

October 8th, 1942.

The following letter to be forwarded to the following newspapers:

The Editor,
Vancouver Daily Province.
Vancouver Sun.
Victoria Daily Times.
Victoria Colonist.
Federationist, Vancouver.
Labour Statesman.
Congress News, Holden Bldg.
Columbian, New Westminster.
Trail News, Trail.
Canadian Press, Vancouver
News-Herald.
President, American Federation of Labour, Ottawa.
President, Canadian Congress of Labour, Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

We are instructed by the Khalsa Diwan Society, which body represents all "East Indians" resident in British Columbia, to forward you the enclosed Petition.

"East Indians" of British Columbia are disqualified from voting at any election. This is the only Province in Canada where "East Indians" are deprived of the franchise. Nevertheless, they are liable to be called for military service. Thus they suffer the same obligations as other British subjects, without being able to enjoy the like privileges.

It is with the object of remedying this situation that the Petition, a copy of which is enclosed, has been forwarded to the proper Dominion Government and Provincial Authorities. Concurrently with the forwarding of the Petition, our clients are sending to the Minister

(2)

of National Defence a communication protesting against the imposition upon them of compulsory military service.

Should the Petition be allowed and our clients be granted the franchise they will no longer have any objection to military service, but on the contrary, they will most gladly do their part to further the war effort.

Our clients seek your assistance in making public the situation referred to above. They hope that the granting to them of the franchise will have a soothing effect upon the political unrest in India. Consequently, any favourable publicity you may choose to give to this matter will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

EIB:NS