

HINDUS AND JAPANESE.

When a Hindu seeking a home in Canada complains that even foreign Oriental people are preferred before him, he has a certain technical basis for argument. By an agreement made by Mr. Lemieux, on behalf of the Laurier administration, the Government of Japan promised to allow only a small number of Japanese to come to Canada in any year. It will be remembered that this agreement followed the arrival of 8,000 Japanese in 1907, after Canada ratified for herself the British treaty with Japan. The story is a long one, but the essential fact is that the Laurier administration did not accept the Imperial Government suggestion to reserve the control of immigration. Without this reservation Canada bound herself to permit unrestricted immigration from Japan. The Canadian Parliament was persuaded to ratify the treaty in this form by the assurance of Mr. Fisher that Japan had given him a written undertaking to restrict such immigration. Afterwards, when Mr. Fisher was asked to produce his written pledge, he corrected his statement and said that the promise must have been verbal. Parliament was told by Sir Wilfrid that no laborers would be allowed to come to this country from Japan, and not more than about ten a month of any class would be permitted to come. Immediately after the treaty was ratified Japanese came by thousands. Then Mr. Lemieux went to Japan and made his agreement, the details of which he declared to be secret. The public part is contained in an indefinite letter from the Japanese Foreign Minister, who says at Japan "will give careful consideration to local conditions prevailing in Canada with a view of meeting the desires of the Government of the Dominion as far as is compatible with the spirit of the treaty and the dignity of the state."

In the seven years since then a few hundred Japanese have entered Canada annually under this arrangement. These are not supposed to belong to the laboring class, but there is no guarantee against it. Canada is no longer bound by the treaty which got us into this difficulty. When the time came to renew it, Canada, under another administration, recovered the privilege of regulating her own immigration. This was done to make the country independent of the grace of a foreign power, and not because the small immigration allowed was thought to be dangerous. Nevertheless, even this small immigration makes a discrimination against British subjects in India, which it may be advisable to remove. No doubt such a course would be disagreeable to our Asiatic ally, but it is worth considering whether we owe more to allies of the British Empire than to the British Empire itself.

But whatever action is taken it cannot change the attitude of this country toward Hindu immigration. If the slight immigration of Japanese that is now permitted shall be found an obstacle to the enforcement of Canadian policy the discrimination will be removed without admitting shiploads of Hindus.

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PRINCE RUPERT EMPIRE.

11/21-11

DO NOT WANT JAP FISHERMEN

Skeena Conservative Association Pass
Resolution

At the meeting of the Skeena Conservative Association Saturday evening, a resolution was passed, deploring the fact of the fishing industry being in the hands of Japanese, and urging on the government that the industry be taken out of their hands.

THE DAILY

SOHAN LAL SAYS HE IS A VICTIM

Would Not Kill a Bird, Much
Less Incite Anyone to
Commit Murder.

He Makes Countercharges of
Conspiracy Against Some
of Crown Witnesses.

A countercharge that he had been trailed round the city by men who sought his life was made by Sohan Lal, the Hindu charged with inciting the murder of Inspector W. C. Hopkinson, when in the witness box in the assizes this morning.

"Last Saturday I was followed round by a man who was trying to murder me and I escaped by going into a theatre which he could not enter because he wore a turban. On Aug. 26 I escaped by going into a house on Second avenue, where I was allowed to telephone to my friends at the temple to come and help me," said the witness who proved very plausible and voluble in the witness box.

"I will swear on the Bible. All Bibles are binding on my conscience," he said obligingly. He admitted that he believed in the Vedic scriptures himself, and the crown prosecutor took the precaution to place in front of him a little brass image of the goddess Vashni with a lamp in one hand and a snake in the other.

Sohan Lal said he came to Canada four years ago and had been part of the time in the United States, where he studied under the famous Baboo Singh.

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My religious belief is that it is wrong to destroy any living thing, even a fly. For that reason I never eat meat or even an egg. I never drink or smoke. I have devoted my life here to helping my countrymen, telling them not to get drunk, but to save their money and earn the respect of the white men, so that they will some day be allowed to have their wives and children here," he said.

He said he had made an enemy of Bela Singh and Baboo Singh by reciting out of the Scriptures the saying, "The man who enters by the back door makes himself a slave to the owner of the house when he is caught," and by always warning his countrymen against attempting to get into Canada by any back door methods. He produced a volume of the Royal Punjab dictionary to support his contention that the word "faisla" the immigration officials, meant "to arbitrate, to settle a dispute, to dispose of a case at law without litigation."

Mewa Singh, the man awaiting the death penalty for the murder of Inspector Hopkinson, he admitted having met at Victoria. "I could not eat the food at my boarding house because they had meat, so I went to Mewa Singh and he cooked food for me. He was a very devout man and never attended any political meetings. He would only go to the temple to pray," he said. The men at the doors of the temple were not to keep out spies, but to prevent drunken men getting in and defiling the temple.

The accused explained his presence in the vicinity of the shooting by producing a subpoena from the crown ordering him to attend the court that day. Mewa was also a witness under subpoena. As evidence of his peaceful intentions he produced a copy of The Province of July 17 during the Komagata Maru troubles in which he expressed himself on the side of peace.

"The Hindus in Vancouver were not dissatisfied over the Komagata Maru, except at not being allowed to take out food to the men and to talk with them. The immigration authorities are all right only they have been wrongly informed by Bela Singh and Baboo Singh," he protested.

Gujar Singh, Naran Singh, Surjan Singh and Thakar Singh all testified for the accused that they had been present at the temple when Sohan Lal spoke and had never heard him make any violent or seditious statements.

Mr. George E. McCrossan addressed the jury for the prisoner, and Mr. A. D. Taylor, K. C., for the crown. The case will be sent to the jury this afternoon.

11/30-11

NUMBER OF JAPANESE IN THIS PROVINCE

Over Twelve Hundred Have
Been Naturalized During
Past Five Years.

Ottawa, Nov. 30.—In the House of Commons yesterday, in reply to a series of questions put by Mr. H. H. Stevens of Vancouver, Dr. Roche, secretary of state, said that the number of Japanese and Chinese in British Columbia, according to the latest census, had not yet been compiled. The number of Japanese on record as naturalized British subjects during the past five years is 1269. The minister added that the following persons have been appointed commissioners in British Columbia to take and administer oaths under the naturalization and aliens act: E. A. Haggen, Revelstoke; John Ridington and John McKinnar, both of Vancouver. The appointments do not carry any salary.