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Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

Vancouver, B. C. Jan. 21st 1909

Minister
Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 19th inst. as follows:-

"Wire present labour conditions amongst
Hindoos."

to which I replied on the same day in the following terms:-

"About four hundred Hindoes unemployed here now, some having come in from Upper Country. Through good weather before Christmas most have some money. Eight dollars a ~~week~~ month keeps them, but many are begging in lanes and alleys."

Last night I received a further telegram from you to this effect:-

"Call attention of municipal authorities of Vancouver to section thirty three and following sub sections of immigration act and inform them that if they will take necessary legal action against vagrant hindoo to put Department in position to act we will deport and bear expense of deportation."

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Referring generally to this question I beg to state that there would appear to be about three hundred Hindoos in and around Vancouver, but living chiefly in the suburbs, unemployed at the present time, to which an additional one hundred must be added for recent arrivals from outside points, such as the Okanagan and Kootney countries.

These men have been working chiefly on fruit ranches and farms. The open weather through October, November and December, when there is usually a great deal of time lost by labourers, has been in their favour to such an extent, that most of these men are said to have sufficient money to see them through the next couple of months. This, you will understand, need not be a very large amount, as they can live upon \$2.00 a week.

The unemployed appear to come into the City in both the downtown and residential sections almost daily, and are thus seen in large numbers on the street. Many of them are seen from time to time in the lanes and alleys, always asking for work, such as the carrying in of wood and coal, and

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on this being refused, actually begging. As their caste prevents them eating food prepared by our people, money is practically all they are after, and in fact their kitchen door visits come down to that species of vagrancy. Some of them may possibly be of the professional begging class common in India, as when arrested here in the past they generally have money. Successful apprehension of them would be difficult, possibly requiring a special officer.

About the time of Mr. Harkin's departure an open letter was published in the newspapers here, a copy of which was sent to me by Teja Singh, about a week later. I beg to enclose copies of Teja's letter and of my own in reply. Very often, ^{now Hindus} they deny being unemployed most probably on instructions by Teja. Concerning the Garu Nanak Mining & Trust Company, I have no doubt that you have already received all the information available. Sufficient to say, that as time goes on reports continually reach my office, of considerable sums of money taken in by Teja Singh in connection with this Company, for which the flimsiest sort of receipts appear to be given. At the present time I advised that he has two agents in the United States marketing these share certificates.

This morning I received a report concerning

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a meeting held in the Sikh Temple here on Monday the 18th inst., which appears to have been one of their big days. Teja and Balmokund were the two speakers, and the burden of their address was an urgent appeal for assistance for the cause in India. They stated that there were 50 natives to each white man in India, and they wanted as much money as could be had. It would be an easy matter for the natives with proper assistance, to drive the British out of India, just as Japan had driven out the Russians. In this instance, Teja assured them that Japan was ready to give them every assistance.

I am today waiting on His Worship Mayor Douglas and the Chief of Police, in connection with your recent instructions.

Encls.

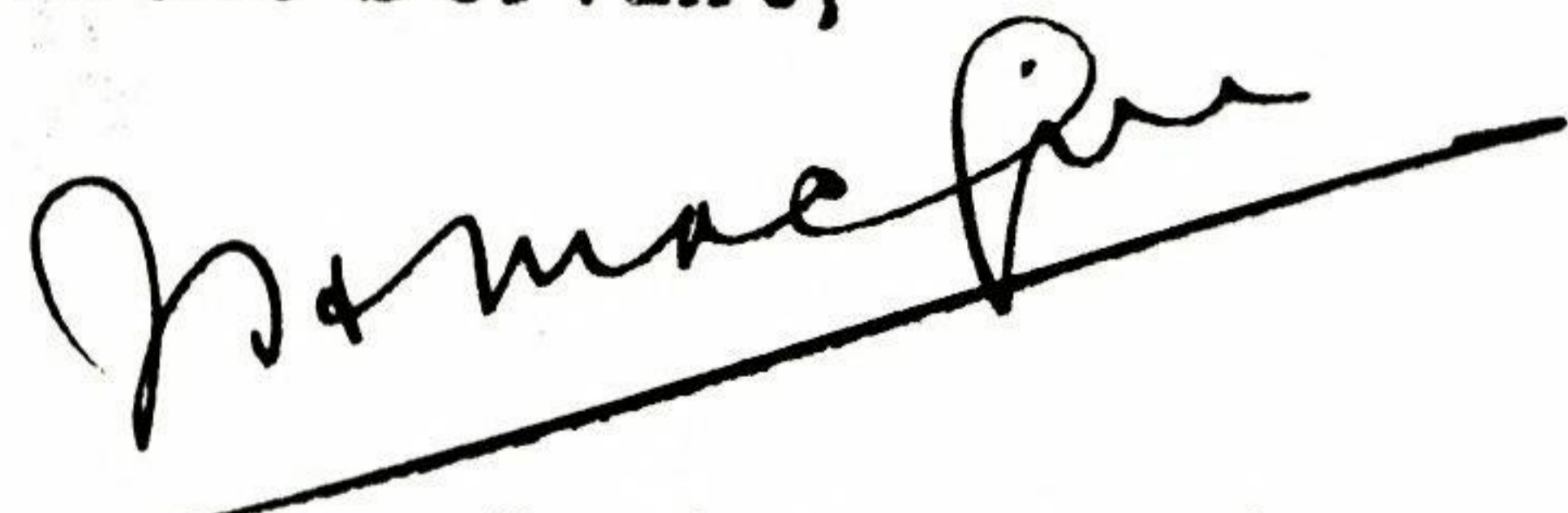
Your obedient servant,

W. W. Cory, Esq.,

Department of the Interior,

Ottawa,

Canada.


Immigration Agent.