

Minister's Office - Ottawa.

24. Oct. 1916

The Hon. W. I. Roche.
Min. of Interior
Ottawa.

My dear Mr. Roche,

When I was in the west I had a long talk with Mr. H. Clogston on various phases of the Hindu matter and he handed me the enclosed letter which had been written to him by Mr. Fisher, the young lawyer who was authorized to take up the case of the two Hindus who had secured judgment and whose claims, as I remember, were met by an expenditure of some \$650.

When in Vancouver Mr. Fisher called upon me and discussed this whole matter. As I understand it, in addition to the two cases which were cleared off there are left the four judgments mentioned in Fisher's letter for certain Hindus, and he is anxious, if possible, to have these paid by the Government which apparently would mean a little over \$2000. His argument is that this would clear off all the cases of such Hindus as had entered suit against the Committee with the assistance of the Government. I may say that I was very favourably impressed with Mr. Fisher and I am inclined to think that it would be desirable to do this.

I discussed it with Mr. Clogston and he is of the same opinion. It, of course, involves a considerable sum but after all, a comparatively small amount considering the delicate and somewhat dangerous character that this whole situation has assumed. Mr. Clogston stated that a great many of these people, especially on the

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Committee, were of a distinctly seditious type and that to get a cleavage in the ranks of the Hindus themselves by encouraging well meaning Hindus to enter action against the Committee is one of the best things that could have happened; that the general result of the whole misadventure and the suit has been to very much discredit the seditious element and confirm in the minds of the other Hindus that the Government might be trusted to do what was right with those Hindus who settled in this country and were law abiding. As the four mentioned in the letter of Mr. Gishers, viz: Sengh, Labh Singh, Karn Chand and Tara Singh, are the only Hindus now left who brought suits against the Committee, Mr. Clouston says that the Hindus generally will consider that every opportunity has been given to the Government to bring such ~~action~~ suits and there can be no sort of obligation, moral or legal, to touch the matter further. I think that the whole matter is now in a pretty satisfactory state, and that certainly dealing with these four cases in the way suggested would clear the whole matter up if the Government felt they could do it. I therefore submit the matter for your early consideration.

Yours faithfully

M. Burrell