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MR. L. M. FORTNER

Immigration Branch,
Department of the Interior,
Vancouver, B.C., February 17th, '11.

By

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

Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir,

It is some time past since I last reported on the conditions of the Hindu community here, and even at the present time there is very little to say about them. The principal matter under discussion at present among these people is the successful application for a writ of Habeas Corpus before Mr. Justice Murphy, in the case of H. Rahim. The leaders seem to be quite elated with this recent decision of the Court, and are under the impression that nothing further will be done, and Rahim permitted to stay. I have not as yet been able to learn whether it is the intention of the Department to take an Appeal in this case. During the recent visit of Mr. F.C.Blair of the Supt.'s office, the matter was under discussion with regard to the carrying out of the deportation of Dr. Soonder Singh, and it was decided that his case would not be proceeded with until such time as Rahim's had been disposed of.

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Soonder pleased on Dr Soonder Singh's & H Rahim's files.

Soonder Singh has been a patient up to about the middle of January last in the Vancouver General Hospital suffering with tuberculosis, and on his discharge proceeded to Kamloops with the intention of recuperating his health.

With regard to the notebook of Rahim's which was returned to you under your telegraphic request, I might say that if you would care to have the extracts, regarding the names of the Indian Agitators and other particulars, I can forward a copy, as copies were taken before the book was sent you in the first instance. Rahim - I am informed - intends to take the matter of his notebook into the Courts for recovery.

This unsuccessful issue in the recent deportation proceedings in the case of Rahim is going to have a bad effect on the whole of the Hindu community, as the leaders have watched with a great deal of eagerness the action of the Immigration Dept. in the two recent cases of the Shaughnessy's and Mrs. Murphy, which were up before the Courts a short while ago, and decided against us, and have been confident that Rahim's case, once before the Court, he would win out. This, therefore, means in other words a loss of prestige.

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Kumar - since I last wrote you about him - has

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been re-admitted into the Hospital, and undergone an operation for appendicitis, and is at present at home recovering from his recent illness.

For the past four or five months, efforts have been made by a large number of Hindus who landed in San Francisco and other American Ports within the last year, to gain admission into Canada through border points, and in many instances applicants have been so well tutored by those who have had previous residence in this Country, and are at present in the United States, that it makes the case of those that are legitimately entitled to enter Canada very difficult, owing to the amount of examination and proof which they have to produce before they can re-enter this country. This point, as I wrote you in my last letter, is one which the leaders are trying to make much of.

I would beg to suggest that you would kindly have a request made of Col. Sherwood's Office to supply me with a badge as a Constable of the Dominion Police, the Commission having already been forwarded me.

Yours obediently,

(sgd) Wm.C.Hopkinson.

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