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R E L O C A T I O N

C E N T E R

Month of October, 1942.

By Shotaro Hikida.

REPORT FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

By Shotaro Hikida
64-7-B.

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITION OF JAPANESE PRIOR TO THEIR EVACUATION

INTRODUCTORY

In observing the general condition and life of the Japanese people in the relocation center, it is the opinion of this writer, that a social organization~~/~~and other conditions of the Japanese community in general, on the west coast, prior to their evacuation should be outlined briefly as an introductory to the study of this minority race.

CLASSES AND GROUPS

While it is the desire of this observer to diminish as much as possible, the group attitude and class treatment, such as NISEI or ISSEI within the people, nevertheless, there have existed in the past and still exist such group consciousness. In view of this situation, I feel it is highly important, to analyse the special characteristics, such as educational background, social and economic life and existing problems, of respective group so that one can easily grasp^a the social organization of Japanese people in the United States, and then^{one can} relate such condition and problems of the past to the findings of the observers in the relocation center.

The population of the Japanese in the United States which number more than 120,000 can be classified into following three major groups namely; in the order of their importance in their social and economic life;

I. ISSEI OR FIRST GENERATION.

- A. Pioneer group or immigrants group.
- B. Yobi-yose group or immediate relatives of pioneer group who came to America to live with their parents or brothers and sisters.

II. NISEI OR SECOND GENERATION.

III. KIBEI~~/~~OR AMERICAN BORN WITH JAPANESE EDUCATION.

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ISSEI OR FIRST GENERATION *approximately*

This group which number [^]more than 40,000 should be subdivided [^]into two groups, namely; (A) Pioneer group or immigrants group; and (B) Yobi-Yose group. This distinction and separate handling of these two groups is necessary because of the differences in their ages, in educational background and their motives in coming to America which will be discussed later.

PIONEER GROUP OR IMMIGRANTS GROUP.

The pioneer group ~~of~~ the immigrants group came to America in ^{the} years between 1890 to 1910, and their average age now is about 60. They are the pioneers of the Japanese community having opened a road for social and economic life of Japanese in this country despite of their many hardships which they encountered in early stage of their life in America.

Although some of this pioneer group came to America in pursuit of their study or making their permanent homes in America, the majority of them came as immigrants laborers with financial attainment as their sole objectives, and with hope to return to their native land upon success of it. Because of this aim and objective, their early life in America was unsettled. They were migratory, in nature, wandering from one place to other, along the west coast, as cheap farm laborers and rail road section laborers. They were slow in assimilating ^{to the} custom and habits of American people. Their economical development was slow because all of their earnings were sent to Japan rather than keeping them in America and investing such earnings for better homes, businesss and farming. Even those who originally came to America to study have given up that noble aim of their life and became common laborers in pursuit of their financial success so that they can go back to their native land with wealth as their treasure rather than the knowledge which they first sought.

1910 This condition which existed among the pioneer or immigrants group in their early settlement in America aroused the attention of labor-leaders and politicians who quickly warned the American public of the danger which these Japanese immigrants laborers ^{WILL} ~~might~~ create. They publicly condemned Japanese immigrants that their low standard of living and unadaptability ^{will} create a serious social problem to the American society. Caused by such blunt warning of certain politicians and labor leaders, and ^{by} increasing flow of Japanese immigrants to America, the anti-Japanese sentiment flared and have spread all over the United States, particularly intense in State of California where majority of Japanese lived. This feeling of racial expulsion reached its peak in 1920-1922, and at the culmination ^{of} this anti-Japanese feeling, such law as Anti Alien Land Law of California, directing at the Japanese farmers, and Immigration Act of 1924, prohibiting the entry of Japanese immigrants to the United States were enacted.

Unfair competition of Japanese laborers with comparatively low wages against white labor, un-assimilation of Japanese immigrants, ^{AND} mass importation or flow of Japanese picture brides to the United States were considered to be the main and direct causes of this anti Japanese movement in the United States. But, the question whether such anti-Japanese movement in America was caused solely by ^{these} ~~above mentioned~~ reasons or caused partly by racial prejudice was then an interesting subject for discussion by the students of social science. Many agreed that such anti Japanese movement was partly caused by racial prejudice.

The social and psychological effects of such anti-Japanese movement on general Japanese settlements were two folds, namely; first, it created a sense of fear and resistance and racial hatred; ^{AMONG JAPANESE} second, adoption ^{of} corrective method and adjustment ^{by JAPANESE IMMIGRANTS}.

19-10-20
1915

One of the psychological and mental effects of such anti Japanese movement was creation of fear and unrest in the minds of Japanese immigrants. As a result, ^{of the movement} they first, began to congregate themselves and became inter-dependant of each other. It was during this period ~~that~~ Japanese colony and settlement began to be established here and there on the west coast and organizations such as Kenjin Kai and Nippon Jin Kai ~~were formed~~. Their fear of white race became more intense and many of the Japanese thought that their aims and objective at first should be accomplished within shortest period and then return to their country with sufficient funds to live permanently there where no racial prejudice may trouble them. With such view of their future they became more conscious of attaining their ~~objective~~, sacrificing other elements of their life such as homes, family and social life. During this period, many Japanese immigrants sent their children to Japan to be cared ~~for~~ by their relatives while they were busily engaged in farm works. These children were sent to Japan because they also expected to return Japan and live.

