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23, W.H. Hopkman to W.W. Cory, Deputy Commissioner, Immigration Branch.

Vancouver, April 15th 1909.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. and in reply beg to submit the following:-

The present situation among the Hindus in Vancouver and the adjacent districts, has much improved since Mr. Harkin's last visit here.

Teja Singh has taken the management of Hindoo affairs in his own hands and laid aside his original intention of study in New York. Affairs as managed by him and his committee of 12 have so far improved the situation, that at the present time there are very few Hindus, about 5% and no Sikhs out of work. The improvement has been accelerated with the opening of and the full working of local lumber mills. Besides this, the C.P.R. are employing no less than 229 men clearing land in their local suburban holding, call Shaughnessey Heights.

The season is opening for the farmers, who engage quite a large number of these men for work on their farms till the close of the year.

I cannot give you an idea as to the situation among this community beyond Westminster, as I have not been in touch with nor out in the districts, but I have met several East Indians who have come in from Golden, Grand Forkes, Kamloops and other points who state that they have experienced a severe winter and work has been scarce.

The rush to U.S. points has practically subsided, but there are now and again a few applicants at the U.S. Immigration Office for permits to cross the border.

It has been rumoured among the Hindus that the C.P.R. will engage a large number of them for work on the line between here and Foeld, but up to the present I have not seen any shipment from here, nor on enquiry can I find any base for this assertion.

I am enclosing a cutting from the Daily Province of an advertisement inserted by Teja Singh, as President and Managing Director of the Garu Nanak Mining and Trust Co.Ltd., which explains itself.

This Company was incorporated on the 23rd of Nov. 1908 with a capital of \$50,000.00 at \$1.00 per share. The only investment up to the present, that has been made by this Company, is the purchase of 172 acres of land in North Vancouver, near Point Atkinson for the sum of \$25,000 of which \$1,500 was paid on purchase, and the remainder on terms extending over a long period. The next installment is due within 15 days. This land deal was put through by Teja Singh, with the assistance of a Dr. Knapp of Epworth, who has associated himself with this Community for several months past. Beyond the local investment I have been unable to find any other speculation. The shares are being sold

among the community, but to what extent they have been bought I am unable to state. The Priest of the Local Temple, a man named Bulwant Singh, has gone on a tour in the United States with the express purpose of selling the stock of this Company among his countrymen there.

The proceeds of the sale of stock, as far as I am able to ascertain, are to be utilized in local speculations. It is also stated that they hold some mining interests in the State of California.

The next investment in land is to be the purchase of a couple of lots in Victoria, for the purpose of erecting a Temple in that City.

At all meetings in the local Temple it has been emphasized to both Sikhs and Hindus, that the best protection against deportation is the purchase of real estate.

The plans laid regarding the 172 acres, is that the land be subdivided into small holdings for the establishment of an East Indian Colony, as it is the purpose of these people to bring out their families in the near future. About the end of this year B.C. will see a large number of these men return to India, with the object of bringing out their families to settle here.

It is a difficult matter to prove a charge of vagrancy against any of this Community inasmuch as Teja Singh is always ready to come forward with funds to rebut the charge.

At the present time both Sikhs and Hindus are united under Teja Singh, but matters will come to a climax when the shareholders of the Mining & Trust Co. find no dividends paid on their investments.

A full report of the late proceedings regarding the Honduras proposition has been sent to India for publication in the newspapers in the Province of Punjab, and to what extent matters may have been exaggerated, it is difficult to state.

There have been several differences among the men working in the local Lumber Mills, which have arisen out of a system of graft among themselves, and which has resulted in discharges.

As East Indian immigration to this country has been practically stopped, I have it on good authority that the next batch that come out will do so via U.S.A. points.

The above is the present situation from what I have been able to gather locally, as I have not been out to any other points.

Teja Singh has planted himself firmly here, and it is hard to say when he may leave here.

Yours obedient servant, *etc.*

(sgd) W. C. Hopkinson.

W. W. Cory, Esq.,
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
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