

Ottawa, October 29th, 1907.  
IMMIGRATION

NOV 7 1907

RECEIVED.

To His Excellency

The Governor-General-in-Council.

536999

The undersigned has the honour to submit that for some years past the arrival of Hindoos in British Columbia has been receiving attention at the hands of the Immigration Branch of the Department of the Interior. The movement of Hindoos to that Province commenced in the year 1905, when, up to the 30th of June in that year 45 landed. During the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1906, the number landing was 387; while during the fiscal period of nine months ending the 31st March, 1907, the number was 2,124, and during the first six months of the current fiscal year, ending on the 30th September last, the number was 1,411.

While the movement up to the 30th June, 1906, was limited in extent, and appeared only to demand the usual attention of the health officials of the Immigration Branch at the ports of landing, the sudden increase in the number of arrivals which occurred during the months of July, August, September, October and November of 1906, during which period over 2,000 landed, caused considerable alarm as to the effect which the influx of this class of immigration would be likely to exercise upon existing conditions throughout the Province in the matter of the general health of the community and the industrial interests which would be affected by the coming of these people, especially if the numbers arriving should increase in a correspondingly rapid ratio.

It was therefore deemed advisable to make some closer

enquiry

enquiry into the question, and accordingly Mr. W. D. Scott, Superintendent of Immigration, visited British Columbia during the fall of 1906, with a view to personally examining into the existing conditions.

On the 10th of October, 1906, a cable despatch was received by Your Excellency from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, asking that the facts regarding the arrival of Hindoo immigrants in British Columbia and the views of Your Government thereon should be communicated by cable, to which reply was made that the matter was receiving attention.

On the 24th of the same month the Secretary of State for the Colonies forwarded to Your Excellency a communication dated the 19th idem, from the India Office asking that the report of Your Government might be communicated to the India Office, together with the observations thereon of the Secretary of State for the Colonies; and further stating:

"As regards the position of the Government of  
 "India in the matter, I am to explain that emigration  
 "from India under contract to labour is regulated by  
 "the Indian Emigration Act, 1883, and emigration from  
 "that country under contract to work in Canada would  
 "involve an infringement of the law. But the Govern-  
 "ment of India have no power to control the movements  
 "of Indians sailing under such contracts from countries  
 "other than India, or of free emigrants sailing from  
 "Indian ports. It appears probable that many of the  
 "Indians who have found their way to British Columbia  
 "are men who had wandered to the Far East in search of  
 "employment."

On

(3)

On the 2nd November, 1906, Mr. Superintendent Scott reported as the result of his enquiry that the Hindoo immigrants arriving in British Columbia were not physically fitted to cope with either the climatic conditions or the only classes of work which could be found for them; that many of them had already become objects of charity, and that should this immigration continue, large numbers of these people must become a charge upon the public funds.

On the 12th November, 1906, Your Excellency sent the following cable despatch to the Secretary of State for the Colonies:-

"My Prime Minister requests me to send you the following, which he would like communicated to Viceroy of India and Governor of Hong Kong:

"Begin. Some two thousand people from Northern India have arrived at Vancouver during past season. Have no doubt came under misrepresentations, as they are unsuited to the climate and there is not sufficient field for their employment. Numbers of them in danger of becoming public charge and thus subject to deportation under Canadian law. Would suggest spread of information to this effect to deter further movement. Ends."

On the 20th of the same month the India Office informed the Colonial Office that Mr. Secretary Morley had telegraphed to the Government of India the substance of Your Excellency's cable despatch above quoted, with an expression of his concurrence in the course proposed.

On the 23rd of November, 1906, the undersigned had the

honour

(4)

honour to submit to Your Excellency-in-Council a copy of the above-mentioned report of Mr. Superintendent Scott, and copies of telegrams in reference to the Immigration of Hindoos, with a recommendation that copies of these papers should be transmitted through the proper channels to the Governments of India and Hong Kong, and that those Governments should be requested to take such steps as they could to warn people of the class referred to in the papers against emigrating to Canada.

As a result of the steps taken in the direction suggested, the number of Hindoos arriving during the succeeding eight months was not sufficient to occasion comment, and the alarm which had been aroused in regard to the matter had become to some extent allayed. In the month of September last, however, nearly 800 Hindoos arrived in British Columbia, the largest number yet arriving on one vessel, and this at once caused the question to again assume an active form, more particularly as the winter was approaching and the lumber mills, <sup>(F.O.)</sup> ~~practically~~ <sup>chief</sup> the ~~only~~ <sup>(F.O.)</sup> outlet for this <sup>(F.O.)</sup> ~~surplus~~ <sup>class of</sup> labour, were commencing to close down for the season. So serious appeared to be the probable condition of these incoming immigrants, without adequate means, or sufficient clothing to withstand the climate, or prospects of obtaining employment, that it was deemed advisable to again despatch Mr. Superintendent Scott to British Columbia to make a careful investigation into the matter. His report confirms that of the previous year as to the Hindoos being <sup>(F.O.)</sup> ~~totally~~ <sup>totally</sup> unsuited as <sup>(F.O.)</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> immigrants to the climate and conditions of life existing in British Columbia, and as evidencing this fact he points out that of the total of less than 4,000 arrivals, 1,649 had applied for admission

(5)

admission to the United States, out of which number 1,874 had been admitted and had gone chiefly to Southern California, where the climate and conditions were more suited to them.

In view of the fact that the Hindoos are not physically suited to the climate, or adapted, from their mode of life, to the industrial and other conditions existing in British Columbia; that their ~~coming is not demanded by~~ <sup>are fitted to meet (H.C.)</sup> the industrial requirements of this country, and that they are utilizing Canada as a means of access to the United States; and in view, furthermore, of the fact that the movement of this class of people to Canada is increasing ~~and has reached a point which justifies concern as to its resultant outcome and influence on the welfare of this country, and this notwithstanding the adverse recommendations of the Home and India Governments, and of the expressed policy of the latter Government, the undersigned recommends, for the purpose of removing any doubt as to these people being possessed of sufficient means to provide for themselves and~~ <sup>not being able to properly provide for themselves or</sup> ~~of eliminating the danger of their becoming a public charge, that, under Section 20 of the Immigration Act, Chapter 19 of 6 Edward VII., which~~ <sup>at</sup> Section provides that under the Regulations to be made by Your Excellency-in-Council, immigrants may be required, as a condition to permission to enter Canada, to possess money to a prescribed minimum amount, that a Regulation be made by Your Excellency-in-Council, by the Order to be founded on this memorandum, providing that as a condition to permission to enter Canada, every Hindoo immigrant shall possess money to a minimum amount of \$500.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Minister of the Interior.