1910-15

To some of the Japanese immigrants, the anti Japanese movement acted as incentive for their economic competition with white people. This was particularly noticeable in farmer Japanese. With their gifted heritage of industriousness they put everything what they have, physically and materially, toward developement of their leased or owned lands. Contrary to those whose aim and objective was to return to Japan they made their permanent homes in a little shack on the corner of their farm land.

Other effect of Anti-Japanese movement upon Japanese immigrants was adoption of corrective method or adjustment. It has become, undoubtedly, an initiative for majority of people in adjusting themselves

1920-
21 to the social and economic life of America. The first action taken was voluntary abolishment of so called picture bride marriages. At the general meeting of the Japanese Ass'n. of America, then ~~a~~ powerful organization, representatives ^{from colonies} voted and recommended enactment of such law which prohibit the entery of picture brides to the United States. Also, with the active part taken by the said organization, the movements such as; better and permanent homes in America rather than in Japan; better assimilation of Japanese to the American custom and habits discouraging the sending of funds to Japan and encouraging better and stronger business and farming in America; discouraging dual citizenship of American born Japanese ; promoting better and closer association with Americans; anti gambling campaign. In order that such movement may be carried on properly the orgznization called Japanese Association was established in almost every Japanese community.

from
1924 As a result of this organized movement by the Japanese Association of America and coupled with rapid growth of so called Niseis, the social and economic life of Japanese in America made a marked progress. Men gradually changed from migratory laborers to more settled farmers and business men. Mothers became more home minded rather than working out on the field, some began to attend classes in Americanization. People began to accumulate their earnings for their future homes, business, farming, and better education of their children. Aims and objectives of these people have changed. With an increasing member of their family they gave up the original plan of returning to Japan but to live permanently in America and enjoy the opportunities of this democratic country. This tendency gradually changed the social and economic life of Japanese in America. It became particularly noticeable in recent years prior to

mass evacuation of this race and these can be proved by following examples; comparatively small number of people who evacuated to Japan prior to the out break of present war; willingness on the part of Japanese parents to send their sons to the armed force of the United States.

The activities of the Japanese Associations which organization initiated such worthy movement should be mentioned here little. Unfortunately, the Japanese Ass'n. of America and its member organizations, have been in the past, a center of criticism by ever suspicious politicians. They have accused and regarded generally that these Japanese Associations were organized to promote the interests of Japanese Government. It is the desire of this writer to clarify the motive and aim in organizing these Associations and the purpose and activities of the organization. As it has been mentioned in foregoing paragraphs, the Japanese Associations were organized to carry on the social and economic adjustment of Japanese residents in America and ^{to} ~~promoting~~ ^e better relation between Japanese and Americans. Their activities were always founded on better American principle and had no connection whatsoever with Japanese government. Mere clerical relation with Japanese Consulate ^{on} such ^a ~~filings~~ ^e of birth, death and marriages of its members who are nationals of Japan should not be regarded as organization with direct connection with Japan. Japanese Associations acted as intermediary between City and State officials and Japanese residents in many respects. They encouraged their members to invest their money in purchase of defense bonds, they educated their people to ^{become more} ~~be~~ ^a familiar with laws of America and obey them. Voluntary enlistment of Japanese young men in the armed force of the United States and willingness on the part of their parents to send their sons are the result of ^{these} ~~of~~ ^a educational works carried on by these Japanese Associations.

Coming back to main subject, the psychological effects of anti-Japanese feeling upon the mind of younger generation should not be overlooked. It is the opinion of this writer that such racial expulsion must have created ^{in the minds of younger generation} a certain racial consciousness which might have become a racial hatred and ^{as a result of it} tend themselves to congregate and isolate from other races in their future life which will undermine the democratic principle of America. It is the opinion of some people that lack of initiatives in NISEIS life is largeley due to this psychological effect.

As it had been discussed in the foregoing paragraphs, the social and economic life of Japanese people in the United States took amazingly rapid changes in recent years. Yet, when it comes to rapidity and completeness of their Americanization, compared with other white races in America, they were far behind in their assimilation and adaptability of American custom and habits. In fact, it is very common to find among this pioneer group many of the old customs and habits which were brought from Japan and ^{they} ~~which~~ are still in practice, for example; Baishakunin method of marriages and Tanomoshi Ko. The practice of these old customs and habits by pioneer group often broght the disharmony between Niseis and Isseis in their family, church and community life. Such condition still exist in Japanese community at present and as this witer will observe the general living condition of evacuees here at Gila, eventually such problems will be touched upon more fully.

Disragarding the slow process of assimilation by this pioneer group, their success in agricultural works in State of California should be commended and their comformity in law abiding spirit should be credited. At any rate, this pioneer group had been in control of economic and

social life of Japanese community prior to evacuation and ^{on other hand} Niseis in general were dependent of the ^{PIONEER GROUP} ~~former~~. With approach of Yobi-yose group in social and economic control of the community and rapid growth of so called Niseis, it is the belief of this writer, that within few years the pioneer group will lose their controlling power of the community and Niseis and Yobi yose will direct the community affairs of the Japanese as well as in control of the said community. Then the long discussed and criticized unassimilation of Isseis will long be forgotten and there will be no issues on which some Americans may base their anti-Japanese argument in future. Yet, some anti racial movement or propaganda based on prejudice may ^{still} come up in future. It will be the interesting result to be seen by the ~~the~~ ^{STUDENTS OF SOCIAL SCIENCE}.

