

[Diary : United India Home Rule League of Canada and the Hindustani Swaraj Sabha - English translation]

THE DIARY

This diary contains the minutes of two organizations which came into existence in 1920.
1. United India Home Rule League of Canada - 1717 - 2nd Ave W Vancouver B.C.

2. The Hindustani Swaraj Sabha of Canada - 1872 - 2nd Ave W Vancouver B.C.
Both organizations are linked to India's Independence Movement started in Vancouver B.C.

The first ten pages (1-10) cover the proceedings of the United India Home Rule League of Canada, with Mr. Rahim at the helm of presidency. It began on July 5, 1920 and abruptly ended after August 21, 1920.

The causes and reasons for its closing are not clear from the proceedings.

Pages 11 and 12 are blank.

Pages 13-50 cover the proceedings of The Hindustani Swaraj Sabha of Canada.

It's evident from the members list on page 13 that a new organization, "The Hindustani Swaraj Sabha of Canada," came into existence, including members of the previous organization along with the new members, less Mr. Rahim. It took over the old organization under a new president, Babu Kapoor Singh, with Hardit Singh as its secretary. It operated in the same place until it established its new office at 1872 - 2nd Ave W - a house owned by the Khalsa Diwan Society.

Whoever recorded the minutes, whether secretary or president, is not clear. My calculated guess is that it's not the president Kapoor Singh. Either it's the secretary Hardit Singh or Munchi Ram. It's more likely Munchi Ram as it's evident from July 28, 1920 meeting item 7, the first line, page 6. Next could be Gurdit Singh in year 1921 and Idhar Singh in the year 1922.

Whoever recorded the minutes of the new organization in the first meeting, started with a Sikh motto: "Aik Onkar Sat Gurb Prasad"*, meaning: "With the grace of one GOD, who is True." This Sikh Grace is commonly written at the beginning of any writing e.g. letters, or an article and any ceremonial or non-ceremonial functions or rites similar to a tradition in all Eastern Religions. (* It's common to many different religions by different traditions and cultures.)

In spite of the Sikh Grace on top in the middle of page 13 before the minutes, this organization was very secular to its core, which is evident from many instances in the diary, especially the following three strong ones -

1. There are active Hindu and Muslim members in various committees and main body on page 13.
2. Invited Dr. Hardikar, an Indian Nationalist from New York in February, 1921 (page 23) to deliver a lecture.
3. In April 1922, Mr. Wadia, a Parsi of Bombay was touring North America. This organization in its April 16, 1922 meeting, passed a resolution to contact him, inquiring whether he has the same beliefs as this organization. However, they didn't end up entertaining him, as he was a religious preacher, preaching Parsi religion (page 47, April 22, 1920 meeting minutes).

This organization functioned until July 23, 1922, as per the diary's last entry (page 50).

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IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Rahim, Husain; Ram, Ganga; Singh, Gurdit, 1858-1954; Singh, Kapoor; United India League (Vancouver); Khalsa Diwan Society (Vancouver)