

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST HINDUS

Three Prominent Local East
Indians Arrested by Police on
Charge of Giving Counsel to
Procure Murder. *Oct 23*

Secret activities by the local police to uncover what they believe to be a gigantic plot on the part of a certain set of the Hindu colony of Vancouver to frustrate the authorities in maintaining law and order were revealed in part last evening when three prominent Hindus were arrested on a warrant charging them with inciting to murder. These were Rahim Singh, Balwant Singh and Carter Singh, all of them well known to the public since the arrival of the Komagata Maru. Another arrest will probably follow today on the same charge, while it is possible that a large number of Hindus will shortly be detained at police headquarters on charges not quite so serious.

No Resistance Offered.

The arrests last evening were the immediate outcome of the death of Inspector Hopkinson of the Immigration Department, with the murder of whom Mewa Singh is now charged. The formal charge against Rahim Singh, Balwant Singh and Carter Singh is that of "unlawfully counselling to procure persons to murder other persons." This, reduced to ordinary phraseology, is a charge of inciting to murder. Carter Singh and Balwant Singh were arrested by the detectives early in the evening, while Rahim was taken to the police station after midnight. None of them offered any resistance when the warrants were presented.

Rahim Singh, it will be remembered, was the leader of the party of local Hindus which took over the charter of the Komagata Maru from Gurdit Singh. He is probably the best known of the three arrested last night.

Previous Charges Preferred.

Carter Singh was one of the leaders of a group of East Indians that called themselves the "Hindu Shore Committee." He was in the Sikh Temple at the time that Bela Singh, one of the secret officers of the Immigration Department, was charged with pointing his revolver at certain other Hindus in the auditorium. It was at that time charged that this was a conspiracy to have Bela Singh arrested and possibly discredited by his employers.

Balwant Singh was known for a time as the priest of the temple. When the Komagata Maru was in port he no longer held that position and during a most crucial moment in the negotiations for the deportation of the passengers he was arrested for allegedly trying to bring firearms into Canada from the United

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States. Inspector Hopkinson, who apparently knew more about the inner workings of Hindu circles in the province, than almost any other white men, stated at the time that Balwant Singh with other countrymen arrested at the same time was trying to secure weapons and ammunition for the men on the Maru.

Fourth Man Well Known.

The man to be arrested today is also well known and the trial of the quartette will, it is anticipated, be one of the most sensational in the annals of the local courts. Other detentions pending will probably be more for the sake of preventing valuable witnesses from leaving the country before the hearing than to prove anything against them personally. In some circles it is stated, however, that it is the intention of the authorities not only to arrest the supposed ringleaders of a set which they claim to have been responsible for many disturbances in the local colony, but to punish every member of that set. In this, it is said, they have the support of the majority of the Hindus in the city, and there is no doubt but that in their activities of the last few days the police and immigration authorities have had the help of several loyal East Indians who have prospered under Canadian law and are willing to abide by its dictates.

Houses Are Searched.

Although the police have not made any announcement of their efforts of the last two days to ferret out any parties who may in the most remote degree have been responsible for the death of Inspector Hopkinson, they have not been the less active on that account. Acting on the instruction of Mayor Baxter, giving them authority to search any Hindu whom they suspected of carrying firearms, the police authorities have not only stopped Hindus on the street found to be acting in a suspicious manner, but have carried their work into the colony itself. Over a score of homes have, it is stated, been searched from garret to cellar and in many cases weapons have been brought to light.

It is evidently the intention of the authorities to continue this work until reference to the Hindu residents shall no longer bring to mind appalling stories such as have had to be recorded during the last year or so.

CHARGE OF MURDER LAID AGAINST HINDU

Mch. 19
Ratan Singh Dies in General
Hospital as Result of Shoot-
ing in Store and Alleged
Assailant Faces Charge. *1915*

Ratan Singh, who with Amar Singh was shot in an affray in a Hindu store at the corner of Granville Street and Third Avenue on Thursday evening, died at the General Hospital at seven o'clock yesterday morning. The charge against Jagat Singh has been changed from attempted murder to murder.

One report has it that the shot which killed Ratan Singh was meant for Bela Singh, a Hindu whose life has several times been threatened since his acquittal on a murder charge at the last Assizes. The police are afraid that the disturbance may possibly give rise to a repetition of last year's trouble in the Hindu colony.

HINDU SUES BANK; QUEER STORY TOLD

Oct 24
Witnesses Say Erditt Singh In-
structed Janat Singh to
Withdraw Account for Him.

The Bank of British North America was a defendant yesterday in the County Court to a suit brought against it by a Hindu named Erditt Singh, under interesting circumstances. Erditt Singh is claiming the return of \$360 which has already been paid out to Janat Singh, and the bank is calling evidence to suggest that the matter was a frame-up between some of the Hindus to beat the bank.

In his evidence Erditt Singh said that he had deposited the \$360 in the bank at Duncan while he was working at a mill there. The money represented two years' savings. Later he went to Comox to work and when he went to the bank to withdraw his money was told that it had already been withdrawn. Janat Singh the man who is alleged to have withdrawn the money by representing that he had authority from Erditt Singh, came forward as a witness and said that Erditt had told him to get the money for him. Baboo Singh, a witness called by the bank, said he had seen a letter from Erditt Singh asking Janat Singh to go to the bank and get the money. The witness had accompanied Janat Singh and assured the teller that it was all right. The mode of identifying the Hindu depositors by their scars and other characteristics is being made an element in the case.

Mr. M. B. O'Dell is appearing for the plaintiff. The trial, which is before Judge McInnes, was adjourned to secure a witness who is among the eight Hindus held as material witnesses by the crown in the murder charge arising out of Inspector Hopkinson's death.

Farmer Accidentally Shot.

Blenheim, Ont., Oct. 24.—Thomas [Name], a prominent Harwich Town-

THREE MORE HINDUS

24
Police Make New Arrests as Result
of a Confession. *Oct*

H. Rahim, a Hindu, and one of the leaders of the Socialist party in this city, Balwant Singh, Sikh priest, and Katar Singh, a Sikh prominently connected with the troubles incidental to the Komagata Maru last summer, were arrested last night by Divisional Inspector Scott, and Detectives McLeod and Imlah. They appeared in the police court this morning charged with "unlawfully counselling persons to murder other persons" and were remanded until next Friday.

The arrest is the direct outcome of the murder of Immigration Inspector W. C. Hopkinson last Wednesday. While the police are reticent, it is understood that a plot has been uncovered through the discovery of a letter on the person of a Hindu which had in its ramifications the removal of not only Inspector Hopkinson, but others as well, including several Sikhs, who were believed to have told the authorities of seditious meetings and doctrines.

An investigation was held last night and it is believed that one of the conspirators has broken down and given the police and immigration authorities the information on which Rahim, Balwant and Katar Singh were arrested. Whether other arrests will be made the police will not say, but it is admitted that drastic measures will be taken to ensure the peace of the community and prevent a recurrence of the tragedies which during the past three months have shocked the citizens of Vancouver.

Carman Case Nears End.
Mineola, N. Y., Oct. 24.—The defense of Mrs. Carman on trial