

HINDUS PREFER LAND OF THE FREE

Of 1750 Indians Who Reached Canada in Twelve
Months 1050 Sought to Cross the Border.

The Hindu problem, so far as British Columbia is concerned, would soon be solved if the turbaned Indians had full say in regard to the affair. The surprising fact has just been clearly established by statistics that an enormous proportion of those who have landed here and in Victoria since the invasion first stated have made application to enter the United States. Canadian and United States immigration officials work in harmony and a little calculation from returns has elucidated some interesting information.

Of 1750, the total number of Hindus who reached Canada during the year ending in June last, no fewer than approximately 1050 of them made formal application to cross the border. The reasons given were many, notably the persecution of Canadian labor, the desire to seek the warmer climate of California and a declaration that better wages could be secured across the line.

The United States immigration laws are not especially directed against the Hindus. People of that nationality are admitted provided they are physically fit and not likely to become public charges. Of course Chinese are rigidly excluded. Nearly a quarter of the applications made by Hindus for permission to enter the United States have been granted, indicating that the Hindu population in British Columbia is not nearly so large as has hitherto been supposed.

Japanese emigration into the United States via Canada snows[Sic] a flight falling off since the executive order of the President last April excluding Japanese who are not provided with passports issued from the Japanese Government. Formerly between thirty and forty Japanese from Hawaii arrived monthly at Victoria by the Australian boat and then proceeded to the United States. Under the President's order these people are no longer admitted. The

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Japanese now seeking to enter the United States via Canada are coming direct from Japan and in every instance are equipped with passports. The new understanding between the American and Japanese Government has not had the effect of completely excluding the Japanese from the United States but has resulted in improving the status of immigrants. A large percentage of them belong to the student class.

In Victoria last month 186 Japanese sought to cross into American territory, only four being debarred for cause; and at Vancouver, of 169 applications, in the same period, those who were refused permission to enter American territory numbered nine. These figures, of course, are approximate.