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IMMIGRATION BRANCH

Vancouver, B.C.

August 16th. 1906

W.D. Scott Esq.

Superintendent of Immigration

Ottawa, Canada

IMMIGRATION

AUG 23 1906

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2. A.S. Monro, Immigration Agent, Vancouver to W.D. Scott, Superintendent  
Sir:- of Immigration, Ottawa Vancouver, 16 August, 1906

In reply to your letter of the 3rd. inst. No. 530999 re-  
influx of Hindoos into B.C. I beg to report as follows.

The first contingent of these people arrived in Canada about  
two years ago. They had some difficulty in getting work at first,  
owing to their lack of ~~the~~ knowledge of the language, the ways of  
the country etc. & not having friends already established here.  
They finally got work at clearing land, working on the streets &  
handling lumber in the saw mills. Their wages then averaged from  
a dollar to a dollar & a quarter a day, which is about ten times  
as much as they make in their own country.

As the head tax on the Chinese is practically prohibitive, & as  
the Japanese Government since the time the Dom. Government vetoed  
the <sup>B.C.</sup> Exclusion act against Japanese have limited the number of ~~Em~~.  
Emigrants from their country to Canada, it has caused such a dearth  
of labor that employers in every branch of industry were glad to  
get the E. Indians, although they are much inferior ~~as~~ workers to  
either the Chinese or the Japanese.

As each succeeding batch of Hindoos got work & became established  
they sent for their friends & relations in increasing numbers,  
until now they are coming at the rate of 40 to 50 on each C.P.R.  
Hong Kong liner. The demand for labor is, however so great that the  
wages these people get at the saw-mills averages from \$1.75 to \$2.00  
per day. Compared with the Japanese & Chinese they are much infer-



inferior, as they will only do certain kind of labor such as handling lumber at the mills, & street work, whereas the Chinese & Japanese will work equally well at domestic, agricultural or any laboring work. Although tall in stature & presenting as a rule a fine appearance they are not nearly so strong or so well fitted to perform arduous work as the other classes.

Another disadvantage they possess is their religious castes, which prevents them from living at harmony among themselves. Each caste

having to keep separate from the other, & having to have their food etc. prepared separately.

They are constantly quarrelling amongst themselves & are the most litigious people I ever saw. The police magistrate in Vancouver said last week that they were a perfect nuisance & their petty squabbling almost drove him crazy.

They are dirty & unsanitary in their personal habits & we have endless trouble with those held in the Detention hospital in this respect.

In character they are in many respects like children, very ignorant, & never satisfied. They are the most cringing & servile people I ever met with & for lying they have no equals.

I speak more particularly of the Hindoo Brahmin, the Mussulman being as a rule a better type.

Most of them arrive here with very little money & many times I have detained those who had practically nothing until work was actually procured for them, for fear that they might become a charge on the public.

As competitors of white labor they are the most dangerous we have, as they practically engage in the same class of work as the white laborers do viz—mill work & street work. They will not engage in domestic labor, gardening or agricultural work that white men leave



untouched, but seek the same lines of employment usually followed by the white laborer.

The scarcity of domestic labor is becoming a serious problem here, & nothing in sight to relieve the situation.

The farmers & fruit growers are suffering acutely from the scarcity of labor, not cheap labor, but labor at any price. Farmers are offering \$2.50 to \$3.00 per day & board, & can't get help enough to gather in their crops.

There is a growing agitation in this Province by the great majority of the people, for a better class of laborer than is now coming in, & unless some marked relief is obtained soon, the industries & development of the country will suffer very materially.

In order to prevent the entrance of an undesirable class of Immigrant such as I believe the Hindoo to be, I think it would be well, if the Government would enact that each must be possessed of the minimum sum of <sup>\$150<sup>00</sup></sup> ~~\$100~~00 each upon arrival here. This would keep out a great many of the riff-raff, & would lessen the total number considerably.

Your Obedient Servant

A.S. Manno  
*A.S. Manno*

Immigration Agent

Vancouver, B.C.