

COOPERATIVE COLONIZATION

The Japanese in America, in this era, and in the midst of world wide confusion, need friendship. They are a minority in America, but they despise to be petted, pitied, and to receive a sympathetic treatment. All they need is a fair understanding which will lead to the creation of friendship and the friendship itself will supersede all rational feeling. The word "friendship", according to the Webster's Dictionary, means:

"An attachment to a person, proceeding from intimate acquaintance, and a reciprocation of kind office, or form a favorable opinion of the amiable and respectable qualities of his mind."

"FRIENDSHIP IS OF MORE VALUE THAN BLOOD."
(From "The Robe" by Lloyd C. Douglas.)

This colonization plan is presented for consideration by a Citizen's Committee of three, now residing at Rohwer Relocation Center, Relocation, Arkansas.

Respectfully,

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Copies being sent to:

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All Relocation Supervisors, and Field Relocation Officers

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The Spring of 1942, for the first time in the history of the United States, marked the wholesale evacuation from the Pacific Coast of approximately 110,000 people of Japanese origin embracing the older alien stock and the majority, those of American citizenry by virtue of birth within the United States and its territory.

Through a series of processing amid emotional confusion, these people were afforded temporary haven in the several WRA-sponsored War time Relocation Centers dispersed throughout the nation.

During the intervening two years, the population has decreased considerably in the course of relocation by some and the segregation of others and the latest population figure, with the exclusion of the Newell project, is approximated at 70,000 for the eight centers.

At the beginning of the current calendar year 1944, the WRA made known to the public its anticipation of relocating at least 40,000 evacuees in the near future.

With the announcement of this WRA objective, Fortune magazine for April, 1944, carried the following article in part:

"If the war lasts two more years, and if the WRA has succeeded in finding places for 25,000 more Japanese-Americans in the next twenty-four months (and WRA hopes to do better than that figure) it will be a job well done. That would leave some 45,000 in the relocation centers, as continuing public wards, not to mention over 20,000 at Tule Lake and the Department of Justice internment camps. Whatever the final residue, 25,000 or 45,000, it is certain that the "protective custody" of 1943 cannot end otherwise than in a kind of Indian reservation, to plague the conscience of America for many years to come."

Indeed! The post-war problems confronting these center residents should be ample food for thought. For posterity's sake as well as the immediate post-war future, the blueprint for constructive resettlement of these people must be drawn up now.

Regardless of how public opinion takes its course, it will not influence the dissatisfaction of dormant, enclosed living that circumstances have forced upon these heretofore active people.

It is a plain acceptable fact that no one is contented to remain placidly in this situation for any prolonged length of time. Then why, with all the facilities being opened to them, do they not relocate?

The restraining factor has been the reasoning and the somewhat final realization that the relocation centers are the only place where they can live at present; or live without fear of anticipating prejudice and bodily harm and insecurity adherent to possible financial difficulties.

Since the institution of the relocation program by the WRA, about 1,700 evacuees have relocated from the Rohwer Center, and only about 12% of the 1,700, or 200 (including their families) are those with previous experience in agriculture.

Years of experimentation and subsequent acquired experience had made the records of Japanese farmers in California an enviable one. But it would be virtually impossible for these farmers, we speak of the thousands of others still remaining within the centers, to relocate into a new and strange territory where weather, climate, crop, marketing and other conditions inherent to farming are entirely dissimilar and in most instances unknown to them.

A major concern is the lack of financial ability to begin any sort of a venture where material and equipment are basic necessities. It is needless to point out that complete uprooting due to the evacuation from California has meant total loss of the efforts of a generation.

In the daily life of any normal being, security is one of the most important elements which allows the continuation of that avocation.

With pending inclination of the theater of conflict to the Pacific area and inevitable increase of casualties, we cannot overlook the tide of antagonism that will surely rise against persons of Japanese descent.

It is regrettable that a racial minority has to entertain a complex of fear in this day and age. But the sense of isolation among strangers, helplessness in times of adversity and a fear of eventualities with possible physical attack, constitute the ingredients that must be analyzed before endorsing the "advantages" and "freedom" aspects of relocation. Blind encouragement for hasty relocation minus a sincere comprehension of these easily overlooked factors, may possibly be construed as coercive persuasion.

