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ADDRESS :
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION
OTTAWA

REFER TO NO.

593439



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Ottawa, 27th December, 1906.

Sir,

In pursuance of your instructions to proceed to Vancouver, B.C., and investigate the matter of the reports that many Hindus there were public charges and others likely to become such, and to deport any liable to such action under the Immigration Act, I left Ottawa on December the 6th and arrived in Vancouver on December the 12th.

I visited the quarters occupied by the Hindus and inspected those found there. I also had the opportunity to examine many groups of them in different parts of the city and surrounding country, but found only one liable to deportation so far as I could ascertain and he was too ill to be removed. From this mode of procedure it was impossible to obtain information supporting grounds for deportation.

I interviewed His Worship the Mayor, the Police Magistrate, the Chief of Police, the city Health Officer, and other civic officials and enquired whether any Hindus had been convicted of anything that would justify their deportation but learned that no convictions had been made although several had been brought before the police court on minor charges.

In interviewing civic officials I called attention to the fact that the Department was not responsible for the

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the arrival of the Hindus and had done nothing directly or indirectly to induce them to come to Canada, nor was it responsible for their maintenance but that its sole authority was to deport any immigrant who within two years of his landing in Canada commits a crime involving moral turpitude or becomes an inmate of a jail, asylum, hospital or other charitable institutions.

The fear was expressed on behalf of the city that free prosecutions of immigrants for vagrancy might crowd the jails to which I replied that if the magistrates deemed proper they might impose short sentences and the Immigration Department could immediately upon release take charge of those to be deported.

Up to the date of my leaving Vancouver no convictions had been secured against any Hindus. Before leaving I instructed our agent there that if convictions occurred later he was to immediately take the necessary steps with a view to deportation.

While in Vancouver I also interviewed a large number of representative men engaged in business and in labour but was unable to secure any specific information justifying deportation of any individuals.

But for the advice and assistance given to the Hindus upon arrival by Colonel Falk Warren, Mr. Snee and Mr. Brooks, three Anglo-Indians now residing in Vancouver and others who from philanthropic motives interested themselves in the newcomers a large proportion would very likely have become public charges.

There seems to be a consensus of opinion in British Columbia that any considerable influx of Hindus is

extremely

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extremely undesirable both in the interests of the people of the province and of the Hindus themselves. In this opinion even their warmest friends concur.

I instructed the agents of the Department at Vancouver and Victoria to pay particular attention to the general physique of Hindus in future and examine carefully all those who were anaemic, narrow chested or showed other symptoms which would appear to place them in a class likely to contract or develop tubercular trouble as such diseases seem to be the ones to which Hindus in British Columbia are most likely to fall victims.

Of the 2,193 Hindus arriving in British Columbia this year 100 were turned back without being allowed to land, 7 have died since arrival and up to December 14th, 345 had left for the United States. Of those remaining in British Columbia the majority were engaged in various employments and work was promised in the course of a few days to the remainder.

I left Vancouver on December the 18th and on my return trip received a telegram from Mayor Hutton of Grand Forks, B.C., asking me to go there and look into the Hindu question. I replied as follows:-

"Telegram received here. Regret cannot go at present. If Hindus are public charges can be dealt with as vagrants. If convicted Department has power to deport under section 33 Immigration Act."

I reached Ottawa on the 24th instant and submit the above report which I trust meets with your approval.

Your obedient servant,

E. Blake Robertson

Assistant Superintendent of Immigration.