hunsaker the principal speaker, who in his talk defined the American citizen.

A number of speakers, all farm owners of the district, expressed their opinions on the evils of Jap land tenancy in this or any other area.

Colian appointed a committee of farmers to investigate any information that would be handed to them regarding transfer of any property to alien undesirables. This committee consists of Ray Hartman, Red Pisciotto, Sam De Carlo, Herman Lipe, Stanley Boitz.

Another meeting has been scheduled for 7:30 tonight at the Avondale high school.

2/7/44

Colorado House Votes Alien Land Measure On Second Reading

By NEIL KIMBALL
Rocky Mountain News Writer

994

The Colorado House of Representatives passed on second reading yesterday, by a 42-to-13 standing vote, a resolution to place on the November ballot an amendment which proposes to prevent land ownership by Japanese aliens.

The vote came after Republican leaders Jack Evans of Grand Junction and W. A. Carlson of Greeley had made efforts to stop debate and Carlson had accused his fellow Republicans of "attempting a filibuster."

Up for Final Reading

The resolution will come before the House on final reading at 10 a. m. today and must muster 44 votes on a roll call to pass. To be placed upon the ballot a two-thirds majority (44 votes in the House) is necessary in each house. The Senate has yet to act on the proposal in its present form, a compromise, decided upon after acrimonious debate yesterday.

Governor Vivian predicted yesterday that "the proposal will have tough sledding in the Senate," where 24 of the 35 votes are necessary.

Five Republican senators will vote against the measure, he predicted, and added he had been informed by Senator Curtis P. Ritchie, Democratic floor leader, that eight Democratic senators are opposed to passage. Four senators, three Democrats and Charles E. Collins (R.) of Kit Carson, have been excused.

Yesterday's debate was participated in exclusively by Republican House members. A majority of the Democrats voted for second reading passage.

Amendment Adopted

An amendment, prepared Sunday by the Constitutional Amendments Committee, was adopted on motion of Chairman Donald Leshner, (R.), of Denver. The proposal, if adopted in November, Mr. Leshner said, would "prohibit land ownership by Japanese nationals without further legislative action."

The fact that more than 4,000 persons of Japanese ancestry have taken up residence in Colorado since Pearl Harbor is evidence of the need for such an amendment, he argued.

The proposal as approved in the House provides: "Aliens who are or may hereafter become bona fide residents of this state may acquire, inherit, possess, enjoy and dispose of property, real and personal, as native born citizens; provided, however, that the property

rights of aliens who are, or may hereafter become, ineligible to qualify as citizens of the United States, and the property rights of aliens who, although eligible to become citizens, fail or refuse to become citizens, shall be as now or hereafter prescribed by law, and the disposition of such property rights or property of such aliens may be prescribed by law, any other provisions of the Constitution of the State of Colorado to the contrary notwithstanding."

Called Too Restrictive

In opposing the amendment, Rep. Clifford E. Morgan (R.), Denver, said it was "too restrictive on future legislatures."

Defending the proposal, Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. (R.) of Aurora said "Governor Vivian's purpose in calling the Legislature was to set up barriers against the Japanese. The yellow race was not known when our Constitution was written. Today we know it is not to be trusted."

Pleading for adoption of the alien land ban, Rep. Claude W. Blake (R.) of Denver said he was undecided as to how he would vote on the proposed amendment if it were submitted next fall, because he had no hatred against any enemy alien.

"Yet it is Fascism," he added, "to refuse to allow the people of the state to vote on an important matter."

Charging the Legislature would depart from the Bill of Rights in the State and National Constitutions if the proposal were passed, Rep. Fred E. Bear (R.) of Springfield made an impassioned address against the resolution. He suggested that Mayor J. W. Wells of Brighton, who charged at a public hearing Saturday that "the Japs are taking our county," call upon the citizens of Adams County to sign a pledge of allegiance not to sell property to undesirable persons.

'Japs Are Liability'

"The Japanese have become a liability in time of war," Rep. Leslie R. Steele (R.) of Boulder replied to Representative Bear. "In singling out this one group, as protection to our form of government,

(Continued on Page 11)

DIVISION OF
PRESS INTELLIGENCE
O.W.I.
Tempo V Bldg.

PH. 5495

SY. WR

Gazette
Colo. Springs, Colo.
210
DATE JUL 31 1944

Spanish-Speaking Americans Meet

Adopt Resolution Against Amendment 3 on Fall Ballot

A resolution opposing amendment No. 3, called the "alien land amendment," and urging its defeat at the polls in November, was adopted Sunday at the closing session of the state convention of the Alianza Hispano-Americana, a national Spanish language fraternal organization, at the YWCA building.

"Amendment No. 3," the resolution reads, "is an undemocratic and discriminatory attack upon racial and religious minorities. Tho on the surface it affects only those of Oriental descent, yet we believe its purpose is to attack the rights of all minority groups. It may indeed be viewed as an opening wedge for racial and religious intolerance on a broad scale. Its spirit is that of the Ku Klux Klan."

"We believe that adoption of this amendment would play directly into the hands of the Japanese military propagandists in the Far East and would further endanger the lives of American prisoners of war held by Japan."

"Adoption of the amendment would result in utter confusion of real estate titles and would greatly increase the cost of real estate transfers."

"In addition to the foregoing reasons the amendment is useless anyway. Even if adopted it would not exclude Orientals from holding land in Colorado. It could easily be evaded, as similar laws have been in California and Washington, by the simple device of transferring title to a friend or relative who is a citizen."

L. G. Florez, Pueblo, and Frank Y. Romero, Denver, were elected delegates to a national meeting of the organization, which is to be held at Tucson, Ariz., August 21.

