

# RAHIM SUGGESTED THE MURDERS SAY WITNESSES

November 14, 1919  
Hindu Socialist Leader Com-  
mitted for Trial on Grave  
Charge.

Thakar Singh Declares that  
Rahim Said "Go Kill  
Hopkinson."

Mr. H. H. Stevens Was Re-  
ferred to as Dangerous to  
"the Movement."

Say that Murders Were Ex-  
plained in Parable Told  
in Temple.

H. Rahim, the Hindu Socialist lead-  
er, was committed for trial yesterday  
afternoon by Magistrate Shaw in the  
Police Court, after he had heard the  
evidence for the prosecution in the  
charge against him of counselling

murder. Sohan Lal was committed  
earlier in the week on the same  
charge. Three more East Indians will  
be arraigned next week.

The evidence was similar to that  
given at the preliminary hearing of  
Sohan Lal. It was a recitation of al-  
leged inflammatory speeches made in  
the meetings held in the basement of  
the Sikh Temple last year and this  
summer. Rahim, it was declared, had  
urged that the immigration authori-  
ties and the "native dogs" who were  
assisting them in securing information  
should be put out of the way.

Natha Singh, the first witness call-  
ed, said that he was well acquainted  
with the accused man. He had at-  
tended a meeting held in the Sikh  
Temple building on Second avenue on  
a Saturday night in June, when Rahim  
occupied the chair. Sohan Lal, he  
said, had addressed the meeting, and  
had stated that Superintendent of Im-  
migration Malcolm R. J. Reid, In-  
spector Hopkinson, Bela Singh, Ba-  
boo Singh and Ganga Ram should be  
killed.

"What were his exact words?" ask-  
ed Crown Prosecutor J. K. Kennedy.

"Reid, Hopkinson, Bela Singh, Ba-  
boo Singh and Ganga Ram, these are  
the dogs we should kill," replied the  
witness.

## Under Cross-examination.

Mr. George E. McCrossan, who re-  
placed Mr. E. M. N. Woods as coun-  
sel for Rahim, objected to the evi-  
dence going in as part of a charge  
against Rahim, unless the alleged  
statement was connected with the ac-  
cused man.

"Oh, we will connect the statement  
with Rahim all right," returned Mr.  
Kennedy, who asked if the accused  
were present at the time.

Witness—Yes, Rahim rose and said:  
"What Sohan Lal has said is correct,  
and until this has been done our work  
can not go on."

Continuing his story, Natha Singh  
said that Rahim had declared that Mr.  
Hopkinson and Bela Singh were re-  
sponsible for the arrest and detention  
of Balwant Singh, the priest, and

others at the boundary line, and that  
he himself had been locked up on sev-  
eral occasions, and that he felt like  
"breaking their faces."

Mr. McCrossan cross-examined the  
witness at considerable length regard-  
ing his sojourn in British Columbia,  
and in an effort to get him to give  
definite dates for the meetings which  
he declared he had attended.

Ganga Ram, called by the Hindus  
one of the "little immigration dogs,"  
declared that he had been present at  
a meeting last year in the temple  
when the accused man had declared:  
"There is a man who knows all our  
secret information. (Mr. Hopkinson).  
Some of you go after him and get  
him."

"There are some native dogs giving  
information. We have to fix them be-  
fore we take any further steps," is an-  
other statement which Ganga Ram  
attributes to the accused.

## Recites a Parable.

In picturesque language the wit-  
ness related a parable which Mit  
Singh, one of the men in custody on  
the same charge on which Rahim  
was arraigned, had detailed in the  
temple. It was to the effect that a  
man undertook to climb a tree after  
some luscious fruit. He was about  
to reach out his hand for it, when he  
saw a poisonous snake on the branch.  
He drew back in fear and was about  
to descend when he saw another snake  
curled at the foot of the tree. He  
was between two dangers. He reach-  
ed out and caught the snake above  
him and crushed its head against the  
limb. Then he was able to enjoy his  
fruit and the snake on the ground,  
seeing its mate destroyed, fled.

This parable, Ganga Ram said, was  
explained by the accused, who said  
that the head of the snake here, the  
immigration authorities, must be  
crushed and then the Hindus could  
go back to enjoy their "fruits" in In-  
dia. The other snake, seeing the fate  
of its companion, would act as the  
snake in the story.

The witness was proceeding to tell  
of a meeting which he had attended  
at Victoria where, he said, Rahim

had referred to Mr. H. H. Stevens,  
M. P., as a man who was against the  
"movement," and must be stopped,  
when Mr. McCrossan objected on the  
grounds that the evidence was a re-  
cital of alleged statements made out-  
side of the jurisdiction of the court.  
His contention was upheld.

Bhagatt Singh also had attended a  
meeting at which he said murderous  
suggestions were made by the ac-  
cused. Rahim he said, had addressed  
the gathering, saying: "Whatever we  
say here, Baboo Singh, Bela Singh,  
Ganga Ram, Hopkinson and Reid,  
they will tell. We had better kill  
them right off and get rid of them."

## Was in Sikh Temple.

Mr. McCrossan endeavored to get the  
witness to fix a date upon which the  
alleged statements were made, but the  
witness was unable to definitely state  
the exact time, but was certain that  
it was in the Sikh temple that Rahim  
had made the suggestion.

He was cross-examined regarding  
the shooting of Bhag Singh in the  
temple, the charge on which Bela  
Singh is being tried at the Assize  
Court. He finally asked: "Is this the  
trial of Bela Singh or Rahim?" His  
objection to answering questions re-  
garding the evidence he is to give in  
a higher court was sustained by Mag-  
istrate Shaw, and the examination  
ended.

Thakar Singh was positive he had  
heard Rahim say: "Go kill Mr. Hop-  
kinson. He has done wrong." He  
said he had also heard Mr. Reid's  
name and those of several Hindus  
used as well in the same connection.  
Sohan Lal, the witness said, had re-  
marked at the time that what Rahim  
had said was right.

Mr. Crossan reserved his defence  
and Rahim was committed.

Bela Singh was present in the court,  
but was not called upon to give evi-  
dence, but watched the proceedings  
carefully.

Rahim sat beside his counsel in-  
structing him during cross-examina-  
tion and carefully noting the state-  
ments of witnesses. He looks much  
older than he did before his arrest  
several weeks ago. His glossy black

hair, streaked with grey, is now al-  
most white, while the stubble which  
covered his face did not show any  
trace of black.