

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

Vancouver, B.C. November 15th. 1909.

W. W. Cory, Esq., C. M. G.
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
O t t a w a. O N T.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th. inst., re Bulwant Singh.

Several leaders of the Hindu community have sought my advice in connection with being put on the Voters' List in this City, and stated that they intend to make application to be placed thereon, and approached me on the subject before doing so.

As far as I am aware, there is an Act of the Provincial Parliament passed in 1907 which debars all Hindus from the privilege of voting in this Province, but I do not know how this Act would affect their being allowed a vote in the Federal Elections?

Some provision should be made to keep these people out of Politics, for if they ever had a voice in the matter it would result in a lot of corruption. These people are - in the major part - uneducated, and very susceptible to influences and corruption. The leaders (educated men) could use them to further their own interests and make themselves felt as a party who have a voice in the question at issue.

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I am trying to get at the source of this new move - which, coming as it does at the present time when Provincial Elections are pending - makes me suspect that only those of the community who have already identified themselves in matters Political (though not of this country) could be the ones who would benefit by the influence they could bring to bear.

It is difficult to be able to give a motive for this new idea, but I surmise that it is for a purpose which would affect both this country and India. For this reason, the present agitation in India is for Home Rule, on the grounds that the people have no voice in the Government of the Country. To identify themselves with politics and be able to vote in this country would give the agitators in India a new plank in their platform, and a further incentive to carry on their propaganda.

Now, this scheme could only be formulated by those who have the Indian agitation at heart, and among these are Teja Singh Tarak Nath Dass and G.D. Kumar, and a few others who have already voiced their sentiments in this country.

One of the arguments put forward is that they are born British subjects, and being in a British Colony they should have a

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voice in all matters affecting the country in which they live.

I am probing the matter as far as I can, and shall let you know further in connection if I am able to gather any more information.

Yours obediently,

(Ed) Wm. Hopkinson