*File
To Janine*

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

Room 6, Reed Building
Grand Junction, Colorado

February 10, 1944

1480

*Mr. Gossard
Baker*



**JAP RESOLUTION
IS APPROVED BY
PALISADE LIONS**

The Palisade Lions club board of directors last night endorsed a resolution originating in the Grand Junction Elks lodge, opposing any purchase of land in Mesa county by persons of Japanese nativity or citizenship. The resolution also asked that the War Relocation Authority not encourage any settlement of Japanese in the county.

Max Sisson, Palisade Lions secretary, said the club membership approved the resolution in whole last week, the board adding its endorsement last night.

THE DAILY SENTINEL

Grand Junction, Colorado
February 9, 1944





Walter Alexander.

Willard Preston.

T. J. Luttrell.

Frank Demaree.

ANTI-JAPANESE PETITION FILED WITH 8,000 NAMES TO SPARE

Plea to Give Service Men State Job Preference
Also Under Wire, Assuring Four Amend-
ment Proposals on Ballot.

Petitions bearing the names of 38,146 Coloradans were filed with the secretary of state late Monday to guarantee a popular vote next November on a proposed constitutional amendment which would forbid Japanese aliens to own real state in the state.

A short time later the American Legion and other veterans' groups filed petitions with 29,473 names for another amendment giving service men or their widows preference in state civil service examinations.

These made four proposed amendments to be voted on in the general election. The other two would make women eligible for service on juries and insure full benefits under the state \$45-a-month old-age pension law by transferring sums annually from the state treasury.

The women's jury service proposal was referred to the people by action of the thirty-fourth general assembly last year and will appear first among the four on the ballots.

Second place goes to the pension amendment, for which petitions, carrying 48,673 names, were filed Saturday. It was sponsored by the National Annuity league, pension organization.

The anti-Japanese measure will appear third and the veterans' preference fourth, Walter Alexander, chief clerk in the secretary of state's office, announced. Monday was the deadline for such proposals.

Statehouse observers termed the achievement of the anti-Japanese organization little short of phenomenal. In fifteen days the group conducted a statewide drive for signers and obtained far more than the 26,943 names required to get their proposal on the ballots. Many had predicted they would fail because of the shortness of time.

Leaders in the campaign were Mayor J. William Wells of Brighton, whose son has been unheard from since the fall of Bataan, where he was serving with the army; State Senator Willard Preston (Rep.) of Adena, who sought unsuccessfully

to pilot an anti-Japanese resolution thru the senate in the recent second special session of the legislature, and a militant group of businessmen and farmers.

It was Preston who stood up in the senate after it had killed the measure and declared: "We aren't giving up. We'll go out into every corner of the state and get this on the ballots anyway."

Several senate associates tried to discourage him, telling him it was a "hopeless task."

A jubilant group of Adams county citizens took the petitions, armloads of them, from Brighton to the capitol Saturday. They announced they were setting up an organization to campaign for a favorable vote on the amendment.

Amendments Against Land Buying By Aliens Hit a Temporary Snag



—Rocky Mountain News Photo.

PROPONENT, OPPONENT, PEACEMAKER—Three Colorado legislators with divergent views on alien legislation confer with Attorney General Gail L. Ireland. Rep. Vernon Cheever (left) has a peace plan to delay action while factual data is gathered, if Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. (right) is unable to overcome the opposition being mobilized by Rep. Arthur S. Brooks (second from left) against the proposed legislation. Mr. Ireland (third from left) says: "Don't ask me, boys."

Three proposals for amendment of the Colorado Constitution, designed to prohibit Jap aliens from owning property in the state, ran into rough sledding, at least temporarily, in the State House of Representatives last night.

While the House met in a night session devoted largely to passage of a bill for \$9,715 for expenses of the second special session, called yesterday to consider the Jap property issue, the constitutional amendments committee of the lower chamber took the three proposed amendments under consideration.

Proposals Are Delayed

After more than two hours of deliberations, the committee reported the proposals will be held up pending further investigation of the question.

Rep. Donald M. Leshner (R), of Denver, chairman of the committee, made this announcement as the group adjourned for the night: "The committee appears to be neutral on the matter and made no recommendation. This is too important a matter to decide until we have further information."

"Legislators should not be

stitutional amendment, citizens of nations with whom the United States is at war, and who are not eligible for citizenship, from buying or holding property. This would apply only to Jap aliens.

At an open meeting presided over by Rep. Donald M. Leshner (R.), Denver, Attorney General Gail Ireland and Deputy Lawrence Hinkley were asked if the proposed resolutions would fall afoul of constitutional restrictions. The attorneys refused to answer until they had given the matter more study, but Ireland said he had studied the Shotwell proposal and believed it to be defensible in the Supreme Court.

Could Own Nothing

"If the amendment (proposed by Representative Warren) carries no alien can own or acquire property unless the Legislature sees fit

other lawyer at the hearing, said. Several Denver ministers attended the hearing, but did not speak on the subject.

No vocal opposition to the proposals developed yesterday, but a number of legislators said they would oppose efforts "to railroad an amendment through without full and complete discussion." Another public hearing will be held in the House chamber at 1 p. m. today, at which any organization or citizen may state his position on the proposals, Chairman Leshner announced.

Oppose Alien Legislation

Legislators yesterday received telegrams from Rev. Louis Kaub, president of the Methodist Ministerial Association, and Kenneth Smith of the Social Action Committee opposing the alien legislation as un-democratic, unchristian and a product of hate. They urged

L. D. Shotwell Jr. (right) is unable to overcome the opposition being mobilized by Rep. Arthur S. Brooks (second from left) against the proposed legislation. Mr. Ireland (third from left) says: "Don't ask me, boys."

