

AYA SUZUKI: *Outrage*

Aya Suzuki was a young teacher and missionary. She lived in her parents' home in Vancouver, surrounded by family. Her father, Sentaro, bought nearby houses so that aunts, uncles, and cousins could live on the same street.

In 1942, Aya was forced to leave Vancouver. She and her family were uprooted to Slocan City in British Columbia's interior.

In early 1944, she received word from the Office of the Custodian that the family's homes and belongings had been sold.

Library and Archives Canada, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3

AYA'S PROTEST

COPY

Box 48
Slocan City, B. C.

January 18, 1944

P. H. Russell
Vancouver B.C.

Dear Sir:

Received your letter of the 3rd instant.

I do not wish to appear rude and it is not my intention, but I would like to put the facts before you in withholding signatures for this case until the court appeal is settled upon.

Before leaving Vancouver your men had told us that this process was to protect us and in your assurance we had our business put into our local agents whom we trusted as you had promised that if and when they have proved reliable that they will be able to deal directly with us. But now you say according to Ottawa this land has been sold.

You have gone against our wishes, also without even consulting us, as any citizen of Canada would have the privilege of giving assent or refusal, and as long as we are not hindering production I feel before God that we have the right to contest it. After all, what are we (Canada) fighting for? Not that same treatment the Nazi's gave the Jews be practised here in our own country! But that Canadian citizens be free to exercise their rights and to contribute to the betterment of this land of our birth.

This seems as if we are not cooperating but we must stand for the right. I am sure you will understand when you put yourselves in our position.

Hoping things will clear up soon,

Yours sincerely,

"Aya SUZUKI" - #08121

The **CUSTODIAN'S REPLY**

9957 & 10109

February 4th, 1944

Miss Aya SUZUKI,
Registration No. 08121,
Box 48,
Slocan City, B.C.

Dear Madam:

We duly received your letter of the 18th ultimo, which we presume was written on behalf of your father, Mr. Sentaro SUZUKI.

We can readily understand your concern on learning that your property has been sold but would point out that this office has merely been carrying out the policy of the Government relative to Japanese ownership of property in the protected area.

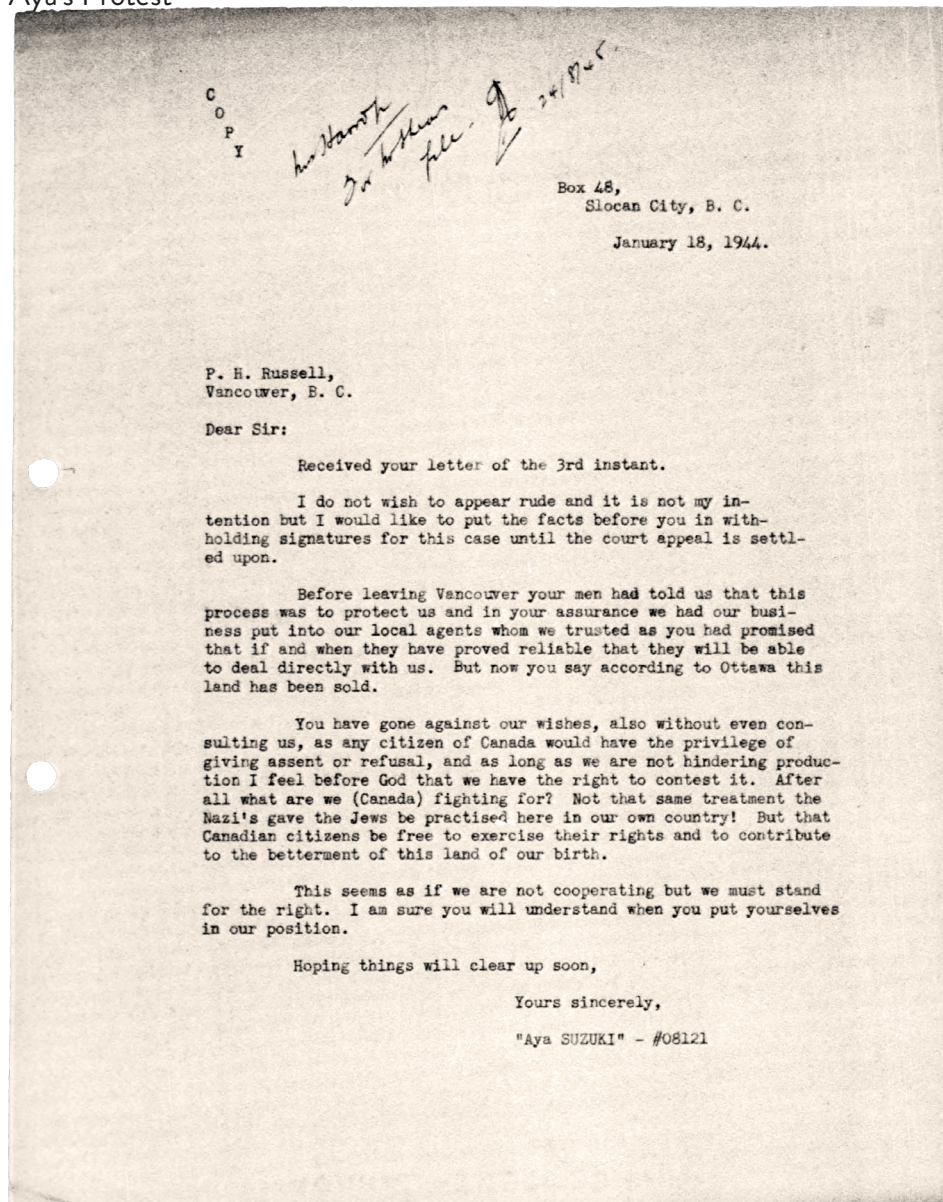
We would point out, however, that you have not replied to our letter of January 3rd and we would especially draw Mr. Sentaro Susuki's [sic] attention to the fourth paragraph of the above mentioned letter. It must be understood that unless we have specific instructions with regard to the proceeds of the sale of 8828 Selkirk Street the funds will be held by us in the meantime, and it will not be possible for any monies to be issued from these proceeds. We hope, therefore that in the near future we shall hear from both Sentaro Susuki [sic] and Kaoru Carr Susuki [sic] of their wishes in this matter.

