SOUTH ASIAN
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[E. M. N. Woods, lawyer, Woods & Downie, counsel for Mewa Singh, to Charles J. Doherty, Minister of Justice]

E. M. N. Woods, Counsel for Mewa Singh, to C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, Ottawa.

VANCOUVER, CANADA

Wednesday December, 1924

The Honorable, the Minister of Justice,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to make application on behalf of Mewa Singh now under sentence of death at the Provincial Gaol, New Westminster, date of execution being fixed for January 21st, for clemency, and to bring the business of execution commuted, and in bring so would draw to your attention the following facts.

The Sikhs landing on the South of Indiana, which of course is to be very much regretted, culmination of a long series of events dating back to the year 1913. I acted as counsel for the accused at his trial, and could if I wished to have had a long drawn out trial, which would have involved the expenditure of various amounts which the Protection Association in this city, and particularly against the landing of the East Indian question, and the accused being an East Indian it was difficult for me to explain to him that while a great many things may have happened that have impressed themselves on his mind as being unjust, and wrong, still on a matter of law they were not a defence to the indictment upon which he stood charged, and as a result the trial took a very few minutes, as it were, and a single court witness being cross-examined by me, and the accused was found guilty.

At the trial, however, the accused sat into the box and was sworn and gave testimony and was cross-examined by the Crown counsel. He also, before sentence, made a statement. This statement was interpreted by a very efficient court interpreter, Mr. Bellam, and his statement was taken down in shorthand, and afterwards transcribed. This statement I enclose as being the accused's statement of fact, and the trial judge took it and suggested that the accused give his address to me, after being duly sworn, he requested that the statement be put in after the same had been read by me as counsel in open court.

IDENTIFIER
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ARTIST
Doherty, Charles J., 1855-1931; Singh, Bela; Singh, Mewa; Woods, E. M. N.