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Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

Vancouver, B.C. 6th. June, 1913.

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B.C. and the Hindus

EVERY loyal subject of the British empire will acknowledge that the English in India owe a debt to the Sikhs. From being enemies they became the most loyal friends of the British raj and have stood shoulder to shoulder with British soldiers in many a stubborn fight. But that is no reason why the lowest class of this people should plant themselves in British Columbia and should in this province lower wages and introduce a morality quite foreign to the white population. We must remember, too, that the greater number of Hindus in the province are not Sikhs. They are Bengalese or from some other province of the great Indian peninsula, and their only desire, as the desire is among all the southern peoples of India, is to make their way at no matter whose expense.

We in British Columbia are sorry for the people who live apart from their families, but we have to look to the future, and no question of mere sentiment can be allowed to interfere with what are the best interests of our people. We cannot permit any Asiatic race to obtain a foothold here. We have only to look abroad and see how the Chinese have monopolized the Malayan Peninsula, and how the Japanese are trying to plant their feet in every genial climate where they think there is room for them, to realize the danger of the Asiatic scourge.

Let the Sikhs stay at home. Great Britain is at present giving them a peace and a protection they have not known for uncounted centuries; and when Senator Douglas talks about Canadians being ungrateful in keeping their wives and children out, he shows that, old as he is, he has neglected his lessons in history.

We have only to compare what India was before Britain asserted her sway there with the ordered government of the present day, to realize what the English have effected for the Indian empire, and any real student of history can assure Senator Douglas that if there is any question of gratitude the gratitude is owing by the Indian subjects of Great Britain.

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