YOBİ*YOSE GROUP

Yobi-yose means literally "CALL TOGETHER". They are the relatives of pioneer or immigrants group such as children or other immediate relatives who were permitted to enter the United States under American-Japanese treaty which was ^{COMMONLY} called "Gentlemens Agreement". Some times, this group of people are ~~also~~ called Isseis but due to differences in their ages and other factors in comparison with pioneer group, I feel that this Yobi-yose group should not be included in Isseis or ^{immigrant} group. While the aim and objective of former group was originally to attain financial success in order to go back to Japan with wealth as their treasure, the aim and objective of this yobi- yose group in coming to America were two folds, namely; to live with their parents in America; and to continue their study in America. So, when this yobi-yose group came to America their mind was more definitely set to make their homes in America with their parents. As soon as they arrived this country the majority

of this group entered public schools and continued their study of English which they primarily learned while they attended Middle Schools in Japan. This yobi-yose group mostly came to America in between 1912 to 1920, and due to compulsory education in Japan, then, most of them had fairly good education. Their average age now is about 40 to 45 years old and they are considered to be most active group in Japanese community, at present time. Due to their younger ages at which they came to America, ~~---~~ better educational back ground, general desire of their parents to send them to American public schools and initiative of this yobi-yose group to study, they were comparatively fast in Americanization than their parents. The training which they had in their child-hood ages in Japan was more of international in nature. Japan, during these periods, was in search of western civilization and naturally those children who have grown up in such environment at such ages of western influence are more internationally minded. In addition to the above factors, a large number of this group were married to NISEI girls and their family life was more of Americans. Another interesting thing about Yobi-yose group when they came to America was that they all stayed and worked in American families as school boy or school girl doing such work as dish washing or general house cleaning. ^{This WAS} ~~They were~~ regarded as prerequisite for any new comer to America in order to ^{become} ~~be~~ more familiar with American custom and habits. Comparatively large number of this group worked their way through while attending school and several of them graduated high schools and universities as school boys and school girls.

These Yobi-Yose ~~are~~ ^{are} those who hold permanent place in the Japanese community and considered to be up and coming leaders of the community. It is the opinion of this writer that a part to be played by this group in near future as intermediary between pioneer group and Niseis ^{such}

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will undoubtedly bring ~~better~~ result in social adjustment of Japanese people in the United States. Not only that, but good brotherly advices of this yobi-yose group will certainly be a great help to Niseis when Niseis become dominant power of the Japanese community, socially and economically.

NISEI OR SECOND GENERATION.

NISEIS literally means second generation but general conception of ~~It is~~ in the Japanese community is more specific. Niseis are ^{considered to be} those who were born in America of Japanese parentages, raised and educated in America. They are still young in their ages and in their social life, are economically dependent on their parent, the so called Issesi. Nevertheless, they are largest in number in the Japanese community and they are up and coming generation. Of this group those who are now between the ages of 15 to 20 are largest in number. This is, of course, due to high birth rate in 1920 to 1925, during which ^{period a} greatest number of Japanese women entered America as picture brides. Since Niseis were born and raised and educated in America there is no problem with them as to their adaptability and assimilation ~~of~~ American custom and habits. They are the Americans in every respect except the color of their skins.

Place of Niseis in American society as well as in the Japanese community is very peculiar because of the circumstance under which they came to existence and under which they were brought up. They are American citizens by birth but Japanese by race. Despite of their American education and citizenship status they are socially outcast of American society. In the social and economic society of America, these Niseis unfortunately do not have same opportunities of other Americans of foreign parentages. ^{under} They are not only constant pressure of Americans

^{they are}
 but also, under pressure of dominant power of Isseis within the Japanese community. In other ward, the life of Niseis is most complicated in its nature. Accordingly, their future, as they progress in ages and activities of the community in which they live, will become one of the most important social problem of this country. There are already those who express optimistic and pessimistic views of Niseis future. Some have warned the possibility of Niseis being treated in America in similar to that of American negroes thereby creating^a serious problems of racial conflict. In recent years, Niseis as general had been criticized by their own elders as being less initiative in exploitation of their social and economic world, lack the sense of responsibility and etc. It is the sincere hope of this writer that Niseis future should be studied with real sincerity and devotion by ~~Sympathetic~~^{empathetic} Americans as well as by ~~thoughtful~~^{thoughtful} Japanese so that by such study of this problem Nisei can live happily in America and contribute their future life for realization of democracy which is worthy of human civilization. Their future, certainly, need sincere advices ^{of} and capable leaders.

