

treatment they have received here, the vile abuse of them, the falsehoods as to their character, I can say nothing, but hang my head in shame. It is a great public scandal."

Allusion may be made here also to the inhuman utterance which a leading city father was reported to have blurted forth—that he would rather see a Hindu immigrant die of hunger and cold before his very eyes than succor him, a statement of which any living being having any pretension to humanity ought to be ashamed. But that is nothing compared to the action of a Vancouver Mayor who, some years ago, arbitrarily detained very nearly 200 East Indian immigrants on board SS. Empress of Japan for two days. At a mob meeting held in Vancouver in connection with Hindus, abuse was hurled at them, and Col. Warren, the gallant officer above referred to, was howled down, and not allowed to speak. But who is at the bottom of all this shamefully conducted and deplorable agitation against the Sikhs, and where will it end?

From the above short summary of the Sikh case we beg to point out the following conclusions:—

1. That the Sikhs are desirable immigrants to Canada chiefly as farmers. Canada has untold acres to be tilled. The Sikhs being expert farmers supply that need. They are of the same Aryan stock as the Canadians and being British subjects, are used to the British laws and institutions. They do the roughest work, such as stumping and clearing land, and thus do not come into competition with "white labor." They have not been able to settle on land as its price is prohibitive, and when we consider the cost of clearing it, it seems we are very far off. What Canada and B. C. especially, need is more producers. Having no government of their own, the Sikhs have been used as a football by the politicians, who, in their unscrupulous ambition for power, have, as the above cases show, abused the Sikhs in various ways. They dare not do that sort of thing with Chinese, Japanese and others. But surely the parochial interests of these worthy friends is not going to over-ride the world-wide Imperial importance of this question. Considering this question from national, international and humanitarian points of view, it needs a thorough investigation.

2. The law has not been lived up to, as to its letter as well as in regard to the spirit of justice associated with the British name. All the Sikhs who are now in Canada came by a direct, continuous journey. How they came and why they came has been explained above. It is no use to go on multiplying their griev-

ances by rough-house methods. The thing is here and, and, being here, they ask for a "square deal." Various orders-in-council have been passed from time to time, and, at the spur of the moment, but on their being tested in the courts they do not stand the light of day. The Sikhs do not know where they stand. The Canadian Government has arrangements with China and Japan, under which their nationals enter this country. Even the present unskilled labor order is specially aimed at the Sikhs, for no European immigrants are going to B. C. by way of Vancouver. We believe the influence of the Sikhs in Canada will be for the good of the Dominion. They will form additional bonds of union between India and Canada, and thus help in Imperial co-operation and unity.

3. That the treatment of the Sikhs in Canada has worked injury to Imperial interests; not only as to the attitude of thirty-five hundred British subjects in Canada, but in its influence on India. **Is not the Sikh in British Columbia as good as his brother fighting in the trenches in Europe?** And how could Canada refuse entrance to a Sikh soldier who had won the Victoria Cross at the hands of His Majesty King George V? Taken even from a military point of view, the Sikhs are a good asset for defence in this country. This factor is well recognized by the proper authorities.

4. That a course of action is open by which these harmful effects can be counteracted, constructive Imperialism evolved out of a sordid chapter of the real meaning and effects of which the Canadians are ignorant. This can come about only by the broad-minded on both sides coming together and first fully investigating the case and then arriving at a just solution. As things are, they have already gone far enough.

Fortunately, the war has helped Britain to "find" India. Before the conflict began, Hindustan was "an unknown quantity." She was treated as a dependant, but India, by her blood-sacrifice, has proved her partnership and equality of citizenship in the Imperial concern. We hope this sacrifice will not be in vain, and that "Little India" in Canada will be properly treated. The brothers of the Sikhs in Canada are not only fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Canadians, but they are linked together under the same commander in France. Men do not pass through these experiences without being affected by them. The Indians and Canadians sharing the same privations, undergoing the same sacrifices, will not come out as they went in. Surely, after this GREAT CHANGE, petty racial prejudice and ignorance will give way, and the Empire