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CURIOUS SCENE AT THE INDIA OFFICE.

Indians Sit on the Steps to Air a Grievance.

About 40 Indians with a grievance yesterday sat down on the steps and pavement at the entrance to the India Office, Charles-street, Whitehall, and for some time defied the efforts of the officials and the police to remove them.

Their story was that they had been attracted by advertisements in American newspapers circulating in India, which stated that wages of £1 per day could be earned in Vancouver. Attracted by this, a large party of Indians booked passages by an Italian vessel. The captain attempted to land them at Buenos Ayres, intending to send them on to Vancouver. The company through their agents extracted £12 from the men, but the Argentine authorities declined to allow them to land, and the Italian shipping company brought them on to England. The unfortunate men then appealed to the India Office, and the officials undertook to pay their passage back to India.

The men demanded that the India Office should effect their entrance into Vancouver, but as Indians are, by the laws of British Columbia, prohibited from landing in that State, the India Office were unable to comply with their demands, and advised them to return on the first boat to India.

Some of the men then demanded that the India Office should give them land on their return to their homes, as compensation. It was explained that it was impossible to accede to this request.

Finally, as the men declined to go away the police were compelled forcibly to eject them from the street. Some of them returned, and others sat on the pavement at the entrance to the War Office until they were again moved on.