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Newspaper article, "Finds Japanese at Rohwer Colony Accept Situation Well: Ministers Say Influence of Christian Leadership Felt at Relocation Center", Newspaper microfilm collection: McGehee Times, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Finds Japanese At Rohwer Colony Accept Situation Well

Ministers Say Influence of Christian Leadership Felt At Relocation Center

The Rev. William B. Oglesby Jr., pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Helena, Ark., said that on a recent visit to the Rohwer Relocation Center, he found the Japanese there trying to make the best of what to them seems a bad bargain.

This he attributed to the influence of Christian leadership among them.

The Rev. Oglesby said he got this information from Dr. Gordon Chapman, national Protestant representative for Japanese work and a former missionary in Japan, and Dr. M. A. Hunter, chief of the social service work at the center.

The Rev. Oglesby said the evacuation of the Japanese from the West Coast was carried out without one reported instance of hostility, and this despite the fact that most of them made sacrifices of property in order to comply with the evacuation order.

The sacrifice would have been even greater, the Rev. Oglesby said he was told, had not the Christian churches in the California area co-operated with the Japanese in helping them to dispose of their property without too great a loss.

An example of this, he said, was the fact that three large hotels belonging to Japanese were now being operated by Christian denominations until such a time as they can be properly liquidated for their owners.

The Rev. Oglesby said he was told that 65 per cent of the Japanese at the relocation center are American-born, and that about 50 per cent of the Nisei-American-born are members of some Christian church.

Some of them gave up the opportunity to work at normal wage scales and their places in the society which they had made as substantial citizens, and many had good homes which they were forced to leave, some within a few days.

"At the center," he said, "the Japanese have the necessities of life, but I saw no luxuries."

Of the food furnished them, the Rev. Oglesby said he ate with them at one of the community dining halls and that although the food was substantial, if they had bacon and ham as has been rumored about the state, I saw none."

He said the fare that day consisted of rice, beans and a sort of stew.

"The food," he said, "compared with that which we used to have in Boy Scout camps."

The Rev. Oglesby said he talked with many of the Japanese at the center, most of whom speak only English, and that "they are interested in the same things we are. They talked about football games, moving picture stars and other subjects in which they are interested the same as Americans."