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87 J. H. MacGill, Immigration Agent, Vancouver
to W. D. Scott, Superintendent
Immigration Branch 64544749
Immigration

Department of the Interior

Canada

Vancouver, B.C. 25 October
Oct. 25th. 1911.

Sir,

I beg to report that about a hundred Hindus are leaving this port by S.S. "Empress of Japan", which sails to-day for the Orient, for the purpose of visiting their native land, and that the greater part of them have been most insistent the past two weeks in attempting to get certificates of identity from our office here. This has however in all cases been refused.

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We have, during the past two days, been told that they are being issued in Victoria, with the result, as it would appear, of different practices being established in such a question in different ports. This matter has already been the subject of a great deal of correspondence with head office, much of it being under the head of Hira Lall, of Revelstoke, (file 536999 (3)), who was, as will be remembered, went to India to attempt to work up the immigration of his fellow countrymen.

At the present time the community here is about to send some delegates to interview the Premier at Ottawa with a view to breaking down the barriers to Hindu immigration, and

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particularly to enable them to bring in their wives and children. To this end they are stirring up a great deal of interest amongst local white people, some of whom are quite sincere in their partial knowledge. They have also resorted to the newspapers in an endeavour to awaken public interest in their behalf in this matter. This phase of the question has I believe been fully covered by Inspector Hopkinson's reports to the Deputy Minister. They have also gone so far as to spread reports, chiefly through Rahim, that he is securing through the change of administration the removal of both Inspector Hopkinson and myself from the Service, and this, with many other things, makes the question of different practices prevailing in different ports all the more aggravated.

This letter is not written in any spirit of criticism of any port other than our own, and I am advising Dr. Milne, for his information, of the different practice pursued in the two ports, without for a moment suggesting that he change his.

The sending of the local delegation to Ottawa will probably bring up the whole matter of Hindu immigration, and

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thus provide an apparently fitting time for the establishment of greater uniformity in our work.

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading "J. Macleod", is written in dark ink.

Immigration Agent.

W. D. Scott, Esq.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa.