

MINUTES OF A HINDU MASS MEETING HELD IN
DOMINION HALL, VANCOUVER? BRITISH COLUMBIA,
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1914.

Chairman: Hoosain Rahim.

Meeting called to order at 4 P. M.

HOOSAIN RAHIM spoke as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen we are met here this afternoon for the purpose of hearing a number of our friends, among them Mr. J. Edward Bird, who has ever been a friend of the working man. We will also hear from a number of our own people. Mr. Stevens has said that a Hindu priest or a Hindu lecturer could not be an orator. At the time he said that we challenged him - we could show him that he was a thirty cents worth orator compared with the working class orators. We also have with us Comrade Fitzgerald, ready to take up the challenge in the moment of need. There is a resolution to be moved by Sohan Lal. There might be one other speaker, but when these speakers are closed we will allow the platform to anyone who cares to come forward and speak, pro or con. This being the order of the meeting I now call upon Mr. J. Edward Bird.

J. EDWARD BIRD:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I have been asked by the Committee and by Mr. Rahim, Chairman of this meeting, to speak this afternoon on the subject of this ship, the Komagata Maru and the invasion of the Hindus as the newspapers commonly call it. Now I am not here as a politician - I am

in this matter simply as a lawyer and I have tried to the best of my ability to get a test case before our courts for the purpose of finding out as to whether these men are entitled to land or not. They came here on the 22nd day of May and since that time I have been sparring for an opening to the best of my ability, trying to get a case before the Court to test the validity of the Act - the Immigration Act - and of the Orders-in-Council under that Act, and I have sparred in vain for an opening. I have not been able to get anything before the Court on any reasonable excuse whatever that would test the Orders-in-Council. Why I have not been able to do this, gentlemen, I cannot say. I can only surmise that the instructions from the Department at Ottawa to the Immigration authorities here was to delay matters and delay matters and procrastinate and delay until such time as these people were starved back to their original port from whence they sailed. I understand there were 376 men originally sailed on the Komagata Maru for the Port of Vancouver. We did what we could, Mr. Rahim and I, to try and prevent their arriving at the Port of Vancouver, but we did not succeed. Mr. Rahim had a pleasant little trip to Port Alberni, but the ship had passed in the night. Now Vancouver is one of the prohibitive ports of entry. The Government have been pleased under this Act to prescribe 42 ports in British Columbia at which laborers and artisans are refused entry. Why they select British Columbia for this signal privilege I do not know. At all events they have and we have the spectacle of the Dominion Government singling out a certain Province and preventing laborers coming in from any of the ports mentioned in the Orders in Council. It does not prevent their

coming in along the eastern border of the Province. It does not prevent them coming in probably along the southern border, it does not prevent them coming in probably along the Pacific border. Hindus or anybody that can qualify under other Orders in Council can come notwithstanding the latest orders in Council at any of the ports of the Atlantic, at any of the Southern ports on the American boundary, but they cannot come in along the Pacific, and they have selected 42 of the ports - practically all the available spots at which entry can be made.

Now gentlemen in order to understand somewhat of this situation I am sure I will have to take you a little bit into a consideration of this Immigration Act. This Immigration Act was passed in 1910 by a good Liberal Government. That Government prescribed the terms under which people can enter Canada, and under Section 3 - "No immigrant, passenger or other person, unless he is a Canadian citizen or has Canadian domicile" and I may state for the benefit of this meeting - for those who do not know the Act - that it is prescribed that two years residence in Canada shall constitute Canadian domicile, so that any many who has been here for two years is entitled to return as a Canadian citizen - "shall be permitted to land in Canada or in case of having landed in or entered Canada, shall be be permitted to remain therein who belongs to any one of the following classes." Now follows that certain class - certain set of classes and I will just summarize them into those who are mentally deficient, those physically deficient and those morally deficient. In the list are included prostitutes and procurers and charity immigrants. So that in these three classes Canada has designated the classes of men that she

