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MEMORANDUM FOR SIR ROBERT BORDEN.

Some time ago Mr. Christie left with me a confidential India Office memorandum on Indian Immigration into Canada. This memorandum strikes me as a well written presentation of the case for the regulated admission of East Indians into Canada. I discussed the matter privately with Mr. W. D. Scott, the Superintendent of Immigration, who thinks that the time has arrived when we can no longer refuse to reconsider our position in regard to the admission of East Indians. This view, it seems to me, is strengthened by the part India is taking in the war.

Mr. Scott is prepared, should the matter be referred to him, to take a recommendation along the following lines:

1. That the Government should agree to the admission of the wife and minor children of any Indian lawfully resident in Canada who is in a position to receive and care for his family. "Minor children" might be limited to meaning to include persons under sixteen years of age. We frequently, in the case of British subjects from the United Kingdom, investigate the ability of the husband to care for his wife and family before agreeing to their admission, so that, in adopting the same arrangement in the case of Hindus, we should not be discriminating against them, and would, on the other hand, protect the Canadian province and municipality in which the head of the family was resident.

A certificate or other written assurance, from the Indian Government, to the effect that the intending immigrants are the wife and family of the Indian lawfully resident in Canada, as they purport to be, should be required in each case.

2. That consideration should be promised for the admission of a limited number of Indians each year, those admitted to carry, as in the case of wives and children, a document of authentication from the Indian Government. Mr. Scott would not favour the admission of additional East Indian labour at the present time, owing to the unemployment now prevailing on the Pacific Coast, which necessitated the Order-in-Council now in existence, prohibiting the entry at British Columbia ports of skilled or unskilled workers of any sort or nationality, but it might be intimated

that this arrangement would go into effect as soon as industrial and other conditions on the Pacific coast warranted.

This seems to me very reasonable and fitting. In order however to clarify it in official form, it is necessary that the India Office memorandum should be referred to the Minister of the Interior.