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Extracts from Husain Rahim's letter to the editor, The Daily News-Advertiser, Vancouver, 14 May, 1912

Sir,- In your issue of yesterday's date you give publicity to the views of Mr. J.M.G. Davis of Calcutta that Canada should exclude Hindus. I maintain that the story told by Mr. Davis is wrong, unwarranted, and mischievous and the conclusions he has drawn are based on false premises. . . .

There is many a notion about India in the heads of people here, and Mr. Davis makes the confusion confounded. Immigration Act, like a Chinese wall to the Celestials, has shut out every educated Hindu from Canada. I, as an exception, serving as a rare specimen in a museum, if I could be called educated at all, so a sort of blissful ignorance reigns in Canada about what India and Hindus today represent. Allow me therefore to state a few facts and figures on India.

(1) Railroads serving as the arteries of trade and passenger traffic have a mileage of pretty nearly 35,000 miles, signallers alone numbering an army of about 90,000 Hindus.

(2) Roads for internal communication had reached a mileage of 194,127 miles (1909-10), besides river navigation which runs thousands of miles in the interior.

(3) Post Offices number over 64,000.

(4) Educational institutions including schools, colleges and universities, majority of which are privately owned and conducted for Hindus themselves, reach a figure of 162,828 (1907-9).

(5) 10,550 periodicals and books were published (1911).

(6) 2,471 printing presses are pouring out literature on sciences, art, and technique and maintain a wide circulation of newspapers throughout India.

(7) By a local self-Government Act of 1882-1 the elective principle has been extended all over India: 717 municipal committees are elected by ratepayers: in many committees members are all Hindus.

(8) Overseas commerce of India totalled \$1,101, 154, 724 in 1910.

These are some of the bare figures to show the moral, material, economic and political condition of India.

Hindus have come out brilliantly in all competitive examinations for civil service, law, medicine, mathematics and graduated in large numbers from Oxford, Cambridge and Dublin universities besides those who have secured honors in German, French and Japanese educational institutions. Hindu Supreme Court judges, barristers and solicitors highly versed in law number an army of something over 78,000m (1910).

When, therefore, we examine the question of Hindus you must remember of India constituted of Hindus not as visible here, but as a body of men whose moral, material, political and economic conditions are signified by above figures. . . .

When Lord Morley introduced the India Councils Reform Act as a preamble thereto he had spoken to the following effect. (My papers are once more seized and before they are returned I have to trust to memory.) He said we have trained Hindus in the best of our institutions, taught them our constitutional law and technique. Burke, J.S. Mill, Bacon have permeated through them. They have discharged their duties as civil servants to our entire satisfaction and proved worthy of our confidence. But with the growth of their knowledge and economic status they demand further share and representation in the government of their country, and being unheeded for years a great unrest prevails throughout India. It is in our hands to refuse to grant them the privilege or recognize the facts that stare us in the face

I am afraid this reply to Mr. Davis has stretched long, but I cannot complete this correspondence without refuting his doctrine--(1) Hindu national unity is a chimera: (2) security of the British arises from the hostility between different races and castes in India. As to the first doctrine 200,000 miles of rails electric, telegraph and telephone poles have shattered distances in India, as they are elsewhere, and India today from one end to the other can be traversed in 48 hours. National societies and organizations annually meet together in conference wherein the whole of the provinces are represented. I am surprised such every-day manifestations of unity in India is still a chimera to Mr. Davis. But there is not a greater pervert notion than saying that the security of British rests in the hostility of different castes between themselves. Fortunately this is not true, as castes are being broken like weeds since the travelling facilities are immense and increasing every day and people mingle and understand each other, and so British security, according to his doctrine, should have gone to pieces by this time. The fact is that British security lies in justice, civilization, charity, broadmindedness, and as long as these don't fail, British Empire would continue its natural existence in human society.

Yours truly,
H. Rahim