

Gill, N.

The East Indian People of B.C.



N. Gill: The EI People of B.C.

Doaba = 2, Sutlej River. / Malwa = 3 + 2 of river.

$$V_{AN} + V_{IC} = D_{oalva}$$

New West. Port Alberni, Mossen = Malwa.

marriage now common.

3.  $\frac{4}{5}$  Et came in 1902

6. 1947 Legislature passed Bill 85.

? 1904 → Port Moody.

late  $\rightarrow$  false creek

N. West. Tulu Island Temple from 1921.

Paladi = Kapoor Samuels + Mayo Zumber. until closing.

10. Baisak Sika are celebrated in May

11. 1952 dispute. note Akalis have a temple in Victoria.

12. Oregonians 1947. ER Can Cit Wel Assoc.

moderns

qualis.

1970 Gyniat'i Soez, 140

1967 11~~th~~ Aga Khan Jamalia Community

India - Canada Friendship ds we.

1968 Zoroastrian Soc of BC ≈ 75 members.

15. Est. 80% make India - Canada Grants.

16 est 60% in forest products.

Pine Lake Yumbe Soken Bell. p 16  
Terminal lfe

June 23, 1971

~~July 21 - 1971~~ → prejudice Questioned not.



(their features indicate a highly developed Caucasian type), the orthodox are the least assimilable of the Orientals. They pay very little attention to the Canadian way of life and conform to their own mode of living. On the other hand, the second generation and unorthodox native East Indians are well Westernized. They maintain their own culture while superimposing on it a B. C. way of life. The East Indians know full well that in today's age "no man is an island". Many accept Canadian laws, customs and traditions without question and respect them deeply. However, the East Indians also wish to maintain some of their native customs at the same time. Assimilation is a process that cannot complete itself overnight; it is occurring slowly but nevertheless steadily.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The first East Indians who came to British Columbia were employed as labourers by lumbering firms. Soon sawmills at Brunette, Fraser Mills (known as Millside), Abbotsford, Port Moody and Hastings were employing them and looking for them.<sup>13</sup> It seemed to be a matter of the first few getting jobs in mills and then others following.<sup>14</sup> To the present day, many of the East Indians are still with this occupation. That is, roughly about 60% of them are occupied in production and processing of forest products.

From mill-employees, many became saw-mill owners with white employees. Two giants of the forest industry were Kapoor Sawmills Ltd. at Sooke Lake, and Mayo Lumber Company Ltd. at Paldi, both on Vancouver Island. In relations to the conditions and the time (1930's) both companies dominated the B. C. forest industry and were well-known.

Many East Indians did well in the lumber industry and many as a result became millionaires. Today, the following sawmills are owned by East Indians: Pine Lake Lumber, Delta, by Sohen Gill; Terminal Sawmills, Vancouver, by Asa Johal; Hem-Fir Sawmills, Vancouver, by Ranji Mattu; Mayo Lumber, Nanaimo; by Mayo Singh and Sons; Herman Sawmills, Mission City, by Herman Braich; Plumper Bay Sawmills, Victoria, by Piara Johal; Aspen Planer, Merritt, by Tara Singh; Doman Industries, Ladysmith, by Doman Singh and Sons; and Amir Forest Products, Vancouver, by Amir Virani, Jaggat Uppal and Mohindar Gill.

---

13. The Vancouver Sun, August 1, 1970.

14. The Province, November 16, 1967.