

"If these delegates report favourably, there will be no trouble moving the crowd out. Even if their report were adverse—and I do not see how it could be—I feel sure that Hindus would rather go there than face deportation. I think the idea of sending a few delegates is a good one, because it is desirable that throughout there should not be any appearance of harshness towards the Hindus, and a favourable report would mean voluntary departure from Canada.

"I had Hopkinson spend a day among the Hindus, talking to them on the West Indies proposal. He simply spoke to them as a friend, and not as representing the Government at all. Their replies were to this effect: 'We are quite willing to consider the scheme. Though the shilling a day is small compared to the wages here, permanency of employment might compensate. However, we have been deceived so much by white people here, and been subjected to so much hostility, that we simply won't trust any white man. If some of our own leaders go to the Indies and report favourably on the conditions, the unemployed Hindus here will be glad to go.' * * * 'If we can get any considerable number of Hindus elsewhere and they write back to those left here that they are doing well, I think many of those remaining will follow them and the Hindu question soon cease to be of moment here. They are naturally dissatisfied with conditions and treatment they have encountered here, and would not stay, I believe, if they could find things more favourable elsewhere.'

AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL.

The West Indies proposition was subsequently brought to the attention of the Imperial authorities, and a reply was received suggesting that Canada should bear the expenses of a delegation of Hindus to British Honduras, where there was a good demand for labour, and where a large quantity of land was available for settlement. The despatch was as follows:—

P. C. 2389 M

Privy Council.

LORD CREWE to LORD GREY,
London.

19th September, 1908.

High Commissioner has communicated to me suggestion from Department of Interior that arrangements might be made for send-