

East Indian Colony who is a most vigorous champion of their cause. The result of the deliberations is embodied in the following report:

Your Committee appointed to consider the question of the admission of the wives of the Hindus at present residing in British Columbia, beg to report as follows:

"They are convinced that this apparently simple question cannot be discussed intelligently or decided wisely unless it be considered in the light, and as a very important part, of the wider question of general Hindu immigration.

"Your committee are informed that already about half of the six thousand Hindus who originally came to British Columbia have left the country (the presumption is that the remainder, if left to themselves, will gradually follow), that only a portion of the resident Hindus are desirous of bringing their wives to Canada; that the agitation in favor of the admission of Hindu women is being promoted mainly for the purpose of breaking down the existing immigration regulations, which have thus far protected the country from a threatened Hindu inundation, and that the ultimate object of the agitators as avowed by themselves, is to secure for the Hindus now in the country and for all others who may enter it hereafter the enjoyment and exercise of the full rights of Canadian citizenship.

"Your committee recognize the responsibility of the Christian to the non-Christian races of the world. They believe that Canadian Christians have, at least in some small measure, discharged that responsibility to the inhabitants of India, not only by missionary effort but also by practical assistance extended in times of national calamity and distress. They are persuaded, however, that the admission of foreigners, of whatever nationality, whose racial characteristics render them practically incapable of assimilation, would be injurious to our national life.

"To the argument in favor of the free admission of Hindus on the ground of the British citizenship it is sufficient to reply that even the natives of the British Isles are admitted only in so far as they reach a prescribed standard; and that the principle of excluding or deporting undesirable settlers, which is so strongly denounced in the case of the Hindus, is being applied every year, sometimes in hundreds of cases, to men born in the very heart of the Empire.

"In reply to the argument in favor of the admission of the wives of Hindus based upon the sentiments and usages of Canada your committee call attention to the fact that the relations of Canadian wives to their husbands and all the conditions of Canadian home life are absolutely different from these relations and conditions in India.

"It is in the light of such facts and considerations as these that the question must be determined.