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"Legislators should not be called upon to vote until both sides have been given opportunity to be heard. If the public meeting (called for 1 p. m. today) brings out only those who are opposed to the measure, further public hearings will be called next week, when residents of the communities in which Japanese land owners are reported to be a vital issue may be heard."

"All proposals will be held in committee pending these hearings."

Scheduled to appear at today's hearings are W. W. Grant, Rt. Rev. John R. Mulroy, Dean Paul Roberts and S. Arthur Henry, among those opposing the measures, and a group of Northern Colorado farmers, who have announced they will come to Denver today to speak in favor of the proposed legislation.

If approved by two-thirds of the two houses, the bills will be referred to the electorate in November.

Offer Resolutions

Rep. James A. Jones (R.), Manitou; Rep. Clifford E. Morgan (R.), Denver, and Rep. N. J. Miller (R.), Eaton, offered a resolution which gives the legislature the power to prescribe laws "governing the acquisition, inheritance, possession, enjoyment and disposition of property by aliens."

Rep. William N. Warren (R.), Denver, offered a similar resolution, but limited its provisions to Jap aliens.

Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. (R.), Aurora, would prohibit, by con-

stitutional amendment, citizens of nations with whom the United States is at war, and who are not eligible for citizenship, from buying or holding property. This would apply only to Jap aliens.

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Could Own Nothing

"If the amendment (proposed by Representative Warren) carries no alien can own or acquire property unless the Legislature sees fit to grant him the right," Dexter Blount, Denver attorney, invited to address the House, said.

"If the amendment is adopted and the Legislature takes no action, no alien can own property in Colorado—land, clothing or automobile."

In answer to a question by Representative Morgan, Mr. Blount said the proposal seemed to follow the pattern of the California statute, which has been successfully defended in the U. S. Supreme Court.

The legislative proposals probably would be upheld in the Supreme Court. Benjamin Sweet and

other lawyer at the hearing, said. Several Denver ministers attended the hearing, but did not speak on the subject.

No vocal opposition to the proposals developed yesterday, but a number of legislators said they would oppose efforts "to railroad an amendment through without full and complete discussion." Another public hearing will be held in the House chamber at 1 p. m. today, at which any organization or citizen may state his position on the proposals, Chairman Leshner announced.

Oppose Alien Legislation

Legislators yesterday received telegrams from Rev. Louis Kaub, president of the Methodist Ministerial Association, and Kenneth Smith of the Social Action Committee opposing the alien legislation as un-democratic, unchristian and a product of hate. They urged the appointment of a fact-finding investigating committee before action is taken.

A resolution to set up a fact-finding committee of three representatives and two senators to thoroughly investigate the subject of alien land holding was prepared by Reps. Vernon Cheever (R.), of Colorado Springs, and Hubert Henry (R.), of Denver. If it meets with favor in the House they will move for immediate adjournment of the special session until the investigation is completed, after which another session could

(Continued on Page 11)

COLORADO HOUSE TO GET ANTI-JAP BILL MONDAY

LAND HOLDING DEBATE HEARD BY COMMITTEE

Opponents of Ban Out-
number Those Speak-
ing for Proposal.

A resolution to place on the Colorado election ballots in November a proposed constitutional amendment barring alien Japanese from owning property in the state will be reported out of committee Monday for action of the thirty-fourth general assembly at its second special session.

A public hearing on the issue Saturday afternoon in the house produced speakers who took vigorous stands on both sides of the question.

Afterward, the house constitutional amendments committee met with sponsors of three separate resolutions introduced Friday, then announced it would report out a single measure. Representative Donald M. Leshner (Rep.) of Denver called the group for a closed session for 2 p. m. Sunday. He said the resolution either would be one of the three introduced, or one embodying the committee's own ideas.

Opponents of the anti-Japanese legislation outnumbered those favoring it among the speakers at the open hearing. Those who talked in favor of it were Dr. J. W. Wells, mayor of Brighton; District Judge Harold Davies of Englewood and

(Turn to Page 10—Col. 1.)

THREAT TO 'BURN OUT NIPS' HEARD ON WEST SLOPE

Rancher Writes Vivian That He
Is Sure Citizens Won't
Let Japs Settle.

A threat to "burn the Japs out if they move into our district" was reported Saturday by a prominent western slope rancher, one of many Colorado urban and rural residents

Jap Land Ownership, a question precipitated by numerous recent purchases of land and businesses by Japanese in several Colorado counties, drew forth many views at a public hearing in the special session of the Colorado general assembly Saturday. Speakers appeared on both sides of the main question: Shall a constitutional amendment to prohibit ownership of Colorado property by Japanese aliens be submitted to the voters in November? Some of the spokesmen are shown.



VERY REV. PAUL ROBERTS,
Dean St. John's Episcopal Cathedral

W. W. GRANT,
Denver Attorney.

CHARLES L. BINNA,
Secretary, Industrial Union Council.



SERG. JAMES GOZAWA,
Japanese-American Soldier.



HAROLD DAVIES,
Englewood, District Judge.
First Judicial District.



DR. J. W. WELLS,
Mayor of Brighton.

Anti-Jap Amendment Is Held Entering Wedge for Fascism



"We don't want an invasion of refugees," insists District Attorney Harold H. Davies.



"The responsibility is with the Legislature," W. W. Grant told the Colorado Assembly.



"Don't tamper with democracy," pleads Sgt. Jimmy Gozawa, Japanese-American soldier.



