

## Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

VANCOUVER, B.C.

(Copy)

26th September 19 10

Sir,

A Hindu named Khier Singh who has been of great assistance to me re information concerning Hindu matters, has just returned from a months visit to California. In the course of his stay in that State, he visited several cities with both large and small <sup>Hindu</sup> populations.

In Sanfrancisco he met Mr. Taraknath Dass and a man named Dewa (a contributor to a magazine printed in Allahabad U.P. India from material largely gathered in the United States and Canada). It appears that shortly after Dewa's arrival in that City, about two months ago, <sup>he</sup> became aware that Taraknath Dass had collected a sum of money about \$600.00. from recent arrivals from India also from the local Colony. This sum of money became a point in dispute between Dewa and Dass, the former accusing Dass of treachery to his countrymen in not forwarding the amount home to India to help the good cause (for which purpose it had been collected) but converting the same to his own use. Shortly after this dispute, it appears, that Dewa was waylaid one night in a dark street in Sanfrancisco and beaten unmercifully. The result of this assault is a charge of assault brought in the Police Court by Dewa which is pending.



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Another matter to which Kheir Singh's attention was drawn was the large influx of students from Bengal and Bombay Presidencies. These students, it appears, have found a very accommodating American man and woman who it is reported are well off and assist them in many ways with funds &c. and have also helped new arrivals in securing counsel to represent them before the U.S. Immigration Authorities in order to facilitate their landing at that port.

This information appears to be confirmed by a letter handed over to this office on the 20th inst. by the Customs authorities of this Port to whom it is addressed, a copy of which I beg to enclose. Further with reference to the students, my informant <sup>alleges</sup> ~~appears~~ that in the course of conversation with one of them (name unknown) attending the Berkley College, he was given to understand that the young man was taking a course on chemistry, the knowledge of which was necessary for the furtherance of the cause in India. This very student, it is told me, informed Kheir Singh of the fact that he was also attached to a military institution in proof of which he produced the regimental uniform of some military body, also a rifle and other accoutrements, inferring thereby that he had a purpose for his military training.



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not for the benefit of the U.S. but for his countrymen in India.

Wherever Kheir Singh happened to be a visitor the agitation in India was the paramount subject among the more educated class. Regarding Hindu immigration to the States it appears that a large number are being rejected by the U.S. authorities more especially Mohamedans, owing to their polygamous religious views, but students have hardly any difficulty in entering the County.

Now with regard to local affairs, I beg to forward by this mail two copies of G.D. Kumar's paper "Swadesh Sevak" with a translation as far as possible of the contents.

You will notice that there is an article in this issue bearing on one Harnam Singh whose case is pending before the Hon. The Minister of the Interior to whom it has been appealed. Enquiries among the Hindus brings the fact to light that Kumar has for the past two months been collecting funds for the defence of Harnam Singh, should the result of the appeal be against him. These sums of money have been collected from his illiterate countrymen on the allegation that Harnam has been rejected by the Canadian authorities on the grounds that he is a political agitator and maker of bombs and other infernal machines.

This fact receives confirmation from the introductory



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to his article re Harnam referred to in the "Swadish Sevak" where he <sup>draws attention</sup> ~~refers~~ to the recent arrest of 27 Bengalis in India on charges of sedition and infers a similarity to the case of Harnam Singh in this Country.

You will notice further that he refers to Mr. Rahim and a few others of his countrymen as not being willing to help in Harnam's defence but putting obstacles in his way by bringing a suit for the recovery of certain sums of money collected from the public (Hindus).

The facts of the case re the law suit as I have been able to gather are - That at the time when Mr. Rahim was threatened with deportation by the Immigration Department, the leaders of the Community got together and ~~forwarded~~ formed an association called the "Hindustani" Association". At the formation of this body it was resolved that funds should be collected from their countrymen for the following objects : -

1. To defend and help any Hindus who might be so unfortunate as to fall under the displeasure of the Government and be threatened with deportation.

2. To continue an agitation against the Canadian Immig-



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gration Act as affecting Hindus and if possible to get the restrictions removed.

3. To purchase a piece of land and erect thereon a building to be the head quarters of the association where -

(1) A school for the teaching of English to Hindus be established.

(2) A set of rooms to be set aside for the indigent and sick of the community to be houses and attended to by one of their own members.

4. That one of their number be sent to the United States among their countrymen to collect funds for the association.

5. That Kumar be appointed Secretary and Treasurer of the Association and Harnam Singh the delegate to the United States.

6. That these resolutions be given publication through the "Swadesh Sevak".

In furtherance of the resolutions and wishes of this august body, Kumar and Harnam Singh commenced their campaign of collecting funds. About a month after a sufficient amount of money was collected to enable Kumar to pay the 1st instalment of a lot in Fairview (a suburb of this City). He accordingly paid the instalment on a house and lot at 1632, 2nd Avenue West, Fairview, Vancouver. The agreement of sale was made in Harnam Singh's name and not that of the association. This deal was kept quiet till



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the appearance of Harnam Singh before a board of inquiry. At that inquiry Harnam stated in evidence that the property above described belonged to him and he was the registered owner.

A short time after this inquiry a few of the Hindu leaders discovered the fact that the property referred to above had been bought by public (Hindu) funds and the deal put through in Harnam Singh's name. They accordingly consulted a lawyer and instructed a suit against Kumar <sup>+ Harnam Singh</sup> for the recovery of the amounts collected and filed a "lis pendence" in the Registry Office against this property. The action is pending.

About a month ago one of the members of their association by name Soonder Singh, on receipt of information from Seattle proceeded to Victoria to try and affect the landing of some 15 Hindu deportees from Seattle on one of the Maru boats. His application for Habeas Corpus was not successful as it was found at the last minute or at the time of the service of the writ that ~~the~~ the Hon. Judge issuing the same had not the power to do so, accordingly the Japanese Captain cast off and sailed away with the Hindus still on board.

Of the recent cases of immorality among the Hindus one came up for speedy trial before His Honour Judge McInnes yesterday on



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two charges one of which was dismissed and the other he was found guilty, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in the Penitentiary. This man's name is Imandin, and he is not deportable, having been in the Country for over 5 years.

Yours obediently,

(Signed) W.C. ROBINSON.

W.W. Cory Esq., C.M.G.

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

Ottawa.