

1,689 of Defenders Captured by Japs As Garrison Fell

Ralston Presents Figures in Commons Based
Upon Reports From Nipponese Government;
Original Contingent Totalled 1,985 All Ranks

ALIENS TO LEAVE CANADA'S COASTS

(By WILLIAM MARCHINGTON.)
(Staff Writer, The Globe and Mail.)

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—Only 296 Canadians from the contingent that, with the British, made such a gallant fight to save Hong Kong must be considered dead and missing, according to a brief statement given to the House today by Defense Minister J. L. Ralston.

At the end of the question hour, Colonel Ralston rose to announce that, according to a message received directly from the Canadian Minister at Buenos Aires, Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon, and which had been relayed to him from the Argentine Legation at Tokyo, the Japanese Government said a total of 1,689 Canadians had been made prisoners.

It was explained by Colonel Ralston that the total original strength of the Canadian contingent sent to Hong Kong was 1,985, and that the difference between that total strength and the number taken prisoner was 296. He said he regretted to say that this figure must be accepted as representing those

to be regarded as dead and missing. He added that the information received today by the Government was exceedingly meagre. No names of those taken prisoner or of the casualties were yet available.

This reminder of the toll taken of Canadians at Hong Kong came in the same hour in the House that the Prime Minister announced further steps to safeguard British Columbia against possible destruction moves from Japanese residents of that Province. Mr. King said the Justice Minister had been given power to exclude any or all persons from "protected" areas, as defined under Defense of Canada Regulations. The new regulations, he added, corresponded closely to the proclamation issued by President Roosevelt last Friday, and it is immediately effective.

Prime Minister King explained to the House that he had made public the new regulation this morning. He said he did not think it advisable, in the present circumstances, to

withhold it until it could first be made known to Parliament. He thought it in the interests of law and order to make it known as early as possible so as to help allay apprehension in British Columbia.

It was stated today by Government officials that the heavy task of moving about 35,000 Japanese out of the protected areas of British Columbia was proceeding just as fast as accommodation could be secured. Able-bodied males are the

first to be moved to other places, while families must be dealt with later.

To show that the Federal Government had been alive to the gravity of the Japanese problem in British Columbia, the Prime Minister read to the House a lengthy list of Cabinet orders sanctioning definite steps taken in recent weeks.

One of these orders provided for the establishment of a volunteer Canadian-Japanese construction corps which shall be "employed within or without Canada on projects designed to assist the war effort of Canada."

This was part of a policy to make use of Japanese labor in British Columbia, to recruit for special work Japanese who may either desire to enlist voluntarily for patriotic service, or who may be employed on work projects outside the protected area of British Columbia, confined largely to the coast country.

Dollar a Day.

For the Japanese who may volunteer to serve Canada in its war effort, the formation is authorized of a Canadian-Japanese Construction Corps, which shall enlist any Japanese of suitable physical standard. Basic pay in the corps will be a dollar a day, with dependent allowances at the rate of 50 per cent of the scale allowed in the armed forces, and a gratuity on demobilization of \$2 for every month of service.

Work camps may be established for the employment of Japanese removed from the protected area of British Columbia. The works shall be definitely outside the protected area and to be of national benefit. Japanese given employment on such projects shall be paid 25 cents per hour for unskilled labor on a basis of a forty-hour week.

A second-hand ferry now on the American Pacific Coast may be brought around through the Panama Canal as a "second string" boat for the Prince Edward Island ferry service, Munitions Minister C. D. Howe told the House, answering questions from Conservative Leader R. B. Hanson as to what was being done to remedy the serious transportation problem of the island due to the crippling of the ferry Prince Edward Island.

The Minister said that at present time it would not be possible to divert any of Canada's shipyards from urgent war work to build a new ferry, and the chances to have one constructed in United States yards had been found to be nil. But Mr. Howe assured the House that as soon as possible a new boat would be built in this country.

210-017-039

149
WAR
PACIFIC
1941
HONG
KONG
CANADIAN
TROOPS
CASUALTIES