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"many will become public charges or starve this winter.
"Best course seems to be to notify them that all applying
"before specified date will be returned to India free, after
"which those who are indigent will be arrested and deport-
"ed. Can get detailed information in week if necessary.
"Advise me, writing fully."

J. B. HARKIN.

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Enquiries in this connection impressed on me the seriousness of the outlook for a large number of the East Indians with respect to the approaching winter. The great suffering that there was among the East Indians during the two previous winters is a matter of common knowledge.

It is well known that commercial conditions were in a very depressed condition last summer, and at that time no one could give any assurance of any considerable improvement at an early date. It was evident that a large number of East Indians were out of work, and after the severe conditions of the previous winter, it was also apparent that unless action was taken early to have relief measures of some kind for the Hindus worked out before the approach of another winter, there was a strong probability of very serious conditions prevailing in British Columbia with respect to the East Indians when winter arrived.

It seemed to be likely that either there would be great misery and suffering among the members of the community, or the municipal or other authorities would have to look after them. This was the generally accepted view in Vancouver, so far as I could see, and it seemed justified by what anyone could see daily on the streets of Vancouver.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

However, I did not satisfy myself with general enquiries, but as far as possible got specific information. I consulted everyone that I had any reason to believe was likely to possess specific information.

Among those consulted were government immigration officials, municipal officials, employment agents, newspaper men, business men and white men who spoke Hindustani and were in close touch with the East Indians. The specific information from all sources was corroborative of the general view held at the Coast, viz., that there would be a large number of East Indians without work and without money during the approaching winter, and that unless assistance in some form was provided, there would be a repetition of the conditions of the previous winter.

In company with Dr. A. S. Monro (then Immigration Agent, now Medical Examiner for the Immigration Branch at Vancouver)

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