

Diwan in which representatives from Port Moody, Barnet, Eburn, New Westminster, Victoria and Vancouver, etc., were present. This letter which was written from British Honduras by the delegates ran as follows: The country is like Andaman Islands, the Convict Island where British Indian Convicts are sent and food conditions very unsatisfactory."

Then Nagar Singh and Sham Singh stood up in the Diwan and related their experiences in British Honduras. The climatic and water conditions are quite unsuited to East Indians. Wages very low, \$8 to \$12 a month, hardly sufficient to maintain the wage-earner himself. Fresh butter and milk not procurable, and if obtainable it is very dear. Fresh water is scarce in seasons of drought, as the only fresh water procurable is an accumulation of rain water from house roofs. During drought fresh water is sold by a Company, and the price is about \$3 to \$4 a month (for water). Sea water alone can be had for bathing. This is quite unsuited for washing hair and beards which the Sikhs are bound to keep under the laws of their religion. Mosquitoes are very abundant, and their sting causes trouble and fever. The wage conditions are under a contract system, and the labourer has to fulfil the terms and conditions thereof. This contract is usually for three years. One has to take whatever food the employer pleases to give under the items mentioned in the contract. There are many East Indians there who are very badly off. Some of them have been there for forty years, and we have got the addresses and names of some of them. They have not been able to save even fare enough to return to India, our mother country. They implored us to get them back to India. Their children were heard saying "Papa when will you show us our Old Country." When we heard little children talking in this way we felt extremely troubled, but we were helpless to do anything for them.

The Council held at Belize, Honduras, only asked us a few questions about eating, and then sent us out. This was against all rules of any assembly, as all persons invited should be present during the proceedings. This was an insult to us and the Khalsa Diwan, Vancouver, which sent us.

We did not know what the Committee meeting there decided. In a way a temptation in the way of money was also cleverly arranged. This was in the form of a money bag handed over to Nagar Singh by the Interpreter. Nagar Singh who had it, states that he counted about \$3,000 worth of bills in it. It was apparently a clever hint, though not an offer.

Then the Full Diwan (the Sikhs and Hindus assembled in Sikh Temple) unanimously decided that they would not go to British Honduras and would help their own unemployed with the help of their Sikh brothers in Japan, Hong Kong and Shanghai and India, and organize themselves into a self-supporting community. As the