

Report re Hindus [William C. Hopkinson, Immigration Inspector]

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REPORT re HINDUS:

REPORT: As far as can be ascertained the Pioneer of this community landed in Canada in 1908. They came from Hong Kong and Shanghai where there were hundreds employed in the Police and other semi-military institutions. Since their arrival and up to April 1908 there were landed in British Columbia nearly 5000 of these men.

PROSPECTS: 1. The Pioneer on their landing found bright prospects in the wages then current, and reports sent by them to India and the Fiji Islands resulted in a rush to Canada.

2. The C.P.R. finding good business in the immigration of these people offered special rates for transportation through its Agents Messrs. Willmester, Arbutnot & Co, Kelowna. Large posters printed in the language of the country were circulated broadcast, more especially in the Province of Punjab.

COMMENTS: The prospects of this community for the first two years were fair, but the influx of new immigrants to this Province from India and the Fiji's found the place over-run with men. There they could find work. The winter in this country played havoc among them, for, having come from a warm climate to these shores, with no clothes to provide against rain and cold, many succumbed to tuberculosis. Many were found begging from house to house and would only take money, refusing any food or shelter offered them. The City tried to give them relief as far as possible by subscription, clothing and accommodation. Matters came to a climax, when to prevent an epidemic the City Health Dept. had to condemn the habitations of these people who herded together by fifties and hundreds against all laws of hygiene, and compelled them to disband and find healthier accommodation.

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

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