

A COMING ISSUE.

Whether the journey by which three Hindus reached Victoria from India was continuous within the meaning of the immigration regulations is a question which may require judicial interpretation. Even if it should be determined that this journey is not continuous the issue is liable to arise again with some modifications as other methods of reaching Canada from India are discovered. Sooner or later direct sailings from a port in India to Vancouver may be expected. The present method of exclusion of the people of India cannot be permanent. It is not a candid and straightforward system such as a British country might be expected to use. The best excuse for it seems to be that it prevents the migration of Indian people to this country without suggesting that they are undesirable immigrants. But the exact fact and the real reason for the direct journey clause is that our fellow citizens of India were not considered desirable settlers when this regulation was passed. The purpose was to exclude them and not to induce them to come by a continuous journey.

It is clear that this expedient must be only temporary. Sooner or later Canada must declare frankly whether Hindus are to be admitted or excluded. The nature of their journey cannot always be the controlling element. It may be necessary to retain the continuous journey regulation in order to deal with persons coming from a country beyond the control of the Indian government. But the day is coming when legislation or regulations must be based on the type of people themselves and not on the incidents of their journey. The question is serious and practical, and our dealings with it must be cleared of subterfuge. This is the issue that certain keen Hindu leaders are trying to force upon this country, and which this country must accept.

It is not worth while to discuss Hindu immigration as if it were merely a question of admitting the wives and children of men now in this country. It is vain to suggest that Sikhs who have served in the Indian army should not be excluded. There is no point in asking what harm would come of the admission of a few thousand industrious, orderly fellow British subjects from India. It must be kept in mind that there are three hundred million people in India, and that the country could spare three or four times the population of Canada without missing them. We cannot admit from India people of one race or faith while excluding others. We cannot bring in retired soldiers and exclude civilians. One hundred thousand would have as good a right to come as ten thousand. It would be as cruel and un-British to exclude the second million as the first, the tenth million as the fifth. Every man on whom the door of Canada is shut after this country has been surcharged with Asiatics would have the same grievance as the three recent arrivals will have if they are sent back.

These are elementary statements. If one did not read much censorious language from speakers and writers in Eastern Canada, showing that the subject has never been considered even to this extent, the statement of such truisms would almost require an apology. The subject is not to be settled by appeals to a kind of sentiment that ignores facts and hates history and despises economics. The government and the people of this country

protect it from such a catastrophe as the submergence of the entire European working population even of one of the provinces.

COMMITTED ON MURDER CHARGE

Jaget Singh, Alleged Slayer of Rattan Singh, May Plead Self-defence.

Jaget Singh was this morning committed for trial in the Police Court by Magistrate Shaw on a charge of murder. He is alleged to have been the man who shot Rattan Singh through the head and wounded Amar Chand in the foot in a shooting affray at an East Indian store at 1829 Granville street last Thursday night.

Very little evidence of a sensational nature was given, and no interesting developments transpired with the exception that from several questions asked by Mr. E. M. N. Woods, counsel for the accused, it would appear that the explanation offered at the trial will be self-defence.

The East Indian witnesses of the affair were not exactly clear as to the exact incidents of the shooting, as they had all been drinking, but their stories were to the effect that Jaget Singh followed Bela Singh and several friends, including Rattan Singh, into the place.

Rattan Singh, according to Bela Singh's story, was the first one to anticipate trouble and called to him, "Watch out, Bela Singh! Jaget Singh has a revolver and is going to shoot." A shot followed, and Bela Singh ran. He could not tell Mr. Woods whether or not the shot had struck Rattan Singh, or whether it was that shot which wounded Amar Chand, the storekeeper, in the foot. He ran, he said, and heard more shots behind him.

Police Constable (188) Lefler, on duty at the corner of Fourth avenue and Granville street, heard the shooting, and so did Constable (22) Watson. Together they ran towards the place, from which they saw Bela Singh flee. Lefler drew his revolver, and when he saw Jaget Singh issue from the place with two guns in his hands, he covered him with his own gun and made him throw up his hands. The officers placed him under arrest, and Constable Watson said, discovered a long flat sword concealed under his coat when he attempted to draw it after having been placed under arrest.