Yours truly,

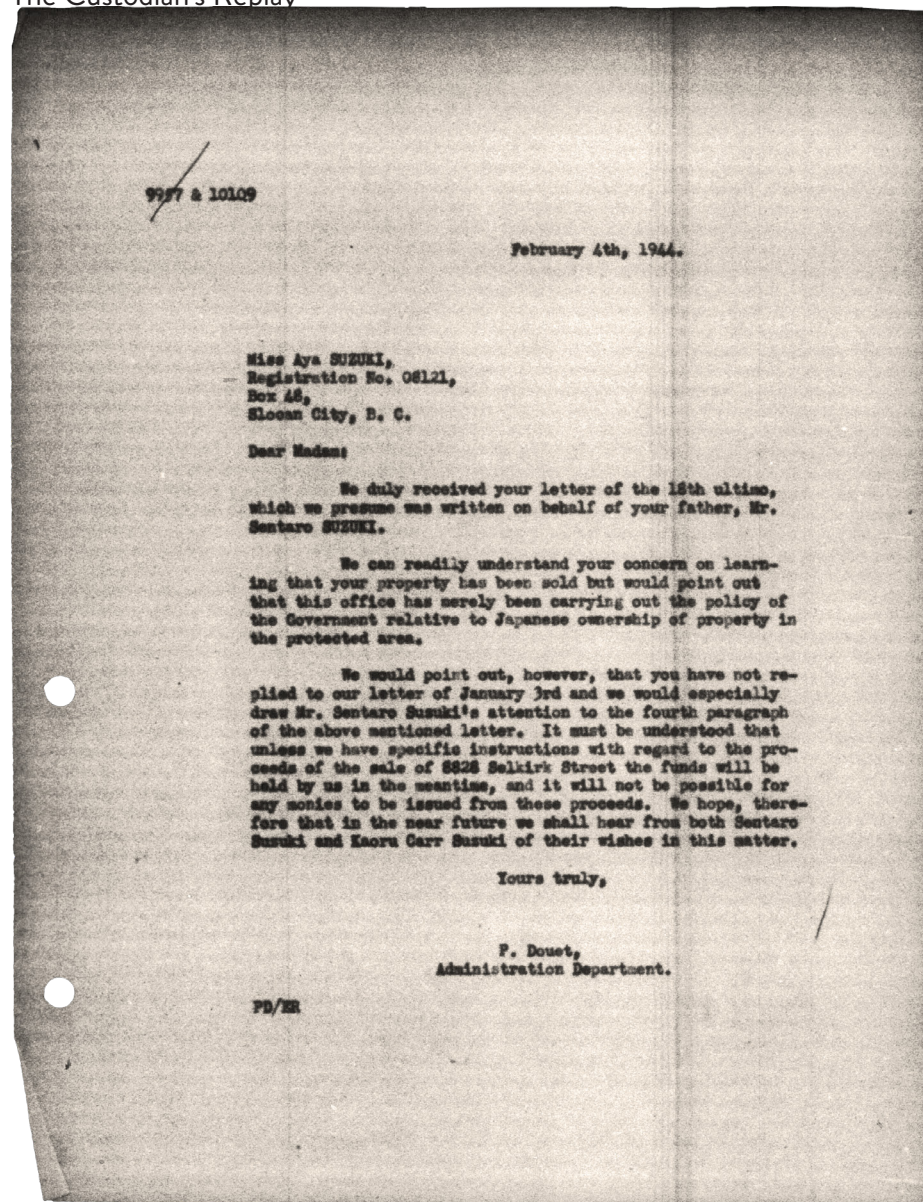
P. Douet,
Administration Department.

