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C. Hopkinson to W.W. Conroy, Minister of the Interior

Vancouver, B.C. May 18th., 1909.

Sir,

I beg to enclose a cutting from the Daily Province of this City which explains itself. Teja Singh returned from Marysville on the 10th instant and made preparations for his departure for England.

He has left the management of the Mining and Trust Company in the hands of a committee of 12 who are now at the head of the East Indian Colony. As to how the affairs of the community, and in particular that of the Trust Company, will be carried on it is hard to say. as Teja was the only well-read and educated of the whole community.

Complications will arise in matters concerning their affairs and when brought to light it will be seen to what extent Teja Singh preyed on his fellow-countrymen.

It has not been disclosed whether Teja Singh will return to this country, but in all probability he will go to New York and carry on his studies if he does not continue his Home Rule agitation with colleagues in London and before whom in all probability he will place the case concerning the community here.

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The report as given to the paper is not altogether correct for I learn on reliable information that his primary object is to secure money to meet payments in the land deal he put through here, and also to interest some of his student friends in London to invest money in the local real estate market and thereby further his main object of colonization.

It is expected that this winter will see the exodus of a good many indigent Hindoos from B.C., those that are at present willing to return will not do so at Government expense but are trying to collect funds to pay their way home. The proposition of affording help and shelter to all indigent Hindoos by Teja Singh and his committee has been found, on practice, to be of no value beyond the weight of his words, as I have come across several cases where help has been refused to those wanting it, as evidenced by the case of Tota, a recommendation for whose deportation has been forwarded to Mr. W. D. Scott.

I shall forward a further report regarding these people as soon as I am able to gather any other information.

Yours obediently,

W. C. Hopkinson.

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