

SHOULD BRITISH COLUMBIA ADMIT THE HINDU?

WANT EQUAL RIGHTS

With White People—Control of Hindu Vote—Broad Question of Desirability of Oriental Immigration.

BY H. H. STEVENS, M.P.

The Hindu does not, as claimed by the delegation to the Dominion Government, settle on the land. He gathers in the cities and works in competition with white men in saw mills, on the railroads, as gardeners and stable men, clearing town lots, excavation works, and, in some small degree, on farms near cities. He will not pioneer in any case.

The Hindus will not assimilate, but they segregate in ill-ventilated and unsanitary surroundings, harboring disease and immorality. Their word is unreliable and this is so far established, that many of our judges will not take their cases unsupported by white men.

They were attracted by the high wages and moderate climate of the Pacific Coast province and intend to become a permanent factor or institution in the country. The better educated among them are seeking to establish their equal rights with whites, and expect in time to secure privilege to sit in any elective position. They would control the solid Hindu vote.

Will Break Down Immigration Bars.

Their present agitation for entry of wives for those now here is a subterfuge and was only taken up when it was found to be a good ground of appeal to the sentiment of Eastern Canada. This is an effort to break the regulations in principle.

If the privilege to bring in wives is allowed it will result in large numbers of women being brought in for immoral purposes under the guise of "wives of Hindus now here." This is constantly being done now by the Chinese.

If we grant the request of the Sikh we cannot refuse their natives of India. The real object of agitators is to hrow down the immigration bars. They have made definite claims to freedom to go to any part of the Empire.

British Columbia claims, with New Zealand and Australia, that Canada must be kept "white" in the interests of the Empire.

British Columbia is opposed to Asiatic immigration, because from experience they know they will not assimilate and that it retards development of country and makes impossible a happy, permanent, intelligent people. It also results in a large alien male population with much immorality, where there should exist a large community of white families.

Useless as Pioneers.

The Hindu civilization is very much older than our own, yet the Hindus have never been known to pioneer, or do anything for the advance of civilization. We claim they will do nothing towards development of Canada, but rather will retard our progress.

Under present regulations, many are leaving for India and we maintain if we stand firm most of those still here will follow. After extensive experience, the United States have stopped their immigration. All classes in British Columbia are opposed to Hindu immigration—the Board of Trade, all the political clubs, the Trades and Labour Congress, the Ministerial Association, the National Council of Women, and the merchants.

The Hindus are altogether unsuited and undesirable and if they are allowed to continue to come, it will only increase the complexity of the problem, which is now a serious one and a menace to Canada's Pacific boundary.

The question must be viewed as a part of the larger problem of desirability of Oriental immigration, its effect on our national and social life, its influence in respect to Imperial matters and British prestige on the Pacific.

HINDUS ARE DESIRABLE SETTLERS.

Protest Should be Against Chinese and Japanese, Not Against Loyal British Citizens.

BY SUNDER SINGH.

There are 4,000 Hindus, or more properly Sikhs, settled in the western part of Canada, all of whom come from the Punjab or the land of five rivers, a province in the north-west of India. The Sikhs are a hardy, enterprising people. The Sikhs helped the British to regain India. Since then the Sikh has shown loyalty to the Empire by fighting for the Union Jack in India as well as in different parts of the world.

Sikhs See Canada.

The first Sikhs to see Canada were the soldiers returning home to India after the celebration of the late Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in London. The great majority of those who are settled in Canada arrived between the years 1905 to 1908. Ninety per cent. of the Hindus here are Sikhs, and most of them have served in the army and carry medals. They are all jats or farmers, and are thrifty, hard-working, and steady. In the year 1908, when they came there was a financial panic in the United States, and there were quite a few men out of employment in Vancouver. On the top of that there came 5,000 Japanese from Honolulu, and the politicians took advantage of the situation and raised the cry of a white British Columbia. The loyal Sikhs had to bear the very forefront of this attack.

The Sikhs are of the same Aryan race as the Canadians, and do the roughest work, as clearing land, and many of them are working as dairy farmers, market gardeners and as farmers help, etc. But all will eventually settle on land. It is the firm conviction of many that the Sikh will eventually replace the Chinese and Japanese.

The Sikhs have invested two millions of dollars in land and stock in this country, and unlike the foreigner who makes his money and goes away, they have come here to stay and have a stake in Canada.

Used to Cold Climate and Manual Labor.

The Dominion needs farmers, and the Sikhs, all of whom are farmers and come from a cold climate of the Punjab, have fitted into the situation, for most of the other immigrants who come here go to the cities and are not used to farm life. The Sikh is physically strong and used to hard work. The opinion of Colonel Davidson, who employs about 350 of them at New Westminster, B.C., is that the Sikhs have made good in Canada. He says he is giving them responsible positions in his mill, and every time he goes on his annual inspection tour he finds their quarters nice and clean.

But Christian Canada denies home-life, the birthright of each human being, by shutting out the wife of the Sikh, who is a fellow citizen of the Empire. The right of a husband living with his wife is the most sacred human institution, and anything done to impair it goes at the very root of all principles of morality and social welfare. Further, the ideals of Sikh home life are highly spiritual and monogamous. The wife of a Sikh settler has to come here by a continuous journey from India according to an order-in-council. The law as it stands is a physical impossibility for it cannot be fulfilled. All passengers coming to Canada from India have to tranship at Hong Kong. According to this law no Hindu student or merchant or tourist can come to Canada, although they can and do so to the United States, Germany, or even to pagan China. The alien Doukhobors, Galicians, Italians, Greeks, and even the Mongolians can bring in their wives and children.

Wrongly Discriminated Against.

Why should the Sikh, who is a British citizen, be discriminated against, in favor of the foreigner? Is the very fact of his being a British citizen against him? A Japanese on landing in Canada has to show \$50, whilst a Sikh has to produce \$200. The Chinese and Japanese who are of a different race and who are not used to British institutions as the Sikh has been are left alone. Why should the agitation against Orientals be directly mainly against the loyal Sikhs is difficult to conceive.

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From the economic standpoint, too, the present problem will be much simplified, as most of those who will bring their wives and children, will cease to be mere laborers. The agitators who decry against us are defeating the very aim they have in view, for at present the Sikhs have been actually forced into the industrial market for they would have settled on farms ere long, but as every one knows there are so many little things on a farm which demand the attention of the housewife. The Sikh farmers will mostly become pro-

ducers, and thus help to reduce the cost of living. The Imperial Home Reunion Association even goes as far to recognize the importance of a man having his family with him, that they advance money to men from the Old Country to bring out their families, and here are loyal British citizens who do not require any aid of that sort, and still their just request is ignored.

Canada, however strong and resourceful it may be at present or hope to become in the near future, **cannot stand** without the British Empire; and therefore anything done directly or indirectly to loosen the Imperial ties is not only a blow to the whole, but suicidal to the best interests of Canada herself. Its effect on the present unrest in India can be very well imagined. It is the duty of all Imperialists to understand the situation thoroughly, and not to allow any narrow, short-sighted policy to override the best interests of this great Dominion, and of the whole British Empire.

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