

29/1-12

DECLARES HINDUS ARE FILTHIEST

From Sanitary Point of View
Worse Than Lowest
Chinese.

Such Is Statement of Sanitary
Inspector in Annual
Report.

"We have always had trouble from overcrowding and insanitary conditions among the foreign element comprising Chinese, Japanese, Italians and Hindus," says Sanitary Inspector Marrion, in making his report to the health committee for 1911, his final report prior to retiring after many years of service.

"In regard to the Chinese, it is owing in great measure to the large number of buildings being destroyed for sanitary and other reasons in Chinatown, that today a large number of Chinamen are crowded into congested quarters—some are even crowded into cellars in the merchants' stores. If drastic measures were taken it would mean driving these people into the street. It is promised that in early spring the new Chinatown buildings will be started, and the situation at present existing relieved; at the same time the health bylaw should forbid any person to sleep in a store, or in a room which is ventilated only into a store where food is sold for human consumption, or to sleep in a cellar which is deprived of ventilation or daylight."

Hindus Are Filthy.

This is what the official says about the Chinese. Speaking of the Hindus he remarks: "From a sanitary point of view I consider them worse than the lowest class of Chinamen. It is impossible to conceive a more filthy condition than the manner in which these men live in any old dilapidated building they can manage to rent."

His reference to the Japanese is slightly more flattering. "These people in regard to lodging-houses have adapted themselves to modern conditions since their arrival in the city more than any of the other foreigners. There are still some of them who live in shacks that are a source of trouble however, from a sanitary point of view."

"In regard to the Italians, of whom we have a large number," continues the report, "the most are single laboring men, and here again from a sanitary point of view we are facing a menace to health. Like the very poor of our own people a cabin or shack is often the height of their ambition. They herd themselves together in a house which is rented by one for a number, these men apparently sharing all things in common, especially drink. It is therefore no wonder that the premises soon become filthy, the owners seldom spending a cent in cleaning up. This entails a constant trouble for the health department, and constitutes one of the chief nuisances and menaces to health in the community."

Disease Follows Congestion.

Dealing with this same question Dr. Carder, assistant medical health officer, in his report on infectious diseases points out that many of them occurred during the last year in the district between Main and Campbell and False Creek and Burrard Inlet where many Italians live. He goes on to say: "The practice of overcrowding, so prevalent in this district, with habits of living, total presence of the Gore avenue dump, are factors which are too patent to be ignored."

Inspector Marrion recommends that open box channels be provided in unserved districts to carry off the discharges from septic tanks which he claims constitute a great nuisance in the street and lane ditches. He also suggests that when sewers are laid that connection be made to every lot on the local improvement plan. Care should be taken in connection with the present disposal of the sewage from the districts south of False Creek which drain into the creek bed. The fact that residents have only a

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CLERGYMEN'S VIEWS ON THE HINDU PROBLEM

Full Text of the Resolutions
Adopted by the Ministerial
Association.

Say Question of Admitting
Wives Involves Whole Im-
migration Policy.

Replies to Arguments Raised
in Support of the Hindu
Women.

Six Principles Which Are De-
clared to Underlie the En-
tire Subject.

After a heated and somewhat protracted meeting of the Ministerial Association of Vancouver, held yesterday afternoon at the Y. M. C. A., resolutions were drawn up regarding the admission of Hindu women into British Columbia. The resolutions, the purport of which appeared in yesterday's issue of The Province, constitute the official position occupied by this association in this much-discussed matter. They were prepared, it was pointed out, at considerable trouble, and are very carefully worded.

The spiritual leaders closted themselves behind closed doors and would allow no one but members to attend. The press representatives were excluded. One tall, slender Hindu, garbed in a tight-fitting black suit and adorned with a spotlessly white turban, was curtly refused admittance as he tried to pry his way into the meeting. He made no remonstrance, but hastened from the Y. M. C. A. building in the direction of the Sikh temple.

Stripped of all the arguments pro and con of the position taken by the clergymen of the city as an organization, the result of the meeting yesterday afternoon is embodied in this adopted report of the special committee.

Report of Special Committee.

Your committee, appointed to consider the question of the admission of the wives of the Hindus at present residing in British Columbia, beg to report as follows:

They are convinced that this apparently simple question can not be discussed intelligently or decided wisely unless it is considered in the light, and as a very important part of, the wider question of general Hindu immigration.

Your committee are informed that already about half of the six thousand Hindus who originally came to British Columbia have left the country (the presumption is that the remainder, if left to themselves, will gradually follow); that only a portion of the resident Hindus are desirous of bringing their wives to Canada; that the agitation in favor of the admission of

the purpose of breaking down the existing immigration regulations, which have thus far protected the country from a threatened Hindu inundation, and that the ultimate object of the agitators as avowed by themselves, is to secure for the Hindus now in the country and for all others who may enter it hereafter, the enjoyment and exercise of the full rights of Canadian citizenship.