does not want and I do not think that any of us here, whether pro-Hindu or against, want any of these proscribed classes to get into Canada. They are undesirable - parasites on society, and they are the unfortunates who will be a public charge and they are otherwise not wanted by us. Then the Act says that in addition to these classes of undesirables - in classes as denominated under Section I - such a class as shall be designated by the Governor in Council for the time being. Now the Governor in Council of course is nothing more than the Executive Council at Ottawa, composed of the Ministers at Ottawa. I am just stating this in case there is anyone not knowing our institutions, who is not able to follow me. This Executive Council have the power under this Act to pass Orders in Council which have the force of statutes, provided they do not otherwise infringe upon the powers and provisions laid down in the Act. Now this good Liberal Government some time ago passed certain legislation by Order in Council and called in Order P. C. 918, Order in Council 918, 926 and 920. Without going into details we want to give you an idea of what these Orders in Council were. The first prescribed or one of them did that no immigrant of Asiatic origin shall be allowed to enter Canada unless in possession of \$200 in his or her own right, unless such person be a native of a country such as Japan where there is an arrangement in relation to the entry of countrymen of that nationality; but they say here that no person of Asiatic origin shall be allowed in unless he has in his personal possession the sum of \$200. Now that Order in Council came under the careful scrutiny of one of his Majesty's Justices in this Province and he examined it with a microscope to

see if it infringed any of these principles that the law has laid down as a test. He examined these Orders in Council and found them all wanting and in March in the case of Narain Singh he declared those Orders in Council of no force. That left the door wide open for Hindus and all nationalities of Asiatic origin to come in. Gurdit Singh, who is now on board the Komagata Maru, was in Singapore. He got word that the doors of Canada are wide open. He hired a ship, and possibly as a pure commercial venture engaged to transport men of his country to this country. They picked them up at different points along the road where they had got on their way to Canada, some at Singapore, Hong Kong, Moji and some elsewhere at different points. He arranged to charge them a fare, to which they willingly agreed, because there is no transportation company that is not more or less influenced by the Canadian Government and by Canadian legislation especially with relation to immigration, and no no transportation to Canada by a direct route from India. These men therefore have never been able, either before or since, to comply with one of the terms of an Order in Council that I will now read. The other Order in Council is "From and after this date the landing in Canada shall be and the same is hereby prohibited of any immigrant who has come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which he is a native or naturalized citizen and upon a through ticket purchased in that country or prepaid in Canada"

Now gentlemen these men have never been able to comply with that, and that Order in Council was possibly passed by the Governor in Council for the express purpose of preventing our fellow British subjects in India from coming to

Canada. Note that our Canadian Government, which otherwise we might reasonably be proud of have not had the courage to say what they intended by implication to be read out of this. They have not said we will forbid Indian subjects to come to Canada. They have said no one shall come except by continuous journey. What a roundabout way of going at it.

They first found that there was no steamship company coming from India to Canada, no possibility of them being transported by any means and they could not get here until a bright idea struck Gurdit Singh to bring them in here and attempt to do something for his countrymen. Now I do not pretend to discuss the economics of this matter, but no doubt the fact is that they were probably influenced by the same motive which influenced our forefathers. I know my own people a couple of centuries ago immigrated to this country from Ireland because they were poor. They needed a change in a new land where land was free, and where institutions were favorable to allowing their family to grow up and to expand and to grow. Actuated probably by the same motives these Hindus want to come to our country, because there is not a country under the sun that is so glorious as our Canada. Do we blame them, therefor, for attempting to come to Canada? Surely not, we are patriots enough - we are proud of our country - enthusiastic about all our own institutions - bad as they are - we think them better than those of any country in the world. Why blame these Hindus for coming in here. They come in here because they in their own country - because of famine and overcrowding - are poor. They are multiplying - and they as in the Old Country - Great Britain and Ireland - multiply so fast that they must seek new fields. Now gentlemen they are coming out here and knocking politely at