"Fascism starts in an innocent way," according to Dean Paul Roberts, St. John's Cathedral.



Mountain News Photos. "Will the returning soldiers of us?" asks Mayor J. W. Wells of Brighton.

By NEIL KIMBALL

Rocky Mountain News Writer

Opponents and proponents of the Japanese ownership amendment to the Colorado Constitution spoke at an open hearing in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday, with the Legislature still at stalemate on the three proposals to bar aliens from owning property.

A fourth resolution, to refer the controversial question to a fact-finding committee, was introduced by Reps. Hubert D. Henry (R.) of Denver and Vernon A. Cheever (R.) of Colorado Springs.

Opponents heard included churchmen, labor spokesmen, a Japanese-American sergeant from Camp Carson and an American missionary who formerly lived in Japan.

Dean Roberts Speaks

Favoring the bill were elected officials from Adams County and a District Court judge from Englewood.

"Fascism starts in an innocent way, with public opinion mobilized against a small group unable to fight back," Dean Paul Roberts of St. John's Cathedral said. "Legislative action under the stress of emotion is dangerous. I beg of you to give the proposal sincere consideration, remembering that the Japanese-Americans have a larger proportion of men in the armed forces than any other minority group in the country."

Organized labor is committed against any type of racial discrimination, said Charles E. Binna, secretary of the Industrial Union Council, who declared that the proposed legislation was particularly dangerous because it gives Axis propagandists a chance to point out "what American plutocrats are doing to the underdogs."

Japanese treachery in the negotiations before Pearl Harbor were traced by Mayor J. W. Wells of Brighton.

owning our farms and business establishments?"

Dying for Democracy

Introducing himself as an American citizen by birth and an American soldier by choice, Sgt. Jimmy Gozawa of Camp Carson said tens of thousands of American soldiers are dying for democracy, "not because they are white, or black, or yellow, but because they feel democracy is worth dying for."

"Our training for the battlefield," Sergeant Gozawa said, has kept us on maneuvers for 48 hours with our only food a piece of bread. That bread was heaven sent. Your democracy, too, is heaven sent—don't tamper with it."

Two Japanese-American soldiers, veterans of the Aleutian campaign, were introduced by Sergeant Gozawa.

Americans are permitted by Japanese law to own land, according to Rev. John A. Foote, a former missionary, whose children were born in Japan. He owns property in Japan, he said, and lived there for 30 years. He characterized the proposed amendments as playing into the hands of Axis propagandists.

Passage of an amendment prohibiting alien property ownership would be tempering with the Bill of Rights, S. Arthur Henry, former Republican legislator, said.

"We have always prided ourselves that a man was what he made himself, not a product of his ancestry," Mr. Henry said.

"It is anti-climactic for people staying safely at home to become more bitter than the men in the front lines."

"If we were in Japan we would be shoved into a concentration camp."

The proposed amendment was characterized as "class legislation, and therefore undemocratic and un-Christian," by Rev. Joseph A. Johnson Jr., president of the Colored Men's Christian Alliance.

Charging that the issue is "producing disunity on the home front" and is "a national issue beyond the puerile of the Colorado Legislature," W. W. Grant warned that class hatred is easy to start and hard to stop.

Summing up for the proponents of the amendment, Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. of Aurora, said: "All we ask is an opportunity to present this pressing problem to the people for decision. It is not aimed at Japanese-American citizens, but at those aliens who would not, if they could, swear allegiance to the American flag."

Okay Money Bill

Before the public hearing, the House passed, on third reading, the \$9,715 appropriation bill. It was pointed out that the appropriation carries sufficient funds to provide \$1,000 expenses called for in the Henry-Cheever resolution for a fact-finding committee to investigate the alien ownership problem and report to Governor Vivian within 60 days. If this resolution is adopted, the Legislature will adjourn immediately.

Debate on the resolutions will begin in the House at 10 a. m. tomorrow.

For the second consecutive day, the House Constitutional Committee held a

COLORADO ASSEMBLY WILL GET ANTI-JAP RESOLUTION MONDAY

Public Hearing Held on Proposal to Amend Constitution So as to Bar Aliens From Owning Land in State.

(Continued From Page One.)

Representative L. D. Shotwell Jr. (Rep.) of Aurora, sponsor of the most drastic of the three resolutions introduced.

Those against the proposals were Dean Paul Roberts of St. John's Episcopal cathedral; Charles L. Binna, secretary of the Denver industrial union council of the C. I. O.; Sergt. James Gozawa of Camp Carson, Colo., an American-Japanese who appeared in his army uniform; S. Arthur Henry, Denver attorney and former legislator; John A. Foote, missionary to Japanese in Colorado; the Rev. Joseph A. Johnson Jr., president of the Colored Ministers' alliance and W. W. Grant, Denver attorney.

DEAN ROBERTS WARNS OF OPPRESSION.

Dean Roberts warned of "oppression of minorities as something that can start out small and grow out of control—not a danger in itself now, perhaps, but an evil which may get out of all bounds."

"Disrespect of the law often is due," he said, "to the fact that some laws are passed in times of emotion. I beg of you, before you pass such beastly legislation, especially against a minority group that has given a great proportion of its men to defense of this country, to give it much more serious consideration."

Binna condemned "any kind of discrimination based on race, creed or color," declaring, "It doesn't pay."

"Is this legislation for or against the winning of the war?" he asked. "I can see it only as contrary to it. It will only furnish propaganda for the Axis leaders, who would cite it, as 'another example of what the plutocrats of America are doing

be 'broadcast from Tokyo and thru-out the empire,' and would lead to retaliatory measures against Americans who own great amounts of property in Japan."

