

APRIL 29, 1908

# SEVENTY HINDUS SUE GOVERNMENT

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## Dr. Monro Is Nominal Defendant in Biggest Suit Ever Entered by Orientals – Verdict in Accident Case.

Seventy writs, rolled up in one, were to-day hurried at the head of Dr. A. S. Monro as Dominion medical inspector and immigration officer by Hindus, "wrongfully detained and imprisoned," as the court said under the defective order in Council Judicially annulled four weeks ago by Mr. Justice Clement.

Its invalidity chiefly consisted in its giving to the Minister of the Interior powers which the Governor-General in Council could alone exercise, as the Dominion Government later admitted by leasing a new order, on the lines suggested by the court.

The Dominion Government is therefore virtually the defendant in this combined consolidated suit, the largest ever issued by Orientals in Vancouver.

The amount of damage sought by each one is not named in the big writ entered in their behalf by Messrs. Brydone-Jack & Ross. As a test case it names six plaintiffs, Behari Lal and Jewalla Singh being the chief, and all six living at the Maple Leaf refuge on Granville Street.

In the event of decision in their favor, it is probable that the Government will speedily settle with the rest of the seventy held as prisoners under that defective first order in Council. A jury which will assess the amount of damages in the test case, will hear the action at an early date. Messrs. Macdonell & Jones will appear for the doctor.

A verdict of \$3260 has been awarded by the jury to Johny Meehan, aged fourteen, in his suit against the Woodward Department Stores, in which he sought \$10,000 for serious injuries, including the loss of one eye. He had been employed in running the elevator, and the injuries resulted from contact with the weight while he was adjusting a part of the works. Sir C. H. Tupper, K. C. acted for the plaintiff and Mr. Joseph Martin, K.C., and Mr. J. E. Bird for the defendant.