

CO 42/977

C O P Y.

235

Clipping from Manila Times. April 6, 1914.

MEAN TO TEST BRITISH LAWS.

Local Hindus call themselves "Religious Mission".

Would enter B.C.

Leave Manila for Nagasaki to board Chartered Steamer, and thence travel to Vancouver, There to put up a Novel Plea for Entry.

"Bearing a holy book, and styling themselves a "religious mission" about 100 Hindus will leave Manila in a few days to join a number of their nationals on the vessel they have chartered, which is now heading from Hong Kong to Nagasaki. From the Japanese port, about five hundred strong, they will shape a course for Vancouver, British Columbia, where they will put the question of the willingness of the British Officials to allow them to land, to a test.

Some time ago the TIMES told the story of the inability of the local Hindus to get away from Manila, owing, they claim, to the refusal of the Collector of Customs to issue certain papers. Then came the news of the chartering of a vessel at Hong Kong and its arrival here was eagerly expected. When it did come, there was much perturbation but the explanation has now come to hand.

It seems that the Governor of Hong Kong detained the Vessel- the name of which is not known locally- for special enquiries, but that these have been satisfactorily answered, and on March 31, the ship left the British Port for Shanghai. She carried 150 Hindus from Hong Kong and is to take on board another 200 at Shanghai, afterwards proceeding to Nagasaki.

From Manila a party of about 100 will go to Nagasaki, there to board the chartered boat and proceed to Vancouver. The Manila party has a special scheme, which they believe will sadly perplex the British Columbian Authorities. They take with them a holy book and purpose to present themselves for admission into B.C. as a "religious mission". If they are refused, they state they will at once ask that the rule be extended to include Christian Missions of all sorts.

The holy book they call "Granth Sahib" and they state that they will carry it from one to another of the six Sikh Temples in British Columbia, if they are allowed to land. They make no concealment of the fact that their self-description as a "religious mission" is a plan whereby they hope to embarrass the Vancouver Authorities. They are loyal British subjects, they claim, and they don't see why they should not be allowed the privileges granted to fellow subjects whose skins happen to be white.