Foote disputed claims that Adams county Japanese were growing unessential products. He was reading from a list of their farm produce when stopped by Leshner, presiding, for taking too much time.

Judge Davies' key point was that the legislature was not voting any anti-Japanese law, but was deciding merely whether to submit the issue to the voters.

"Surely the people of Adams county have the right to petition the governor for relief of what they term an unbearable situation," he said.

The proposed action against Japanese, he added, may be social or economic, but "it's probably military also."

"If the Japanese weren't considered undesirable, why were they taken out of California by the federal government?" he asked. "All Adams county is asking is that you put yourselves in the place of its residents, and decide what you would do if this were happening in your own town or county."

PLEADS FOR SENSIBLE HANDLING OF MATTER.

"Let's handle this sensibly—without sob stuff and rumpus. The same people sobbing now will tell us when the time for unconditional surrender comes that we should not kill those who have killed and tortured Americans—they'll want to give them all-day suckers!"

"If this legislation goes thru, certainly democracy goes out of Colorado," the Rev. Mr. Johnson said, terming the legislation "out of place, undemocratic and unchristian."

to the underdogs."

He praised the war vote bill passed at the assembly's first special session, which ended Friday morning.

DR. WELLS PLEADS FOR ENACTMENT.

Dr. Wells, who told legislators he had a son on Bataan when it fell to the Japanese and who now is in a Jap prison camp, unheard from for months, made a desperate plea for enactment of the suggested measure. He said:

"We have built a little town we are proud of, and it was built by Brighton people—with Americans, American ideas and American ingenuity. Now we are being overrun with Japanese who, with plenty of money, are buying our farmlands, businesses and residences in increasing numbers. Some are American-born, yes; but they have parents who still pay homage to the emperor of Japan."

He declared Japanese young men are not being taken into the armed services, while "our sons are going out to fight for their country." Dr. Wells asserted some had called him Fascist for saying the things he said.

"If it is Fascism to try to save our homes and nation for its people, for freedom and democracy, then I am a Fascist!" he exclaimed.

WARNS THAT JAPS ARE DIFFERENT.

"The Japanese still are tied to Japan; they are different from others who have come to this country seeking opportunity and freedom. They are tied to the empire by religion, ancestry, race and worship of a sun-god emperor."

He waved aloft a copy of the Colorado Times, a paper printed largely in Japanese, asking, "Why is it necessary to have such a paper as this—printed for and read by Japanese aliens? If they are Americans, why don't they read our language?"

Applause followed the appearance of Sergeant Gozawa, one of several American-Japanese in army uniform who were brought to the hearing by the Rev. Edgar M. Wahlberg, pastor of the Grace Community church, Methodist.

"I am an American soldier, a citizen by birth, and this uniform I wear means a great deal to me," he said as more applause was heard, principally from the galleries.

"The sponsors of the resolution are willing to let the matter come to a vote of the people," Representative Shotwell said. "We are against the Japanese who would not, if they could, take the oath of allegiance to the American flag."

Grant opposed the movement as "an opening wedge to racial discrimination." He criticized persons who condemn the Japanese yet sell their property to them, and asserted the "whole thing is a political issue."

WANTS ISSUE DECIDED AFTER WAR ENDS.

"It should be decided by those who decide the international problems after the war," Grant said. "It is beyond the purview of Colorado or this legislature."

Both the house and senate adjourned until 10 a. m. Monday. The house passed the second session appropriation bill on third reading Saturday. It will go to the senate Monday while the house takes up the anti-Japanese resolution.

A resolution proposing appointment of a committee of three representatives and two senators to investigate the alien property ownership situation and report to the governor in sixty days was introduced in the house Saturday and laid over until Monday under house rules. If adopted, the resolution would lead to adjournment of the session without any action on the issue.

SPEAKS ON WHAT DEMOCRACY MEANS.

He told of having been on a forced march, in training, when after forty hours the only food he had was a small piece of bread.

"Democracy is like that piece of bread to me," he said, "something precious and needed, which is worth fighting desperately for. I and many others like me, are going overseas soon, to go hungry, perhaps get crippled, maybe die for that democracy. Would you take it away from us? We're not asking for privileges, but only for that democracy that is as dear to us as to anyone."

Henry called the issue "one of the most serious basic problems that have been faced by this house and the people in recent years." He declared the legislature could not pass laws against Americans of Japanese ancestry.

"If the question is to be discussed logically, it must be confined to Japanese aliens," he asserted.

THINKS ALIEN JAPS FEW IN NUMBERS.

"I feel that if the facts were available, they would show alien Japanese are not a significant economic or social factor. Their numbers are so small it would be a work of futility to take the action you propose. It is not dignified for citizens at home to do things that even those on the war fronts would not do. We're not at war against Americans of Japanese ancestry—we're not waging civil war against a portion of our citizenry."

"If people don't like other people because of different color, they don't like American democracy. If we want to put down a minority, we have the perfect pattern in a paperhanger named Shickelgruber."

He asserted the legislature should not act without actual figures.

Foote, who lived in Japan thirty years, owns property and reared his children there, said the action of the Colorado legislature would

Rancher Writes Vivian That He Is Sure Citizens Won't Let Japs Settle.

A threat to "burn the Japs out if they move into our district" was reported Saturday by a prominent western slope rancher, one of many Colorado urban and rural residents currently swamping the governor and members of the state assembly with letters and petitions urging initiation of a constitutional amendment to bar alien Japanese from owning land in Colorado.

