

NINE HINDUS SHOT TWO FATALLY, IN SIKH TEMPLE

Peaceful Kitsilano Thrown In Wild Turmoil Saturday Night By Shooting.

Bela Singh Accused of Opening Fire on Countrymen With Automatics.

Bhag Singh and Badan Singh Died on Sunday from Effects of Wounds.

Feud Is Between Revolutionaries and Hindus Friendly to Immigration Men.

DEAD

Hernan Singh, found last Monday with throat cut, near Kitsilano car barns.

Argan Singh, shot through throat by Ram Singh, on Thursday at 1747 Third avenue west.

Killed in Affray.

Bhag Singh, Hindu priest, shot through lungs and abdomen in Temple, Second avenue, died Sunday. Badan Singh, 1687 Second avenue, shot twice in lungs, died last night.

Fatally Wounded.

Uttum Singh, North Vancouver, shot through lungs, from behind.

Wounded.

Puttam Singh, North Vancouver, wounded in left knee.

Labh Singh, Wilson Road, Point Grey, shot twice in forearm and through knee.

Sohan Lal, Forty-eight avenue South Vancouver, shot in the right knee.

Jawallah Singh, shot through the body, a brother of Argan Singh, (deceased.)

Dalin Singh, Victoria, slight wound in left thigh.

Another Sikh whose name is given as Badan Singh. Not in the hospital, believed to have received flesh wound in leg. Not the same Badan Singh of Second avenue.

Bhagut Rahm, beaten up by three compatriots on downtown wharf.

Bhag Singh, president of the temple and priest of the Sikh religion, and Badan Singh are dead and seven other Hindus are wounded as the result of a shooting affray in the Sikh temple on Second avenue, Kitsilano, at 7:40 o'clock Saturday night. Bela Singh, employed by the Dominion Government immigration authorities, is alleged to have done the shooting. He was identified as being the man who had fired the fatal shots by Bhag Singh a moment before he fell back on his cot at the hospital dead yesterday afternoon, while Badan Singh also pointed accusingly at him as he stood shackled and under guard in the ward where Badan was breathing his last.

Bhag Singh was shot through the lungs and abdomen. On being taken to the hospital Dr. McEachern and his capable staff of physicians did everything possible to save the man. Dr. P. McLennan operated upon him and found that his liver had been

completely shattered by the bullets that entered his abdomen. Before being operated upon Bhag made a statement to the effect that Bela Singh had shot him. He was not sure he would die at that time, and expressed his hope of recovery, so another statement was necessary from him. This was taken yesterday afternoon by Mr. Israel I. Rubinowitz, J. P., in the presence of Inspector W. C. Hopkinson of the immigration department and of members of the police force and hospital staff.

Badan Singh, a man of wonderful vitality, fought hard against death. His body was perforated in several places, and from the first it was seen that he had but a short time to live. He made a statement prior to his death to the effect that Bela Singh had shot him.

Bela Singh, in charge of city detectives, was brought to the hospital. A fine, straight military-looking man, he stood beside his alleged victims and listened without displaying the least sign of nervousness to the dying declarations of the men whom he is said to have shot. Uttum Singh, another Sikh seriously hurt, while a little stronger today, is reported as having but little chance of recovery.

While all the Sikhs in the hospital declare that Bela Singh was the only man who did any shooting, another opinion is held by others who took part in the investigations that followed the affray, and also by several Sikhs who were in the temple at the time. One Hindu—the caretaker of the temple, expressed his belief that another man with a gun was present either inside of the temple or on the verandah below. This belief, it is understood, although the authorities will not discuss the case, is borne out by the number of empty revolver shells found about the place.

Story of the Affray.

The trouble Saturday night is the culmination of the factional differences arising out of the refusal of the authorities to allow entry to Canada of the undesirable immigrants from Shanghai, who came here last May on board the Komogata Maru. Two tragedies disclosed last week are attributed to the same cause. Hernan Singh's dead body was found last Monday in the bushes near the Kitsilano car barns, while Argan Singh, was shot in the throat at 1747 Third avenue on Thursday night, by Ram Singh, who has been arrested by the police, and will be charged with murder.

Saturday afternoon the body of Argan Singh was cremated, and following the ceremony at the cemetery, those present returned to the Sikh temple to go through certain religious rites. All those present in the temple were kneeling at prayer, witnesses whom the police have arrested and the wounded men at the hospital declare, when Bela Singh entered the place and took his place on the floor near Bhag Singh, the priest.

