

Re Hindu Immigration

[055]



House of Commons

OTTAWA

"CLIPPINGS FROM THE CANADIAN GAZETTE" July 9th. 1914.

THE Hindus have lost their case in the law courts of British Columbia, and it is established that the British North America Act does give Canada power to restrict the admission of and even exclude British
AN GAZETTE. [JULY 9, 1914.]

subjects. We do not know on what other basis the business of the self-governing States of the British Empire could be conducted. When the Canadian authorities deem Canada unsuited to certain classes of Englishmen they put restrictions upon them; how can India expect to receive better treatment than the Motherland? If the Indian authorities find it necessary in the interests of India to exclude certain classes of Canadians or, indeed, all Canadians, they will, we assume, exclude them. It is a matter for them to decide. In that case the Canadian missionary societies would, we suppose, turn their benevolent efforts elsewhere.

MR. H. H. STEVENS, M.P. for Vancouver, has, we see, had something to say on this question of British Indian immigration into Canada. He says:

"I am convinced that the placing of the control of immigration to this country in the hands of the Indian Government would offer the best solution of the difficulties which are now being experienced. The regulations would be made to apply to settlers only, of whom only a certain number would be allowed in each year."

We gather from Mr. Stevens that an arrangement on some such lines as these is now under discussion between the authorities in Ottawa, London, and India.

MEANWHILE the *Vancouver Province* draws a very proper moral from these difficulties surrounding Oriental immigration into Canada. Mr. Stevens proposes at the next session of the Dominion Parliament to bring forward a measure giving power to exclude from Canada all races coming from south of the 50th parallel within certain prescribed limits, which would include Japan, China, and India; and he indicates that his proposal finds favour at Ottawa. Mr. Stevens would have to amend his definition of the area unless he means to admit Chinese from parts of Manchuria. But, as the *Province* points out, any arrangement of this kind must rest upon the sea power of Great Britain, to which as yet Canada gives no support.

If a country believes in exclusion it must make up its mind to accept the responsibility which goes with an exclusion policy. . . . If the white races believe they can take great spaces of this world and absolutely debar all men not of their own colour from entry therein merely because those men may be able to live cheaper than they can, they must be sensible and logical about it. Sooner or later this question, festering on either side of the Pacific, will break out into open sores. There is a great opportunity for statesmanship. It cannot be tackled in Asia only. It must be tackled here as well, and the truth insisted upon. The real reason for exclusion is that the standard of our civilisation must not be lowered by cheap labour. That is all there is to it. Then labour must accept the facts manfully, and face the logical result boldly. It will be bad enough one day to have the industrial competition of Asia to meet without the added problem of immigration.

And to tackle it wisely and firmly Canada must be able to speak with a power and self-respect which is denied her in her present dependence upon the British taxpayer.