PD/ER

Aya's Protest



The Custodian's Replay



TOSHIYE HOSHIKO: *Law*

Toshiye Hoshiko owned a farm south of Vancouver. For over twenty years she raised chickens and harvested fruit trees. She was widowed in 1932, when her children were young.

When she was uprooted in 1942, Toshiye registered her property with the Office of the Custodian. She joined her eldest son in Montreal to wait out the internment.

In June 1944, the Custodian notified Toshiye that her farm had been sold.

Library and Archives Canada, RG33-69, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3

TOSHIYE'S PROTEST

COPY

3598 Ste. Famille,
Montreal, Zone 18
Quebec.
Oct. 22, 1944.

Office of the Custodian,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Mr. Anderson,

File No. 3912

I was deeply shocked and saddened to hear about the sale of the property owned by myself located at 1614 Pacific Highway, Surrey, B. C. It was my home for over twenty years. It was the work and hard work of two decades of toiling. It was where my children were born and raised. And now you tell me that the property was sold and that the balance of my credit at your office is only a mere \$1340.11 and on top of that you subtract \$50.00 for "legal expenses".

Partially crippled by rheumatism, I am not able to work very hard, I am living in a miserable one room on the third floor of a dark damp house, and even for such a place I have to pay \$7.50 a week or \$30.00 a month. Mind you all that amount for one wretched room. Therefore I have but one reservation: If at any time in the future should the law courts of Canada or the Privy Council, London, England, decide that the property owned by British Subjects by naturalization of Japanese ancestry like myself, which were sold by the Custodian to be declared an unlawful act on part of the Custodian and that all such sales to be declared null and void upon the return of the purchase price all such property to be restored to their rightful original owners, the evacuated British subjects of Japanese origin.

I should like the full amount credited to myself (according to your figure \$1340.11

TOSHIYE'S PROTEST

minus \$50.00 plus 80.00) be sent to myself and payable at par in Montreal. With this money please send me a detailed account of my account and also the property sale statement.

Among the chattels on the property I wish you would (or your representative or some other responsible person) set aside the violin and the music and send them express collect to Miss E Hoshiko, 2456 Gladstone Ave., Windsor, Ont. As soon as the chattels are liquidated, wish you would send along the money received for same.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) Mrs. T. Hoshiko

Mrs. T. Hoshiko

(Reg. No. 12631)

T.H/m.h.

The **CUSTODIAN'S REPLY**

3912

November 4th, 1944.

Mrs. Toshiye HOSHIKO
Registration No. 12631
3598 Ste. Famille
Montreal, P. Q. Zone 18

Dear Madam:

We are in receipt of your letter of October 22nd, 1944.

Your remarks have been carefully read and we can appreciate that the disposal of your property is a matter which will give you personal concern. However, the sale of properties to the Director, The Veterans' Land Act, was carried out as a part of a policy of liquidation outlined by the Canadian Government and the prices obtained were on the basis of appraised valuations.

Your letter has been placed upon our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record, but we can only advise you that the sale has been completed and that we are not in a position to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

In accordance with your request, we are enclosing herewith a cheque in the amount of \$1240.11 representing the balance of funds to your credit at this office, with the exception of a \$100.00 reserve against legal fees, pertaining to the sale of your property.

Regarding your violin and music, as soon as time permits our field-man will arrange to have this located and shipped as instructed.

Yours truly,

W E Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA:OH
Enc. (cheque)

Toshiye's Protest

C O P Y

3598 Ste. Famille,
Montreal, Zone 18
Quebec.
Oct. 22, 1944.

Office of the Custodian,
Vancouver, B. C.

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Mrs. T. Hoshiko
(Reg. No. 12631)

T.H./m.h.

The Custodian's Reply

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Dear Madam:

We are in receipt of your letter of October 22nd, 1944.

Your remarks have been carefully read and we can appreciate that the disposal of your property is a matter which will give you personal concern. However, the sale of properties to the Director, The Veterans' Land Act, was carried out as part of a policy of liquidation outlined by the Canadian Government, and the prices obtained were on the basis of appraised valuations.

Your letter has been placed upon our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record, but we can only advise you that the sale has been completed and that we are not in a position to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

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Regarding your violin and music, as soon as time permits our field-man will arrange to have this located and shipped as instructed.

Yours truly,

W. E. Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA:OH
Enc. (cheque)

USABURO OIKAWA: *Law*

Usaburo Oikawa was a retired farmer. He lived south of Vancouver with his wife, son, and son's family. They raised chickens and grew strawberries.

