

US Immigration

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EXCLUSION BY RACE.

If the Dominion Government should put into direct operation the provision of the Immigration law which permits the department to exclude immigrants of undesirable races the country would do in a straightforward and candid way what it has been trying to do by a subterfuge. Nor would Canada stand alone among British Dominions. The Parliament of South Africa at the last session passed the Immigration Restriction Act which gives the government power to exclude persons or classes of persons who are deemed by the Minister "on economic grounds, or on account of standards or habits of life, to be unsuited to the requirements of the Union or to any particular province thereof." It is pointed out that there is no statutory discrimination against Hindus or other Asiatics by name, though there is no attempt to conceal the purpose of the legislation. It would be necessary to be more definite in the regulations should action be taken to enforce the provision.

South Africa has had little trouble over the exclusion of Hindus. A few have been admitted into Natal where white people do not work. But those who have settled in Natal may not remove to other provinces. The Transvaal and Orange Free State before the war and afterwards excluded Hindus, while Cape Colony had an education clause under which very few could gain admittance. When the union went into effect it became necessary to protect these provinces from the Natal Indians, and the law was passed prohibiting such migration. It has, however, been found necessary to enact a general law giving the immigration department absolute power to exclude. It is true that this law also gives the government power to admit natives of India, but the purpose is exclusion.

The troubles in South Africa have not arisen from this law or any previous exclusion legislation. It grows out of the treatment of Hindus now in the country. Such troubles would be sure to follow any considerable immigration. We shall get along a great deal better with our fellow subjects in India if they remain at home than if they come to this country.

HINDU QUESTION BEFORE CABINET

Federal Ministers Again Consider Question of Oriental Immigration — Will Take Definite Action.

Special to the News-Advertiser.

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—The Cabinet Council considered again today, as it has for several days this week, the Hindu question, though at the close Premier Borden would make no statement and presumably no official action will be taken until the arrival of Judge Hunter's written decision. It has been received that it has been forwarded from the Coast.

Telegrams have been exchanged between Sir Richard McBride and Premier Borden and the government is thoroughly conversant with the situation.

It is stated authoritatively that some definite action will be taken at once, as the Cabinet realizes that as matters stand now there is nothing to prevent a whole shipload of Hindus entering British Columbia, precipitating possibly an Imperial crisis.

Delicate Subject.

In view of the troubles in both South Africa and India at the present time, the situation is an exceedingly delicate one to handle and the government is anxious to find, if possible, a permanent solution of this vexatious problem.

It is realized that the regulations refusing entrance to all natives who do not come by direct steamship line is, after all, a makeshift, and that a sounder policy must be adopted.

The first steps will likely be to repeal the present orders-in-council, which have been declared ultra vires, and to pass new ones, which will stand.

May Use Exclusion Clause.

The government may avail itself of the clause in the Immigration Act which allows the government, by order-in-council, to exclude any class for a specified time.

DOMINION CAN EXCLUDE HINDUS

Clause in the Immigration Act States That Immigrants Belonging to Race Deemed Unsuited May Be Kept Out.

SCHEME TO COLONIZE SUDAN WITH INDIANS

Immediate Creation of Small Commission of Representatives of Governments Concerned Is Suggested.

By News-Advertiser Licensed Wire.

Ottawa, Dec. 5.—The Immigration Act contains a clause by the application of which it is claimed Hindus would be totally excluded from Canada, but in view of the Imperial aspects of the question it has never been invoked by the Dominion and probably would be without the consent of the British government, lest trouble in India be precipitated.

The clause in question provides that by order-in-council the government may "prohibit for a stated period or permanently the landing in Canada or the landing at any specified point of entry of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character."

If the provision was invoked it would be possible to exclude any race by reason of congested labor conditions and without specifying the Hindus. However, this would be a drastic procedure and the government hesitates to take it.

The situation at present is that the test of the judgment of Mr. Justice Hunter is being awaited and when it arrives the Minister of Justice will advise the Cabinet as to what procedure is desirable.

Carefully Watched.

London, Dec. 3.—Developments in the Hindu question in British Columbia are being carefully watched in official quarters here. It is realized that the judgment of Chief Justice Hunter of British Columbia may tend to create a new difficulty for India and Imperial authorities in assuaging the opinion of natives in India, who look to the King to secure them equal rights in all parts of his dominions.

The most hopeful solution for South Africa, perhaps also for British Columbia, is now under consideration by the Imperial and Indian executives. It is to initiate a colonization scheme of the Sudan for Indians who refuse to submit to the condition which the Dominion government deems necessary.

South African journals suggest the immediate creation of a small commission of representatives of the governments concerned to inquire and submit definite proposals for the removal and colonization elsewhere of British Indians from the British Dominions.