

[William D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, Memorandum re numbers of Hindus immigrating, unsuited for Canadian climate. Original]

1876-1934 53087102  
2222 October, 1937.

MEMORANDUM

I beg to attach, herewith, statement showing the number of Hindus who have arrived in Canada from the fiscal year, 1936-37 until the end of September last, according to a total of 5,007. Of this number some 1,448 have applied for admission to the United States, 25% of whom have been rejected; in other words about 1,074 have come across the line.

During my visit to Vancouver I made a very careful investigation as to immigrants coming from India and I find that they are totally unsuited as immigrants for this country and measures should be taken to prevent their landing in Canada. The first obstacle in the way of these people is our climate. Last year some twenty-five of them died from exposure and it is likely to be repeated this year. Referring to the numbers who have come across to the United States, I find that the bulk of the destinations are southern California, where the climate is more to their liking. Another reason why they should be excluded is the different water and the different varieties of food such as is consumed by white people. Their habits of life are such that they cannot be assimilated as desirable immigrants. They cannot be assimilated in the body politic.

In discussing the Asiatic question generally, I have had numbers of people say to me, who were favourable to a limited number of Asiatics ~~to be~~ allowed into the country, but as for the poor Hindu, it would be a mercy to keep him out.

Superintendent of Immigration.

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Scott, William D., 1861-1925