

British Columbia. They indicated the two they thought should go. I said that as the affair was a community one, the selection must be ratified by a meeting of the community. I asked them to have such a meeting that same night. They promised to notify as many of the community as possible to meet at their Temple building that night. The meeting was held on the ground floor of the Temple building, (the Temple is upstairs). There was only a small attendance, but those present again indicated their choice and I was given a certificate that Nagar Singh (Sikh), and Sham Singh (Hindu) had been selected.

#### IN HONDURAS.

The next day, Thursday, October 15th, the delegates, W. C. Hopkinson, whom I engaged as interpreter, and myself, left Vancouver for British Honduras. We arrived at Belize, the Capital, on Sunday, October 25th. On Monday, 26th, I presented my credentials to the Acting Governor, Hon. A. Collet, (who was acting in the absence of Governor Swayne, who was in England), and he arranged to call a general meeting of planters and citizens for Tuesday to consider the proposition.

Numerous meetings were subsequently held, and an arrangement made regarding the terms and conditions the government and planters of British Honduras were prepared to offer Hindu labourers.

As regards plantation labour these were:

*Term.*—One to three years as the labourer might elect.

*Hours.*—Fifty hours per week, not exceeding nine hours in any one day.

*Wages.*—Eight dollars (gold standard) per month with rations, or twelve dollars per month, without rations.

*Rations.*—Flour, rice and various other articles. (The list was approved by the delegates.)

*House accommodation.*—Free.

All the terms were included in an Ordinance, and were thus enforceable in the Courts. In the Ordinance were incorporated the various provisions for the protection of employer and employee in the ordinary labour Ordinance of the country. It was also provided that all the contracts should be made between the East Indians and the Government, the latter allotting them to private employers as it saw fit.

From the Government was received:

Offer to immediately grant to 100 East Indians free grants of 10 acres of land near the new Government railway. This was subsequently increased to an offer of 200. The Government was prepared to go further in the way of land grants as soon as surveys could be carried out.