

PITIFUL APPEAL OF STARVING HINDUS

Men Who Recently Paid Legal Sum to Local Legal Firm Are Now Reduced to Absolute Starvation

Eighteen Hindus living in a starving condition near New Westminster, are philosophically considering the question, "What's the use, anyhow?" The men sold their small holdings in India to scrape up their transportation to Vancouver. Arriving here they were held in detention sheds for several weeks while the courts fought out the question as to whether they had the right to land because of their transshipment at Hongkong. In this legal contest they won, but it was a Pyrrhic victory, inasmuch as the men paid over \$310 to a firm of local attorneys to fight their case, thus leaving them nearly penniless. What funds they had left have since been spent for food and clothing and they have been unable to obtain work to again replenish their money bags. Now a chance is given them to secure work in Seattle; but the bulk of their money having gone to the lawyers they have not sufficient money to permit them passing the United States immigration officials.

The above is an epitome of the story told to Mayor Bethune by Mr. F. E. Moody, a Parsee merchant who is passing through the city en route to New York, but who has stopped to assist his countrymen in this strange land. Mr. Moody states that he could get work for 20 Hindus in Seattle and is ready to advance their fares and maintenance until they get to the Sound City, but he cannot well put up \$50 for each man to enable them passing the immigration officials.

Mr. Moody states that the Hindus are being grossly imposed upon. Only a few days ago a local man, stationed in an employment agency, took a Hindu applying for work out of the office and said he could get him and his comrades a job if they had money. The Hindus gave the man \$28 and were told to report

THE DAILY PROVINCE

MAY 1, 1908

p. 1

at the depot. They went at the mentioned time and stayed all night, but the man never showed up. This matter had been reported to the police.

Another circumstance noted covered the demand of a Chinese resident of \$30 per month for the rent of one small room. The Hindus could not get quarter readily and were being held up for the wretched accommodations offered them.

Mr. Moody said these Hindus would not go back to India. They have burnt their bridges behind them when they sold their all to pay their passage to Canada, and it was now a case of either starve here or in India.