In a personal notation written at the bottom of a copy of a letter he had sent to Governor Vivian, A. P. Starr of Austin, Colo., the western slope rancher, wrote to Representative Harry Sanburg (Rep.) of Delta county that "plenty of talk by some of our best men" is being heard, threatening to "run them off and burn them out if they move into our district."

To the governor, Starr wrote: "There has been lots of talk of mass meetings and petitions to protest against the sale of land to Japanese aliens in this district.

"There never have been any in (Turn to Page 11—Col. 1.)

BRIGHTON RESIDENTS TELL OF LEASES.

A lengthy petition signed by hundreds of Brighton residents declared "from eighty to ninety farms in this vicinity have already been leased to Japanese."

"Some of these leases are on a share basis, others are for cash," the petitioners reported. "The cash leases range from \$35 to \$50 an acre for land that normally leased for \$15 to \$20 an acre. This makes it impossible for American farmers to compete."

The petition also claimed "over 100 American-born Japanese of military age," not including those who came to the area from California, "are not proving they are such desirable citizens ... by enlisting in the armed services." They said also the number of Japanese from California are "many times the number registered in Adams county."

"Another fact we protest," the Brightonites said, "is that the American-born Japanese are not being inducted into the army in the same manner as all other nationalities regardless of citizenship."

The petition ended similarly to scores of others from various parts of the state, urging speedy initiation of a referendum on the proposed constitutional amendment to exclude alien Japanese from owning land in the state.

SERGEANT JAMES GOZAWA,
Japanese-American Soldier.

HAROLD DAVIES,
Englewood, District Judge,
First Judicial District.

DR. J. W. WELLS,
Mayor of Brighton.

SECTION ONE

THE

THREAT IS MADE 'TO BURN OUT' JAP SETTLERS, RANCHER WARNS

Western Slope Resident Writes Vivian He Is Sure Citizens Will Not Allow Nipponese to Live In Delta County Region.

(Continued From Page One.)

this section, but at present real estate brokers are showing farm land to the Japanese. They are California Japs and seem to have plenty of money.

"I am sure the citizens will not allow the Japs to live here."

D. V. Burrell of Rocky Ford, Colo., head of one of the largest seed companies in the state, tele-

graphed Representative James A. Jones (Rep.) of Manzanola that to permit alien Japanese to buy land in Colorado "would be a grave peril to posterity and an insult to our millions of soldiers who are now offering their lives to protect us from them." He added:

"To fail, as some suggest because it would give them grounds for propaganda, is to offer them appeasement—another Munich. Some who favor sales to them would sell their heritage for a mess of pottage. However, they would not want to farm surrounded by Japs.

"The thousands who have come here from California are not wanted back there, and if Colorado must absorb them, in a few generations our best lands will be Japanese settlements. The infiltration now is a grave menace and our Americans, living the American way, cannot compete with them."

COMPROMISE RESOLUTION IS DUE TO BE REPORTED IN HOUSE TODAY

A "compromise" resolution, which would place on the ballot in November a constitutional amendment stemming from the red-hot issue of property ownership by alien Japanese, is scheduled to be reported out of the House Constitutional Amendments Committee at the special session of the Legislature this morning.

The resolution was drawn by the committee at a meeting yesterday afternoon, Rep. Donald M. Leshner (R.), of Denver, committee chairman, reported. He termed it a "compromise" worked out from three resolutions introduced Friday.

The resolution does not seek a referendum of the question of barring Jap aliens from ownership of property in Colorado directly to the people.

Instead, it provides that aliens may "acquire, enjoy or dispose of property" in the state, but with the exception that the Legislature may provide otherwise for two classes of aliens—those who are or may become ineligible for American citizenship and those who fail to make application to become American citizens.

The resolution limits the aliens against whom legislation prohibiting property ownership may be passed, Mr. Leshner pointed out, but does not specify the type of action to be taken by the Legislature.

The only question the people will vote on if the resolution is placed on the ballot will be whether the Legislature shall have the right to enact legislation concerning property ownership among the classes of aliens specified.

Japs Affected Principally

The resolution does not mention Jap aliens specifically, but Japs would be the principal class affected, Mr. Leshner said.

The first order of business before the House this morning will be a vote on a proposal to appoint a five-man committee to investigate Jap ownership in the state, within the next 60 days.

If this proposal carries, the House will adjourn for 60 days, while the investigation proceeds, Mr. Leshner said. In this case, the resolution for the amendment will not be considered until the Assembly reconvenes.

A special session to consider the Jap ownership problem was

called after charges that thousands of Japanese were moving into the state and buying property were made by legislators.

Rep. L. D. Shotwell Jr. (R.), of Aurora charged that 3,000 Japs bought property in Adams County alone recently. Adams County recorder's office records show that 23 Japanese bought land in the county within the last two years.

Legal Snags Disclosed

Meantime, an unofficial review of some of the legal aspects involved in the various proposals, undertaken privately by interested attorneys, disclosed some hitherto unnoted snags that might arise with enactment of such legislation.

In brief, the digest of opinion brought out these possibilities:

1: Even if the amendment is passed, there is no way to prohibit American-born Japanese from owning land and leasing it to Japanese aliens, since American citizens cannot be barred from owning property.

2: Any person selling land to a Japanese presumably would have to make sure the Japanese was American-born. It possibly would be necessary to record the birth certificate of any person of Japanese ancestry whose name appears in the chain of title.

3: Ownership of land would be confused. If a person bought land from a Japanese and then discovered the Japanese had no right to own the land, there would be a question as to who was the owner, since a grantor can give no better title to property than he himself possesses.

4: If the amendment is extended to cover all enemy aliens,

titles to much land in the state may be clouded.