Bhag Singh was bowed in prayer, it is said, when Bela Singh arose and drawing two 32 calibre automatic pistols from his coat pockets took

liberate aim at the kneeling priest and shot him through the back.

All Ran for Doors.

Instantly all the worshippers sprang to their feet and rushed towards the exits. As they ran Bela Singh continued to shoot. The rear door behind the altar was instantly jammed by the panic stricken mob of men, who endeavored to force their way outside to safety, and as they pushed, shoved and tore at each other in their mad efforts to escape from the hall of lead, Bela Singh stood back and emptied his guns into the screeching, screaming mass of humanity.

So great was the crush on the rear verandah of the temple, that several were pushed over the railing and fell to the ground sixteen feet below. While the others rushed down the narrow stairway or burst through the big front doors, and fled along the avenue leaving trails of blood behind them.

The noise of the shooting, the screaming of the wounded and the cries of the terrified men who had escaped from the blood bespattered temple could be heard for blocks, and in a moment the whole district was in a turmoil. Women made nervous by the two deaths in the Hindu quarter in the last week, and the knowledge that threats of further trouble had been openly made, fainted and became hysterical, while a crowd of men and boys rushed toward the place and surrounded the temple.

Called the Police.

One Hindu ran to the nearest telephone and informed the authorities, while a wounded Sikh leaving a trail of blood behind him on the pavement, ran several blocks away, and burst into the home of Mr. Saunders, a resident of Second avenue, seeking sanctuary. Mr. Saunders ran to the Kitsilano police station and told the police there. Divisional Inspector Dave Scott, Sergeant Latimer and a squad of policemen immediately rushed to the place. The ambulance was sent for and arrived from police headquarters with Dr. Morley in charge. It was loaded with wounded and was sent to the hospital, where everything had been made ready to receive them. Another car had to be pressed into service when the ambulance broke down, and the second load was taken from the temple to the General Hospital in the Chief of Police's own car, which had arrived from downtown with a corps of detectives. Inspectors of Immigration W. C. Hopkinson and Gwyther, were also summoned and Supt. Malcolm Reid came later.

Inspector Scott rounded up fifteen devotees, who were in the Sikh temple at the time of the shooting and locked them up as material witnesses. It was known that several others besides the seven who were first taken to the hospital had been wounded, and late last night Sohan Lal was found at his home in South Vancouver, and was taken to police headquarters where his injuries were dressed.

One Dead; Two to Die.

At the hospital where Dr. McEachern and Assistant Superintendent Smith and a staff of house doctors did everything in their power to make the wounded men comfortable it was thought then that Bhag Singh, Uttum Singh and Badan Singh could not survive their injuries, so Mr. I. I. Rubinowitz, J. P., was summoned and the anti-mortem statement of each of the three was taken. They were all the same, and to the effect that Bela Singh had shot them without any provocation. Bhag Singh died this afternoon.

So great was the fear of vendetta in the minds of those Hindus who accompanied their friends to the hospital that a native interpreter could not be secured, and Inspector of Immigration W. C. Hopkinson and Inspector Gwyther had to act as interpreters. One Hindu explained that he absolutely refused to interpret because he was afraid of being involved in the feud that had already caused so much bloodshed.

The factional differences in the Hindu colony first attracted public attention when the priest Bhagwan Singh was deported by the immigration authorities. Bela Singh, Hernan Singh and several others at that time were accused of giving the officials information. Several attempts were made to kill Bela Singh. He was attacked in a restaurant and was badly beaten in this city, and at Victoria a crowd of Hindus set upon him at the outer wharf and attempted to kill him. Inspector Hopkinson and Superintendent Malcolm R. J. Reid were also threatened with the vengeance of Hindu agitators following the deportation of the priest, who is believed to have returned to America and is now in hiding near the British Columbia boundary line in the State of Washington.

Relic of the Maru.

When the Komogata Maru appeared the friends of the government were ostracized and the split between the two factions grew wider. The immigration men were openly insulted and threatened with death, while veiled threats were also made against the officials of the department.

When Hernan Singh's body was discovered with his throat cut and his legs tied up in his own turban, the authorities feared that the threatened reprisals had commenced, but the circumstances were somewhat indefinite as to whether it was a case of suicide or murder, though when Argan Singh was killed they looked for further trouble.

While the police are very reticent on the matter it is understood that they have evidence that Bela Singh was yesterday threatened with death. He it was who summoned the police when Argan Singh was shot on Thursday night. This and his open friendliness to the authorities made him particularly obnoxious to the revolutionaries.

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