When the Oikawas were uprooted in 1942, the family leased their land to a local farmer, Richard Fennig. The family spent the internment working on a sugar beet farm in Alberta.

In 1944, they received notice that the Office of the Custodian had sold their farm for \$1,572.

Library and Archives Canada, RG33-69, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3; NNM,
The New Canadian

USABURO'S PROTEST

COPY

Box 27, Picture Butte, Alta.
17th August, 1944.

File No. 5590

The Custodian
506 Royal Bank Building,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

You have informed me that my property known as Lot 117 of Lot 140, Gp. 2, Map 1133, has been sold. As you are aware, I have never consented to the sale nor ratified it but have at all times and do now object to the sale of my said property. Because, however, I am in destitute circumstances (and because the government has discontinued the advance of maintenance to me) (or as the case may be), I have to request from you, the proceeds of the sale of the property in order to maintain myself and my family but in doing so, I wish it made clear that it is only being accepted under protest and without prejudice to any right which I have or may have arising out of what I consider the wrongful sale and disposition of my property.

Yours truly,

(SIGNED) "U. Oikawa" #12737

The CUSTODIAN'S REPLY

5590

August 25, 1944.

Mr. Usaburo Oikawa,
Registration No. 12737,
P. O. Box 27, Picture Butte, Alberta.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 17, 1944.

Your remarks have been carefully read and we can appreciate that the disposal of your property is a matter which will give you personal concern. However, the sale of properties to the Director, The Veterans' Land Act, was carried out as part of a policy of liquidation outlined by the Canadian Government and the prices obtained were on the basis of appraised valuations.

Your letter has been placed upon our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record, but we can only advise you that the sale has been completed and that we are not in a position to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

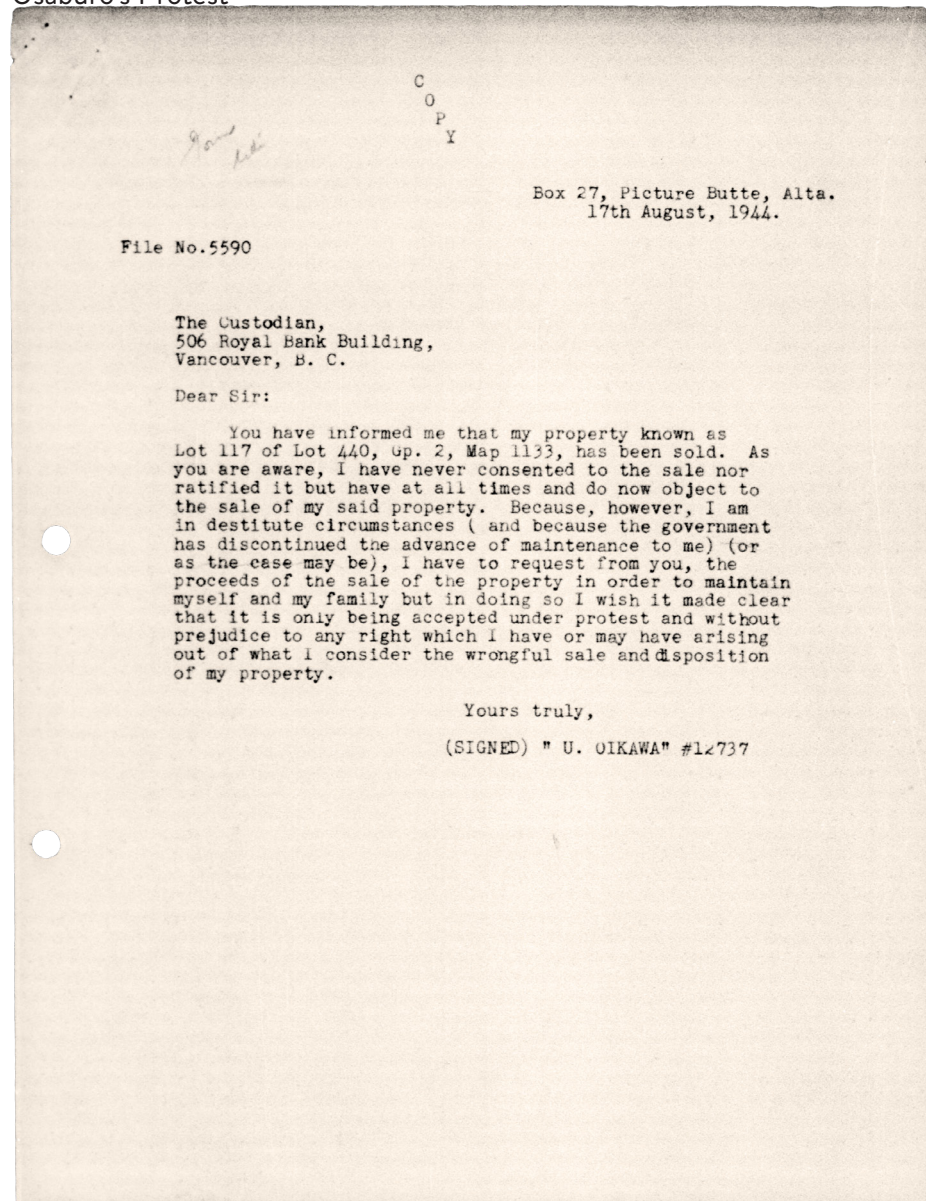
In response to your request for funds from the sale of your property, we enclose herewith a cheque in the amount of \$70.00 being your regular monthly remittance for maintenance. However, if you wish to have all funds available to you at this time sent in a lump sum rather than a monthly cheque kindly advise us.

