

114 W C. Hopley to W M. Coe
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CONFIDENTIAL.

Vancouver, B.C. 18th., June. 13.

Sir,

I beg to advise you that ^{at} the O'Brien Hall, this City, on Sunday last 15th. instant, a Mass Meeting of Hindus took place to hear and discuss the report of the Delegation now en route to India regarding the admission of the wives and families of Hindus resident in Canada. Altogether, there were one hundred and ninety-three Hindus present out of the fifteen hundred or so distributed around Vancouver and vicinity. The leaders present at this Meeting were: Raja Singh, H. Rahim, Dr. Sunder Singh, Bhag Singh.

H. Rahim took the chair and announced that they were in receipt of a communication from the delegates who had recently left London after their interview with the Colonial & India Office Authorities; that the reports stated that Mr. Harcourt, the Colonial Secretary, refused to see one of the delegates, to wit, Mand Singh, on the technical ground that he was not a resident of Canada; and, when he was interviewed by the other two delegates another objection was raised, i.e. that they could not be heard, as the matter which they had come to discuss with the Home Authorities had not come to them through the Canadian Government. Finding themselves in this position, the delegates had appealed to the Canadian Indian Immigration Society in London, but could obtain no satisfaction and therefore proceeded to India to lay their case before the Khalsa Diwan at Amritsar as also before Lord Harding,

Viceroy of India.

Among the speakers of the evening were Bhag Singh, Rahim Rajah Singh, Sunder Singh and Mr. Campbell Johnston, the latter, one press representative and myself being the only white people present. The following resolution was adopted:-

"We, the Hindustanis of Canada assembled in mass meeting at the Chrien Hall Vancouver, B.C., on this 18th. June 1913 request the Dominion Government of Canada that the promise given to our delegates on Dec. 15 1911 by the then Minister of the Interior Hon. Robert Rogers, that families of the Hindustanis domiciled here shall be admitted into Canada, be given effect to in a suitable manner without any further delay. We further request that the Secretary of State for India and the Colonies be advised of the decision of the Dominion Government as to their intention in the most vital question of our civil life in this Country affecting us as British subjects and as men".

and another resolution was adopted: to the effect that the Hindus now assembled in mass meeting wish to convey to the Canadian Indian Immigration Society in London England their appreciation of the efforts made by that body to assist the delegation in India on the question of the admission of the wives and children of Hindus in B.C. The first resolution has been forwarded to Ottawa while the latter was sent on direct to England. The different speakers drew the attention of those present to several difficulties ⁱⁿ which the Hindus at the present time were situated, and stated that they had for the last five or six years been agitating the question of the admission of their wives and families to Canada, and that they intended to proceed as they had done heretofore until the Canadian Government decided one way or the other on this question. They demanded to know of the Government whether they would give them a straight answer

in this connection, for if this subject is allowed to proceed as it has been doing for the last two years or so, the Hindu residents in India would boycott all Canadian goods and also debar Canadians from visiting their Country.

It would then be felt that the Hindus had some voice in the matter of the Government of India. Attention was also drawn to the number of Chinese and Japanese admitted, who were not British subjects, while Hindus, who are from birth British subjects, are excluded from the Country.

The local press was condemned as being servile and as misrepresenting the case of the Hindus.

Yours obediently,

(sd) W. H. Cory

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

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

OTTAWA.