

Kindly do not write of more than one subject in any one letter.

In your reply refer to No.



# MANILA INDIANS TAKE HOLY BOOK TO CANADA

## Will Try to Get in by Asserting They Are a Religious Mission

The Manila Indians who go to Japan to join the chartered Japanese steamer, Komagata Maru, which recently left Shanghai on its way to British Columbia with over 400 Indians who seek an entry into Canada, have a scheme of their own by which they expect to get by any Canadian barriers. The 100 Indians from Manila bear a holy book and propose to present themselves for admission into British Columbia as a "religious mission." If they are refused, they will at once ask, according to their statement to the Manila papers, 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.

In connection with this vexed question and the sailing of the Japanese steamer with the Indians, it is interesting to note that Sir Richard McBride, Premier of British Columbia, and the members of the House of Commons from the province, had a conference with Mr. Borden, the Canadian Prime Minister, on March 25, on the Oriental problem.

The British Columbia member asked for Government legislation excluding all Asiatics from Canada. The Imperial and International aspects of the problem were thoroughly discussed, but no definite decision was reached.

It was suggested that an Imperial Conference of the Oversea Dominions interested should be called, but the idea did not meet with the approval of the majority.

As a temporary measure, the Order in Council, excluding all laborers and artisans from British Columbia, which lapses on March 31, is likely, as already indicated, to be extended for six months, and, in the meantime, the Government will attempt to arrive at a permanent solution of the problem.

"A very difficult one," says the China Critic in recent comment, "as the International and Imperial points of view clash with the Provincial wishes and laws, just as they are doing in S. Africa and Australia."

Department of the Interior  
Canada

*Japan Advertiser,  
Tokyo,  
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