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VANCOUVER, B. C. April 1st, 1914

Copy.

W. D. Scott, Esq.,
Superintendent of Immigration,
O T T A W A.

Sir:-

I have the honour to submit the following as my Report of the work of the Vancouver office including the Border Ports and points adjacent thereto for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1914.

During the past year, Vancouver, from a shipping and immigration standpoint, has, probably, made greater strides than during the preceding ten years. In June last the "Empress of Russia", the first of the new Empresses, arrived in port, followed a few weeks later by her sister ship, the "Empress of Asia". The Canadian Australian Line added the splendid steamer "Niagara" to their fleet. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, the Hamburg American Line, the Eastern Asiatic Line, the Maple Leaf Line and others inaugurated a new service of trans-Pacific steamers and round-the-world service.

To cope with the growth of the port, the Dominion Government have commenced the construction of the new Government dock, which, when completed, will be the finest on the Pacific Coast. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, with their usual enterprise, have grasped the importance of the growth of shipping and have constructed, or have in course of construction, two new piers with bridges leading thereto, a splendid depot -- one of the best in the country -- and the Vancouver Hotel, which, when completed, will be the largest in Canada.

I am pleased to state that at the beginning of the year, the contract for the new Immigration Building was signed, and actual construction is now under way. Its want is very keenly felt. It is said that this building, when completed, will represent an outlay of some \$350,000.00. When Dr Bryce visited this office a few weeks ago, and when in company with him, we critically examined the plans, our unanimous opinion was that, if anything, the plans called for too small a building, and it would only be a few years until additions would have to be added thereto. For example, take

the new Courthouse

.....the new Courthouse and Government offices of Vancouver: before they were finished a new wing nearly as large as the parent building had to be placed under construction.

The year just closed has been a rather arduous one, and has kept the staff busily engaged. During the year we received the hearty co-operation of yourself and other departmental officials, through which, I am pleased to be able to state, the staff was increased, thus material assistance was afforded us to successfully carry out the work of the Department.

Many prosecutions were personally conducted by myself, aggregating in fines and costs \$1,845.98. With the exception of the prosecution of Captain Saunders of the "David Evans", these prosecutions were conducted without the assistance of counsel. In the case of the "David Evans" fines amounting to \$620.00 were collected on account of the illegal landing of four Japanese, two of whom have since been located and arrangements have been made for their deportation.

The deportation of Baghwan Singh, agitator, and alleged Hindu Priest, who entered Canada surreptitiously on the first arrival of the "Empress of Russia", was one of the interesting events of the year, which resulted in ridding the country of a very undesirable Oriental. Following this action, an interesting point of law developed, inasmuch as a wireless writ was served on myself whilst en route with this man to Victoria to place him on board the out-going "Empress". Contempt of Court proceedings were commenced by the local Hindu colony; but His Honour, Judge Morrison, wisely failed to see where any contempt was shown.

The case of Hernam Singh, the Hindu, who endeavoured to enter surreptitiously, caused litigation in the Supreme Court. On a technicality consequent on the absence of one member of the board of eight, the enquiry was declared ultra vires and he was released on a writ of Habeas Corpus. Acting on the advice of the Department's solicitors, this man was apprehended on leaving the Court and another writ served; this time we were successful in carrying out the deportation. This is now quoted as the only case in the history of the British Empire where a man was released on a writ of Habeas Corpus and afterwards re-arrested and deported. The litigation involved in these two cases might be deemed inadvisable to outsiders, yet from a departmental standpoint it had a salutary effect on the Hindus. Prior to the above-mentioned actions, the Hindus

were boasting

..... were boasting that the Courts always upheld them against the Immigration Authorities. The proof of the lesson they learned is found in the fact that several more deportations have since been successfully carried out, even though the services of special counsel had been engaged by the Hindus.

No doubt our officers in the Eastern and Prairie Provinces have their own difficulties to contend with, but I feel certain that in British Columbia we have more than our fair share owing to the Oriental question. The peculiar position of British Columbia from an immigration standpoint has been recently well illustrated by the passing of the Order-in-Council P. C. 2642, which prohibited the entry of all labourers, skilled and unskilled, to all British Columbia ports of entry until March 31st. At the time of writing, this Order-in-Council has been further extended for a period of six months and is now known as P. C. 897. This has increased the work of all officers, and calls for extra vigilance being exercised at the border points. The last few years have seen an immense amount of railroad work under construction in British Columbia, which has given work to thousands of labourers. In view of the fact that a considerable portion of this work has now been completed, the new Orders-in-Council have been passed at an opportune time; as should the influx of labourers increase, as it has done during the past few years, the opening of the Panama Canal with its added facilities for immigrants reaching here, would find us with a greatly overtaxed labour market. At the same time, it must be borne in mind that for the practical farmer and fruit grower there will be ample room in British Columbia for years to come.