Yours truly,

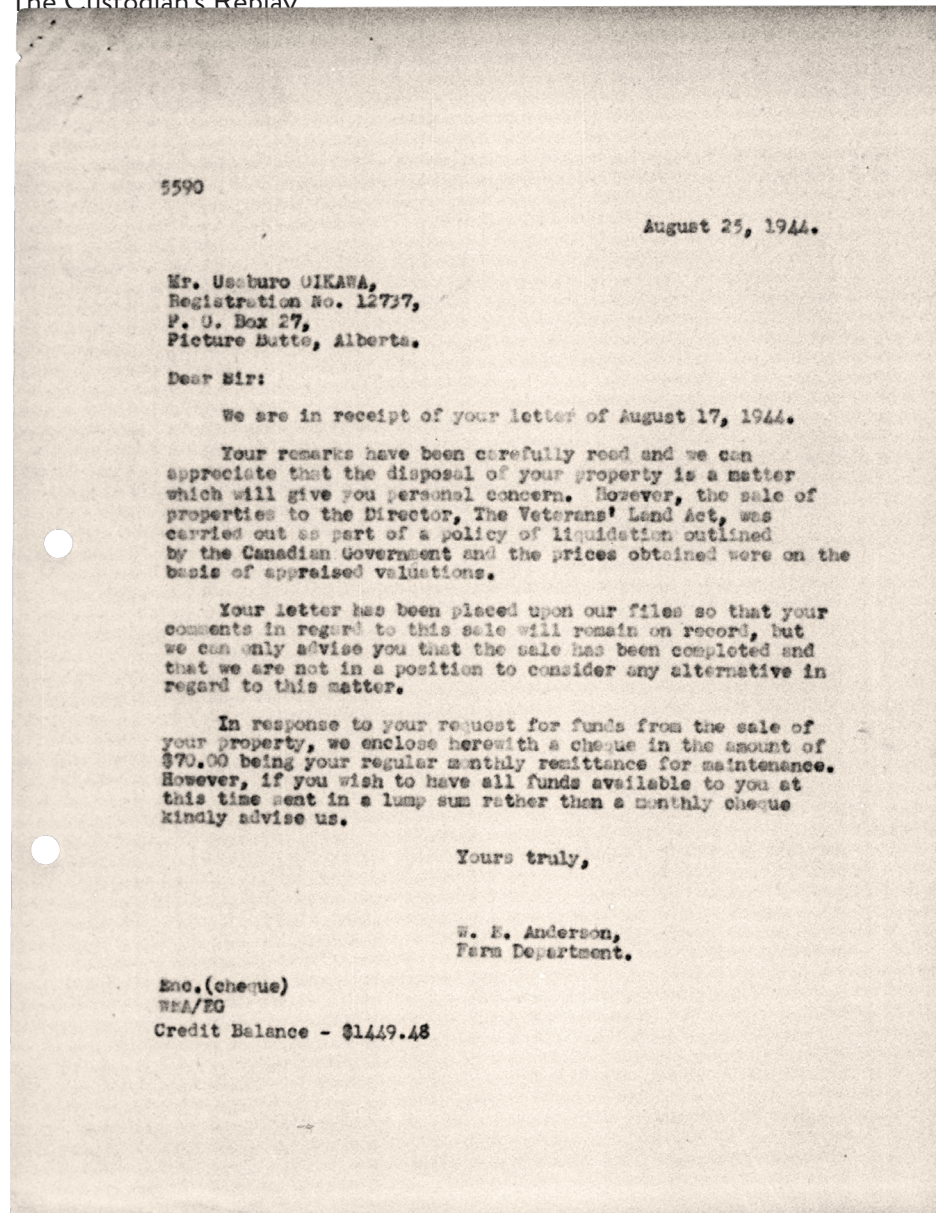
W. E. Anderson,
Farm Department.

