

CONFIDENTIAL

7th January, 1916.

My dear Sir Joseph,

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A. V.

I return herewith the confidential memorandum prepared by the India Office on Indian immigration to Canada. This is a most interesting, well-prepared and useful document and, because of the light it throws on India's and South Africa's side of the problem, I should like very much to obtain a copy for our confidential records.

I agree that the time has come when we cannot longer refuse to reconsider our position in regard to the admission of East Indians. India's part in the war and the unfortunate result which has come about through the return of the "Komagata Maru" and other passengers would seem to make it imperative that some steps be taken by our Government which will be in the nature of a concession.

This matter is one which will have to be referred to our Minister, and if you will be good enough to refer the papers to Mr. Cory, they will reach me in the usual way and I shall make a recommendation along the following lines:

(1) That the Government should agree to the admission of the wife and minor children of any Indian lawfully resident in Canada who is in a position to receive and care for his family. "Minor children" might be limited in meaning to include persons under 16 years of age. We frequently, in the case of British

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subjects

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subjects from the United Kingdom, investigate the ability of the husband to care for his wife and family before agreeing to their admission, so that, in adopting the same arrangement in the case of Hindus, we should not be discriminating against them and would, on the other hand, protect the Canadian province and municipality in which the head of the family was now resident.

(2) That consideration should be promised for the admission of a limited number each year, those admitted to carry, as in the case of wives and children, some document from the Indian Government. I would not, however, favour the admission of additional East Indian labour at the present time, owing to unemployment now prevailing on the Pacific Coast, which condition resulted in an Order in Council now in existence prohibiting the entry at British Columbia ports of skilled or unskilled workers of any sort or nationality. It could be understood that the new arrangement would go into effect as soon as industrial and other conditions on the Pacific Coast so warranted.

Yours very truly,

W. M. Bell
Superintendent of Immigration.