

82 W. C. Hopkensen to W. W. Cory

San Francisco, Cal.

16th October, 1911.

Sir;

Re the association called "Friends of Hindustan," I have to-day been able to gather some more information. It appears that this Society has been dissolved since March of this year on account of the opposition offered by a number of Hindu Students attending the different Educational Institutions in this State. Among those who opposed this association is a student named Surendro Narayan Guha attending the University at Berkeley, Cal. This young man about 25 years of age is at present studying for his Master's Degree and has a few followers. Guha states that he was with the Association from its beginning and it was intended for the support and help of poor Hindu Students who came to the United States and were unable to pay their way through College.

That for a month or two it appeared to go ahead and pass with the assistance of some of the ladies collected funds for its upkeep. It was expressly agreed, although not set down in the Bye-Laws that the matter of Indian Politics was never to be discussed at any of the meetings. However, at the first General Meeting called, Dass, who dominated and appeared to have the support of a large ^{number} present stated that this Association had been formed for the purpose of upholding "Young India" and that besides other matters in general

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Indian Politics would always receive a good deal ^{of} attention. He further propounded the doctrine of the Extremist Party in India and asked for the support of all Hindu Students in this country and Canada, branding as enemies of India those who opposed him and his work. Guha took exception to Dase and drew his attention to the fact that the Association was formed not for politics but for the benefit of poor Indian Students, and stated that he would withdraw from the association and also cause other members with whom he had influence and were of his opinion to do the same.

How far success attended Guha's efforts will be seen from the fact that the association went to pieces within six or seven months and left Dase and his close associates by themselves. Dase's closest adherents, I am informed by Guha are, S. M. Bose of Calcutta, Sarangadhar Dase of Cuttack, Orissa, Atur Chunder Laskar of Calcutta and Harnam Singh of Hoshiarpore, Punjab. S. M. Bose at present in Berkeley, a graduate of the University there and a Chemist by profession, he also took a course in the Military School attached to the University. Sarangadhar Dase is also a graduate of this University. Atur Chunder Laskar is at present attending the Berkeley High School and spent a year at the

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Mount Tamalpais Military Academy. Karnam Singh is attending the Berkeley University and is a close friend of G. D. Kumar of Vancouver, B. C. and was deported to the United States from Vancouver last year. This man is the Secretary and Treasurer of an association of which Dass and the other three men are members. Dass is a graduate of the University of Washington at Seattle and took a Military course at the Vermont Military Academy, Virginia.

The matter of explosives was brought to my notice when Guha related to me an incident connected with his disagreement with Dass over the "Friends of Hindustan". Guha was informed that if he continued his opposition to Dass he would be disposed off and that the late Laskar had been heard to say that he would blow him up with a bomb. Guha met Laskar shortly after and when questioned stated that he would shoot him if he continued his opposition.

It is well known that last year a friend of Guha named Satya Dev was assaulted by Dass at Berkeley because he demanded an account from Dass of all monies collected by him from Hindus and white people in different States. Up to the present time no one is able to secure an accounting from G. D. Dass of the sums of money ~~that~~ he has collected from time to time, on behalf of Hindu Students and for the

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benefit of poor Hindus in the United States and Canada, within the past four or five years.

Apparently some action has been taken by the Government of India regarding Hindu Students coming to or resident in the United States. I am informed that several scholarships have been stopped and the Educational Societies in India who helped students to come out have ^{now} ceased to do so.

Consul

I called at the British ~~Consulate~~ General's Office this morning to enquire if they were aware of any such organisation or movement, (as set forth in my reports) among the students at Berkeley and was informed by Major Girard, Vice Consul, (Mr Moore, the Consul General, being ill in Hospital) that his office had no such information.

I had an interview to-day with Mrs Jean Sinclair, of the California Womens Club, and she reiterated the information contained in my report of the 13th instant. She has promised to let me ~~know~~ have some information in connection with Mrs Walters and Mrs Talbot, who are closely affiliated with Dass and his organization.

ix I am unable to learn definitely whether Dass intends to leave for India without his papers. He has made extensive enquiries

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Regarding an appointment in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition to be held here in the year 1915. He has I believe made an application to the President of the Exposition to be appointed in-charge of the Exhibit from India and whether he will succeed in his endeavours is a matter that cannot be foretold at present.

On the 14th Inst I received information here that Sir Andrew Fraser, ex Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, India, was making a tour of Canada and would speak at Vancouver and Victoria, B. C. in connection with some Missionary Society, and as this gentleman was closely associated with the administration of the Province, which is the seat of the present Political ~~agitation~~ agitation, I took the precaution of sending a message by wire to Mr. R. G. Chamberlin, Chief of Police, Vancouver, asking him to watch any Hindus who might attend any of the meetings where Sir Andrew Fraser ^{was} scheduled to speak. ~~and~~ I trust it meets with your approval.

I intend to leave for Portland, Oregon, to-morrow night and will report further on other points which I have picked ^{up} _^ here, on arrival in that City.

Your obedient servant,

W. W. Cory Esq. J. M. S.
Deputy Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

Ed. W. C. Hoffmann