

[J. H. MacGill, Immigration Agent, to William W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior. Copy]

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COPY,
Immigration Branch
Department of the Interior.

TO: Mr. Cory, Jan 11th-08.

Dear Sir:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 10th, inst., as follows:-

"Five present labour conditions amongst Hindus."

to which I replied on the same day in the following terms:-

"About four hundred Hindus unemployed here now, not having come in from Upper Country. Through word passed before Christmas met have some money. Eight dollars a month keeps them, but many are begging in lanes and alleys."

Last night I received a following telegram from you in this effect:-

"Will attention of principal authorities of Vancouver to section thirty three and following sub-sections of Immigration act, and inform them that if they will not take necessary legal action against present Hindus, to get them out of the city by not so will I go and bear my share of responsibility."

Referring generally to this question I beg to state that there would appear to be about three hundred Hindus in and around Vancouver, but living chiefly in the suburbs, unemployed at the present time, to which an additional one hundred must be added who travel throughout the outside points, such as the Okanagan and Kootenay countries.

There has been some trouble lately in fruit orchards and farms. The open weather through October, November and December, when there is usually a great deal of time lost by labourers, has been in such favour to such an extent that part of those men are said to have sufficient money to see them through the next couple of months. This, you will understand, need not be a very large sum, as they can live upon \$1.00 per week.

The unemployed appear to come into the city in both the downtown and residential sections almost daily, and are thus seen in large numbers on the streets. Many of them are seen from time to time in the lanes and alleys, always asking for work such as the bringing in of coal and fuel, or in other better defined, actually begging. As their number prevents them eating food prepared by our people, money is practically all they are after, and in fact the only thing they desire more than to have money of any kind. Some of them may possibly be of the professional begging class common in India, to whom I have referred here in the past they certainly have money. Successful apprehension of them would be difficult, possibly requiring a special officer.

About the time of Mr. W. C. Smith's departure on your letter was published in the Vancouver News, a copy of which you sent to me by Teja Singh, about a week later. I beg to enclose enclosed Teja's letter and of my own to Mr. W. C. Smith, after they had been unemployed men, probably as instructed by Teja.

Concerning the four hundred Hindus a Trust Company, I have no doubt that you have already received all the information available. Sufficient to say, that at this time an expert commission is being sent by office, to ascertain the exact number of unemployed men in connection with the Company, for which the

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ARTIST
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