the door of Canada and asking for the privilege of coming in and of coming in lawfully. They do not pretend for a moment that as a country we have not a right to pass immigration laws that will exclude them. All they are ^{saying} ~~saying~~ is that the laws in Canada at present do not exclude them and if they have a chance of coming before the Courts of this land, as in the case before Chief Justice Hunter there will be found no law to keep them out. That is what they are saying on board this ship today, not that they want to come in in defiance of the law but in compliance with the law. They say that as the old Orders in Council were found wanting and bad by Chief Justice Hunter, so the new Orders in Council recently passed in substitution of the old Orders are likewise full of defects and full of flaws and not such as ~~to~~ to bar their legal entrance today. Now that is what they are here for - seeking to get in legally and properly. All this that you hear in the papers about riots and ferment and trouble ~~and~~ is froth on the surface. The fact is they are trying to get in legally - the fact is that the immigration authorities instead of ~~bringing~~ bringing on a test case at which the Orders in Council -- they may be good law -- can be determined as to whether they are good law or not, instead of doing this they have brought on everything else they can conceive of. First they tried out the men who have returned to Canada for a second time. There was no question of those if they had in fact Canadian domicile and after wasting weeks and weeks they let them all in. These men are in. Then there are 88 men that they claim to be defective - 77 of those they find defective on account of trachoma. Now I do not know much about trachoma, but I know that men can live to old age with trachoma. There is some little granular substance in the eye. Apparently it is contagious and liable if people are

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careless in using towels and so on - liable to be carried from one to the other. Now they are starting on the 77 men who are said to have trachoma. They have got through about 12 and probably two months from now they will have got through the rest of them, and have a real test case on one of the new men, and see if they can enter.

That is the situation, that is why all this delay and talk in the newspapers. They have got control of the management of affairs and nothing can be done. They claim they are not imprisoning them and there can be no habeas corpus proceedings as long as they are not imprisoned. They are only on the borderland of Canada - just the same as a man coming to Blaine and being met by an immigration officer who asks him as to his right to enter, and who says stand back. That is the position of this ship at the present time. They are asking to come in - in the same way as the man at Blaine. Until they are in Canada and held for deportation or imprisoned you cannot test the matter in the Courts. They are not subject to our jurisdiction until the immigration officers are ready to dispose of them. We cannot get them to dispose of any one and hence all this delay. It may be that these Orders in Council will all be found to be good when tested in the Courts. It may be that some lawyers have formed the opinion - the carefully considered opinion - that they are bad. Other lawyers will find that they are good on examination, and we have only got one recourse for a test, that is at the foot of the throne - that is as represented by the Judges of the Supreme Court of British Columbia - by a writ of mandamus. Now that remedy is as old as British liberty. It is one of the fundamental principles that the Crown has always reserved to itself. They have passed legislation under Sections 18 and 23 of the Immigration Act attempting

to prevent the Supreme Court or any Court from interfering with the immigration officers, and the immigration officials have felt that they are little Czars and have proceeded as such, absolutely in the most autocratic manner ever known in Canada.

Chief Justice Hunter at Victoria in presence on the argument of the Narsim Singh case said to Mr. Taylor when the latter said he did not propose to abide by the order of the Chief Justice - "Are we in Russia"? and that is what I feel like saying half the time before the Immigration Department here - are we in Russia. It is the most autocratic, the most undemocratic of our institutions. They talk about socialists and anarchists. There is no set of anarchists in Canada like the Immigration Officials, who defy all law and order and who have told me that they do not know whether they are going to abide by the Supreme Court orders if they are found to be bad. What a pretty spectacle we would have gentlemen - it would be the biggest treat I have ever had if Mr. Bowser representing the law department of this Province had to enforce an order of the Chief Justice of his Supreme Court of this Province against the Conservative Government represented by the Immigration Officials. We would have Mr. Bowser arming the militia against the Immigration Officers ~~xxxxxx~~ and trying to enforce the orders of the Supreme Court. Those who start habeas corpus proceedings really apply at the foot of the throne for the King himself in the ~~xxxxxx~~ person of one of His Majesty's Justices to decide as to whether there has been illegal detention in fact. And that has even been enforced against the highest Ministers of the Crown, and it is one of our rights and ~~Hind~~ fellow subjects and fellow citizens can appeal to His Majesty the same as we can, and gentlemen that is the position they are in here. They want to get an opportunity to appeal - they