The ambulance was sent for and the wounded men were removed to the General Hospital, where Rattan Singh died the next day from the wound in his head.

Mr. Woods questioned the witnesses as to the relative sizes of the deceased and the accused, and asked if the lead man were not a much larger and stronger man than Jaget Singh, to which they replied, with the exception of Bela Singh, that he was. Bela Singh denied that he had carried a revolver since September 5, when he shot Bhag Singh and Badan Singh in self-defence in the Sikh Temple.

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LARGE NUMBER OF ORIENTALS

Member for Vancouver Speaks
in Commons on Increased
Immigration of Japanese to
This Province

NEFARIOUS METHODS OF LATE GOVERNMENT

Control of Local Fisheries Se-
cured by Men of Japan—
Treatment of Navy as a
Business Proposition

OTTAWA, Nov. 25.—Yesterday's most interesting event in the Commons was Mr. H. H. Stevens' speech. After a reference to highways, terminal elevators and the proposed tariff commission, he discussed Oriental immigration.

Adverting to the Vancouver Chinese immigration frauds he told how the head tax had been evaded. He himself has had two Chinese come into his office and offer him \$500 for the post of interpreter, which they assured him was very lucrative. The present government had bequeathed to it a racial problem worse than the negro problem in the United States.

Many Japanese.

Ten years ago there were not 10,000 Japanese in British Columbia, now there were 25,000. Ten years ago the fisheries of British Columbia were in the hands of whites; today they are altogether in the hands of Japanese fishermen, who number 10,500. These Japanese fishermen were mostly naval reservists, and they were making charts and taking photographs of the B. C. coast.

An incident was the nefarious system on which fishing licenses have been given out to heelers, who have farmed them out. For example, Japanese have paid \$1,000 to \$1,500 for licenses for which party heelers paid \$500 to the government. Mr. Stevens suggested that inhabitants of Labrador be transferred to the British Columbia coast so as to supply a fishing population. Was it the intention of the late administration that Canada's navy should be manned by Japanese? For only by means of the fishing population could the merchant marine and navy be supplied.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux asked if the number of Japanese had materially increased within the last two or three years.

"Yes," replied Mr. Stevens, and he drove home that the Laurier government by refusing to pass legislation on lines of the Natal Act, as expressly suggested by the Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, and by assenting to the Anglo-Japanese trade treaty without reserving control over immigration, and disallowing the Provincial Exclusion Acts, had caused difficulty.

Navy Business Proposition.

Finally Mr. Stevens spoke about the navy. This was a matter of vital importance to the Pacific Coast. The Laurier naval policy was unanimously condemned. The question, in his opinion, should be approached, not with a view to throwing a sop to one element

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Navy Business Proposition.

Finally Mr. Stevens spoke about the navy. This was a matter of vital importance to the Pacific Coast. The Laurier naval policy was unanimously condemned. The question, in his opinion, should be approached, not with a view to throwing a sop to one element or another, but as a business proposition. Canada has trade on the high seas and this must be protected. It was not a question of self-aggrandizement, or propagating Imperial ideas, it was a commercial question. There should be organized, he declared, an Imperial Board of Defence on which every Overseas Dominion should have representation. That representation would remove the last vestige of objection to the control of the navy by a central Imperial authority. As for the proportion of expenditure, he would take the total traffic of the Empire and would have each Dominion contribute pro rata. Some opposed a direct grant without representation. He believed in autonomy, and he also believed in a direct grant and representation.

Nationalist Views.

Earlier in the afternoon, Mr. Mondou Yamaska, declared that he had been at several Nationalist meetings, and asserted on his responsibility as a member, that the speeches delivered could be delivered in any part of the Dominion. As for the navy, French-Canadians would stand with a majority of the people of Canada, pronouncing for or against it.

Mr. Vegreville declared that the Conservative victory had been a victory of trusts over the masses.

Mr. Ethier spoke in French at considerable length.