



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CANADA

Leader of the Opposition

Ottawa, Ont. September 6th. 1922.

Private & Confidential.

Dear Harry:

I am enclosing you copy of memorandum which the Right Honourable Mr. Sastri has presented to the Government on the subject of the enfranchisement of Indian fellow subjects now resident in Canada. What the attitude of the Government on this question will be is not known, but as yet I understand they have lived up to their usual tactics and shown no attitude at all.

The memorandum gives a pretty full account of the history of the question. You will observe particularly the resolution agreed to at the Prime Ministers' Conference of last year. I must say that I find it most difficult to understand how the case for enfranchisement can be logically, or even honourably resisted. Further, I feel that the subject is one of very real consequence to the Empire as a whole. The condition of affairs in India is by no means reassuring.

Please note particularly that nothing involved in the resolution, and nothing asked for by the





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representatives of the Indian Government affect at all the absolute right of this Dominion to control, even to the point of exclusion, its own immigration. It is merely a matter of equality of status of British citizens after admission as permanent residents.

I am writing each of the British Columbia members with a view to ascertaining the opinion of each on this question. For myself I think we ought, even though it involves some small political danger, to meet the wishes of the Indian population and government in this matter, and would be glad to feel free to co-operate to that end; in fact, I fear that failure to do so may later be a cause of deep regret.

Would you kindly let me hear from you at an early date.

Yours very truly,

Honourable H. H. Stevens, M.P.,

Vancouver,

B. C.