

(c) Farm labourers.

(d) Cultivation on their own land.

"(4) The average wages earned are from 50c. to \$1.00 a day.

"(5) There is a certain percentage (about 15%) who have done well enough, inasmuch that they have bought tracts of land with what they saved from earnings combined with what they brought with them, and started dairy farming and vegetable gardening, which industries have yielded them sufficient to keep them from starving.

"(6) The leaders of the community are feeling the strain brought on them by the constant drain on their funds to support those out of work, and they feel that they cannot hold out any longer and face the situation in the coming winter.

"Mr. Harkin, in his recent visit here, asked me to sound the leaders on the following proposition: Would the Hindus go to the West Indies, where the labour and climate conditions were such that there would be no difficulty in finding work; in fact they would, as a matter of fact, be engaged for a certain number of years on indentures. This, the leaders, after holding meetings, decided to be the best way out of their difficulties, provided four of their number be sent to the West Indies to look over the proposal thoroughly, and the exodus of the Hindus would depend on their report on their return.

"It is the intention of these people, if possible, not to return to India, where the conditions are no better, but to accept whatever is put forward. I have had several of them question me as to when this West Indian proposition would be put through, but as I have no information, I cannot give them an idea."

In further reference to the general labour situation, I should add that I was also informed that the Chinese Board of Trade estimated there were at that time 1,500 Chinamen out of work.

SOLUTION SOUGHT.

It will be seen that everything pointed to a very serious state of affairs among the Hindus during the winter. With such a prospect in view, it seemed imperative that something should be done to prepare for it. I spent several weeks consulting everyone that I was told might provide information as to the best way of dealing