

[042]

"GIVE SIKH A CHANCE AND HE'LL MAKE GOOD"

Rev. Dr. Wilkie, Who Was a Missionary in India For 30 Years, Made an Eloquent Plea on Behalf of Allowing the Wives of Hindoes to Come to Canada—H. H. Stevens of Vancouver Will Take the Opposite View To-day.

"Give the Sikh a chance and he will make good in Canada. The law which excludes this class of people from British Columbia is a huge farce because of its unjust, unfair interpretation." Speaking to the Women's Canadian Club in the Guild Hall yesterday afternoon, Rev. Dr. Wilkie, for thirty years a missionary in India, endeavored to prove that these British subjects should be given different treatment at the hands of the federal government. He declared that it was an outrage that Japanese and Chinese should be allowed to enter Canada and the wives of Sikhs barred. He advocated entire exclusion if one class was

Continued From Page 1.
moved to the States and are still there, and those that returned home from this country numbering 500, did so because of ill-treatment and unemployment.
Only One Agitator.

"You are told that their temple in Vancouver is the centre of seditious meetings," he went on. "This is untrue, in my belief. You are told that \$2000 was collected recently to buy rifles to put the English. If such was the case, it was a slur on the Vancouver police force and other authorities. There has been one seditious agitator in Vancouver, according to Dr. Sunder Singh, and he was driven out of the country five years ago after the Sikhs refused to listen to or heed his doctrine."

Vancouver protests about the Sikhs tolerate the Japanese and Chinese and even allows women and men of character to come north from India and infest their city," he said. "What consistent?" Several societies both Vancouver and Victoria passed resolutions favoring the admission of male Sikhs. There was talk that they could not be assimilated. If assimilation means observing laws and

eigners who a the people of B undue discrim He said the immigration la orientals can e come by a con tinuous journey ing. Jap or C Canada direct f it was natura portation facill that the Hindu Sikhs were bar tion of the law. immigration off responsible and thorities. If the he considered would be set ri two courses—de or eliminate th immoral posit ada by allow bands. The pre the severance of "India was w the Sikhs," he sa called brothers but seditious a want a little c H. H. Stevens, takes up the oth ment before the Student After several sh delivered at the Society last eve Wrong, Gordon, a resolution was admission of Sik country. Use Gibbons' Price 10 Cents.

EMPIRE INVOLVED IN SIKH PROBLEM

Missionary From India Says it is Linked Up With Britain's Prestige.

GIVES LIE TO CHARGES

Vancouver Not in Position to Talk of Seditions or Bad Morals.

The whole policy of Imperialism must be taken in account in settling the question of admission or exclusion of Sikh and Hindu immigration in Canada, according to the argument of Rev. Dr. Wilkie, a Canadian who has spent twenty years of his life in missionary work at Indore, India, which was presented in a lengthy address yesterday before the Women's Canadian Club, of Toronto. "Our King and Queen went out to India to show the people that they are one with us," said the speaker in his summing-up, "while we in Canada are trying to-day to show them that they are not fit to associate with us. England only holds India through that people's confidence in her justice and fair play, and it is useless to belittle the 'unrest' in the face of actual experiences. Let England lose India and she loses five-sixths of the population of the British Empire; she loses all her prestige in the eyes of the world and sinks to a level of importance comparable with that of Portugal or Holland."

Dr. Wilkie gave the lie direct to a number of statements regarding the Sikhs in Canada, which he quoted from newspapers and pamphlets. That they came here merely to make fortunes and then returned to India, he denied implicitly. Of the 7,000 who had come to British Columbia, about 2,000 left the country within eighteen months, for the reason that they despaired of getting work and decent treatment. They went to the United States, however, and, so far as he had learned, not one of them had ever returned to the East. Some 500 had returned to India from British Columbia, for the express purpose of bringing out their families, and the majority of these were now held up at Hong Kong and other ports, unable to obtain bookings on steamers bound for Canada because of the "continuous Journey" clause in the immigration laws.

Aryans, Not Mongolians.

From the humanitarian standpoint the speaker thought they had a strong claim to recognition. "I admit freely," he said, "that moral conditions among the Hindus in India itself are frequently so low as to make one's blood boil; but I claim, on the other hand, that just to the extent these people have had a chance, they have become men I can honor, respect and trust. They need just what we need, and because they have not had what we have had, they are what they are. Give them a chance and they will do all you and I can do, which is natural, for, in dealing with the people of India, we are dealing with Aryans, not Mongolians. They are from the same old stock from which we are sprung. "Now look at the immense tracts of arable land which we have in British Columbia, not occupied and not likely to be occupied for years to come."

