

DESIRE REMOVAL OF EMBARGO ON HINDUS

Colonial Secretary's Hint as
Contained in Advice to
Australia.

H. H. Stevens, M. P., Thinks
Hindus' Destinies Can Not
Be Worked Out Here.

Economic and Industrial Rea-
sons Against Influx of
Asiatics.

At Same Time He Pays Tribute
to Splendid Work of In-
dians for Empire.

London, Dec. 7.—The Morning Post's Sydney correspondent says that Colonial Secretary Harcourt has answered the Australian Government's communications relating to the entrance of Indians into the British Dominions stating that the support offered the Empire by the princes and people of India shows a strong war feeling in India, and indicates that the embargo against immigration of Indian natives to Canada and Australia should be removed.

Among the papers forwarded by Mr. Harcourt is the statement made by Lord Hardinge, viceroy of India, at the opening of the Legislative Council in September, where it is stated that it has been decided to negotiate with the colonial governments, they with strong Imperial instincts "will meet us in no niggardly spirit, provided we on our side, show a readiness to meet them half way."

Unequivocal opposition to removal of the barriers against immigration from India, as suggested by Colonial Secretary Harcourt, was expressed by Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., in an interview with The Province this morning. Mr. Stevens returned yesterday morning from Ottawa, where he has been spending a few weeks taking up questions of local interest with the Dominion authorities.

"Canada's and British Columbia's opposition to indiscriminate immigration of Asiatics," he declared, "is not based on any narrow prejudice, but on sound economic and industrial reasons. It is not a question of whether or not Oriental civilization is good or bad, but simply that it is distinct in every essential feature from the civilization represented in our national life. The admission of large numbers of the natives of India to this country would inevitably result in such drastic changes in the basic institutions of our national life as to seriously affect the continuance of the standards of living that have been developed during the past centuries."

"I do not think," he continued, "that the destinies of India can be worked out by immigration to Canada. There seems to me to be ample scope for their influence and expansion on the hinterlands of India, which still remain undeveloped to a great extent, or in similar tropical climes under British rule. Aside from a few agitators, who are frankly disloyal and antagonistic to the Empire, the great mass of the people of India are quite indifferent to the question of emigration to Canada. Their recent splendid response to the call for men to help fight the British Empire's battles in Europe was a remarkable demonstration of the fact that their loyalty has been unimpaired by the opposition to their settlement in Canada and other overseas dominions."

"In this connection it is interesting to note that since the war began the vexatious question of Hindu immigration, so far as this province is concerned, is becoming adjusted to some extent by natural economic causes. The closing of the mills and other similar avenues of labor has resulted in the throwing out of employment of hundreds of the natives of India. A large proportion of the laborers have already returned to their native land, where living is cheap, and where a few dollars go a long way. The accommodation on the vessels plying between the Pacific coast and the Orient has been taxed every trip since the war first started as a result of the wholesale exodus by the industrial depression and the bookings of Asiatic tickets on the next boats to leave also show the same tendency."

Continue Public Work.

Preliminary work on the proposed government grain elevator is to be started as soon as the contractors have assembled their equipment, Mr. Stevens said. Operations on the main structure will have to be deferred, he explained, until the work on the government dock, on the site of which the plant is to be erected, has been sufficiently advanced to allow of the two contracts being proceeded with simultaneously. Messrs. Barnet & McQueen, the contractors on the elevator, which will have a capacity of 1,300,000 bushels and will cost \$690,000, have recently finished the construction of two similar plants at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. As an instance of the popularity of government owned and conducted grain elevators, Mr. Stevens mentioned that each of the two plants had already received a million bushels of grain.

The different public works already under way in Vancouver are to be continued, announced Mr. Stevens, adding that this city was favored in that respect as in other cities in the Dominion, all works had been dropped pending an adjustment of the financial markets. At the present time the government has under construction at Vancouver the big dock on Burrard Inlet, between Salsbury and Commercial drives, a new immigration shed, a postal station in Mount Pleasant, and is engaged in extensive harbor improvement operations. Mr. Stevens said he hoped that arrangements would be made for a start early next year on the proposed drill hall in Grandview and the postal station for the East End of the city.

Purchase of B. C. Goods.

The reference to the renewed protests of the B. C. Manufacturers' Association about the reported placing of orders for military supplies with eastern firms, Mr. Stevens said that he had taken up the question originally with the Dominion authorities while in Ottawa and that he had received definite assurance that so far

as possible, having regard to the capacity of local firms for furnishing goods in sufficiently large quantities, preference would be shown to British Columbia manufactured goods. This province, he was promised, would be given a fair share of the large orders for goods and supplies required for other parts of the Dominion.