

US Immigration

Western Province December 2, 1913.

OF HINDU PROBLEM MAY BE SOLVED

H. H. Stevens, M. P., Says the
Government May Impose
Closer Restrictions.

Danger from Orientals Is that
They May Be Carriers of
Disease.

Discussing the Hindu immigration problem this morning with The Province, Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., who returned to the city on Sunday from a month's visit to Eastern Canada, said he strongly favored the imposition of an educational test on all applicants from India seeking admission to this country, as a means of solving the complicated difficulty, which now confronted the immigration authorities consequent on the recent ruling of Chief Justice Hunter.

"I believe," he remarked, "that all the present trouble could be obviated in future by the exercise of the clause in the Immigration Act, which empowers the refusal of any applicant for admission on the ground of unsuitability from a climatic, social or industrial point of view."

Turning to the hygienic aspect of the case, Mr. Stevens referred to the fact that recent investigations instituted by the United States health bureau had disclosed that the majority of Asiatics—Chinese, Japanese and Hindus—were either affected or susceptible to a certain chronic disease, which while resembling tuberculosis, differed in many respects from that dread scourge.

Have Chronic Disease.

"A peculiar feature of the insidious disease," he continued, "is that nearly every Oriental, even if not actually affected, has a tendency to act as a 'carrier' and thus the danger of transmission is greatly accentuated. The deductions made by the U. S. health scientists show that the introduction of men afflicted with a chronic ailment of this nature tends to deteriorate the white races with whom they associate in the same way as the negroes in the southern states who brought the hook worm into that country lowered the standard of vitality among the occidentals there. In view of this menace from an hygienic standpoint I am going to urge the Dominion to augment the present health regulations and make them much more rigorous. I feel confident that this will aid materially in the solution of the Oriental immigration problem."

"I have no doubt," added Mr. Stevens, "that the Dominion authorities are now aroused to a keen sense of the importance of the recent change made by the adverse ruling of Chief Justice Hunter regarding the powers of immigration officials under the orders in council passed at Ottawa, and will take up and grapple with the issue without delay and arrive at a satisfactory solution of the whole involved problem."

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