Explain Regulation

agree

hundreds are settled on farms of their own, hundreds are working for farmers, and hundreds more are working otherwise, raising the money to buy land of their own. One cannot help asking, why not give them a chance?" The speaker thought the people of Vancouver, who had been so ready to come forward with personal attack on the Sikhs, should take cognizance of their own shortcomings. They declared that seditious mass meetings were held with thousands of Orientals present, and if this was so, which Dr. Wilkie did not credit for a moment, it amounted to a slander in that city's whole police system. "And there is more sedition in Vancouver than among the Hindus," said Dr. Wilkie, referring to the "bloody rag" incident at a recent Socialist demonstration. "Nor can they well talk about moral conditions there, so long as those are allowed to come over freely from Seattle that have given Vancouver a name that is by no means of the best."

Few Sikhs Would Come.

If the door were opened wide to Oriental immigration to-morrow, he firmly believed that comparatively few of the 2,000,000 Sikhs in India would come, and practically no Hindus. The British Government now used every possible inducement to get these people to emigrate to other lands, with little success, and the chief argument against Britain which was made by the sedition-spreading priests of the country was that England was trying to drive them out. For the Hindu, crossing the sea meant the destruction of caste, which was the most valuable thing in his life, and cases could be cited of criminals begging to be hanged, in preference to being transported to the Andaman Islands, preferring death to what they considered a supreme disgrace. As for the Sikhs, those in India were pretty well disgusted with the idea of a movement to Canada, in face of the reports which had come back from their fellows.

Not in the law itself, but in its interpretation by the British Columbia Commissioner of Immigration, lay the present difficulty. The continuous journey clause, Dr. Wilkie said, was intended to prevent a too great influx of Japanese from the United States, but it was now twisted to mean that a Sikh, who could not come direct from India to Canada, ceased to be making a continuous journey when he walked across the dock at Hong Kong from one steamer to the other. "It is a special interpretation of a special law," he declared, "making specially hard and irritating conditions for the Hindu, and favoring the Jap and Chinaman, who can travel direct to Canada, and to restrict whom it was framed. It is an immoral and an intolerable state of affairs, and only two courses are open if British fair play is to be upheld. Either deport the whole crowd of them, or allow them to bring in their wives and children. Let us pass no law which will reflect unfairly on this people, and if we are going to exclude Orientals, let us exclude them all."

them as fabrications and retations. Dr. Wilkie scored paper stories which had charged the Sikhs in Vancouver as seditious and unworthy of any consideration. He wondered why families separated by an unjust law, strongly favored the admission of Sikhs. Of the very few settled in British Columbia, 90 were engaged in farming and dairying, which proved, in addition, that the class was not seditious.

The province in the extreme west was practically unknown and cultivated badly. Why were they not allowed the privilege of settling the land? he asked. In other coast cities they were doing in an effort to get money they could purchase land and return home, as reported. He stated the Sikhs lived in a different way in India than Canadians in this country. Their handicap was the fact they had never been taught to do things as we do.

Given a chance they would be able Canadian citizens. The standard of living was lower in India. There were marriages and all that, but the cause of it all was lack of education.

Can Be Trusted.

"I have a body with whom I have 20 years, can be trusted," he said. "I have learned to love and trust them. In some cases they are not good citizens, but they can be educated into good men and women. They are the same stock from all over the world. They are our equals in all respects, and they will be our citizens if given the opportunity."

He refuted the assertion that there were polygamists in British Columbia, a misstatement. Sikhs were monogamists. Stories that they returned to India after they had earned money in Canada, he said, were untrue. About 7000 Sikhs came to Canada a few years ago, 2000 later returned to India.

Continued on Page 7, Column 3.

wrong entirely

ND EMPIRE,
RE INVOLVED
SIKH PROBLEM

ary From India Says
Linked Up With
tain's Prestige.

