

DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE AND COMMERCE

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO

FILE NO. 9040.

M.S.

OTTAWA, 19th October, 1904.

James A. Smart, Esq.,
Deputy Minister,
Department Interior,
Ottawa.

Sir,

I am to-day in receipt of yours of the 15th, covering a P.C. Reference in re complaint made by the City Clerk of Vancouver that a large number of East Indians are being brought to that city from the Orient by transportation companies and that many of them afterwards become a charge on the City and Province.

This Department exacts a report of the passengers arriving in British Columbia by every steamer coming from the Orient: and on going over those reports, I find that during the year 1903 (I did not go back beyond that) there were landed at Victoria 5 and at Vancouver 5 East Indians, and that during the current year, up to the present time, there have been landed in the province, all told, 57 East Indians.

I may remark that I was somewhat surprised that even that many had landed. It had never occurred to me that more than an occasional few came in. However, under the circumstances there is nothing to prevent their coming. They are not excluded under the terms of any exclusion act that I have any knowledge of. Perhaps I might add in connection with this that this class of people, though it is just possible that they are not fitted for as cold a climate as Canada, have been found to be most desirable in warm climates - for instance at
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at the present moment the population of British Guiana is more than 50% East Indian - probably the population of the most progressive island in the West Indies, Trinidad, is from one-quarter to one-third East Indian, and the complaint there is to effect that they cannot get enough of them. They no doubt have their peculiarities; but they are industrious and will work where the native inhabitants will not; and it is largely owing to their industry that Trinidad and British Guiana are to-day enjoying a prosperity far beyond that of any of the other West Indian Colonies.

I am not greatly impressed with the complaint.

Encl.

I return herewith the P.C. Reference.

I have the honour ^{etc.} to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



W. B. Parmelee

Deputy Minister.