Enc. (cheque)
WEA/EG
Credit Balance - \$1449.48

Usaburo's Protest



The Custodian's Reply



HENRY KANAO NARUSE: *Betrayal*

Kanao Naruse was a bachelor. He worked as an optometrist on Hastings Street in Vancouver. In 1941, Kanao built a new house for himself and his aging parents. He had saved and planned for years.

Just months later, Kanao and his parents were uprooted to the B.C. interior. They rented their home and left the property in the care of the Office of the Custodian.

In April 1944, Kanao was notified that the Custodian had sold his home.

Library and Archives Canada, RG33-69, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3

KANAO'S PROTEST

COPY

Kaslo, B. C.

June 21, 1944.

File No. 11009

The Custodian,
Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Attention: Mr. Shears.

Needless to say, your letter of April 13th was a great surprise to me. That the house and land could have been handed over to the Director, the Veterans' Land Act, at such a ridiculous price, is beyond my comprehension.

I disagree emphatically with your "qualified" appraiser who was guilty of such a moronic valuation. For your information the house was completed in January, 1942. Nearly \$500.00 was spent on plumbing alone. Moreover, I did not receive the land as a free gift.

I protest most strongly against this unfair, inadequate valuation and transaction into which the Custodian entered with the Director, the Veterans' Land Act.

Yours truly,

"H. K. Naruse"

THE CUSTODIAN'S REPLY

11009

June 29, 1944.

Mr. Henry Kanao NARUSE,
Registration No. 08969
Kaslo, B.C.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 21st.

Your remarks have been carefully read and we can appreciate that the disposal of your property will be a matter of personal concern. However, the sale of properties to the Director, The Veterans' Land Act was carried out as a part of a policy of liquidation outlined by Ottawa on the basis of appraised values.

Your letter has been placed in our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record but we can only advise you that we are unable to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

Yours truly,

W E Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA/EG

Kanao's Protest

C
O
P
Y

Kaslo, B. C.
June 21, 1944.

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The Custodian's Reply

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Your letter has been placed upon our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record but we can only advise you that we are unable to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

Yours truly,

W. E. Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA/EG

SHICHITARO ODAGAKI: *Refusal*

Shichitaro Odagaki lived on Vancouver Island with his wife and four children. He lived near the lumber mill where he worked. His family owned a three-room home, raised chickens, and gardened.

Shichitaro and his family were removed from the coast in 1942. They were uprooted to an internment camp in the Slocan Valley.

In late 1944, the Office of the Custodian notified Shichitaro that his property had been sold. He immediately replied in protest.

Library and Archives Canada, RG33-69, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3

USABURO'S PROTEST

Copy for Mr. Shears

Slocan City, B. C.
Nov. 24, 1944.

Office of the Custodian,
506 Royal Bank Bldg.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter, File #1634, Cat. #713, stating that my property is to be sold. I have thought over this matter very seriously and came to the conclusion that I will not sell the property. Being evacuated out here and living a poor life, that property is the only thing we have to look forward to.

I will appreciate it very much if you would inform this buyer that my property is not for sale.

Yours truly,

(Signed) "S. Odagaki"

The CUSTODIAN'S REPLY

Copy for Mr. Shears.

1634
Cat. No. 713.

November 29, 1944.

Mr. Shichitaro Odagaki
Registration No. 07454
Slocan City, B.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: Your Port Alberni property.

We are in receipt of your letters of the 24th instant.

While we appreciate that the sale of any property is a matter of personal concern and may in some cases be contrary to the wishes of the owner, we would point out that the policy of liquidation was, as you are probably aware, decided on by the Government authorities at Ottawa and applies to the Coastal properties of all Evacuees.

We would add that we have endeavoured to take every precaution to protect owners' interests by securing fair and adequate prices, and owners are supplied with a full statement of each transaction as soon as possible, when the net proceeds realized are placed to the credit of their account.