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Inspector Marrion recommends that open box channels be provided in unserved districts to carry off the discharges from septic tanks which he claims constitute a great nuisance in the street and lane ditches. He also suggests that when sewers are laid that connection be made to every lot on the local improvement plan. Care should be taken in connection with the present disposal of the sewage from the districts south of False Creek which drain into the creek bed. The fact that residents have only a portion of their garbage collected free results in the dumping of a great deal of refuse on the lanes, it is noted, and the recommendation is made that a general scavenging tax be imposed so as to ensure the collection of all sorts of garbage.

Technical Instruction.

An inspector to supervise the installation and testing of all gas pipes, stoves, heaters and furnaces is suggested as well as the appointment of an assistant to the restaurant and lodging house inspector.

Plumbing Inspector Morgan brings up a new point when he draws attention to the lack of facilities here for technical education along plumbing lines. He proposes in his report, which accompanies that of Inspector Marrion, that the school board take up the matter of providing technical instruction in plumbing.

"The intimate relation that this trade bears to public health makes such provision in the highest degree necessary," is his comment.

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the purpose of breaking up the existing immigration regulations, which have thus far protected the country from a threatened Hindu inundation, and that the ultimate object of the agitators as avowed by themselves, is to secure for the Hindus now in the country and for all others who may enter it hereafter, the enjoyment and exercise of the full rights of Canadian citizenship.

Your committee recognize the responsibility of the Christian to the non-Christian races of the world. They believe that Canadian Christians have, at least in some small measure, discharged that responsibility to the inhabitants of India, not only by missionary effort, but also by practical assistance extended in times of national calamity and distress. They are persuaded, however, that the admission of foreigners, of whatever nationality, whose racial characteristics render them practically incapable of assimilation, would be injurious to our national life.

Answers to Arguments.

To the argument in favor of the free admission of Hindus on the ground of the British citizenship it is sufficient to reply that even the natives of the British Isles are admitted only insofar as they reach a prescribed standard; and that the principle of excluding or deporting undesirable settlers, which is so strongly denounced in the case of the Hindus, is being applied every year, sometimes in hundreds of cases, to men born in the very heart of the Empire.

In reply to the argument in favor of the admission of the wives of Hindus, based upon the sentiments and usages of Canada, your committee calls attention to the fact that the relations of Canadian wives to their husbands and all the conditions of Canadian home life are absolutely different from these relations and conditions in India.

It is in the light of such facts and considerations as these that the question must be determined.

In the opinion of your committee the objection to the admission of Hindu women is that it would have the effect which the promoters of the agitation intend it to have, viz., of establishing a Hindu colony as a permanent element in our Canadian life and of making it possible for that colony to receive constant additions from India.

In recording their conviction that this would be an extremely undesirable situation, your committee would like to point out some principles which, in their judgment, ought to underlie the whole immigration policy of the country.

Six Principles Stated.

1. The value of immigration, like the value of food, depends upon the extent to which it can be readily assimilated.

2. Every country which is to play its part worthily in the life of the world, must, at whatever sacrifice of immediate material development, preserve its national genius.

3. All immigrants should be free from physical and mental defects and

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2. Every country which is to play its part worthily in the life of the world, must, at whatever sacrifice of immediate material development, preserve its national genius.

3. All immigrants should be free from physical and mental defects and be capable of becoming, within a

reasonable time, intelligent and loyal citizens.

4. The full rights of Canadian citizenship should be granted to immigrants from foreign countries only when they have become sufficiently familiar with our institutions to pronounce an intelligent judgment upon public questions.

5. In the case of Orientals whose conceptions and modes of life are radically different from our own, the immigration should be so restricted as to prevent any injurious disturbance of economic and industrial conditions, and the whole country should recognize that a solemn obligation rests upon it to use every possible means for the improvement of the social ideals and moral standards of those who are permitted to enter.

6. The immigration policy of the country should be set forth courteously but with perfect frankness so that no regulations would need to be promulgated that would actually pre-

vent what is professedly allowed.

If, however, the majority of Canadians, instead of endorsing some such principles as these, are prepared to assume the risks of admitting Hindus, not as temporary exploiters of some of the lower forms of Canadian labor, but as bona fide settlers, entitled to all the rights and privileges of Canadian citizenship, there can be no difference of opinion about the propriety of admitting their wives. In that case the government should demand indisputable evidence that the women admitted are really the wives of the men asking for their admission; and, in the case of the wife of a Hindu belonging to any of the polygamous races of India, the evidence should show conclusively that she is her husband's first or legal wife—the only wife that the laws of Canada can possibly recognize.

The above resolution was submitted by the special committee appointed to meet in connection to a special meeting of the Ministerial Association of Vancouver this morning and carried, a small minority dissenting.