KIBEI GROUP

Kibeis are American born citizens of Japanese parentage who at their childhood ages were sent to Japan either to be cared by relatives of the ~~Japanese~~^{parents} immigrants, or to be educated in Japan. Most of Kibeis went to Japan at childhood and returned to America ~~at~~^{between} 10 years. Some went to Japan with their parents who left America permanently to make their homes in Japan while others went with friends or relatives of ~~their parents~~^{their parents} who were busily engaged in their work in America. Still, there are others who were sent to Japan soley to give them Japanese education. Most of these kibeis came back to America at the ages between 15 to 20, after

^{had} having Japanese education. As to the motives and objectives of their returning to America, they are; to re-join their family in America; to support their families in Japan; to make their permanent home in America where they were born; for the love of their native land. Having been sent to Japan at their childhood ages and lived with their relatives far away from their parent many of kibeis have not enjoyed a real family life. They lack parental affections. This writer had several cases while acting as Secretary of Japanese Assn., which Kibeis did not get along so well with their parents, and American raised brothers and sisters, after returning to America. In comparison with Yobi-yose group they lack initiatives in study of English and in pursuit of American customs and habits. This is partly due to their being American born and citizens that they ^{feel they are} ~~are~~ already Americanized in acts and thought therefore no special need of their efforts in this line. They are passive in their view of life compared with pioneer or yobi-yose group who were more active and this is perhaps due to their peculiar circumstance under which they were brought up in Japan by the ^{relatives with} ~~funds sufficiently~~ ^{which were} sent to them by their parents. While it is too early to judge their adaptability and assimilation to American custom and habits for they are comparatively new in America and young in their ages, it is the opinion of this writer that ^{unless} ~~some~~ method or process should be employed in social adjustment of this group. ^{there will be a danger of serious social problem.} Furthermore, better understanding and cordial relation between this kibel group and Niseis should be established at earliest possible time for there is already a tendency of disharmony between these two groups. Although the number of this Kibel group is comparatively small nevertheless their welfare should be ~~given~~ well looked after ^{and every attention should be given.}

There is another group, called SANSEI or third generation but because they are ~~more of~~ infant ages and small in number the writer shall omit the discussion of this Sansei group.

As to the details in characteristics and existing problems of these groups, it is the plan of this observer, to touch upon these subjects more fully as report of observation is presented from time to time.

I. MY IMPRESSION OF RELOCATION CENTER

Since I was apprehended last December, and while I was detained at Fort Missoula, Montana, for more than eight months as enemy alien, I often imagined about life and condition of Japanese evacuees in the assembly or relocation center. Out of several things which came to my mind, such as morale of evacuees and psychological effects of mass evacuation upon Niseis occupied greater part of my imaginations. I was more concerned about these matters than anything else.

When I came to Gila in August, upon my parole from the detention camp, my first impression of the center was, contrary to my imagination, comparatively high morale of evacuees, more noticeable among Niseis. While there was a little sign of worries among older people, the general expression of younger people was more of joy. To these youngsters it was more of vacationing than the war evacuation. They did not show any sign of worry whatsoever though deep in their hearts there may have been a certain feeling of un-rest *and dissatisfaction.*

I was surprised to find far greater number of Niseis than I thought would be in the center. Prior to the evacuation the ratio of Niseis to Isseis in number, as I understood, to be 60 to 40 %. When I came to Gila it looked as if Niseis exceed much more than the above ratio, perhaps 70 to 30 %. These Niseis, exceeding in number and active in settlement work, invited my thought to the increasing strength of these Niseis and decreasing power of Isseis which eventually change the social and economic condition of Japanese in America.

When I arrived Gila in August, there were more than 5000 evacuees in Canal Camp and all of them were busy in establishing their homes for the duration of war. Fathers were busy in carpentry while their sons

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hunted for lumbers. Young and old in every family did their part to make their homes best and comfortable, and in achieving this there was cooperation and complete harmony of all in every family. I admired such attitudes of the evacuees in general. I thought the presence of such spirit and attitude in the mind of evacuees will ~~will~~ certainly advance the developement of the center.

Then, camp in general was far from completion as normal human dwelling and facilities and there was certain dissatisfaction on the part of evacuees but I thought such matter as that will be a matter of time. Instead, I was very much in surprise to find general construction plan of barracks, mess halls, laundry and shower rooms are so conveniently arranged with easy accessibility to all evacuees residents.

Lastly, I was very much impressed by untiring and kind attitude of caucasian staff members of the center toward evacuees. All of them seemed to be very sympathetic and friendly to us. Such attitude on the part of center's official, I am quite certain, have softened the hearts of evacuees particularly at such difficult time of their life. This writer was so appreciative to them of their kind attitude that I keenly felt of my shortcomings and of my responsibility ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ making this center as comfortable a place as possible for others as well as for ourselves.

IV. PUBLIC OPINION

As it is always the case in any community, there are in this center ^{also} two kinds of opinions voiced by the evacuees in regards to their present life in the relocation center. One is constructive and other is destructive kind of opinion. In the community ^{outside} of the evacuation center where people are more permanently settled and where strong public opinion is in control of ^a society, then destructive opinion of individual or group of people have no influence whatsoever but in the center of this kind where state of minds of people are not quite settled there is always a danger of ^{people's attitude} being swayed by these destructive opinions.