LIE TO CHARGES

er Not in Position to
k of Seditions or
Bad Morals.

le policy of Imperialism
ken in account in settling
n of admission or exclusion
d Hindu immigration in
ording to the argument of
Wilkie, a Canadian who has
y years of his life in mis-
rk at Indore, India, which
ted in a lengthy address
before the Women's Cana-
of Toronto. "Our King
went out to India to show
that they are one with us,"
aker in his summing-up,
Canada are trying to-day
m that they are not fit to
with us. England only
through that people's
in her justice and fair
t is useless to belittle the
the face of actual experi-
England lose India and
e-sixths of the population
ish Empire; she loses all
in the eyes of the world
o a level of importance
with that of Portugal or

e gave the lie direct to a
statements regarding the
nada, which he quoted
pers and pamphlets. That
ere merely to make for-
en returned to India, he
ctly. Of the 7,000 who
British Columbia, about
e country within eighteen
the reason that they de-
telling work and decent
They went to the United
ver, and, so far as he had
one of them had ever re-
e East. Some 500 had
India from British Col-
he express purpose of
their families, and the
these were held up
g and other ports, unable
kings on steamers bound
because of the "continu-
clause in the immigra-

, Not Mongolians.
humanitarian standpoint
thought they had a strong
gnition. "I admit free-
that moral conditions
indus in India itself are
low as to make one's
at I claim, on the other
st to the extent these
had a chance, they have
can honor, respect and
need just what we need,
they have not had what
they are what they are.
chance and they will do
can do, which is natural,
with the people of In-
ealing with Aryans, not
They are from the same
which we are sprung.
at the immense tracts of
hich we have in British
occupied and not likely

“GIVE SIKH AGIVE SIKH A CHANCE
AND HE'LL AND HE'LL MAKE GOOD”

Rev. Dr. Wilkie, Who Was a
Missionary in India For 30
Years, Made an Eloquent
Plea on Behalf of Allow-
ing the Wives of Hindoes
to Come to Canada—H. H.
Stevens of Vancouver Will
Take the Opposite View
To-day.

“Give the Sikh a chance and he will
make good in Canada. The law which
excludes this class of people from
British Columbia is a huge farce be-
cause of its unjust, unfair interpreta-
tion.” Speaking to the Women's Cana-
dian Club in the Guild Hall yesterday
afternoon, Rev. Dr. Wilkie, for thirty
years a missionary in India, endeavored
to prove that these British subjects
should be given different treatment at
the hands of the federal government.
He declared that it was an outrage
that Japanese and Chinese should be
allowed to enter Canada and the wives
of Sikhs barred. He advocated entire
Asiatic exclusion if one class was
favored.

Classing them as fabrications and
misinterpretations, Dr. Wilkie scot-
ed the newspaper stories which had char-
acterized the Sikhs in Vancouver as
seditionists and unworthy of any con-
sideration. He wondered why families
should be separated by an unjust law,
and he strongly favored the admission
of wives of Sikhs. Of the very few
thousand settled in British Columbia,
he said 300 were engaged in farming
and 500 in dairying, which proved, in
his estimation, that the class was not
worthless. The province in the extreme
west was practically unknown and
needed cultivators badly. Why were
these people not allowed the privilege
of cultivating the land? he asked. In
Vancouver and other coast cities they
were working in an effort to get money
whereby they could purchase land and
not to return home, as reported.

He admitted the Sikhs lived in a dif-
ferent way in India than Canadians in
Canada, but their handicap was the
fact that they had never been taught
the gospel. Given a chance they would
make suitable Canadian citizens. The
moral status was lower in India. There
were child marriages and all that, but
the cause of it all was lack of educa-
tion.

Can Be Trusted.

“Sikhs as a body with whom I have
worked for years, can be trusted,”
quoth he, “I have learned to love and
admire them. In some cases they are
not desirable citizens, but they can be
easily cultivated into good men and wo-
men. They are the same stock from
which we sprang. They are our equals
in this regard, and they will be our
equals in citizenship if given the op-
portunity.”

He classed the assertion that there
were 2000 polygamists in British Co-
lumbia, as a misstatement. Sikhs were
not polygamists. Stories that they re-
turned to India after they had earned
sufficient money in Canada, he said
were untrue. About 7000 Sikhs came to
Canada a few years ago, 2000 later re-

Continued on Page 7, Column 3.

Continued From Page 1.

oved to the States and are still there,
nd those that returned home from this
untry numbering 500, did so because
ill-treatment and unemployment.

Only One Agitator.

“You are told that their temple in
ancouver is the centre of seditious
etings,” he went on. “This is untrue,
my belief. You are told that \$2000
is collected recently to buy rifles to
ut the English. If such was the case,
was a slur on the Vancouver police
ce and other authorities. There has
ly been one seditious agitator in
ancouver, according to Dr. Sunder
gh, and he was driven out of the
untry five years ago after the Sikhs
d refused to listen to or heed his doc-
ne.”

Vancouver protests about the Sikhs
I tolerates the Japanese and Chinese
I even allows women and men of
character to come north from
ttle and infest their city,” he said.
that consistent?” Several societies
both Vancouver and Victoria passed
olutions favoring the admission of
ale Sikhs. There was talk that
his could not be assimilated. If as-
ilation means observing laws and

fitting into conditions generally, the
Sikh is just as capable of such as the
Jews, Italians, Ruthenian, Japanese,
Chinese or any other nationality.