As yet this minority behind barbed wire fences today are definitely not formulating any intentions of remaining wards of the Government--a lost and forgotten people on another "Indian Reservation". Not if they can help it,

In the words of the pugilistic circle...down but not beaten...these almost forgotten evacuees are biding their time, waiting for an opportunity to present itself when they can make a comeback.

Opportunity knocks but once and it can be reiterated again and again that the time is now.

Here is a suggestion. We believe it is an intelligent one. And remember, we may seek opportunity but that opportunity must be created also.

We have come to the conclusion that the establishment of Colonies in fertile land suitable for agriculture, not only will solve the manpower shortage on the farm production front but will convert present Government expenditures for maintenance of the Relocation Centers into sound investments.

The greatest post-war problem that the United States Government and its people are going to come up against is the surplus manpower situation when hundreds of thousands of boys will return from the front; the process of conversion to peace time industry will mean the curtailment of labor.

What is the government planning to do with this flood of man-power?

Perhaps those entrusted with the welfare of our nation have already a clear-cut formula outlined to meet the situation. But, if colonization is to be repeated again as in the last World War (which proved a costly failure), establish one now with these willing evacuees who are confident of success and are now ready to be the guinea pigs in a very worthwhile experiment.

A Colony for a population of 10-13,000 can be established with an investment of \$15,000,000. Three similar projects make an aggregate investment of \$45,000,000 or approximately the annual expenditures for the maintenance of today's Relocation Centers.

It becomes an investment in the former and a surmounting expenditure in the latter.

The \$15,000,000 investment will be in the form of a loan with perhaps 2% interest...30 years repayment plan as an example. Assuming 4,000 farmers or settlers on one colony were to follow this system of repayment, it is quite possible to clear the debt on an annual installment of \$125.00 per farmer. Industrial enterprises together with every resident in the colony to have the share of this reimbursement, it would not be too difficult to clear the debt within ten to fifteen years at the most.

Building materials, farming equipment, and land and its improvement must be furnished by the Government. With the closing up of the Relocation Centers, dismantled equipment and supplies can be turned over for use in establishing the Colonies.

To mitigate against local political antipathy, it will be to the mutual interests of the Railroad Companies and the Colony to work together. In twenty-five years, fifty years, and a 100 years to come, the products and manufactured commodities rolling out of these Colonies will contribute a generous gratuity for transportation to the railroads.

If the local residents consider the Colony with its 10,000 or more people a menace, the Colonists will welcome the stationing of Military Police for protection of the Colonists themselves against uncivil actions by extremists; and, until much time as the local residents are able to understand the colonists with Christian thought, the "Public Menace will be under guard."

The Colony will function as a Co-operative Society. City taxes will be levied on individual incomes, as well as on all industrial enterprises within the colony and these will share in the requital of the Government loan.

OUTLINE FOR A COLONY OF 13,000 SETTLERS

A. THE PROPOSED COLONY WILL CONSIST OF 100,000 ACRES

1. A farmer will be allotted ten acres per member of his family. A family of five, for example, will be given fifty acres as their share.

2. Of the apportioned farm land, 25% may be used for crop production of the farmer's choosing, but 75% of the land must be cultivated in conjunction with the Colony's program.
3. Husbandry of a cow, a pig, and 100 fowls shall also be maintained by a farmer.

B. MARKETING THROUGH A CENTRAL CHANNEL

1. All products will have a central outlet, marketed by the co-operative but credited to the farmer.
2. Marketing or handling fees will be charged on all transactions and such income will too, toward the varied expenses of the Colony.

C. INDUSTRY

1. Industrial enterprises will be maintained by the Colony and the non-farming residents will work here. Farmers may also work in these plants during their slack seasons.
2. Industry will be taxed to furnish income for the Colony.

D. CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISES.

1. Hospitals, General Stores, Theaters, Restaurants, Boarding houses, Barbers, Beauty shops, Garages, Dry cleaners etc., will be operated under the co-operative system.
2. The price of merchandise and all service fees will be reverted to the Colony's income.
3. Hospital patients and all cases under doctors' care, will pay a stabilized rate of fee to the hospital and the doctors will draw their remuneration from the hospital, thus discouraging private enterprise.

E. OLD FOLKS HOME

1. A home for the aged will be provided to accommodate those under previous care in the WRA centers. However, operational expenses are to be borne by the Government.

F. PROPOSED BUDGET

Land 100,000 acres at \$5.00 per acre	\$ 500,000
Improvement on land at \$10.00 per acre	1,000,000
Housing for 4,000 families, school, hospital, fire department, water and sewer system, stores, and Administrating Building	10,000,000
Farming equipment	1,000,000
Farming-supplies for the first year	500,000
Cash allowances for all residents for the first year (\$125.00 per person for 13,500 persons.)	1,687,500
Miscellaneous	312,500
Total	<u>\$15,000,000</u>

F. PROPOSED BUDGET (continued)

Based on a thirty-year-installment plan, with annual interest of 2%, the annual payments would be \$510,000.00. The total debt is to be paid back by the farmers alone, and the yearly payment will be about \$125.00.

Distribution of Population	Workers	Family Members
Administrative and office workers	250	750
Farm workers	4,000	12,000
Industrial workers	<u>250</u>	<u>750</u>
	4,000	13,500

G. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

We believe it necessary to establish some form of qualifications for becoming a resident of the Colony. As this Colony is a self-governing body, of the Japanese, by the Japanese, and for the Japanese, it will be difficult to expel those members who violate the Colony's rules and regulations. For this reason it is felt that all who are to be members accept this membership qualification. Therefore, two types of persons are to be eliminated from all membership in the beginning, namely those who have had a civil case against any Japanese prior to war and such persons whose character and personality will make it difficult if not impossible for them to live harmoniously with the rest of the Colony.

Today, there are many industrial organizations that will not employ anyone of Japanese lineage, due to Army censorship or employee relations, public sentiment or some less obvious reasons. Japanese-American Civil Service employees have been dismissed in some instances for unclarified reasons. There are countless instances on record, where the "indignant public" has taken matters into its own hands strictly on the face-value of the stranger among their midst.

Many colleges do not accept Japanese American students because of racial prejudice, despite the fact that several thousand of these Japanese are fighting side by side with other American boys in Italy and the South Pacific for the cause of Democracy.

Politicians of certain states continue to clamor for deportation of all Japanese, irregardless of citizenship, and Bills and Resolutions of so-called patriotic denominations maintain a steady stream into congressional chambers like an arterial blood transfusion.

There has been veiled threats and open threats of what will happen to the "Jap"..."If they are seen on our streets."

All this is breeding a combination of pessimism and fear, especially among those who do not have sufficient command and understanding of the English language.

At one time, the California press had sought to gain their ends by ridiculing and censoring the evacuees, after they were out of California, by deploring the living standards and conditions of the Japanese homes. Photographs of selected delapidated houses, weather beaten after a year's neglect, were splashed across the pages designed to deceptively impress upon the general gullible public that these houses so depicted were typical of the standard of living the Japanese maintained.

If such were true, after thirty and forty years of following the American pattern of living and rearing our children together with other American children in the same community and identical education facilities, we should be the most backward-unprogressive, most unassimilative people on the entire North American continent!

Standards of living are not a racial matter. How we live, regardless of our color, is determined entirely by the individual's ability and means. This indeed, is what Democracy is fighting for.

In view of this aspect of living conditions, advocating individual relocation into the somewhat primitive areas of the Middle West, where there are no electricity, adequate plumbing, fuel supply, lack of transportation due to priorities and soaring costs, and poor system of sanitation...is almost a futile effort though perhaps well meant.

These people, well advanced in years and tired, cannot be expected to have that dashing courage and undying pioneering spirit to open a new frontier alone. For them it must be security through unity.

And that security, simultaneously contributing to the nation's wartime and post-war efforts, will crystallize into a shining monument of what foresight did.....in a Democracy.