

C042/985

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REC<sup>D</sup>  
REG<sup>D</sup> 10 JUL 14

Copy of paragraph 14 of the Confidential Weekly Diary for the week ending the 13th June 1914 of the Superintendent of Police, Lahore.

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A public meeting of the citizens of Lahore was held in the Bradlaugh Hall on the evening of the 9th instant to consider the grievances (1) of the Indian emigrants to Canada, and (2) of the student community in connection with the University Examinations. The audience which consisted chiefly of students, numbered about 400. Notices of the meeting in English and Vernacular issued by Duni Chand, Bar-at-Law are forwarded herewith. The chair was occupied by Mr. Nanak Chand Bar-at-Law, who opened the proceedings with a speech in English describing how Sardar Gurdit Singh, in order to comply with the 'continuous Journey' clause, hired a steamer and started for Vancouver with 600 Sikhs on board, and how they

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were refused permission to land and are now on the verge of starvation. The emigrants, he remarked had satisfied all the requirements of the law, but notwithstanding this they were not allowed to land. He expressed his inability to comprehend the existing anomaly which allowed Japanese and Chinese to enter Canada, but excluded Indian subjects of His Majesty's Empire, and asked why the shores of India should not be closed to those who debar Indians from entering their own countries. He concluded by expressing a hope that His Excellency the Viceroy would again use his influence and avert a catastrophe as he had done in the recent troubles in South Africa.

The President then spoke on the hardships caused to the student community by the change in the date of the University Examinations from March

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of the University. He suggested a return to the old  
system of examinations and the appointment of  
'Moderators'.

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The first resolution, protesting against the  
injustice of the Canadian Government and sympathising  
with the emigrants, was moved by Mehta Bahadur Chand  
and seconded by L. Sangam Lal, Pleader.

Mehta Bahadur Chand, after referring to the  
recent troubles in South Africa, said that if Indians  
remained silent they would be debarred from entering  
all the colonies. If they were treated in this way  
by Canada, which is a part of the British Empire,  
could they expect better treatment at the hands of the  
United States? Lala Sangam Lal, in seconding the  
resolution, said that Canada must be made to understand  
that she is dealing not with 600 men only, but with 33  
crores of Indians, and that if necessary the question  
will be taken before the Privy Council

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The second resolution, expressing regret that the Government of India had taken no steps to relieve the situation, and hoping that the Indian and Home Governments would not delay the settlement of this long pending question, was moved by Sardar Amar Singh, and seconded by Bhai Sham Singh. Amar Singh, in a somewhat excited speech, lamented the hardships of the Sikhs in Canada, and hoped that the British Government would not desert the community which had shed its blood in the Soudan, South Africa and elsewhere on behalf of the British Raj, and had remained loyal throughout the dark days of the Mutiny. The President then moved the third resolution, which was to the effect that the proceedings of the meeting should be sent by wire to His Excellency the Viceroy, the Secretary of State for India, and the Prime Minister of the Canadian Government. Mr. Gokal Chand, Naraing, then moved a resolution on the grievances of the student community. He advocated:-

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1. that examination papers outside the scope of the syllabus laid down should be rejected;
2. that moderators should be appointed for the Middle School examinations;
3. that the University examinations should be held in March instead of May; and
4. that a student who had previously failed in any subject should be required to reappear in that subject only, and not in the whole examination.

The small attendance at the meeting was probably due to the fact that the notices were not distributed until late in the evening.

True Copy.

(Sd.) Oswald Le Kershaw .

Supt.

Department of Commerce & Industry

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INCHES

CENTIMETERS

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