

POLICE GUARD WHARF TO STOP HINDUS ENTERING

City of Vancouver in Conflict with the Dominion
Authorities.

C. P. R. NOTIFIED TO-DAY

Right of Civic Administration to Interfere with
Immigration Is Questioned.

The City of Vancouver is guarding the Dominion Government's immigration detention shed on the waterfront to prevent any of the Hindus held there from leaving.

Several stalwart policemen were stationed there this afternoon by Chief of Police Chisholm, and not a Hindu will be allowed out of the building until the City Council is satisfied that the men of this race will not become a charge upon the community.

This sensational holding up the federal prerogative of immigration, is almost certain to precipitate active trouble between the city and the Dominion Government, and incidentally the C. P. R., on whose steamships the Hindus arrive, may be drawn into the row.

The steamship Empress of Japan reached port this afternoon from the Orient. She brought in over a hundred Hindus. As soon as Dr. Monro, Immigration Inspector, examines these men, those who are able to pass the requisite physical test will be freed, and allowed to go where they will.

If the freed men attempt to leave wharf to proceed up-town, they will be rounded up by the local police, and kept on the wharf. Those who are put into the detention shed by Dr. Monro's orders will be kept there. Arrangements

have been made to guard the wharf and shed night and day, and not a Hindu is to be allowed access to the city.

Question City's Rights.

Just what right the city has to take this stand will likely be the subject of legal controversy, but as might is right before such cases get to the courts, the police will probably have things all their own way for the time being. It is claimed on one hand that the Immigration Act contains no clause which will permit the city to prevent the Hindus from spreading through the city. It is admitted that the act declares that any person, who, within two years from the time of landing in Canada, proves a charge upon the community, such person may be deported. However, it is held that to become a charge upon the community the people affected must first be allowed to land. The act says no indigent persons are to be admitted, but it is said that Dr. Monro, and not the city, is appointed to pass upon that point.

City's Determined Letter.

The city took the bull by the horns in relation to the question of the Hindu invasion in a decided manner this morning, when the following was sent to Mr. Marpole, general superintendent of the C. P. R.

"I am instructed to request that your company will detain all East Indians now en route to this port until such time as the Council shall receive definite and satisfactory assurances that they will not become a charge upon the community.

"I am further instructed to state that pending the receipt of such assurances the city police force has been instructed to prevent any such East Indians leaving the detention sheds.

"(Signed)

A. E. McEVOY,
City Clerk."

This step will bring up the question of the rights of the city in this regard, and definitely settle as to whether it may protect itself against the danger with which it appears to be threatened, said a leading official.

Before Council To-night.

The action will probably be reported to the City Council to-night, and the discussion it is sure to arouse will be the forerunner of the action of the public meeting called by Mayor Buscombe. Several of the Aldermen feel very strongly on the subject, and their voices will be raised with no uncertain sound in advocacy of the claims the city is now putting forward.

The notice of this morning was not issued until after mature consideration by the civic officials. As noted in Saturday's issue Mayor Buscombe feels that the community is threatened with a great danger by the influx of the East Indians. It is also known that last week a thorough study of the conditions under which those member of the race now resident in Vancouver was made. Upon the basis of these findings the city has taken the decisive action noted.