want the privilege of appealing - and they are being delayed from day to day, and I have not the slightest doubt that they can be delayed until Christmas, and you will have the spectacle of these men being held there - I won't say they are starving - I don't know - I have never had an opportunity of investigating. I have tried to get up that gang plank and I have been told by Mr. Nelson, the Immigration Officer, that if I put my foot on the gang plank he would throw me in the ocean. I had Gurdit Singh's authority as charterer to go on board, and I just tell you gentlemen there is not a single thing from one cover of the Act to the other to authorize the immigration authorities to take possession of that ship illegally or improperly. They may go on board for the purpose of carrying on their duties but that does not authorize them to fill the gang plank with armed men, and to have an armed patrol. The Hindus have actually appealed to King George in regard to getting the privilege of interviewing counsel, and yesterday I had the honour of receiving a telegram from the Secretary of the Governor General at Ottawa to the effect that the Immigration authorities have reported to His Majesty that I have full opportunity to interview the Hindustanees, which is false. I have wired back that such a statement is only partially true. I have seen Gurdit Singh once. Once I had the esteemed privilege, surrounded by armed men on a launch run by some policemen, to interview Gurdit Singh for about an hour. That is the only time and because I forced myself to a point where they could hardly refuse without throwing me in the ocean. I have had the most piteous letters from Gurdit Singh and his Secretary that they are starving. The Immigration Officials are holding them there and treating them as they would not any herd of cattle that they had any

regard for. I heard a man the other day talking at the Club. He said - I was taking a load of cattle and horses up to Alaska a short time ago and ever time that ship would land and I could get a chance I would take those horses ashore, but our fellow British subjects are not allowed that - they are cooped up like so many hens in a coop, and kept on board that ship in a manner I am heartily ashamed of, and I should think that all these ladies and gentlemen would say with ~~what~~ me that it is a shame.

Now gentlemen I am not going to deal with the matter at any great length. There are men who can discuss this situation much more ably than I, but I have no doubt that this situation grows out of an economic condition. These men are driven from their own country by economic conditions and our men who have the funds are trying to keep them out for economic reasons. They think they will be competitors with them. They think they will enter the same field and the same market where they are selling their labor power, and every man in the last sense votes according as his pocket dictates, and we have the spectacle of these men whom we send to Ottawa, because they have the votes behind them, behaving in the manner they do -- not from any sense of principle facing the subject as statesmen would do and inquiring if there is anything which can be done. Gentlemen I feel that something big and portentous is happening. This is just the commencement of trouble - I do not pretend to think anything different. We are denying our fellow British subjects the right of entry into Canada, the right of sharing with us in part our advantages as inhabitants of Canada, and just imagine the reverse -- supposing a great many people of Canadian birth were seeking to go into India and knocking at the door of Hindustani in the

the same way ~~waxaxx~~ were treated in the same way as those Hindus on board the Komagata Maru. What a howl there would be - the whole world would hear it, and instead of talking moderately as I feel these Hindus have under the circumstances we would hear the most dire threats, the most dreadful imprecations called down upon the British Crown, all kinds of seditious language would be used by us if we were kept out where we felt we had a right to go, and gentlemen these men are doing nothing more. Don't believe all these tales of sedition, of wrong-doing that you hear. I have heard from time to time that these men are anarchists and they are all bad, all Socialists. I have myself the honour of belonging to the Canadian Socialist Party for years and I have never seen a Socialist yet who was not a decent man - the only difference is that he thinks and tries to reason the thing out for himself, and comes to some logical conclusion as to his future. The other man, like the red-haired boy, takes after his father in politics and religion as well as red hair. I was born to a good faith as a Methodist and as a Liberal. I am not sure that I have got away from it because I associated in British Columbia with Socialists but I got thinking for myself instead of taking things second hand.

