

THE EXPERIMENT FAILS.

According to present indications the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru will leave Vancouver for the Orient with her excursionists on board without them having had the opportunity of examining the country. They appear to have at last realized they could no land unless Canada chose to make a special dispensation in their favor and that it is an expensive business to keep a ship waiting in port while the courts decide whether its passengers are entitled to land here or not. The experiment was almost bound to be a failure from the very first. Mr. Gurdit Singh may have been imbued with the best of intentions, but he was most ill-advised to bring such a large party here. As we have said before it could make no difference whether the test was made with one or a thousand. It was the principle which was involved and the principle is based on sound common sense from every point of view. We are sure that if Mr. Gurdit Singh and his following consider the problem calmly they will come to the same conclusion. While at first Canada may seem to offer a wide field to the labor of the East Indians, free access to the country would simply entail very sharp competition among the immigrants themselves. The Chinese and Japanese were admitted only because a precedent had been established. What Mr. Gurdit Singh and his friends do not realize is that Canada has found the precedent led to as injurious habit and is endeavoring gradually to cure the habit without a violent operation. Meanwhile she has learnt from experience and does not intend to add to her trouble by impinging another such problem on the ones already existing.

There is absolutely no desire on the part of Canada to discriminate against the Hindus. We recognise their worth and the wonderful possibilities for their civilization. But their civilization is not ours and it has yet to merge. It can not(Sic) merge where contrasts are so violent. Conquests have come down from the north and swept into India. Under British rule India has had peace and her frontiers have been protected. The tide of conquest may yet turn northwards and the Indians find in Asia room for development. But as The Province has said before and may be pardoned for repeating, East Central

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Africa seems to offer an absolutely ideal field for the solution of this problem without conquest and without trouble. It is no good Mr. Gurdit Singh and his following returning to India crying for the moon. No amount of threatening will move the British Raj. That is not the way to solve what is admittedly a problem. Let Gurdit Singh and his friends face the problem as men and not as children. Lord Hardinge has the greatest sympathy for the race over which he holds sway as the Emperor's representative. If Mr. Gurdit Singh goes to him with a common sense proposal for colonization by East Indians on a large scale and properly financed in territory where such colonization will be welcomed, we are absolutely certain the Imperial Government will assist in every way possible. Possibly not only the Imperial Government, but the whole of the white races within the Empire will gladly do all that is possible to relieve the pressure of population in India and by so doing develop other parts of the Empire where the white admittedly can not(Sic) labor.

Mr. Gurdit Singh may insist that colonization is not the point, that he is fighting for liberty for Hindus to travel and settle where they please. In that case he is simply running his head against a brick wall. He is trying to establish a new precedent by destroying an old prejudice which is instinctive as well as economical.