Urges Plan Be Dropped

One attorney suggested that a law prohibiting anyone from selling land to a Japanese alien would prove more effective than the proposals now under consideration.

Rep. Arthur A. Brooks Jr. (R.) of Denver, an opponent of the amendment, said last night he had received a telegram from V. H. Spensley of Albuquerque, president of the Bataan Relief Organization, urging that the Legislature drop the plan to exclude Japanese from property ownership.

"Relatives and friends of prisoners of the Japanese are making all-out effort to insure their release," Mr. Spensley wired. "They deserve all America can possibly do. I believe the Legislature of Colorado will not jeopardize the welfare of our heroes."

"I earnestly plead that the enemy not be uselessly antagonized until our boys are rescued."

WESTERN PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

12th & Stout Streets
DENVER, COLORADO

This clipping from
DENVER POST

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FEB 4 1944

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VIVIAN CALLS EXTRA SESSION ON ALIEN BAN

Legislature Is Asked to
Consider Property
Rights Issue.

A second special session of the Colorado legislature, to consider a constitutional amendment barring enemy aliens from owning property in this state, was called by Governor Vivian at noon Friday, just before the special session which enacted servicemen's vote legislation adjourned.

In his new call, the governor included a recommendation for any further legislative action necessary for the state to co-operate with the federal government in mailing absentee ballots.

The purposes of the second session, as stated in the official call, are:

"1—To consider a proposed amendment or amendments to section 27, Article II of the constitution of Colorado concerning property rights of aliens, and to submit any such amendment to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection at the next general election.

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"2—Should the congress of the United States enact any law or laws providing for a system of absentee voting for men and women in the armed forces of the United States subsequent to this call and during the second extraordinary session hereby called, which said federal law renders it advisable, in the opinion of the general assembly, to enlarge the time or times for the distribution of armed forces absent voters' ballots, then and in that event to take such action as may be deemed advisable, solely for the purpose of co-operating with the United States government in the distribution of said state ballots."

The governor's proclamation stated that the exercise by aliens of the right to acquire and own real property in Colorado "has created a situation threatening the welfare of citizens of the state."

CALL ISSUED AFTER HOURS OF UNCERTAINTY.

The call for the second special session was finally issued Friday noon after twenty-four hours of uncertainty. Thursday afternoon, Governor Vivian announced the call would be issued. Friday morning, he said he was in doubt. But after an hour's conference with Lieutenant Governor Higby, Attorney General Ireland, Speaker Pearson of the house, and seven other legislative leaders, he issued his proclamation and sent it to the two houses, which had been marking time thru the morning, awaiting the call.

At 12:40 o'clock Friday afternoon, the first special session was ended formally and a few minutes later the second special session was begun. After the usual organization routine, the house prepared to pass on first and second readings the resolution submitting the constitutional amendment barring enemy aliens from owning property in Colorado. Representative Jack Evans (Rep.) of Grand Junction was expected to introduce the resolution.

If a session is held Sunday, it was estimated the second session might be completed by Monday night.

WAR VOTE MEASURE ENACTED THURSDAY.

Final passage of the war vote measure came shortly after 4 p. m. Thursday when the senate concurred on amendments recommended by a conference committee. The house had passed it on third reading about two hours earlier.

Senator Willard Preston (Rep.) of Adena, one of a group that had urged the governor to call the second session, declared the purpose of the new session would be "to keep Japs from owning property—we don't care about other aliens." The constitutional amendment he and the others proposed would be so worded as to make it apply to Japanese, as it would give aliens one year in which to apply for citizenship, whereas Japanese nationals are barred from naturalization.

PRESTON WOULD PENALIZE SELLERS.

Senator Preston declared the measure should go so far as to provide penalties for any person who sells property to Japanese.

"Why not do it up right while we're at it?" he asked.

Senator Curtis Ritchie (Dem.) of Pueblo declared he would have "plenty to say." He said:

"What will the next step be, legislation against other minority groups? We have them in this country, you know. We also have a rather important document known as the Bill of Rights, and we'll be getting pretty close to an ugly word when we start undermining its principles."

EXTRA SESSION HEARINGS OPEN ON ALIEN BANS

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Three Resolutions Are
Offered on Land
Ownership.

2/5/44 - Denver Post
Public hearings started Friday afternoon were to be continued Saturday afternoon by the constitutional amendments committee of the lower house of the Colorado legislature on three resolutions introduced at the beginning of the second special session Friday to prohibit Jap aliens from owning property in Colorado.

Two of the proposed amendments—one by Representatives Jones (Rep.) of Manzanola, Morgan (Rep.) of Denver and Miller (Rep.) of Eaton, and the other by Representative Warren (Rep.) of Denver—would empower the legislature to make laws regulating alien ownership of property.

The other amendment, proposed by Representative Shotwell (Rep.) of Aurora, would bar aliens who are ineligible for citizenship and citizens of nations with which the United States is at war from owning property in this state.

SENATE WAITS FOR HOUSE TO ACT.

The senate marked time, pending action by the house on the proposed amendments. Senator Charles P. Murphy (Rep.) of Spicer, predicting fireworks before the special session is ended, declared the question of amending the constitution to exclude Jap aliens from owning

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EXTRA SESSION HEARINGS OPEN ON ALIEN BANS

2/5/44 - Denver Post
(Continued From Page One.)

property is the "hottest issue before the legislature in years."

Legislators were bombarded Saturday with pleas both for and against proposed amendments. Baskets full of telegrams were delivered to members of both houses. At least two telegrams from church organizations protesting against anti-Jap action were placed on the desk of each member. One of these was from the social action committee of the Denver Methodist Ministers association and the other was from Leon E. Grubaugh, minister and superintendent of the Colorado Congregational conference, chairman of the activities committee of the Colorado Council of Churches.