Other day, a meeting of representatives from each block was held at one of the mess halls. A subject for discussion was a matter of filing a petition with offices of National W. R. A. Director and Gila Project Director asking for revision of regulation relating to the power of holding elective office by the evacuees. According to the present regulation of W. R. A., elective office such as community council is restricted only to those of American citizens. Originally, the meeting was held in good faith hoping that through revision of such regulation and giving such powers to all evacuees irrespective of citizenship status Isseis also ^{be} able to share the responsibility ~~a~~ of legislative duty of the center with Niseis. During the course of discussion at the meeting one of the representatives suggested to the meeting that if and in case such powers are not accorded to Isseis as petitioned for, then Issei evacuees should not cooperate with newly elected council. He further went on saying that we should not obey any orders which may come from W. R. A. officials. Thanks to the strong and constructive opinions of other representatives these destructive opinions were overwhelmed and overruled, and one who offered such destructive opinion was severely cri-

cized. Had it not been strong and constructive opinion of other representatives the result might have been ~~very~~ ^{dAMAGES} serious [^] to the welfare of the project. Still there are other cases in which destructive kind of opinions are ^{ALWAYS} offered and people are subject to be mislead by them. In such matter as cotton picking and farm projects, there is always some one who passes destructive opinion which result will be a serious damage to the center. A strong constructive public opinion can only prevent the serious outcome. Peace and order of the center can only be attained by strong and constructive opinions of the people.

III. EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM OF EVACUEES CHILDREN

One of the concern of the evacuees at present seem to be educational problem of their children. It is natural that such concern exists in the minds of parents who have in the past sacrificed so much toward education of their children. This is particularly noticeable among Japanese who did not have educational opportunities in their younger ages, and because of that fact their desire to give good education to their children is intense.

These days, I often hear the complaints of the parents as to the lack of educational facilities and opportunities in the re-location center. Of these, most complaints are voiced by the parents whose children are over and above the high school ages for there are no educational opportunities for them. The need of junior colleges, seem to me, keenly felt by the parents as well as by the children of this class. There are also those who are gravely concerned about educational problem of their children who have finished part of their studies in colleges and universities but have not been able to complete. Of course, there are few who have been fortunate to be admitted to the colleges and universities of other states but there are many others who do not have that opportunity.

Still there are others who complain the fact that present facilities and system of education in the center are not adequate for proper education of their children in elementary and high school. They are more concerned when these people begin to realize the circumstances under which they are now in the war relocation center and indefinite period for which they must face this unfortunate circumstance.

It became known to this writer during recent weeks that there is interesting yet serious tendency among evacuees parents in connection with this problem. Through my personal contacts with some of the evacuees in

the center who have applied for the repatriation of their family to Japan, to my surprise, I found that in most of these cases, the motive for their application for repatriation are due to their extreme worries over the educational problem of their children. I have been told that these applicants came to their decision simply because they are extremely concerned about educational problem of their children and their future. In making such decision as that they have sacrificed their properties and residents which they have in the United States. Whether such attitudes of parents is justifiable or not is another matter to be considered but fact is that educational problem of their children is a great concern of the evacuees parents at present time.

IV

KIBEI ORGANIZATION

Recently, an organization called, GILA YOUNG PEOPLE ASS'N. was formed with ^{MEMBERSHIP OF} more than one hundred fifty ~~members~~. While this organization does not restrict the qualification of the members, it is ~~mostly~~ ^{MOSTLY} composed ~~of~~ ^{of} Kibeis. The purpose of this organizations are, according to the information I gathered, namely;

First to promote the general welfare of the members;

Second, to promote friendships among members;

Third; to cultivate their minds through study of current problems;

Fourth, to bring peace and order in the center in which they now reside.

There have been certain opinion raised by some evacuees as to the advisability of forming such organization ^{FOR} ~~by~~ Kibeis ~~themselves~~, their ^{being} argument ^{such} based on the ground that ~~such~~ formation of ^{such} association for ^{to MAKE} Kibeis may tend to isolate themselves and cause ^{more} gap between Kibeis and Niseis when there is already such tendency. To this opinion and argument of some evacuees the official of newly organized GILA YOUNG PEOPLES ASSOCIATION ^{SAYING} ~~offered their explanation~~ that while this association was organized originally by Kibeis ^{there} is no particular restriction as to the qualification of members and any one is welcomed to become member. Furthermore, promotion of better understanding and relation with Niseis through organization activities are already in ^{their} consideration. They stated that in the near future some inter-club activities with J. A. C. L. will be initiated to accomplish this aim.

According to the experience of this observer in the past ~~there~~ have always been lack of harmony and understanding between Niseis and Kibei. This, of course, largely due to the differences in their respective cultural back ground and lannguage difficulties. It is highly important to

direct the activities of the organization toward mixing the members with Niseis individually or collectively rather than isolating themselves.

TOPIC OF THE DAYS

Whenever two or more people meet, either on the street or in the house, these days, topic of their conversation centers around "When this war will end?" Of course, it is natural for them to be more concerned about this problem than anything else for they have faced ^{OF PRESENT WAR} bitter experience, than any other group of people. The answers to these question of war are very indefinite and vary. Some say, it may prolong, perhaps another three or four years. Others say it will not last more than one year. At any rate there is a sign of their prayers for immediate end of war. ^{FOLLOWING} After the conversation on this subject, usually, follows a discussion of future, ^{that is,} post war condition and their problem of resettlement. Such question as "Do you think we will be allowed to go back to our homes ⁱⁿ California?" Not knowing the possibility of such, I can see, that many of the evacuees are so much concerned about this.

VI

WEDDING CEREMONY AND PARTY

Being invited last week, I had first opportunity of witnessing the wedding of Nisei evacuees in the center. The ceremony took place at Buddhist Church of Butte Camp and was officiated by the Buddhist preast. It was conducted in most simple form, no flowers and attendants. Following the ceremony a party was held evening at the mess hall with relatives and friends in attendance. It was in usual order with introduction of bride and groom and Baishakunins and relatives. The congratulatory messages were delivered by the friends of couples and representatives of the guests. It was held in typical Japanese way. As it is the custom of the Japanese people the guests who were invited extended their congratulations with wedding presents in form of money. The wedding of Niseis is still under the influence of their parents who still practice old Japanese custom.

VII

NISEIS AND LACK OF INTEREST IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

It is the general opinion of the people here that Niseis lack the interest in public affairs. This opinion, according to my observation, came as a result of recent meetings held in every block in conjunction with elections of Block council and temporary Community Council. It is the opinion of many people whom this observer have contacted that practically no Niseis attended these meetings nor had shown any interest in elctions of these officials. Of course, the lack of interest by Niseis in attending these meetings should not be concluded as a lack of interest of Niseis in public affairs for they may have the interest in public affairs yet do not attend meetings due to some reasons which should be traced for the good of Niseis.

According to the opinions of this observer such tendency among Niseis due largely to the following reasons;

1. Controlling power of Isseis in the public affairs in the past still dominant among evacuees at present.
2. In-experience of Niseis in public affairs.
3. Language difficulty. The meetings are always held in Japanese.
4. Prepossessed idea of Niseis as to their voice in the meetings which they always regard less important.
5. Lack of initiatives.

In the center where service and activities of Niseis in both social and governmental works are more needed and welcomed, such tendency of Niseis should be remedied through the cooperation of Isseis as well as of Niseis. It is the opinion of this writer that while we have been evacuated in the center of this kind, it is certainly an opportune time to develop for the evacuees ~~in-developing~~ if not revolutionize the social and economic structure of Japanese community. In such time as this, a pioneer spirit and progressive attitude of Niseis are absolutely needed. With increasing power of Niseis over Isseis, it is sincere wish of this writer, that such can be accomplished soon.

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SPREAD OF RUMOURS AND ITS EFFECTS

It is very unfortunate that certain unfounded rumours are spread in the center causing evacuees unnecessary fear and worry. Although it is true that some rumours act as warning to the people ^{and} in such case it is beneficial, but in most cases rumours act other way and cause unnecessary fear and worry thereby lowering the morale of the people.

To cite some of these, a rumour was spread when first group of evacuees arrived here in August to the effect that Gila is known for rattle snakes and scorpions and other deadly insects and people are often endangered by the presence of these deadly serpent in the camp, particularly out in the desert where it is covered with sage-brush. If one were bitten by these deadly insect of ~~Serpent~~ there is no cure to save his life. Spread of this rumour caused a considerable alarm among evacuees and as a result of such rumour people refrained from going out of the camp ground in night and became very careful about these deadly ~~INSECTS AND SERPENT~~. Thanks to the rumour, to date, no one had been the victim of these deadly ~~SNAKES & SCORPIONS~~. It can be said that such a rumour as this, acted as warning to the people, and it was beneficial to them.

Just recently it was rumoured that one of the west coast city had been bombed by enemy bombers. Immediately after this rumour was spread, another one followed to the effect that present war will prolong taking at least three or four years result of which a serious food shortage may arise. This caused a considerable fear and worry among those ^{who} are more ignorant of the present economic and war condition of the United States. The effects of such rumour became worse when it further spreads that when such food shortage arises ^{those} who will suffer most

will be the Japanese evacuees in the center. Because of such rumour some ^{EVACUEES} ~~ignorants~~ due to their extreme worries went to canteen stores and tried to place the order for a quantities of foods only stopped by thoughtful clerk with his kind advices and explanation of true economic condition which exist today in America and ^{that} such rumour as that is not true. There was still another case where a certain block manager whose name is withheld ^{here} had been putting aside some foods which ^{were} ~~are~~ proportioned to the resident evacuees of that block daily. The foods were removed little by little every day from the store room of mess hall ^{to his OFFICE} and they were kept ~~in~~ ^{there FOR FUTURE EMERGENCY.} ~~his office.~~ Upon finding of this he was questioned by the official of the project and it became known that such act on his part was due to his worry of the food shortage and he has been saving them for the future. These incidents seem to us so ridiculous yet some ignorants ~~ARE ALWAYS~~ victim of the rumours and general morale of the evacuees is hampered.

