

...the Imperial, who knows how to fix me up; but give me the open road, the vastness and silence of the prairies for free and happy breathing."

## Letters to Editor

### Asiatic Immigration.

To the Editor of The Montreal Star:

Sir,—The Canadian public owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. F. Andrews for his presentation of the case against the removal of the restrictions against Sikh immigration appearing in last Saturday's Star. Mr. Andrews' reasons are presumably the best reasons which can be offered for the action of British Columbia, and thus demonstrate how utterly unreasonable and untenable the position of the Pacific province is in this respect. Mr. Andrews thinks that if a horde of Hindus numbering thousands were dumped upon the wharves of Halifax, St. John, Montreal or Toronto, the people of Eastern Canada would view the question differently, and would seek to exclude them. This may possibly be so, yet we have seen hordes of Italians, Russian Jews, Syrians, Poles and other peoples; many of whom were greatly inferior to the Sikhs in morale and physique, dumped among us, and have offered no protest. Instead, we have put them to work among us, and have seen thousands of them—at least in the second generation—develop into sturdy, good Canadians. Then again, no one, not even the Orientals themselves, wish to have all immigration restrictions removed. Both the Hindus and Japanese have agreed to limit the number who shall come into this country in a given time. Doubtless China, under her new Government, will be willing to do the same, so Mr. Andrews' nightmare of half the laboring class of China and several millions of Hindus descending like a wolf on the devoted fold of British Columbia is seen to have as little foundation in fact as nightmares generally have. The immediate question before the Canadian people has no reference to any grafters who are seeking to gain possession of the natural products of British Columbia through the labor of men, "but one degree removed from negro slavery." It has reference to the admission of a healthy, industrious, dignified class of men, who are fully prepared to do the rough, clearing work of the country, and to leave the superior class of work to white labor; who are quite anxious to establish homes, raise children, and fill schools and churches and who have valuable lessons to teach us in responsibility to the Empire. There is no parallel which can be justly drawn between the forced importation of the negroes into the Southern States and the admission of the Sikhs to a chance of making their way in Canada.

It is, however, when Mr. Andrews puts manship. This really means that British Columbian people do not intend to have the Sikhs, "not even if the British Government and King George himself wished it," that he shows his capacity for statesmanship. This really means that British Columbia is ready to secede from the Empire if her wishes are over-ridden in this matter. It would be an interesting study to find out how long she would retain her Anglo-Saxon civilization and remain a "white man's country" if she did so. Without the backing of the Empire, British Columbia would soon be a Japanese colony. With the strength of the Empire at her back, and using the good class of Asiatic labor which is offered her, she cannot but continue a white man's country, with singularly fine opportunities of development. The "serious mis-

take" was that made by the Liberal Government in lending too ready an ear to British Columbia's appeal to "think provincially" instead of "Imperially," and, although a supporter of the late Government, I cannot help congratulating Mr. Borden upon his apparent intention to right some of the wrongs from which our Indian fellow subjects suffer. Mr. Andrews is truly noble and self-sacrificing when he offers to go to fight to maintain Britain's position in India—or is it to send some one else to do so? What is wanted, however, is not a few hundred young men who will go and kill or be killed for the Empire in Asia, but a willingness on the part of the Province of British Columbia and the Canadian Government to face the present situation calmly, and think it out clearly and dispassionately. The fact that the Sikh has fought for the Empire, and so indirectly for British Columbia, cannot be ignored, and the other fact that he is a sturdy,

good-humored, worthy man, and is perfectly willing to come in limited numbers and under wise restrictions, is also certainly worthy of consideration. Some such regulation as that recently suggested by Mr. Lighthall, of this city, is certainly in order. It certainly seems to the writer that Sikh and all other Asiatic immigration is a challenge to the white races to exhibit their old ability of leadership. Let us white men, instead of being satisfied with being hewers of wood and drawers of water, take the direction of labor, and officer the coming army of Asiatic labor, as our fathers did the military forces of Asia.

Such legislation as that brought about by British Columbia cannot be permanently effective in keeping out the flood, but the flood can be kept to the capacity of a manageable stream, and may be directed into beneficent channels by enlightened regulation.

JAS. W. ROCH.