

for information N.H. STEVENS, ESQ., M.P., Vancouver, B.C.

DEC 24 1913

VANCOUVER, B.C.

3417, 2nd. Ave. West,
Vancouver, B.C.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dec. 20th. 1913.

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The Dominion Inspector of Immigrants,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Reid.

In re Immigration of Hindus to Canada - I do not think that bad legislation of exclusion is either politic or just. As to their right to enter I think there can be no question. If we as foreigners can justify our entrance into India in the days of Queen Elizabeth simply for the purposes of gain, surely the people of India who come to us not as foreigners but as fellow-subjects should have the right of entry. If for economic or racial reasons their admission be thought inexpedient then our British sense of fairplay - our civilization - our Christian sentiment should dictate some nobler plan than simple exclusion. When we went to India, caste rules would not allow her people to go abroad, to embark on the high seas involved a forfeiture of caste rights and privileges. We have taught them the absurdity of their notions. We have liquified the congealed mass and true to its laws, the liquid mass must flow and continue to flow. It is up to us to direct the current. A few days ago it was announced in connection with the South African tangle, that steps would probably be taken to direct the East Indian to the Soudan. Whether the Soudan will present inducements sufficiently strong to cause the Indian to enter, has yet to be proved; but, I have no doubt that the solution of this present pressing problem is to be found in some such way as that proposed. Privately and publicly since becoming acquainted with conditions in B.C. during this year, I have advocated the ...

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selection of suitable sparsely settled territories under our own flag for the settlement of these people, our fellow-subjects. North Australia, British Guiana, and Br. Honduras have been before my mind - particularly Honduras. I am reminded that an attempt has been made to direct these people to Honduras and that it has proved a failure. I think another trial might be made, not to induce those now in Canada to emigrate to Honduras or elsewhere (such an attempt would be in vain as the prospects here of accumulating are so bright) but to influence Hindus at home who are planning to go abroad. To succeed in such a movement, the Imperial Government, through the Provincial, would have to deal generously in the initial stages. Let a few hundred square miles of territory be selected, having due regard to health, fertility of soil, water supply, proximity of market, etc., etc.; as, at the outset, there would be many discouragements, some real, many imaginary, it would be important to have some preparatory work done. The block should be surveyed with parallel main roads two miles apart. If a lot containing 40 acres, a mile in depth, was allotted to each family, 16 families could be placed on each side of a road within a mile, allowing a frontage of 300 ft. On 2 miles of road, 64 families could be placed. In the centre, a lot or two could be reserved for a school, a Hall for general meetings, a Church, etc., etc. Such a district would form an Indian village to which time honoured methods of village government might be introduced with advantage.

To afford shelter on arrival, a suitable site should be

selected conveniently near the lands to be occupied, and temporary structures erected sufficient for the accommodation of as many as might arrive within 3 months, for during that time they could provide shacks for themselves. The establishment of a supply store might also be necessary where provisions etc. could be obtained at reasonable prices and in some cases on ~~credit~~ credit. A portable sawmill would enable them to provide frame houses to be set on posts or pillar trees with roofs of grass or palm leaves, and walls of wattle work which would be inexpensive. A mud shanty with no ventilation would in the rainy season be damp and unhealthy. If lots were about the size suggested with say 30 families to a mile schools could be placed two miles apart with a lot or two reserved for the purpose and on which a hall for general purposes could be built when required and a place or places of worship - there too accommodation could be found for any subordinate Government servant.

The cost of survey, roads, the temporary shelter, school, moveable sawmill, etc., might be placed on lands which are now valueless. One pound sterling per acre should not be considered excessive, yet for every two miles of road as calculated for a school district, this would yield \$12,288.00 and this amount should be collected in 5 instalments extending over five years, the first being made payable at the end of the second year: i.e. at the close of the 6th. year the cost of land would be fully met - but till that date, we presume, no taxes would be levied.

Let the Government as far as possible, select subordinate officers from among the East Indians themselves. To divert

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the present trend to British Columbia, it would probably be politic possibly necessary, to select one or two of the trusted, capable, progressive Hindus now resident here, to pay such a liberal salary and send them to the Panjab under instructions etc., and the same to aid in the settlement of the people on their arrival. The importance of having some of their country people in responsible positions can hardly be over estimated. It would be an advantage also to have a score of families from say Trinidad where during 5 years of indenture under skilled agriculturists, a fair training has been given. The offer of a free passage might be sufficient to induce some to make a trial. Farming conditions in Trinidad would be similar to those in Honduras.

Perhaps some such course as I have here outlined might help to solve our present very difficult problem.

Apologising for the length of this letter, I am, dear Sir,

Yrs. faithfully,

K.J.Grant.

3417, 2nd. Ave.W.,

Vancouver, Dec.20/13.

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