

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

titled by human and Divine right to have their wives and children with them it is to be hoped the Government will not withdraw the permission now granted.

A further consideration must be kept in view. Canada is coming to hold in the British Empire an ever enlarging place, and her influence in shaping its destiny is growing more and more powerful. Her attitude to any other part of that Empire is increasingly important.

In the case of India it is especially so in these days of unrest and disturbance when forces hostile to British rule are to an alarming extent, and with great persistency, manifesting themselves. It behooves Canada to look to the Empire as a whole and abstain from what is fitted to injure its interests, and beware of putting weapons into the hands of those who are aiming at its disruption. It is to be regretted that incalculable harm has already been done by the policy of our Government towards immigrants from India. Large numbers have gone back cherishing bitter resentment, who have awakened widespread sympathy among their countrymen. Agitators and enemies have taken advantage of that policy to stir up feelings of opposition and disloyalty.

The resentment manifested by India's great poet, Rabindranath Tagore, who declined to set foot in a country that had so ill-treated his fellow countrymen, is very widespread indeed in India, and does not

a little to embarrass those responsible for law and order and the maintenance of British connection. Those who have lived among India's people realize something of the potency for evil of the feelings occasioned by the past policy of our Government.

It is surely the duty of Canadians not only to refrain from action fitted to prejudice those people against a government whose work among them is not yet finished, but to seek to repair mischief already done by unwise and unfair treatment. The need is for the manifestation of a spirit of brotherhood and sympathy to those now within our gates, affording them the long delayed opportunity of realizing their natural desires in domestic and social life.

To those who have known the Hindustanis in their own land and witness the conditions in which they live here, it is painfully evident that they have not had a fair chance. Their failure to make good and prove easy of assimilation is, in a large measure, due to unfavourable circumstances rather than to inherent nature. Many of them are fine specimens of the *genus homo*, and there is in them splendid stuff for the making of good citizens. If they are wisely, sympathetically and justly dealt with, they should contribute in no small degree to the development of the resources of British Columbia.

Some of the finest types of Christians in India are converts from among the Sikhs; but that is another story.

*Hail and farewell! We go our way;
Where shadows end, we trust in light;
The star that ushers in the night
Is herald also of the day!*

—Whittier.