During the past year a large number of enquiries have been directed to this office from all parts of the world, from genuine settlers. To such prospective settlers, I furnished as full and complete information as possible, sending them what literature I had at my disposal for distribution in this office; but to ensure a thorough and satisfactory handling of this important branch of the work, I forwarded copies of the letters received from many enquirers to the Honourable the Provincial Minister of Lands at Victoria, requesting that he be good enough to furnish the additional information, maps, literature, etc. desired, which in every case elicited a ready response. Mr. Cowell, our Dominion Land's Agent at Kamloops, B.C. rendered valuable assistance with regard to other enquiries, copies of which I referred to him for supplementary information, etc. In this connection I must also mention the Secretary of the Bureau of Information at Victoria, B. C. who rendered a like valuable assistance. The

greater part of

.. greater part of the vacant land in British Columbia, I may state, is held by the Provincial Government.

At the present time one of the great needs in this Province is for domestics, that is, genuine domestics who are willing to adapt themselves to general housework and cooking. Unfortunately the native-born British Columbia girl emulates her Eastern sisters in her seeming aversion to the monotonous routine of housework, preferring to work in store or office. A position has invariably been found for every domestic and farm labourer who has applied at this office for work.

Under the auspices of the Department several distinguished visitors, during the past year, honoured Vancouver with their presence. Prominent amongst them were, Sir Marchant Williams; Sir John Curtis; W. Davis, Esq. of the Cardiff Mail, and Mr. Sydney Pugh, the Dominion Government Agent in Wales; as well as several of our London staff who wished to become acquainted, first hand, with the needs of this Province.

I would especially call your attention to the large number of deportations conducted from this office both to the United States and European points.

Within a radius of twelve miles of Vancouver all the principal public institutions in the West, are located, namely, the Vancouver General Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital at New Westminster, the Provincial Insane Asylum, the Dominion Penitentiary, the Provincial Jail at New Westminster, the Hastings County Jail, the Burnaby Prison Farm and others. This branch of the work alone necessitated a good deal of attention.

The early completion of the Canadian Northern Railway is now looked for; and great improvements by the Great Northern Railway Company are well under way. Their new dock was recently opened. Construction on the Vancouver, Victoria and Eastern Railway, which is really a branch of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to tap the interior at Fort George, will open up a splendid country for agricultural settlers.

For some time past I have endeavoured, where vacancies occurred, to promote members of the staff who were competent to fill the vacant positions. This has worked out very satisfactorily, and I am pleased that I have had your hearty co-operation in this matter. The most important appointment made during the year was that of Mr. Paul Howard's from Inspector to Assistant Immigration Agent. The supervision of all the Pacific Coast ports of entry having come under my jurisdiction, necessitated this appointment being made, and on the 1st of January last, following Mr. Howard's promotion, I took over this important

work.

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.....work. Although only such a short time has elapsed since the change has been made with regard to the supervision of the Pacific Coast ports, already such beneficial results have accrued to the service as to demonstrate the wisdom of the appointment.

We find all outside inspectors and agents anxious to help co-ordinate the service. Prior to my recent appointment, no supervision had been exercised along the Pacific Coast, but the border points as far West as Huntingdon, including White Rock, had been under the jurisdiction of Winnipeg. The large growth of the work at the Winnipeg office and adjacent points rendered it necessary that some relief be afforded that office and that an officer at the Coast be invested with the necessary authority to take over the supervision of the majority of the offices in British Columbia. From my experience, I am forced to the conclusion that the whole of British Columbia should be included in the supervision from Vancouver, more especially, considering our strategic geographical position.

I am pleased to state that the utmost harmony prevails between the United States Immigration officers and our own officials, not only in Vancouver but throughout this whole district, especially in Oriental matters; as it seems to be realized that the Oriental question is menace both to the United States and Canada, and hearty co-operation is necessary to deal with this momentous question adequately. This was well illustrated in the case of a Japanese junk which crossed the Pacific Ocean and succeeded in surreptitiously landing a number of her Japanese passengers near Bella Coola; then sailing away effected the landing of the remainder of her passengers in the vicinity of San Francisco. It is interesting to note that the Japanese who were apprehended near Bella Coola and afterwards deported, put it in their defence that they intended to go to the United States; while their comrades who were apprehended in the United States, claimed that they were bound for Canada.

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) MALCOLM R. J. REID.

IMMIGRATION AGENT AND INSPECTOR