METHODISTS TERM PLAN UNDEMOCRATIC.

The Methodist ministers' protest stated they "oppose alien land law regard it as undemocratic, deplive and unchristian, a product of hate" and urged the appointment of a fact-finding committee to investigate the situation. The Grubaugh protest suggested postponement of action or reference to a committee for study. It declared the proposed amendments "Imperial American prisoners," incite "racial discrimination and play into the hands of Axis propagandists."

A. L. Mumper, prominent Greeley farmer, in a telegram to Senator Norcross (Rep.) of Greeley, urged action to stop Jap acquisition of Colorado farm lands.

"Japs are buying up valuable lands quite rapidly," Mumper declared. "They seem to have the money. I have been a citizen of this state and a farmer some six years. I was county assessor four years. I know about every foot of land in this county. We want to assure you again the Japanese are making a splendid start of buying our best farms. Anything you can do to stop this will be appreciated by all the farmers I have talked to."

HEARING TO THRESH OUT ALL ISSUES.

Representative Leshar (Rep.) of Denver, chairman of the constitutional amendments committee, said it is the committee's plan to hold public hearings until all the issues have been threshed out.

At Friday afternoon's hearing Attorneys Dexter Blount and Benjamin Sweet discussed broad aspects and possible effects of the proposed amendments. Attorney General G. Ireland and his deputy, Lawrence Hinkley, were asked to give the views on the suggested amendments but asked time to study the proposals. Ireland previously had expressed the opinion that the Shotwell amendment would stand up to the courts.

Saturday afternoon's hearing was scheduled to open at 1 p. m.

DEC 2 1943

OPPOSITION TO PLAN FOR JAP SETTLEMENT IN COUNTY GROWING

*Relocation Authority Reported To Have
Extensive Program To Aid Evacuees
In Developing Truck Gardens*

Plans of the War Relocation Authority to bring about the settlement of a large number of Japanese evacuees into the semi-arid and irrigated sections of northeastern Colorado as a permanent proposition are reported to have met with more or less opposition on the part of towns in the area whose Chambers of Commerce and other civic groups view such development with more or less misgiving.

This attitude has been reflected at meetings held during the past week in which representatives of the war relocation authority conferred with county officials and community organization heads to outline the proposed program of the government. That such colonization of Japanese gardeners and farmers would contribute to the detriment of long-established farm operatives in northeastern Colorado by intensified development of certain crops with cheap labor that would bring about ruinous competition, unless some means were provided wherein the government would assume the responsibility of disposing of surplus crops at a fair price, seems to be the principal objection to the contemplated relocation of evacuees.

In addition, it was brought out at these meetings, two of which were scheduled for Greeley during the present week, that there is a general disposition to object to the bringing in of any additional members of the Japanese race for permanent residence. It was stated by government officials that their program contemplates keeping Japanese evacuees away from locations near the coastal areas of the country, principally along the west coast from which region

practically all of the evacuees have been moved since Pearl Harbor.

Greeley People Object

Last week directors of the Greeley Chamber of Commerce met with WRA officers from the Denver regional office and at this meeting requested that the relocation of Japanese in Weld county be halted on the grounds that this county already had taken its full share of Japanese evacuees. The Chamber of Commerce also asked that the WRA office in Greeley be abandoned.

Reports from outlying districts, including Briggsdale, Wiggins, Orchard, Weldona, and especially the vast territory adjacent to the North Platte river between Greeley and Fort Morgan, indicate that there is a division of opinion regarding the relocation program, with a preponderance opposed to the permanent settlement of more Japanese in the area which is roughly estimated 50 miles or more in length along along the river and extending inland.

In the isolated sections of semi-arid territory land owners who, a few years back could not get more than a few dollars an acre for land, have been making sales at three times the amount, and these land owners would expect, under government resettlement, they would be able to clean up larger areas at substantial increases in price.

On the other hand, farmers who are operating within the area, from the dry lands of the Briggsdale district, south and east along the river to the borders of the towns of Fort Morgan and Brush, are opposed to the highly competitive activities of Japanese farmers and gardeners who they claim would farm intensively for a few years and as the soil plays out, would

migrate to some other section to repeat the performance. "It is characteristic of Japanese farmers to take all they can from the soil without putting anything back," a farm leader at Orchard said at a meeting with the war relocation authority.

During the past few years many farm properties in eastern Weld county and in western Morgan county, and western Logan county have been abandoned because of the inability of farmers to operate at a profit. This is especially true in semi-arid, or territory where irrigation is not highly developed. Some of the best farms in northern Colorado, however, are located along the Platte river from North Platte to Denver, and but few of these are ever vacant for any length of time.

According to the war relocation authority, northeastern Colorado has exceptional possibilities for relocation of Japanese farmers who formerly lived on the west coast. A number of these people have been employed in this territory during the past two years in beet work. Many of them have expressed the belief that a profitable gardening industry can be established in that portion of the South Platte valley in connection with present extensive farming operations.

One federal agent said that "it is the hope of the relocation authority that during the 1944 crop year enough share-cropping arrangements can be worked out between land owners in northeastern Colorado and in western Nebraska so that the possibilities of producing vegetables on a large scale for commercial purposes can be thoroughly tested out.

"Such share-cropping arrangements would on the one hand relieve the present shortage of experienced irrigators and beet workers, and on the other hand it would step up Colorado's production of the foodstuffs badly needed for the war effort.

"It might lead to the establishment of a new and highly profitable type of agriculture in the area affected as a post-war program."