Now gentlemen don't believe all these stories that you hear about the Hindus. I believe there is no finer race physically or mentally than the Sikh. Look at these magnificent men. We see them every day on the street - we are proud to say these men are old soldiers in the British Army - I have heard that remark, and I believe it was a Hindu that took within the last year or two the Nobel Prize for the greatest contribution to science in that particular

year. Physically they are our superiors and mentally our equals. They have not had the same conditions as we, but gentlemen a century or a quarter of a century will see these men ranking with us in the professions, as merchants - equalling us in other departments, and gentlemen, to own up frankly is it not that we are afraid of these men, because they are our competitors, because they are coming here for the purpose of competing with us, is not that the fact? We talk about keeping this a white man's country -- and see if that is not prejudice in your heart. It is not anything else but your economic interest which makes you want to keep these men out. Look at our millions of acres given away to speculators - lying idle - by our Government at Victoria. Gentlemen there are millions of men who could farm our lands. All our people - our white races - want to congregate in the cities. These men want to go out into the land and farm it. There is hardly anybody else on that ship but farmers - there is no prevarication in that - they are farmers most of them. Many of them have farmed their own land in the old country but they have met with reverses, failures of crops, and they come out here to seek better conditions, and possibly to bring their families in, if that is permitted. Gentlemen examine it and you will find back of it nothing that calls upon you to say we don't want those men. If you do it is the prejudice of the Pharisee in your heart. We don't want to pass them in the street cars - we say they are dirty, but they are not - they are no more dirty than the white people. Go into the logging camps and see conditions among our white men there. These men have no wives to work for them. Go into the bachelor apartments of this city and see conditions there. I was at one recently and the gentleman said that he had not

had his monthly cleaning up yet. I would have said his annual cleaning up. If you see any evidence of that kind around put it down to the fact that these men have not their help-mates here.

We call this country a great one and we claim they are guilty of immorality. Take an equal number of Canadians and see whether they match in morality with these men. I do not think a man of you has a serious compunction about letting them in on that ground.

Now gentlemen, why all this delay, why don't they come to grips with us and see if the Orders in Council are good or not, and all I can say is I do not know - all I can say is that I see some of the Immigration Officials right here - I say they can go back and say their plans are known -- there is very grave doubt as to the validity of those Orders in Council. This Conservative Government at Ottawa probably is blaming the Liberal Government for making bad legislation. Why not have it tested? For some reason they are delaying it. Do not blame the Hindus if you see this farce dragged on for months. If necessary they can wait a century - perhaps they will all die on board before this thing is decided.

(Concluded)

HOOSAIN RAHIM:

The officers in charge of the Immigration Department in Vancouver, if I give my opinion I will tell you the I.W.W.'s pale into insignificance with those dirty creatures who in the name of the King and flag go act despicably. Now we working men know what they are. The miners' situation has convinced me what they were, and I have learned so much I know even Hindu coolies are better than these white men coolies. However all these facts have to be borne witness to by somebody, and as Mr. Bird was thrown - practically thrown overboard and practically kicked and illtreated by the Immigration authorities, I wanted him to come forward and bear witness to these facts.

I will now call on Comrade Fitzgerald to address the meeting.

MR. FITZGERALD:

We have been informed that a certain Order-in-Council ^{no one} decided that ~~anyone~~ of Asiatic origin could come into this country unless possessed of so much money and passing certain examinations, etc. Do you know that I think all you Canadians had better go and cremate yourselves and I think that all the members of the British trades outside of India had better go and cremate themselves, for my studies teach me that there is not one of you could pass into Canada because of that Order-in-Council, and those of you who are here have no right to be here. I do not know of any collection of human society that did not have an Asiatic origin, and in a country like this on a day called the Sabbath, you will find the churches and in those churches are pulpits and you will find even the intelligent heads of the Immigration Department there singing "Lead Kindly Light" to an Asiatic God. Everybody knows who

knows anything that the Jesus Christ of the Church as worshipped in this city and country and throughout the white speaking countries generally - their one great Saviour - was an Asiatic from first to last, and why our Canadian Immigration authorities should so gratuitously insult the God we have been taught to worship so devoutly passes me. I move, gentlemen, that we severely censure the Immigration authorities of this part of the world for so deep and terrible an insult expressed against the God of Christian theology throughout the world. I think we should call the country to order on that account alone.

