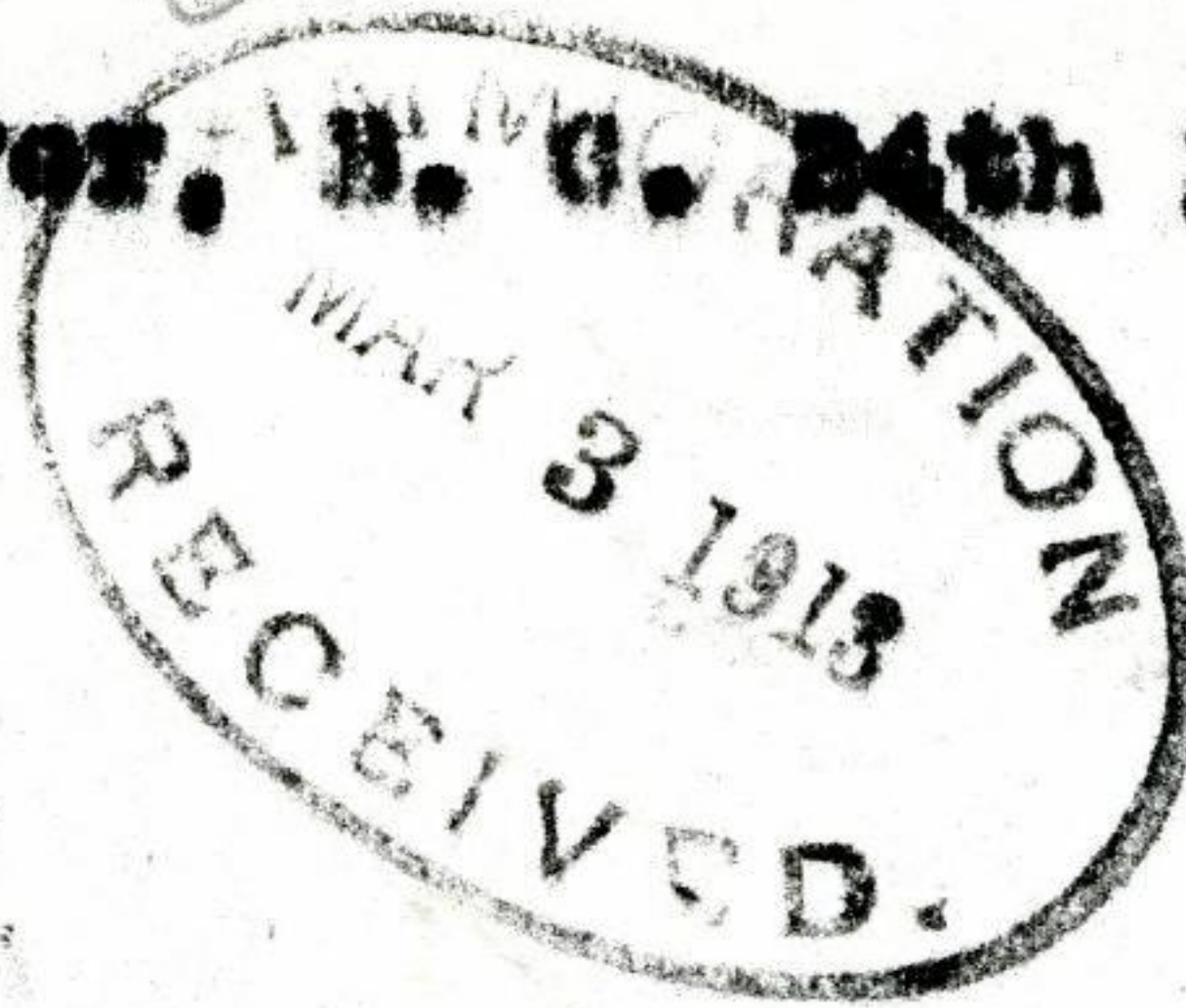


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The Immigration Agent,
Vancouver, B. C.



A745473

Sir,

I have the honour to report for your information, that as requested, I attended the meeting of the Khalsa Social and United India League, called at the Dominion Hall for Saturday evening, 22nd inst.

Mr. Rahim took the chair at Mr. Komars's request and announced that the meeting had been called for the purpose of appointing delegates to be sent to India to represent their troubles to the people there. He called upon Mr. Komars to address the assembly.

Mr. Komars dilated on their position here during the last six or seven years, without their families. They had certainly made money but only ^{to} squander it in gambling, drinking and immorality. It would be better he said to remain in India with our families than to be here under present circumstances.

In 1906 he said a law had been passed prohibiting the immigration of Hindus to Canada unless they came direct, knowing this was impossible. The Japanese were, however, admitted to a certain extent each year with their families, and the Chinese to any extent on payment of the head tax.