There is another example which rumour caused more serious damages to the welfare and peace of evacuees in the center. It was about a month ago that a rumour spread to the effect that two prominent leaders of Nisei in one of the re-location center had been beaten off so violently by a mob that one of them died as a result of injury which he received from that mob violence. Cause of such mob violence, it was rumoured, due largely to their lack of sympathetic ^{Attitude toward} ~~understanding~~ to the evacuees as general. These two Nisei leaders were active in governing body of the center such as council. As a result of spread of this rumour ^{in this center} it became evident that some Niseis hesitate to take active part in center's governemental affairs. It is very unfortunate that such atmoshpere had been created by unfounded rumour. It is certain a serious damages toward developement of the center ~~had been done.~~ ^{the discussion of}

In summing up ^{the discussion of} these rumours and their effects to the evacuees, it is the sincere hope of this observer, that as time goes by and with better

^{of}
+ with better understanding each other

settled condition, such rumours may have no place in our community.

At the same time, a strong constructive opinion of evacuees can destroy such unfounded rumours in future.

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~~SECRET~~

FARM PROJECT AND SHORTAGE OF LABOR

According to my estimate the percentage of farmers among resident evacuees of this center is comparatively higher than those of other centers such as Topaz, Utah, where most of the evacuees came originally from San Francisco and East Bay districts where there is no farming. In spite of this condition in this center, to my surprise, we have been warned recently of shortage in farm labors. It is expected ^{that} this shortage of labor becomes serious as harvest of already grown crops nears.

Since we are dependent upon these farm products for our foods ~~we~~ are very much concerned about this situation.

As there are always reasons behind, there ^{should be} ~~are~~ some reasons behind this problem of labor shortage. Through personal contacts with some leading farmers of the project and other evacuees I was able to find following reasons, namely;

1. Lack of information among evacuees about farm project and lack of realization on the part of evacuees as to the importance of farm project in the center.
 - a. According to the investigation of this observer many evacuees are mis-informed about farm project. They have been mis-informed that due to lack of better management and supervision ^{of project} those who work on farms spend most of their times doing nothing and lazily ~~lying~~ on the ground. This alarmed some evacuees parents who wanted to send their sons to farms but changed their minds about their sons' employment in farms.
2. Mistaken policy of employment division in placing workers to different departmental works.
 - a. According to the opinion of some evacuees in the center ~~they~~ employment office or department should have considered more carefully as to placement of workers to different department. They have placed many former farmers and future farmers to different positions ~~other than FARM DIVISION~~.
3. Unsettled condition of evacuees and passive attitude of evacuees toward works in the center.

Evacuees as a whole are still in unsettled condition and therefore they are not initiative in all activities.

4. Comparatively less interest of Niseis in farming and greater interest in other line of works, such as office works, truck driving, etc.

It is very unfortunate to find this tendency among niseis. Their fathers, majority of them, after coming to America have engaged in farming and with their gifted talents made themselves known as better farmers and have contributed so much toward agricultural developement of this country. There are many parents in the center who wish to have their children follow the occupation of their fathers and continue to contribute toward agricultrual developement but there is a tendency ^{among} ~~that these~~ Niseis ^{to} drift away from farms and ^{are in} search for of other works. It is the opinion of this observer that such tendency among Niseis may cause to creat still serious problems of their future occupation which is already the concern of the general public. It is sincerely hoped that through initiatives of some Nisei leaders their occupational interests may be directed toward farming.

5. Lack of agency in mobilizing men power.

At present there is no way of mobilizing men power for works of center. It is suggested by this writer that such board should be established in near future.

6. Lack of facilities for farm workers and poor treatment.

Some of the Nisei farmers who are now taking active part in farm project complained the fact that in comparison with other departmental works they are not equally provided with necessary equipments and facilities. For example, bne of them told me, while other workers are using and driving trucks freely, some times uselessly, transportation of farm workers is very poorly handled. Not only that but often they are not provided with necessary vehicles which they are absolute neccessity.

~~4~~. FAMILY LIFE IN THE RELOCATION CENTER

Prior to the time of their evacuation to the assembly or relocation center, some of our people did not come to think or appreciate the real importance of family life upon the social training of their children and often they passed without giving serious considerations to these problems.

Since and after they came to the center where family life is not ^{so adequate} ~~as~~ ^{as} it was and lacks in many ways, people began to realize how important it is. This writer, during past weeks, personally contacted several people who are the fathers and mothers of children and heard many interesting yet alarming complaints of these people which I believe some consideration should be given ^{to them} ~~by~~ every parent of the children in the center.

Majority of them complain that lack of family life in the place like relocation center makes it difficult for them to give proper attention to their children, in such as teaching the manners, obedience and discipline. According to their complaints, they say, their children, because of temporary nature of their housing condition, do not like to spend their time in homes but tend to stay away from their homes. Their children always out, playing with other children, ~~some times~~ in search of excitement and thrill. They come home evening but they are restless and seem to dislike the quite atmosphere of homes. Homes, to these children, become none but sleeping place for them. In couse of their continued play with other children out of homes, there is a danger of influence of others which is not always desirable. Then, when parent advise them in order to correct such habits, they do not listen but tend more to be away from homes than ever.

A specific case was ~~presented~~ presented to me by one of them. He has a son who is only 14 years old. In spite of several advices by his parent ~~he~~ ^{boy} still

spend most of his time in the apartment of his friend who lives with his brothers and sisters but no parent. The danger ~~is~~, according to the father of this boy, that most of their time are spent in playing cards, ~~with~~ more than 10 kids gathered as gang. While he does not know whether such card playing resembles the gambling or mere social play, he feels a great danger in constant visit of his son to this apartment where no elderly supervisions are given. He says that their fatherly advices to their son ⁱⁿ ^{of} is [^]vain because [^]the environment and social condition in which ~~they~~ now live.

