

THE BRIBE CHARGE.

After the meeting, the bribe charge seemed to me to be the matter requiring attention. My first impulse was that proceedings should be taken for criminal libel against Teja Singh, who had given the story to the press. However, enquiry showed that he had so fortified himself that there did not appear to be much likelihood of successful criminal prosecution. He gave the story to a *World* reporter and a *Province* reporter at the same time. Later on, before publication, he notified the papers both by telephone and by letter that the story must not be used. The following is a copy of the letter received by the *World*, the original of which is in my possession:

VANCOUVER, B. C.,
1866 2nd Ave.,
Fairview.

"Dear Sir,

"Your reporter met me in the Robson car, just for a minute or "two, and asked me hurriedly about a matter which is of an extremely & private nature. No report of that conversation is to be put in any paper.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) TEJA SINGH."

It would thus appear that Teja Singh has protected himself against criminal proceedings for libel. I am informed there can be no criminal proceedings for slander, and I suppose it is possible that his notification might protect him, even as regards civil action for slander.

The Hindu delegate, Sham Singh, called at my hotel several times, and told me that he knew nothing of any bribe having been offered, and that the first he had heard of the charge was when Nagar Singh, the Sikh delegate, made it in the Temple. I was anxious to get a statement from Nagar Singh. I am told he was at the Temple building the Sunday the meeting was arranged for, but he never came to see me, or even came within my sight. Dr. Knapp, the white man who is a friend and admirer of Teja Singh, came to my hotel Sunday evening after the meeting, at my request, and while we were discussing matters, Sham Singh, the Hindu delegate, called. I asked Dr. Knapp to examine him regarding the alleged bribe, and then arranged that Dr. Knapp should come to the hotel on Monday at 3 p. m., that Sham Singh should bring Nagar Singh to the hotel at the same time, and that Dr. Knapp should examine both of them regarding the alleged bribe, the evidence to be taken down by a court reporter and the interpretation to be done by a Hindu. Sham Singh turned up, but without Nagar Singh, who, he reported