

2-2-12

AGAINST ADMISSION OF HINDU WOMEN

Political Equality League Votes Against
Resolution—Rev. A. Stevenson
Condemns Hindu Labor

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try by the capitalists who wanted cheap labor, and as a result their own people were kept out of work while the Chinese and Hindus were employed. Such cheap employees brought in big profits to the employer, as compared with white labor. He further claimed that Dr. Sundar Singh had been trying to show that the Hindu had proved that an European could live much cheaper than he did, but he did not think that this was an accepted idea. It was more to be desired that the Hindu should rise to the European standards than that the European should lower himself to his. There were 106,000 white men in this country living in out of way districts without their wives and families, and nothing was said about them. He prophesied that in the course of time, should the present influx of "foreigners" continue, they would have the same problem to face as that of the negro in the United States.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Sivertz, other speakers being Mr. Todd, Mrs. Willie and Mr. Martin.

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MR. STEVENS, M. P.,
STATES POSITION

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Mr. Stevens informed the deputation that he was absolutely and irrevocably opposed to any removal of the present immigration restrictions affecting Hindus, as well as other Orientals, and was prepared to support measures to make these restrictions even more pronounced.

Wives and Negatives Reso- lution of Acceptance

Mr. R. W. Clarke's resolution that the Dominion government be petitioned to allow the Hindus at present in this province to bring in their wives and families was negatived by a large majority at a well attended public meeting last night at the Friends' Hall. Comparatively little time was devoted to discussion of the specific object of the motion, most of the speakers digressing to the larger question of Oriental immigration, and its effect on white labor.

The very Rev. Dean Doull in opening the meeting from the chair pointed out that this was no provincial question since British Columbia was the gate through which Asiatics reached the Dominion. It was an imperial question, and they owed it to their fellow subjects of the Empire to consider their welfare. It was even more than that; it was a question between man and man, and of the fundamental rights of their brother men.

Mrs. Gordon pointed out that a man to be seen at his best must be surrounded by his wife and family. India was over-populated; the least deviation in climatic conditions caused thousands to starve; therefore, they had every reason to come here. The Hindu was desirable as a citizen; he was industrious, and law-abiding. Vast areas of the interior of the province failed to be developed owing to lack of labor. It was impossible to get sober white labor at any rate after the first pay day. White men would not stay on the farm. Why should there be any discrimination between British subjects? Both sides manipulated this subject to capture labor votes at elections. The economic view was simply selfishness. They should remember that no man was "common or unclean."

Mr. Sherk said that he was there to represent labor. There were starving white people here in this very city. Charity should begin at home. The young men were many of them condemn-

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The B.C. Press Clipping Bureau
The British Columbian
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B. C. PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA COLONIST.

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Mr. Beaumont Boggs objected to the
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The Rev. W. Stevenson endorsed all
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The Rev. W. Stevenson endorsed all Mrs. Gordon's principles, but could not adopt her inferences. If sentiment was to settle the question it was settled already. Let them beware in their zeal for justice to the Hindu that they did not do their white brother an injustice. The Hindu wife was not excluded; she had to show the possession of \$200.

Mr. Hall—"Indians must travel on a through continuous ticket, which no steamship company issues." The Rev. Mr. Stevenson, continuing, contended that Canada like any other part of the Empire had a right to say who should or should not come in. Thousands of Englishmen had been deported from Halifax as undesirables. They did not want polygamy in their midst. The Chinese were practising it already. The Chinese bought and sold children in this city.

Dr. Donald claimed to speak with some knowledge of the Sikh as he had been medical officer to a Sikh regiment, and they were magnificent soldiers, who had served well all over the world. There was no doubt that it was impossible to obtain a continuous passage from India.

Mr. Martin said there was no doubt that the Hindu was brought in to bring down the price of labor.

Possible Results of Admission

Mr. Frank Andrews only desired not to hand down to descendants a gigantic problem such as the United States has to face in their Southern States, a problem which staggered the wit of man to solve. Let the wives in, and in a few years no one could tell the results. Either Japan or China, if emigration was unrestricted, would flood the country. They all knew of the high wages paid here, and would all try to come. White peoples' children, of whatever race could be put through the schools, and made into Canadians; not so with the Hindus or other Asiatics.

Mr. F. Webb considered that by passing this resolution they would be endorsing polygamy in their midst. Besides they had no right to split up Hindu family life and leave one wife in India and bring another one here. That was not morality.

Mr. H. Hall reminded his audience that socialism admitted no bar of color. All Socialists of whatever race were brothers and their wives their sisters.

The Rev. W. Stevenson at the close pleaded for justice to the white brother in the land. His standard of living was the evolution of 2,000 years. He could not be expected to lower it to that of the Asiatic.

After the vote which emphatically negatived the resolution, Mr. R. W. Clarke moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the meeting then closed.

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SEES DANGER FOR EMPIRE

If Canadians Persist in Barring Hindus.

Dr. John Wilkie of India Says Everything Possible Should be Done to Hold India—Believes Hindus Good Citizens.

By Journal Leased Wire.

Toronto, Jan. 17.—"We're playing today on top of a powder magazine, which at any moment may blow up and scatter us to the winds."

In an address to the Women's Home Missionary Society of St. Andrew's church, Carleton street church, yesterday, Dr. John Wilkie, of India, used the foregoing figurative phrase in commenting upon the Canadian Government's policy in the matter of the immigration of Sikhs to Canada.

Dr. Wilkie seemed surprised at the policy of excluding the Sikh women from Canada and he presaged the fall of the British Empire if such a policy were continued.

"Anything that tends to sever the bond that holds India as a part of the British Empire should be taken seriously," said Dr. Wilkie. "The bond holding India to-day is the confidence the Hindu has in British fair play and justice. The standing army of 200,000 is made up mainly of stalwart Sikhs, who, if they were to rise up to-morrow, could sweep us out of the land (India)."

"We have only two courses open to us: One is to do nothing, and children."