

Canada at War With Japanese By Cabinet Act

Dominion's Action Preceded That of Either Britain or United States

Canadian Press Despatch

OTTAWA, Dec. 8.— Canada is at war with Japan today and the Dominion's armed forces have orders to engage the new enemy "wherever he may be found."

Within a few hours after Japan launched attacks on British and United States possessions in the Far East, Prime Minister Mackenzie King called the Cabinet together and a recommendation for a declaration of war was prepared and despatched to the King for the formality of his approval.

Canada, by this action, became the first nation of the British Commonwealth to bring a state of war with Japan into existence on its own initiative.

ANNOUNCES DECISION

Prime Minister King announced Canada's decision at a press conference in his East Block office.

"Canadian armed forces have been ordered to engage the enemy wherever he may be found," he said.

"All necessary security measures" for the defence of Canada had been taken. All persons of Japanese origin in Canada previously had been registered and finger-printed and "any individuals who there is reason to believe may be dangerous to the state are being apprehended."

Early today it was learned from Royal Canadian Mounted Police sources that apprehension of persons of Japanese origin has begun in British Columbia on a "strictly selective basis."

National Defence headquarters said all precautions had been taken on the Pacific coast, with defences "on the alert" for possible hostile action. Army and air force headquarters in Victoria cancelled all leaves and called back to their

the points attacked. Over a period of weeks the Canadian government has been in close touch with the British and the United States governments and Mr. King said he thought every necessary action had been anticipated and prepared.

The average Canadian took the news of Japan's declaration of war on Britain and the United States in comparative calm. For weeks he had taken it for granted that some day Japan would be officially an enemy, but there was surprise, of course, that the Japanese had moved into war so suddenly, without warning and on such a widespread front.

Mr. King recalled one of his utterances at the recent sitting of Parliament to the effect that the war had become a struggle not merely to defend Canada and other countries and to free conquered countries but to save freedom itself and save "the world from universal anarchy."

Besides announcing the declaration of war and the order to the forces to engage the enemy, Mr. King announced measures for internal security, and the bringing of Japan and Japanese-controlled territory under trading with the enemy regulations.

NO MOLESTATION

He said all persons of Japanese origin who there was reason to believe might be a danger to the state were being apprehended but he hoped there would be no molesting of persons of Japanese origin because of mere suspicion or prejudice.

"Competent police authorities are confident the situation as to security is well in hand and they are confident of the correct and loyal behavior of Canadian citizens of Japanese origin," said Mr. King.

The Canadian declaration of war against Japan came just 24 hours after a similar declaration against Finland, Hungary and Rumania but while war with those countries brings no immediate threat to Canadian territory Japan is a country within striking distance of the west coast of Canada.

The Japanese attack on United States possessions in the Pacific served blunt notice on Canada of the possibility of attack from across the wide expanse of the Pacific.

West coast defence measures, in progress of months past, were reviewed at naval, military and air headquarters yesterday and the men manning the defences were placed on the alert.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review Article, 8 December 1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbour in the USA. What does this mean for Japanese Canadians?

Begin Evacuation of Japs from B.C. Coast

Can. Press Despatch

VANCOUVER, Feb. 24.—Smiling and chattering gaily in their native tongue, 100 Japanese nationals left here last night in the first evacuation of Japanese from British Columbia's vital defence area and more than 500 of their countrymen turned out to give them a roaring sendoff.

Hardly a tear was shed as the men—the youngest 18, the oldest nearing his 50's—boarded a Canadian National Railways train.

The men were described as "volunteer" by their police escort. They volunteered to go to Lucerne, B.C., and Rainbow, B.C., near Jasper, Alta., to construct work camps for other male nationals of military age, said to number close to 2,000, and who must be out of the defence area by April 1 under orders of the Dominion government.

Another group, numbering close to 300 will leave tonight for Geikie, Alta., also to set up work camps. At Rainbow, Lucerne and Geikie, the Japanese will live in cars on railway sidings until the camps are completed. Later they will be employed by the Dominion Department of Labor on various road projects, probably the Jasper, Alta., to Prince George, B.C., and other highways.

Woodstock Sentinel-Review Article, 24 February 1942 - Japanese Canadians evacuated from the B.C. Coast to internment camps. For Students, think critically about this article: What biases are present in this article? What was the agenda of the person writing the article? Do you think the article accurately represents how Japanese Canadians felt about being forced to evacuate their homes?