Another example which was laid before me is the manners of children in the dinning hall. As it has been mentioned previously, the children always like to go to dining hall with their friend and often they forget the manners, ^{which were taught in home} and result is that they some times run all over the table causing very unpleasant feeling to other diners.

It is the opinion of this writer, that in adjustment of these problems of our children, there still lacks the attention and cooperation of every parent. While living and housing condition of evacuees have certain influence on our children, ^{such as} manners and obedience yet I believe more attention of the parents on these problems should correct these ~~problems~~.

~~41~~ OUT SIDE EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRADICTIONARY VIEWS OF ISSEI PARENT

Recently, I had been asked by two evacuees parents for my advice and opinion as to the advisability of their sons' proposed leave from the center for the out side employment and study.

There is among Niseis, at present, a tendency of enthusiastic desire to leave the center either in pursuit of their study or seeking outside employments. This desire among Niseis, perhaps, had been intensified by the recent announcement of W. R. A. Chief to the effect that American Citizens of Japanese parentage, upon approval by the War Department, may be allowed to leave the center for the defense works of the United States.

While Niseis are so enthusiastic about this opportunity, it is unfortunate to find that in some cases their plans had to be abandoned by the objection of their parents, thus creating a serious problem within their family. According to the investigation of this writer, the reasons for their objection fall into following, namely;

1. Parents are worried over the danger which they think may arise due to hostile attitude of ^{some} Americans toward Japanese.
 2. Their lack of sympathetic understandings toward enthusiastic desire of young people in seeking their opportunities.
 3. Fear of other temptations which may have ill effects upon the moral life of their sons while absence of their direct supervision.
 4. Parents do not desire separation of the family members at least for the duration of the war.
 5. Lack of knowledge of present condition outside the center.
- It is the opinion of this writer that through the understanding hearts of the parents their desire should be fulfilled.

~~XIV.~~ MENTAL ATTITUDES OF EVACUEES

When evacuees first arrived the center, their immediate concern was the matter of housing problem for their families. Mentally and physically, they were occupied with improvement of their dwellings, and their immediate surroundings, such as aptments, yards and open spaces. Since regualtion of the project do not provided for separate aptment for the families of less than four, there have been many problems ^{of} grouping ~~of~~ the residents and assignment of the apartments. Disharmony between the residents and dissatisfaction of their apartment conditions and other matters flooded the office of housing department. Men and women, young and old, all in all, were busily engaged in gathering lumbers, carpentering with tools and making their gardens.

As days passed ~~by~~^{ed}, their concerns changed and their minds shifted toward other things. They are now more concerned about their works and employments, educational problems of their children, and about their future government. Out of these problems which they are more concerned about, the problem of their works and employment now occupy the greater part of their minds. This can be proven by the fact that when ever evacuees meet their friends these days first question asked is "what kind of work you do." In connection with the works and employments, it is interesting to note, the mental attitudes of evacuees in seeking the kinds of works which they are more interested. There are those who base their works and employments soley upon a creative purpose while others base their works ~~fer~~ on other objectives. What I mean by creative purpose is that one whose service is offered for greatest return in pprogress of the center. His view is based upon progress of human society. There are others who base their works a and services in term of money and other material return. Still there are those who base their works and offer their services in return for experi-ence.

COMPARATIVE AND COMPETITIVE VIEWS OF TWO COMMUNITIES

Notwithstanding the reasons and objects of W. R. A. authority in establishing two communities in the center, namely, Canal and Butte, the founding of two separate communities, undoubtedly, will present to its residents many interesting views upon which they observe their respective life, in comparison as well as in competitive basis. Although there may arise among evacuees residents of these two communities a certain feeling of rivalry, it is the opinion of this writer, that such comparative and competitive views and attitude of the people, undoubtedly, will become and act as force of initiative in general improvements of their respective community.

There have been already feelings among the residents of Butte community that community affair of Canal is far ahead^{than} that of Butte, in its organization and activities. Whether it is true or not, this observer is notⁱⁿ position to discuss at this time, but as a result of such feelings among Butte residents, the community affairs of Butte naturally will begin to be^{more} active. Other day, an entertainment was held in Butte community under the auspices of the Farm Project. There is already a plan in Canal community to hold still better entertainment than that of Butte Community. It had been rumoured some times ago in the Butte that a man was seriously injured by one of the gamblers as a result of quarrel over their game, in Canal community. The people of Butte community, upon hearing of this incident, sighed first, and then were relieved when they discovered that it happened not in their community but in Canal though it happened in the same center where they are part of the community. At the same time, Butte residents hoped that it will not happen within their community. The consciousness of this kind in the hearts of Butte residents tend to become more attentive on these matters and will try to prevent^{occurrence of} such unpleasant incident in their community.

The result of comparative and competitive views are not always desirable and we must remember that when such views are over emphasized or misled, then, there is a danger of abuse and conflict of respective people.

Hecks

Note:

The following pages were taken from an informal discussion between Mr. Hikida and myself, following up Mr. Hikida's report. It was more or less on a questions and answers basis, and has been set down as such.