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THE SIKHS IN CANADA.

Many of the Sikh community here have seen active service in the Indian Army and wear medals awarded for special bravery.

A large number of them are engaged in agriculture, and of the remainder the majority are employed in railroad construction and maintenance, and in land clearing, factories and lumber mills.

By industry, enterprise and inherent temperate habits they have succeeded in making a competency for themselves. They own their dwelling houses and other property in the cities of Vancouver and Victoria and round about these places. They have invested in British Columbia in real estate and business several millions of dollars.

The authorities in Canada have found them law-abiding and peaceful citizens.

HOW THE DIFFICULTY AROSE.

In 1908 there was put into force by the Canadian Government in the Immigration Department restrictive legislation of such a character that immigration from India was practically stopped. This is shown by the fact that in the following years only 117 have entered Canada according to immigration reports, and many of these only after considerable litigation.

When the Indians had had time to get settled in Canada they naturally, as do other immigrants, began to think of bringing their wives and children to share their lives here. They then found that the restrictive legislation made this impossible. This is shown by the following cases: In 1911 Mr. Hira Singh, an ex-soldier, settled in Canada, went to India to bring his wife and child. On his return he was admitted as a Vancouver resident, but his wife and child were detained under a bond of \$1,000 and were admitted only after three month's litigation, and then as an act of grace.

In 1912, Mr. Bhag Singh, who had served in the 10th Indian Cavalry, and Mr. Balwant Singh, at one time a soldier in the 36th Sikhs Infantry, had similar experiences. They had to give cash bonds for \$2,000 and undergo more than three months of costly litigation before their wives and families were allowed to land in Vancouver and then as an act of grace.

EFFORTS FOR REDRESS.

In 1911 a deputation of three Sikhs and one Canadian approached the Canadian Government with a petition in which it was said "The restriction that most presses and needs very immediate redress, is the regulations that make it impossible for the wives and children of the Hindustanis residing in Canada to join them. The compulsory separation of families is punitive and in itself penal, and can only lawfully be applied to criminals by any civilized nation. It is contrary to every human instinct and jeopardizes the existence of the family life, which is the very foundation of the British Empire as a whole."

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