

the statute. The word 'origin' was used instead of the word 'race' in connection with 'Asiatic.' Why did not the former follow the words of the statute in making the regulation? If they had done so, we should not have had 88 Hindus enter this country, for they came in under the defective regulation passed by my predecessor. That could hardly be an accusation against this Government; and, as a matter of fact, we remedied it. We took advantage immediately of the decision of Chief Justice Hunter and amended the Order in Council accordingly. And there have been no Hindus coming into Canada since that time. So, instead of accusing us of the coming into Canada of 88 Hindus, the hon. gentleman should have accused his own friends of such carelessness, that through a technical defect, 39 Hindus out of 88 were allowed to come into Canada. That will not occur in future as our Order in Council follows the exact wording of the statute.

The hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) shed crocodile tears over the case of Bhagwan Singh, who is described as a priest. I am afraid that word 'priest' has run away with the hon. gentleman's better judgment. The hon. gentleman assumed that because he was called a priest he was a superior order of being and would not be guilty of personation, perjury or of false pretences in coming into Canada. But the records supplied us show that the man is not deserving of the title 'priest' in its highest sense. This is the information we have received concerning Bhagwan Singh:

He did not come into Canada under the name of Bhagwan Singh. Bhagwan, alias Natha Singh, arrived at Vancouver on the 8th of June, 1913, ex Empress of Russia, travelling under the name of Natha Singh. He claimed to be a Hindu returning to Canada, and that he first arrived at Vancouver in 1906, remaining in British Columbia until the 23rd of October, 1912, when he sailed from Victoria to visit India. He gave the names of several Hindus resident in Vancouver, who came forward and gave evidence that they knew Natha Singh to be a previous resident of Canada. Some time after his arrival, it came to the notice of immigration officials at Vancouver that Natha Singh was not his correct name, and that he had never been in Canada prior to his entry on 8th of June, 1913. This information came principally from articles published in a Hindu newspaper published on the Pacific coast and known as Sansar. In the issue of that paper of

the 5th of August, 1913, it was stated that Bhagwan Singh was the correct name of the man in question, and that he had come from Hong Kong and was a stranger in this country. It is believed that this information was published in order to warn the Hindus in Vancouver against the operations of Bhagwan Singh, he having aspirations to be known as a leader of the Hindus and to be a director of the Guru Nanak Mining and Trust Company, Limited. In addition to this information, the department received from an official of the Government of India the following particulars concerning Bhagwan Singh:

He is believed to have left India about 1909 or 1910, having got into trouble through abducting another man's daughter, but no details of this are available. In 1910 he was appointed granthi (reader of the Sikh scriptures and preacher) of the Sikh temple at Perak, Federated Malay States, but was dismissed in the same year by the committee of the temple on the ground that he held advanced views which were objected to, and preached sedition.

I am sure the hon. member for Rouville never dreamt for a moment that such serious accusations as these had been made against the gentleman whom he so championed this afternoon. Here is some further information for my hon. friend:

He then proceeded to Hong Kong, and was appointed about the middle of 1910 Granthi of the Sikh temple there. During his stay at Hong Kong he was largely responsible for frequent disputes amongst the Sikh community, which eventually led to serious litigation. His preaching at Hong Kong, though not exactly seditious, was believed to be directed against the British Government, and his moral character is reported to be bad. In May, 1913, he was dismissed and he left for Japan on the 14th May, 1913, per ss. Empress of Russia with the expressed intention of proceeding to Canada or the United States of America.

This information has been gleaned, not only from the Hindu paper printed on the coast, but it also comes from an official of the Indian Government. Not only was this gentleman not the sick man that was referred to by the hon. member, and on whom he wasted a lot of unnecessary sympathy, but I find that a newspaper, published on the steamer on which this gentleman was deported, referred to him in a manner that would indicate that he was extremely robust. It says:

As the ship moved along the wharf two lawyers kept abreast with it, heaping legal curses on the head of the captain. Just the same it was the dungeon for the Hindu until the ship was out of sight of land. Then he was turned loose, only to have the storm break. That he was relieved two days later of a dirk, a foot and a half long, was simply an incident in his career on board. Possibly he