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Department of the Interior,

Ottawa, 2nd. November, 1906.

Memorandum re Immigration of Hindus to Canada.

IMMIGRATION
SEP 20 1907

The attention of the Department of the Interior having been directed to the arrival during the past year of Hindos at British Columbia ports, the Officers of the Immigration Branch have been directed to study the new problem raised by these immigrants from a tropical or sub-tropical climate. The results of such investigations point to the desirability of this immigration from India being discouraged for the following reasons:-

1. The transfer of any people from a tropical climate to a northern one, which for months in winter is damp and cold, must of necessity result in much physical suffering and danger to health, not only on account of non-acclimatization but also on account of ignorance in the matter of housing, food and clothing.
2. The caste system which is universal amongst these people is seriously in the way of their employment even at work for which they are fitted, as the people for, under or with whom they must work have no knowledge of that system and cannot, even if they had, make due provision for its respect.
3. The winter climate of the interior is such that with their style of living they cannot work there during that season, and are therefore restricted for winter employment to the Coast, where there is not a sufficient field for those already there.

4. The work, for which they are required is necessarily rough and hard, and not of a character with which they are familiar or for which they are physically fitted.
5. Although it has been possible for some of those who have already arrived to secure employment, owing to the circumstances mentioned above, many of them have already become objects of charity. It is apparent that should the immigration continue, large numbers must become a charge either upon the Immigration Department or upon the municipal or provincial authorities, in which case they would be subject to deportation under Canadian Immigration laws.

(SGE) W. D. Scott.