

REPORT re HINDUS:

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INFLUX:

As far as can be ascertained the Pioneers of this community landed in Canada in 1903. They came from Hong Kong and Shanghai where there were hundreds employed in the Police and other semi-military institutions. Since their arrival and up to April 1908 there were landed in British Columbia nearly 6000 of these men.

INDUCEMENTS:

1. The pioneers on their landing found bright prospects in the wages then current, and reports sent by them to India and the Fiji Islands resulted in a rush to Canada.

2. The C.P.R. finding good business in the immigration of these people offered special rates for transportation through its Agents Messrs. Gillander, Arbuthnot & Co. Calcutta. Large posters printed in the language of the country were circulated broadcast, more especially in the Province of Punjaub.

PROSPECTS:

The prospects of this community for the first two years were fair, but the inrush of new immigrants to this Province from India and the Fiji's found the place over-run with more Hindus than could find work. The winter in this country played havoc among them, for, having come from a warm climate to these shores, with no clothes to provide against rain and cold, many succumbed to Tuberculosis. Many were found begging from house to house and would only take money, refusing any food or eatables offered them. The City tried to give them relief as far as possible by subscription, clothing and accommodation. Matters came to a climax, when to prevent an epidemic the City Health Dept. had to condemn the habitation of these people who herded together by fifties and hundreds against all laws of hygiene, and compelled them to disband and find healthier accommodation.



EMPLOYMENT:

The difficulties that this community has had to meet with regard to employment are more than those suffered by the Chinese and Japanese. For in the first place, they find difficulties in adapting themselves to the conditions of the Canadians, inasmuch as their caste prejudices prevent them from doing so, and they must of necessity - in following their religion - wear their headgear, and also cook for themselves. Secondly, the whole community is composed of common laborers there being no skilled workmen amongst them. The kind of work open to them is not any to which they have been accustomed, and it makes it necessary for an employer to drill them into it. An important field open to them is farm laboring, as the majority of them are agriculturists. Thirdly, according to their own story, the first two or three years after their arrival in this country they had no money, and were also unable to cope with the climate during the last few months of the year. To further add to their difficulties, two or three educated Hindus, notably Tarak Nath Dass, and one Debi Chand, relieved hundreds of them of their little belongings on the promise of finding them employment.

The nature of the work they were engaged in is as follows:-

- A. Laborers in Saw-mills and Railway Construction.
- B. Clearing land on contract.
- C. Farm-laborers.
- D. Cultivation of their own land.

PRESENT CONDITION:

The above is a retrospect of the situation up to the year 1908, since when the community have improved in many respects; in fact, at the present time, although there are more than 1000 out of work in the whole Province, none of them are in any want, being well provided with funds to carry them through the winter. They are adapting themselves somewhat better to the conditions prevailing here, and have displaced in a few instances Japanese & Chinese in Lumber-mills. Further



than this, in this City in particular, nearly every Hindu is the proud possessor of at least one lot, and some of them have thrown aside their ordinary employment and taken to dealing in Real Estate among their own community.

In a recent tour through the Province, I found that where ever Hindus were employed they were doing fairly well, and engaged in all classes of work, the majority in Lumber-Mills, the wages being from \$1.25 to \$1.75 per day. They are also largely employed by Farmers in Chilliwack, New Westminster and the Okanagan, in which employment they were found to be cheaper than Chinese labor, and more readily understood the kind of work required of them.

POPULATION:

From statistics up to the year 1908 the admission into Canada of these people amounted to 5,693, of this number there are at present, as far as can be ascertained, nearly 2500 in Canada, about 2,000 in the United States, and the remainder 1400 can be classified under the heading of deaths, deports and those who have returned to India. From the month of July 1907 to June 1908, 1078 were admitted into the U.S. through the local Immigration Office. The U.S. Immigration Dept. are now very strict in admitting these men across the border and the number passed from July 1908 to June 1909 is 159.

Although the number is diminishing yearly arrangements are being made amongst themselves for a further immigration to this country via U.S. points, and already there are admissions into the U.S. of Hindus through the Ports of Seattle and San Francisco.

POLITICAL AGITATION:

Public sentiment is against Hindu Immigration to this country, and this dislike is further enhanced by the acts of some of the leaders of this community, prominent amongst whom are Teja Singh, Tarak Nath Dass and G.D. Kumar. These three have, on more than one occasion, given expression to anti-Brit-



ish sentiments, and in particular the case of Tarak Nath Dass who is editing a paper called "THE FREE HINDUSTAN" published in New York, and circulated through the United States. This paper is brought into Canada and circulated amongst the community by G.D.KUMAR.

TEJA SINGH: This man first came to Vancouver in Sept 1908. He did not come direct from India, but overland from New York, - via Montreal, it is thought - and had no legal entry into this country. On his arrival here, he took up the cudgels of the Hindu community, and defeated the proposal of the Canadian Govt. in its efforts to relieve the distress and wants of this of this community, through the winter of 1908, by an immigration to British Honduras. Further than this, he took up the leadership of this community and started a Company with Hindu subscriptions to relieve and give work to all indigent Hindus. Although the Company has been in existence for over a year none of its dealings have been made public, no white men are permitted to purchase its stocks, and no statement is rendered of its liabilities, assets, etc.. The whole affair is one of mystery and in all probability being worked for the interest of its Directors. Teja Singh left Canada in September last for India via England and no one here seems to know when he is likely to return; shortly after, his Lieutenant - Bulwant Singh - also left for India.

TARAK NATH DASS: Arrived in Canada in 1905. He found employment for a time as Hindu Interpreter in the local office of the U.S. Immigration Dept. He was dismissed from this appointment when found to be actively engaged in publishing seditious papers and advocating the downfall of British rule in India. This man is at present in Seattle attending the University with some 8 or 10 Hindu Students. He is still connected with the "Free Hindustan" published at #749 Third Avenue, New York City. This paper is the principal organ of the Hindu Agitators on this Continent, and is widely circulated, and devotes itself to



publishing false and inaccurate information regarding the treatment of Hindus under British Rule in India. The object is for the purpose of arousing <sup>the</sup>sympathy, and perhaps the help, of the white people in the Continent of America. Secondly, to show their own people in India that their cause is being looked after, and they have the help and support of the community here. The columns of this paper are not the only means used to arouse the sympathy of the people, but they have resorted to picture postcards depicting famine scenes in India, and also giving statistics of deaths from famines in that country as compared with those resulting from wars in the past century. Copies of this postcard have been submitted.

GURRU DUTTA KUMAR: This man is the third of the Agitators in this City, he arrived in Victoria on Oct 31st. 1907 ex, s. s. "Iyo Maru". He has given the U.S. Immigration people at Victoria a great deal of trouble in his constant visits to Seattle. He was also prosecuted on three occasions for defrauding his countrymen, but let off for want of evidence and it was at one of these prosecutions, viz:- 22nd. Feb. 1909, it came out in evidence that he had tried to raise money to assist the Agitators in India vide report dated August 12th. 1909. This man is at present in Vancouver, where he has, to a certain extent, taken up the Leadership of the Hindu community in the absence of Teja Singh.

The headquarters of the Sedition-mongers is Seattle where they can carry on their work without fear of arrest or disturbance, knowing that they are out of the jurisdiction of the British Government. If enquiries should ever be directed, and a strict watch kept on their doings, there is no doubt whatever, evidence would be forthcoming to bear out the above statements.

Vancouver, B.C.  
February 10th. 1910.

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(Sd.) Wm C. Hopkinson