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HINDUS HOLD MASS MEETING AND PREACH SEDITION AND TREASON

Sun June 22-14
Cloven Hooves of Hindus Show at Meeting Yesterday in Dominion Hall at Which Speakers Openly Advised Their Countrymen to Cast Off British Yoke—White Socialist Addresses Meeting—J. Edward Bird Also Speaks.

Whereas, the Hindus on the steamship Komagata Maru are unlawfully prevented by the immigration authorities from consulting with their legal adviser and from procuring provisions and water from their Hindu friends, making their lot on board one to which cattle would not be subjected, and whereas, such brutal and unlawful treatment of British subjects of the same type as the Hindus would not be tolerated in India, we urge the Dominion authorities, under the principle of do "unto others as you would have them do unto you," to see that the Hindus are saved without delay from the high-handed action of the immigration department. We, further protest that the action of the immigration officers in Vancouver are unlawful and so provoking that the Hindus will never forget or forgive the powers that be if they do not remedy the immigration situation here.

The chanting of one of the Sikh hymns, with an accompaniment of weird music from strange Hindu musical instruments opened a public meeting attended by about 800 Hindus and 200 white men yesterday afternoon in Dominion hall, and which the above resolution brought to an end. Copies of the resolution will be sent to Premier Borden and the secretary of state for India. The meeting was called by the United Hindu League and the Khalsa Dwan Society, to discuss the Hindu situation here, in which the plot is thickening. A number of the leaders of the Hindus addressed the meeting, in English and Hindustanee.

The Hindu speakers, with a free flow of language, poured forth tirades in their native tongue against the immigration officials, the newspapers of Vancouver, and the government. One speaker in a burst of eloquence warned the Japanese training ships now in Vancouver not to interfere with the Hindus. The Sikh orators declared that the government in particular and the white race in general were unjust and tyrannous in dealing with the Hindus. Several of the speakers raised the red flag. The superintendent of immigration was called an oppressor and a despot. Sedition and treason were openly and frankly preached.

But the gravest aspect of the meeting was the introduction into a Hindu meeting of white Socialists of the extreme type, by H. Rahim, a Hindu Socialist who is very active in spreading mischievous doctrines among the East Indians here. For the first time in Vancouver, a Hindu meeting was addressed by a white speaker of the violent type, a man named Fitzgerald. Two other notorious white Socialists were to speak, but did not appear.

Fitzgerald in a vehement harangue exhorted the Hindus to return to their own country and throw off the British yoke, and become masters in their own land. Then, he said, they might make such terms with Canada which would ensure their countrymen getting a fair show. He spoke of the governments of Canada and England, in fact of all governments in a taunting and contemptuous way, and held all through his speech close to the principals of anarchy. Mr. Fitzgerald appeared to be delighted that the Hindu bone of contention had given him an opportunity for rhetorical insolence.

The Hindu speakers who followed him, Balwant Singh, the priest of the Sikh temple, Rahim and Solau Lal, called upon the Hindus to follow his advice, return to India and hoist the banner of revolution. Their language was openly seditious and treasonable.

J. Edward Bird, the other white speaker, was the principal speaker at the meeting and spoke first. Mr.

citizens to morrow to discuss the trouble, and if possible take steps to get rid of the Komagata and her unwelcome passengers. The time and place of the mass meeting will be announced today.

With the mandamus proceedings before the supreme court it is felt that the time has come for energetic measures. If the cases of the Hindus get before the courts the matter may end after the long legal strife which will follow, in the undesirable Orientals gaining admission to British Columbia after all.

Anxious to Sail.

Capt. Yamamoto of the Komagata is very anxious to take his ship back to Kobe, but he cannot leave port without help. He had an audience with Vice-Admiral Kuroi on Saturday, but the vice-admiral cannot help him to get his ship out of port. If the ship were outside the three-mile limit, the Japanese admiral could put some men from one of the cruisers aboard to act as a guard. But the difficulty is to get the ship out of port. Then there is a possibility that the local Hindus will fulfill the terms of the charter and keep the ship in port for time. It was reported yesterday that they had satisfied the claims of the ship's owners.

When the mandamus application is taken up in the supreme court today an adjournment of the application will be asked for by the immigration department's counsel. There is a rumor in circulation that a complete shift in the legal wind may also take place today or tomorrow.

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J. Edward Bird, the other white speaker, was the principal speaker at the meeting and spoke first. Mr. Bird is counsel for the Hindus and in his address he took up the legal aspects of the situation. The Hindus who came on the Komagata Maru, he said, had not come to gain entrance to Canada in spite of the immigration act, but wished to enter by perfectly proper means. The government was endeavoring to send them back without a fair trial.

Want to Test Act.

The Hindus desired to test the immigration act to find out if they could be kept out of the country legally. They felt that they were not getting a fair show. The old orders-in-council, Mr. Bird said, had been found to be faulty and the new ones might also have flaws in them. They were perfectly willing to accept the decision of the courts, but they wished to get their cases before the courts in order to get a fair trial.

Object of Mandamus.

Mr. J. Edward Bird said after the meeting that the notice of motion which was the first step in mandamus proceedings had been served on the immigration authorities and the object of the mandamus, he said, was to compel the immigration officer to give a decision in the cases of the Hindu emigrants who had been before the board of enquiry. The legal proceedings would begin today. After a verdict had been given in one of the cases before the board, Mr. Bird will immediately begin habeas corpus proceedings to test the orders-in-council, which he is confident he can show are not legal.

The skipper of the Komagata Maru received orders from his owners on Saturday to steam for Kobe immediately. But the Hindus on board the vessel will not allow Capt. Yamamoto to get up steam enough to start a winch to get his anchor up. The question of how to get the ship out of port without serious trouble has yet to be settled.

Calls Public Meeting.

Mayor Baxter, after having been requested to do so by many citizens has agreed to call a meeting of the

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