India is a long way off. You come from a country in which there are two hundred and sixteen millions of you all divided into different sects - one sect opposing the other, and because of the opposition expressed between sect and sect a little tin pot people in the north-east part of the Atlantic can go into your country and dominate you - can reduce you to such a level economically that you are not only willing but anxious to come to a country that many of us would only be too glad to get away from. Two hundred and sixteen millions of you and your songs have been sung and your heroism has been extolled by leading writers the world over, the charges made by you in defence of the British Empire have been glorious, but I say to you now if the white men of the British Empire keep you from moving within that Empire it is up to you. Take my advice friends - take this from me - there are things that you have to learn and one thing is this.

A few years ago our business men were glad to have you here. Why? Their economic interests at that time called for your admittance and they admitted you, but years have

passed and after all you are not so cheap a form of labor as they thought you would be. We, the so-called white people are far cheaper than you ever knew to be, are we not? Who so docile as a white wage slave - who so quick to obey the command of the foreman - who can be so bullied as the white wage slave, and who more productive than the white wage slave, and the reason why your brothers on the "Komagata Maru" are not being admitted to this country is that you stand in the way of the exploitation of we white men, we are so productive as wage slaves. Take my advice - you may go back to India, but the men of the Komagata Maru will see to it that not only they but every one of you becomes an agitating force in India.

Not so long ago Mr. Kier Hardie went to India and before entering upon Mr. Kier Hardie's mission in that country I will go so far as to state that all our advanced Press I have nothing against the Press - it can excite nothing in me but that compassion that any man might feel for the slime in the gutters, in this or any other city. Kier Hardie protested against the outrageous conditions in that country, and at the same time the entire Press of the English speaking world was charging him with sedition. Do you know the meaning of the word sedition? I will tell you what it means - whenever you attempt by word or action to interfere with the material interests not only of the rich of India but of the capitalists of the English speaking Empire or any other country, you are guilty of sedition. Kier Hardie having called the attention of the world to conditions in India was rebuked by the entire Press - and how the Press can lie! I have nothing but sympathy for the individual who must work for the Press. I would much rather die of starvation - I would much rather die

of some dirty, foul disease than be in the employ of the average newspaper under existing conditions. I would not so contaminate myself - I would remain clean. Now when Kier Hardie arrived in New Zealand he told us there of some of the conditions under which these Hindus worked. Now gentlemen of Canada, and I use that word because I have been reading ~~the newspapers~~ novels lately and the word "gentleman" is falling from my lips very glibly, but do not misunderstand me - there is nothing in it - just note that you are as far removed from being "gentlemen" as the North Pole is from the South. I have seen in my time the Hindus working under conditions which were most fearful and I realize as an English speaking man and a student that India is the proudest gem so to speak in the British Crown. The vast wealth of that country - wealth so vast that it cannot be estimated in terms of money - a country from which civilization flowed out over the entire world when we members of a bull-dog breed were wandering round the swamps of Germany, and later on when civilization was still flowing out from India the educational world of England rose up against the luxuries of fish forks brought from India. We have become critical since then and having learned how to use fish-forks and soup spoons we have forgotten the source from which we gained that knowledge. From India and that part of the world came all we have. Here is the richest portion of the British Empire and conditions are so rotten there under British administration that you people are compelled to come here to share conditions in this Province which are so bad that we are being reduced to one cup of miserable coffee and two doughnuts for a square meal.

Now let us consider the question I was about to propound. In the Fiji Island there are Hindus brought out by

the tens of thousands from India every two or three or four years. They are brought out there to replace the slaves who are producing the sugar on the plantations. In spite of the boasted freedom under the British flag thousands of your countrymen are sold out under seven or ten year contracts as chattel slaves. The men of this race work there for 24 cents per day, out of which they feed and clothe themselves and they work for that small sum of money per day in the production of sugar. In the West Indies these same Hindus under British freedom, are brought and are sold under 20-year contracts as chattel slaves, and if they attempt to run away or disobey the orders of their masters they are chased and brought back as were the chattel slaves of the Southern States years and years ago.

You have nothing to gain even though every member of the complement on the Komagata Maru were permitted to land tomorrow. I myself would say to you - don't land here - there is nothing here for you, but go back filled with the spirit of revolt - filled with the spirit ^{which} is among us white wage slaves - fight capital - go back and with your two hundred and sixteen million express the fighting power on your own behalf and when you have so expressed it you will come again and so deepen the respect of the white man that no measley - no insignificant pup of an Immigration Officer will even attempt to stand on a gangway and prevent your landing. When I come to think of the revolutions made by the heroes of revolt in London, England, I feel like a man drawing near to an insane asylum and it is time you average people were made to understand some of the outrages committed in India, compared to which this Komagata Maru is a mere farce. It is true as Mr. Bird says we don't know that the men on the Komagata Maru are starving or suffering from a scarcity of water, but the ship is so guarded that no one can get the slightest idea of the conditions prevailing aboard that ship and if we tried to

there might be such a riot that the authorities at Ottawa - no, that is child's play - the authorities at Downing Street England might be compelled to take action in regard to the matter. You just think of it -- in war time who so grand as the Indian soldier. Then they are our brethren indeed, and around the Empire there is the one bond - the bond of Imperial Unity, expressed in the love of their brothers under the British flag, and if there is war in Africa almost every capitalistic supporter or individual will say - "why not send our Indian brethren to South Africa, they are such well drilled troops, and are they not our brothers." Lo and behold a little time passes away. There is no war and a few Hindus come knocking at the gate, and the constituted authority under the working class is brought into play to hold off, to subject to misery and starvation and illness a number of men who are trying to come into the country.

But I want to deal with one or two outrages committed in India a few years ago. I have always been a firm believer in plain language - it is always the best. A woman who was suspected of being active as a propagandist was taken by the authorities and the police attempted to make her confess that she had done something of which she was entirely innocent for there is no crime in doing a little propaganda work. They treated her most cruelly and in such a manner that she died from the outrage, and it was to such things as this that Mr. Kier Hardie drew attention to in India, and because of his utterances along this line the entire English Press was up in arms and accusing him of sedition.

I say to you again, never mind Canada, there isn't very much in Canada, but if there should be greater misery in India than here, bear in mind that revolution is born of misery, and also never mind wasting your energies on the Komagata Maru - get back to your own land filled with the spirit of revolt and sweep the country, and then fight the people that we Socialists of North America are fighting.

SOHAN LAL presented the following:

Whereas the Hindustani passengers on board the Komagata Maru are unlawfully prevented by the Immigration authorities from consulting with their legal advisers and from procuring provisions and water from their Hindu friends, making their lot on board a lot to which even cattle would not be subjected;

And whereas such brutal and unlawful treatment of Britishers of the same type as the Hindus would not be tolerated in India, we urge the Dominion authorities under the principle: "Do unto others as you would they should do unto you" to see that the Hindus are saved from the high-handed actions of the Immigration Department.

We further protest that the actions of the Immigration officers in Vancouver are as unlawful as anarchists and are so provoking that the Hindus shall never forget or forgive the powers that be if they do not remedy the immigration situation here. "

This protest shall be wired to the Premier of Canada and the Secretary of State for India, London, England.

We protest against the unlawful treatment given by the Immigration authorities to the men on board the Komagata Maru in the harbor of Vancouver. These Immigration people are so hard hearted that they are going to practise any kind of brutality that they can lay hand on.

(Mr. Sohan Lal was here requested by the Chairman to continue his speech in Hindustani so that his countrymen might understand).