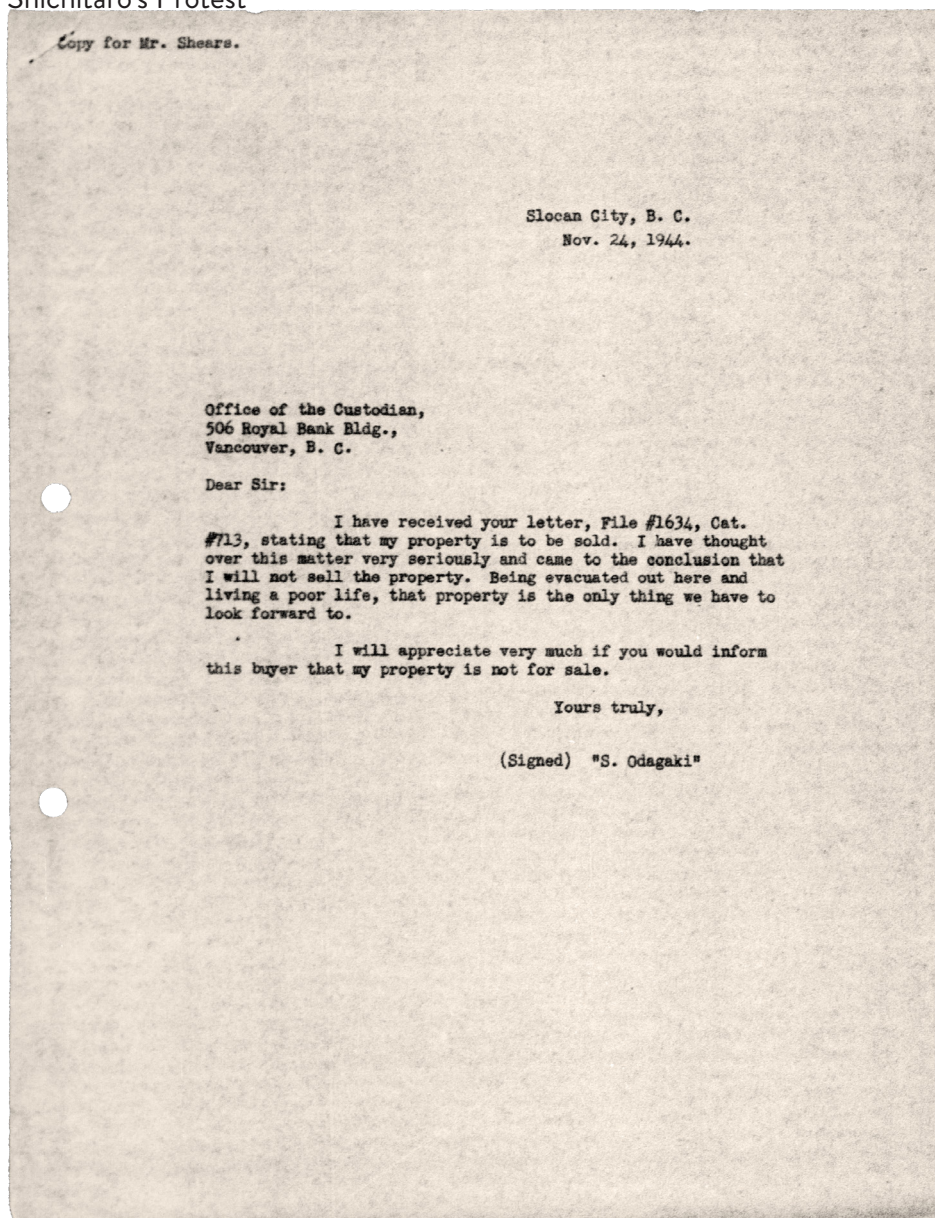
For your present information we might mention that the bid approved by the Advisory Committee was that submitted by the tenant, \$1200.00, which is the same as the value placed on the property by an independent appraiser.