“If you want oriental immigration,
all right, but let us believe in British
fair play,” he continued. “If you shut
out the Hindu, why not the other for-
eigners who are not even as alien as
the people of British India? Why have
undue discrimination.”

He said the government passed an
immigration law to the effect that no
orientals can enter Canada unless they
come by a continuous journey. “Con-
tinuous journey” was a peculiar word-
ing. Jap or Chinese could come to
Canada direct from their countries, and
it was natural, according to trans-
portation facilities now in existence,
that the Hindu could not. Therefore,
Sikhs were barred by this interpreta-
tion of the law. He believed that the
immigration officer of Vancouver was
responsible and not the Ottawa au-
thorities. If the people knew the facts
he considered the monstrous wrong
would be set right. There were only
two courses—deport the whole crowd
or eliminate the unnatural, inhuman,
immoral position of the Sikhs in Can-
ada by allowing wives to join hus-
bands. The present conditions caused
the severance of home relations.

“India was won for the empire by
the Sikhs,” he said. “These people are
called brothers when there's a fight,
but seditious and niggers when they
want a little concession.”

H. H. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver,
takes up the other side of the argu-
ment before the club this afternoon.

Students in Favor.

After several short speeches had been
delivered at the University Literary
Society last evening by Professors
Wrong, Gordon, Forsythe and others,
a resolution was passed favoring the
admission of Sikh women into this
country.

Use Gibbons' Toothache Gum—
Price 10 Cents. 246

Explain
Regulation

agree
Help us
exclude

Page 5
Blain

X

what
about
this
ancient
civilization

wrong entirely

Everyday
 o tell you that a new era has
 medicine business in Canada, and
 ediet what they contain and he
 packages. No mystery about
 is claims made for the remedies
 and from the latest and most
 world. The latest and most
 put up by the drug
 em. The drug
 edies are

GIVE SIKH A CHANCE AND HE'LL MAKE GOOD

Continued From Page 1.

moved to the States and are still there, and those that returned home from this country numbering 500, did so because of ill-treatment and unemployment.

Only One Agitator.

"You are told that their temple in Vancouver is the centre of seditious meetings," he went on. "This is untrue, in my belief. You are told that \$2000 was collected recently to buy rifles to rout the English. If such was the case, it was a slur on the Vancouver police force and other authorities. There has only been one seditious agitator in Vancouver, according to Dr. Sunder Singh, and he was driven out of the country five years ago after the Sikhs had refused to listen to or heed his doctrine."

"Vancouver protests about the Sikhs and tolerates the Japanese and Chinese and even allows women and men of low character to come north from Seattle and infest their city," he said. "Is that consistent?" Several societies in both Vancouver and Victoria passed resolutions favoring the admission of female Sikhs. There was talk that Sikhs could not be assimilated. If assimilation means observing laws and

fitting into conditions generally, the Sikh is just as capable of such as the Jews, Italians, Ruthenian, Japanese, Chinese or any other nationality.

"If you want oriental immigration, all right, but let us believe in British fair play," he continued. "If you shut out the Hindu, why not the other foreigners who are not even as alien as the people of British India? Why have undue discrimination."

He said the government passed an immigration law to the effect that no orientals can enter Canada unless they come by a continuous journey. "Continuous journey" was a peculiar wording. Jap or Chinese could come to Canada direct from their countries, and it was natural, according to transportation facilities now in existence, that the Hindu could not. Therefore, Sikhs were barred by this interpretation of the law. He believed that the immigration officer of Vancouver was responsible and not the Ottawa authorities. If the people knew the facts he considered the monstrous wrong would be set right. There were only two courses—deport the whole crowd or eliminate the unnatural, inhuman, immoral position of the Sikhs in Canada by allowing wives to join husbands. The present conditions caused the severance of home relations.

"India was won for the empire by the Sikhs," he said. "These people are called brothers when there's a fight, but seditious and niggers when they want a little concession."

H. H. Stevens, M.P. for Vancouver, takes up the other side of the argument before the club this afternoon.

Students in Favor.

After several short speeches had been delivered at the University Literary Society last evening by Professors Wrong, Gordon, Forsythe and others, a resolution was passed favoring the admission of Sikh women into this country.

Use Gibbons' Toothache Gum—
 Price 10 Cents, 246

Explain
 Regulation

agree
 Help us
 exclude

wrong entirely