He informed them that a delegation to Ottawa had been promised, that no hindrance to their entry and that of their families would be offered.

Two Japanese firms, he said, and one Indian Steamship Company were willing to run ships direct, but notwithstanding the promise to the delegates the Hindus were prohibited from entering.

Mr. Gokal who had been to South Africa reported that the Hindus were having the same difficulty there said Mr. Komars, and Mr. Gokal had also predicted that the Empire

would unite as one whole and form one parliament, and hoped the Hindus would be prepared to take their place.

Mr. ^{Rimmer} ~~Kapoor~~ explained that a Chinaman born in the United States and living there on attaining his majority became an American citizen, whereas in Canada a part of the British Empire, the Hindus - British subjects - had no rights. Russians, Swedes and other aliens could become naturalized and have all the rights of citizens. He exhorted them to fight till all those privileges became theirs also.

Mr. Rahim then again addressed the meeting in English. He explained that a short time ago some of the Hindus here wanted to appeal to the Home Government for redress, but the majority over-ruled this project, as they said this movement would be resented by the Canadian Government and that they would be right in resenting it.

It was agreed, therefore, that a delegation should wait upon the Government at Ottawa, and on May 7th, 1912, this was done with the result already explained.

He claimed it was no new thing this persecution of the working classes, they had at all times been fooled and down trodden; but although this had always been the case, it could only be temporarily, the working class would always win out.

The incompetency of the Immigration Department, he said, was scandalous. They tried to deport without even holding a board of inquiry; and he contrasted this with the U. S. where a board of inquiry is always held in these cases. He disparaged the commission held by Judge Murphy about a year and a half ago.

The Immigration Department have the press which he termed "servile" in their power. The worst of it all was he considered that the Japs and Chinese had power here in Canada which was denied to their own fellow subjects of the Empire to whom they had given sole promises.

Aliens were admitted, he said, by the treaties with the different nations, and he took pains to explain that treaties were a sort of ultimatum, that is: he hinted that these people were being admitted to preserve peace. The Canadians will sell their birthright, he said, to the Chinese for a matter of \$500.00

Present conditions make it incumbent on us, he continued, that as we can get no redress from the Canadian Government, we must go back to India with a petition, where we are 330 millions strong. An attempt was being made to put a bill through the Indian Legislature to take retaliatory measures on these Colonies of the Empire, who were ill-treating the subjects of India by not allowing anyone from these colonies to hold Government positions in India. The trade of India he informed them ran to nearly 250 million pounds sterling.

The relations between England and India were much more amicable where thousands of India students were taking the higher educational standards. There were also many Indian firms and merchants doing business. The Hindus were, he said, a civilized race taking part in all kinds of work. They were doctors of law, science; as for instance Dr. Raa's discovery of a new type of Baccali. They were running universities where the members of the Indian Legislature could in fact enter any service in that country, and he deplored the fact that unscrupulous people designated them as backward, immoral, polygamists, untrustworthy, etc. This was the fault of a few people in power, who knew nothing about them and were misrepresenting them to the people, which was criminal.

The Russians had, he said, misrepresented the condition of the Japs to their people as being a mere horde of savages, the result of which is known in ^{ended} a great amount of blood shed.

He contended that the Hindus in this colony were not a representative class at all; that these were only a few of the

"war dogs" utilised by the British to kill Chinamen in Hong Kong.

Referring to a report that 17 Hindus were found in a single reception room in the restricted district, he contended this was only the natural outcome of the present policy. He exhorted them in the name of their manhood and women and country to fight their best wherever they were, to win their rights and justice.

Mr. R.C. Campbell-Johnstone sympathized with the Hindus, and told them the newspapers did not necessarily express the opinions even of the minority, and that he believed the people generally sympathized with them, that no one had any justification in keeping them or their families out of any country and they had a weapon to hand! the power to retaliate and force any country to deal justly with them.

He did not, however, agree that immorality was a necessary evil, resulting from the present policy, nothing could make that right.

A motion was then proposed by Mr. Rahim that Nan Singh and Balwant Singh be sent to India to lay their condition before the Government there. This was seconded by Rajah Singh and passed.

The two delegates then thanked their friends for the honour done them and promised to put their best efforts forward to make their case a success.

Balwant Singh also told the meeting of the, as he called it "harsh" treatment received by the women who had recently tried to enter, and scourged Mr. Stevens for terming them immoral liars, etc., when he knew nothing about them.

The ^{ai} chairman then declared the meeting closed.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.,
Dominion Immigration Agent,
Vancouver, B.C.

Henry W. Gwynne