

The Orientals in B.C.

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men in California, they did not engage in agriculture; if they left the lumber mills and logging camps they went into independent businesses - selling wood, running saw-mills, selling real estate. At Duncan, at Ladysmith, at Comox and at Vancouver there were Hindostani mill proprietors. Altogether they owned seven logging camps, two shingle factories, six lumber companies, two green-groceries, twenty-five farms, and fifty firewood establishments. Big business was represented in the Bombay Trading Company, with a capitalization of twenty-five thousand dollars and the Guru Nanak Banking and Trust Company, capitalized at fifty thousand dollars. It was characteristic of all Hindostani businesses that they were partnerships, generally consisting of five or six partners. Altogether, not more than ten per cent of the colony in and about Vancouver and Victoria were business-men. It was the lumber worker who was the characteristic Hindostani in British Columbia.

Mr. Das found that his countrymen were employed chiefly in hand labor in the mills; - rough manual work of the same type that was given to the Chinese and Japanese employees. Nevertheless, the Hindostani was given the preference; even though the three races worked side by side, the East Indian was considered the superior. And, as we shall see later, there was a distinct difference in the pattern of pay. In the opinion of the mill-owner whom Mr.

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