

R 676 vol 384 file 53699 pt 3

J. H. MacGill Immigration Agent Vancouver to  
W. W. Cory Deputy Minister of the Interior  
Immigration Branch 956652

Department of the Interior  
Canada

Vancouver, B. C. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1909

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*Mr. O'Connell  
to Mr. MacGill  
re: ...  
W. W. Cory  
18/2/09*

Sir:-

In reply to your favour of the 5th inst.  
regarding the prosecution of Hindoo vagrants by the City  
so as to place the Department in a position to undertake  
their deportation, I beg to state that in this regard no  
progress has been made. I have gone into the matter with  
the local civic authorities who will do all they can in  
the premises, but at present there is little hope of any-  
thing in that line for the following reasons.

At the time of our negotiations for their removal  
to British Honduras these people were warned that in case  
they did not go, they would be deported if found unable to  
care for themselves. Their Priests and leaders appear to  
have been duly impressed with the seriousness of this warning,  
for about Christmas I received a letter (copy enclosed),  
which had been published in the local newspapers a week previous.

# Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

W. W. C. - 2 -

190

The letter will speak for itself, and it certainly clearly shows that they do not intend to have any of their people caught in this way. From inquiries continuously made since November last, one finds the following state of affairs.

These people live in various old houses and shacks in different parts of the City, but particularly in the woods surrounding and outside the City limits; possibly 6 or 8 of them in the one house. So long as one man has work the rest live on him, and come into the downtown parts to look for odd jobs, such as carrying in wood or little things of that kind, by which they earn an occasional half-dollar. As they exist on about \$2.00 a week, the small amounts they can pick up in this way will very readily eke out the charity of their fellows, and from top to bottom the whole community is found to be taking care of its weak ones in a way which was never before noticed, and can only result from some form of organization and direction amongst themselves.

Their search for odd jobs comes down to that species of vagrancy which is merely begging; as upon being

# Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

- 3 -

.....190

refused work they immediately point to their mouths (many of them cannot speak English) to indicate their hunger, shake their heads when food is offered them (which is refused because of their caste) and so the well-disposed of our citizens get rid of them by giving them a quarter. In this business at the backdoors of our City, they usually go in numbers of 2, 3 or 4, a couple of whom appear to act as guards to cover all approaches, and while I hear of many instances of begging on their part, it is always of course afterwards, and it is quite impossible in an ordinary way to secure such evidence as would lead to a conviction.

It must also be remembered that of the 5,963 Hindoos who have arrived in this Province, only 2,582 have entered within the past two years, and so come under the Provisions of the Act. Of course, some of these Hindoos have returned to their own country, and a good number (which I am not in a position to give definite figures) have gone over to the United States.

Since November last, too, they have ceased

# Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

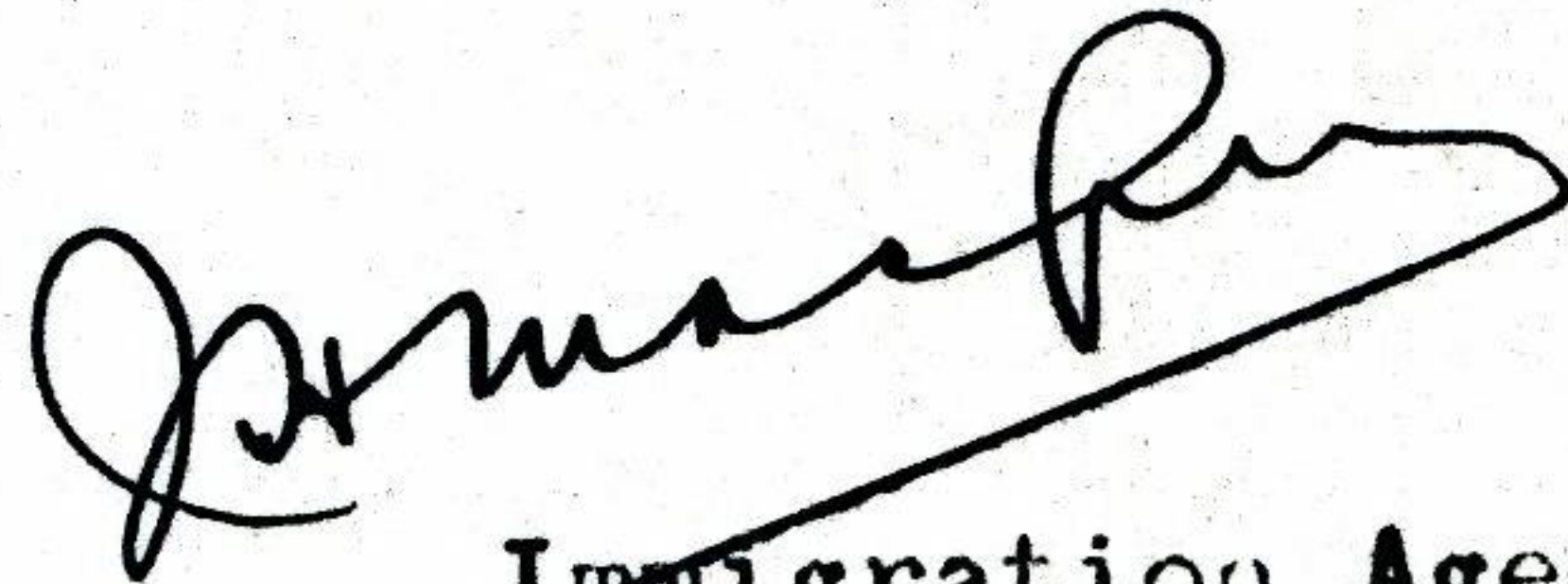
Canada

- 4 -

.....190

applying either to myself or Dr. Monro for assistance  
in obtaining their work. Apparently this is done because  
of instructions from their leaders.

Your obedient servant,



Immigration Agent,

W.W. Corry, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

Ottawa,

Canada.

1 Encl.