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Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada Vancouver, B. C.

5th March 1910.

Dear Mr Harkin,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 23rd ulto with enclosure and in reply would state that I have made enquiries regarding the extract from the "Washington Herald" and find that there was a meeting held at the local Sikh Temple on the 3rd of October last, but as to what actually transpired it is difficult to say, I have however ascertained that no Hindu by the name of Arabindo Shurma was present at the meeting, neither have I personally heard of such a man ^{ever having} in Vancouver.

In the absence of Leja Singh the meeting was headed by one Soonder Singh (officiating Priest of the Temple) Tarak Nath Dass being present. It appears in the course of their general business, the subject of discarding the uniforms, etc., of the British Army were brought up, and a resolution adopted to that effect. The principals in the case were NATHA SINGH, GARIB SINGH and BHAG SINGH, but as to what actually transpired I am unable to ascertain. As far as I can learn, and have seen myself, the Sikhs and Hindus are still wearing military uniforms and also medals received for service; evidently the movement has not been a widely adopted one.

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Minutes of all meetings held at the Sikh Temple are kept by the Committee, and if the resolutions above referred to were carried and adopted, they must be recorded on the books; this being the case, the only actual proof of the occurrence would be found on an examination of the Minute Book. They cannot get away from the fact that they keep a record of every meeting, as you will remember they forwarded a copy of the minutes of a meeting held on the 18th November 1908 re the Honduran Proposition, but in this case we could not get them to give us a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd. Oct. 1909 as it would be damaging evidence.

Natha Singh, Garib Singh and Bhag Singh are members of the Sikh Temple Committee, the last named is ~~third~~ Vice-President of the Garu Nanak Mining & Trust Co. Ltd., and in the absence of Tega Singh assumed the office of President. These men are still in Vancouver.

The only way this matter could have received publication would be through Tarak Nath Dass, either through his paper "The Free Hindustan" or correspondence with his colleagues in different parts of the United States, as ARABINDO SHURMA was never heard of or seen in Vancouver. B.C.

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In conclusion I would state that at the time of this meeting I was busily engaged in connection with JOGESH MISRA (vide my report dated Oct. 1st. 1909) who was refused a landing, and applied for release under the Habeas Corpus Act, and TEJA SINGH being absent from Vancouver, I did not pay much attention to any meetings held at the Sikh Temple.

Yours truly,

(Sgd) Wm. C. Hopkinson.

J. B. Harkin, Esq..

Dept. of the Interior,

Ottawa. ONT.