

Hopkinson (interpreter) and myself, arrived at the Sikh Temple building. We found the large room on the ground floor of the temple building unoccupied. It was in this room that the general meeting of Hindus took place for the ratification of the selection of delegates which had been made at a previous meeting of Hindu leaders held in the basement of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Fairview. I had assumed that Sunday's meeting would take place in this room. But the Hindus were congregated upstairs in the Temple itself holding service. We sent up word by several Hindus that we had arrived and were very much surprised when word came back that we should go upstairs to the Temple itself. It is necessary that every one entering such a temple should remove his shoes. Several in my party said they would not do so. Personally, I had no objection to the shoe part of the proposal, and said so, but I had to refuse to enter the Temple when Rev. Mr. Wright, Capt. Brooke and others familiar with East Indian customs advised me not to go into it, and that if I and the party entered while service was in progress, it would be flashed all over India that a Government party had desecrated and defiled the Temple. Several Hindus who were on the lower verandah of the Temple where our party was, tried to persuade us that it was customary and necessary for all matters relating to an East Indian community to be dealt with in the Temple. Those of our party who are familiar with East Indian affairs said that so far as the relations between Government officials and the natives were concerned, this did not apply; that whatever the natives might do in the matter of reaching decisions among themselves, proclamations and presentation of proposals or facts by Government officials or others were never carried out in the Temple. In regard to the statement that it is necessary that decisions be reached in the Temple, it is significant that nothing of this kind was suggested when the delegates for the Honduras trip were being appointed. In connection with the appointment of delegates, there were two meetings. The first was of leaders, and was held in the basement of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Fairview. At this meeting the delegates were selected, but a general meeting was held in the evening in the basement of the Sikh Temple building to ratify the selection. And in the basement room, a memorandum was signed, certifying to the selection of the delegates.

Several times we asked that Teja Singh, who had become the East Indians' recognized leader, though he had then been in Vancouver only a few weeks, should come down to see us. Finally, a white man, Mr. Knapp, who is a personal friend and admirer of Teja Singh, appeared. It was explained to him that we would not enter the Temple proper; that our only object was to present to the community a report giving in detail the arrangements made in Honduras regarding land and work for East Indians, such information