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RICHARD S. FORD,  
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1914.

## THE HINDU QUESTION.

The actively seditious among the Hindu residents of Vancouver are calling for volunteers to go back to India and make Canada's refusal to permit East Indian laborers to settle in this Dominion the basis of a campaign, among the native races of Hindustan, against British rule in that dependency. This appeal, too, is meeting with some success, apparently, and little doubt exists that a few of the more violent spirits, at least, who profess to represent, in their heated utterances, the sentiments of their countrymen will return to the land of their birth with the intention of stirring up an agitation against the administration in India. That this handful of hot-heads will make much impression upon the hundreds of millions of people in that part of the empire is doubtful. But even if they did succeed in greatly increasing the unrest there and in creating a crisis it is difficult to see that any blame could rest with the government and people of Canada. That the people of this Dominion would regret any outbreak of trouble in India, cannot be questioned and they would especially lament the fact that any action of theirs or of their authorities should be indirectly and remotely the cause of danger or embarrassment to British rule in that country. But in justice to themselves, to their descendants, to the race and to the true interests of the empire there is no other course for them to adopt than to exclude a class of immigration, which would begin with demoralizing our labor conditions and, if unrestricted, would end by making this province, at least, a part of Aida, to all intents and purposes.

We cannot allow that; we cannot afford to impair our own security

In addition to this the government of Great Britain allows such men as Kier-Hardie to preach sedition to the Indians themselves. What can be expected from such a course as that pursued towards a people who for thousands of years have known no kind of government save that of tyranny; whose most remote traditions tell nothing of any rule except of that by the sword; who have ever been kept in subjection by armies and at the present moment owe their obedience to British law because of the terror of the military and because of that alone.

It is the encouragement which liberal Britain has been giving and is continuing to give to the aspirations of the natives that will lose her the great country which was won by the policy of Pitt and the genius for command and for organization of Clive and Hastings. If India is to be lost to the empire it will not be the refusal of Canada or of any other of the overseas dominions to open its doors to a few hundred or a few thousand or for that matter a few hundred thousand coolies from Calcutta or Bombay, that will be the cause. The fault will lie with the British people themselves and their absurd attempt to instil into minds which cannot comprehend them, the ideas of government and freedom which have been the slow growth of ages among ourselves.

## IN ALLIANCE WITH LIQUOR

The defeat of the  
recent provincial  
was a victory  
—the  
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We cannot allow that; we cannot afford to imperil our own security, our own existence as a white country, to avert unrest in India. Besides no matter what we did, how widely we threw open the doors of our Dominion to the entry of the Hindus, it would not prevent or diminish discontent in Hindustan. It is absurd to say it would, or to issue warnings to us here to be careful of Hindu feelings lest we help to provoke another mutiny. If there is to be an uprising in India, and some well informed Englishmen who have studied the question at close quarters seem to think there is, it will occur uninfluenced by anything we may do or may leave undone.

In the circumstances it would be ridiculous for us to impair the character of our population—since it would be useless to do so. We should simply, by encouraging Hindu settlement here, be sharing the trouble with India instead of averting it. And this, it seems to us, would be the height of folly. And if, as some predict, Great Britain lost India in the second or third generation from now, with what contempt our posterity in this country would have reason to regard a short-sighted course, which had burdened them with a population they could not assimilate and for whom our standards of morality and ideas of free government had no meaning.

Nor must we forget that in the event of trouble in India, of perhaps a second mutiny, which might result in the loss of the dependency to the empire, the responsibility will lie chiefly with a large and influential class of the British people themselves. As Kipling, the poet, and more acute observers than Kipling, even, have not wearied, during some years now, of pointing out, the democracy of Britain have failed to perceive that the Indian people will never, will not, at least, for generations to come, be able to understand our Western ideas of personal liberty and representative government; and that by the policy of associating them to the government the shortest cut is being taken to organizing rebellion against British authority.