Yours truly,

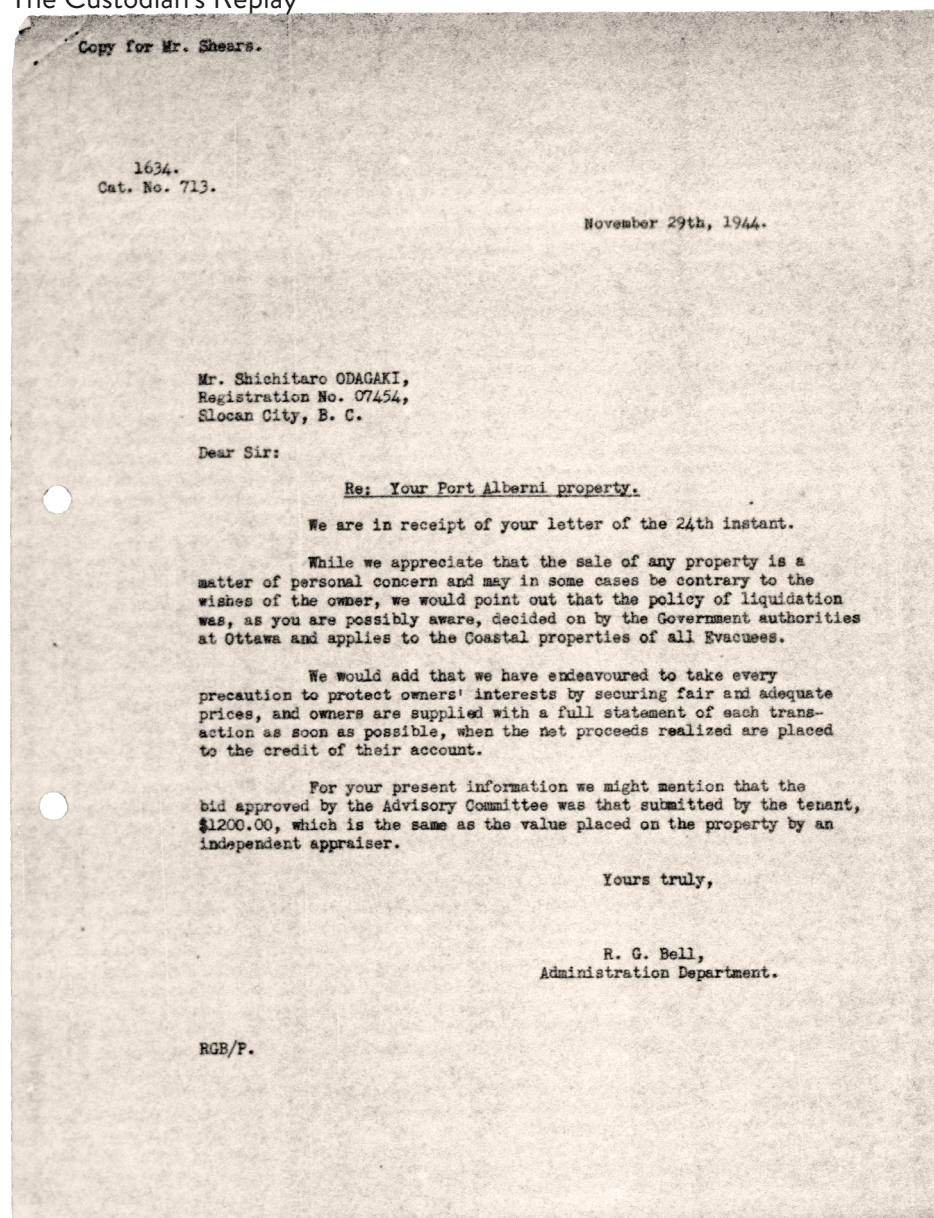
R G Bell,
Administration Department.

RGB/P.

Shichitaro's Protest



The Custodian's Replay



RIKIZO YONEYAMA: *Belonging*

Rikizo Yoneyama, his wife, Yone, and their four children lived and worked on a farm in Haney, a fertile farming region. The family had spent years building a home and livelihood on their 17-acre property. They grew berries, fruit trees, and vegetables.

In 1942, the family was uprooted to Edmonton, where they waited for the internment to end.

Two years later, they received notice that the Office of the Custodian had sold their home.

Courtesy of Harold Yoneyama; Library and Archives Canada, RG33-69, RG117-A-1, RG117-C-3

RIKIZO'S PROTEST

COPY

Sub P. O. 9, Edmonton, Alta.
June 21, 1944.

File No. 6976.

Dept. of the Secretary of State Office of the Custodian
506 Royal Bank Building Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: 27th Road, Haney, B. C.
Lot 6 of the North West quarter of Sec. 21
Township 12, Map 1027, District of New
Westminster, C. of E. 50501.

I acknowledged your letter of May 30 and wish to request for further explanations regarding the sale of my property.

First of all, I wish to make it clear to you that the price set for my property is very unsatisfactory. It does not even cover for the construction of the house alone and besides the house, I have left most of my household furnitures and the farm implements. Could all my possessions have been considered when the price was set?

Surely it is not necessary for me to remind you that my wife and I are naturalized citizens since 1914 and that all my children are Canadian born? Two of my daughters are now doctors and one of them is working for the Government.

At the time we were evacuated, I had no intention of selling my property and I still do not wish to have it sold. Therefore, I strongly urge that the matter be re-considered and that the statement sent to me, be cancelled.

Please note the change of my address.

Yours truly,

“Rikizo Yoneyama”

The CUSTODIAN'S REPLY

6976

July 4, 1944.

Mr. Rikizo Yoneyama,
Registration No. 13610,
Sub. P. O. No. 9, Edmonton, Alberta.
Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 21st.

Your remarks have been carefully read and we can appreciate that the disposal of your property will be a matter of personal concern. However, the sale of properties to the Director, The Veterans' Land Act was carried out as a part of a policy of liquidation outlined by Ottawa on the basis of appraised values.

Your letter has been placed in our files so that your comments in regard to this sale will remain on record but we can only advise you that we are unable to consider any alternative in regard to this matter.

Yours truly,

W E Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA/EG

Rikizo's Protest

C
O
P
Y

Sub P. O. 9,
Edmonton, Alta.
June 21, 1944.

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Office of the Custodian
506 Royal Bank Building
Vancouver, B. C.

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Please note the change of my address.

Yours truly,

"R. Yoneyama"

The Custodian's Replay

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W. E. Anderson,
Farm Department.

WEA/EG