

Offer to employ 200 East Indians upon the construction of the new Government railway and other public works.

Offer to employ 12 Sikhs upon the Honduras police force.

The Government also undertook to ascertain how many East Indians could be offered immediate employment by planters, and to forward to Canada an order for the number required.

As large areas of good lands in Honduras are held by private owners, I saw as many of these people as possible and got letters from them setting forth the terms on which they would dispose of land to East Indians. The terms were varied but in nearly all cases exceedingly fair and reasonable to the labourer.

While the negotiations were going on the delegates were shown the principal districts in the colony, both northward and southward. They were taken to the towns, the plantations and the jungles, and had every opportunity of seeing exactly what conditions were in Honduras.

RETURN TO VANCOUVER.

We left Belize on Friday, November 6th, and reached New Orleans on Monday, November 9th.

I had agreed to wait at New Orleans for a wire from the Acting Governor of Honduras, lest despatches he expected on Monday from the Colonial Office should contain anything that might interfere with the arrangements we had made. His wire was as follows:

"We are apparently expected advance cost of transports. If so, labourers from wage."

I felt satisfied that with the low wage offered in Honduras it would be absolutely useless to ask any East Indians who might go there to accept an advance for transportation and repay same out of wages. After an exchange of messages with the Deputy Minister, I received instructions to come direct to Ottawa. As I was familiar with the details of the general proposition and no one at Ottawa had such full information, it was deemed advisable that I should be on hand for the purpose of assisting in prompt action regarding the transportation subject.

Accordingly I left New Orleans Wednesday, November 11th, and instructed the interpreter to go direct to Vancouver with the two delegates. I also asked that no general meeting of East Indians should be held at Vancouver until I arrived there, inasmuch as I had a great deal of information regarding what Honduras offered which the delegates were not familiar with. I had given them every possible opportunity and facility to see the country and the people and expected them to report thereon. I, myself, had had to do all the negotiating regarding terms and conditions of employment, lands,