

31-3-F
Topaz War Relocation Center
Topaz, Utah
Oct. 16, 1942

Dear Dr. Inglis:

It has been already two weeks since we came to Topaz Center. How are you getting along with your Church work? How is your family? Hope they are all fine in the grace of God. Mrs. Tanaka and Shin and myself are all well excepting going through cold and internal trouble on account of the sudden change of the climate and the elevation and the water and the like. I am almost through with the trouble and my wife is now on test and Shin is only the superman in my family in this concern.

Our train which left Tanforan in the evening of 29th of September took the Feather River route which was the most beautiful section in crossing the Sierra. The mountains, trees, rocky cliffs, foaming torrent and the rest so pleased us who were in the horse track and now destined to and stay in white desert. Our train had some trouble with schedules, so in fact we did not get the break-fast and lunch at 3 after-noon, and the train pulled in Delta station at the sunset instead of sunrise and so on. We were to take bus from there to the Center which is 15 miles away on the very rough road and in the dust. The young people's brass band welcomed us as well as the people who were there before in the white fine dust smoke. Even the Russian thistle and the sage brush are all pulled out within one square mile camp ground, no tree to look at not a single bird flying but 540 barracks waiting us to fill up and nearly 100 of them were not finished their frame work. The words and tears of welcome were enough to comfort our sadness and the dinner in the new mess-hall cured our hungry stomachs. 2 or 3 inch thick dust in the new room was scraped and mopped by friends and were all ready for the good night sleep.

The last group from Tanforan reached here yesterday and all set for the new life in Topaz. We are using the recreation halls each of which has 300 seats. Older people's church is using two halls so with the young people's. There is no school building as yet even started the work. But the school work is supposed to be started from next Monday using the recreation halls. There is one block set aside for the American teachers to stay in the Camp. It seems very hard to have high school children secure the adequate education. In the midst of fall term at present Shin started to realize the fact which he did not in Tanforan. We are thinking that when any good new come from you Mr. Tanaka and Shin will go first and after that I would go when I get the good understandings with my church people.

They say that the second generation people would be allowed to go out first, and if the work outside was any other than agriculture, he must pay 16 dollars for the each of the family of his left in this Center. I think these regulations would change around by and by.

The other day the Washington commissioner of WRA came to this Center and disclosed that we should not be expected to stay here until the end of the war. The plan that the government has is to let the Japanese scatter around the interior states as soon as possible and will not to be back to the States of Cal. either.

Mrs. Tanaka is sending you and Mrs. Inglis her best wishes. Please remember us to mother Inglis. Our prayer goes with you and your work always.

Sincerely,

Isao Tanaka

