

THE DAILY PROVINCE

OCTOBER 13, 1906

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AGENT OF HINDUS IS HERE SPYING OUT THE LAND

If His Report Is Favourable Many Thousands More Will
Come.

ARE FARMERS AT HOME

Accounts Sent to India by Hongkong Police
Responsible.

VICTORIA, Oct. 13.--(Special.)--If reports as a result of the investigations now being made in British Columbia are favorable, Hindus by thousands will descend on this province in the near future. The investigator is T. C. Mazoomar, an undergraduate of Allahbad University and representing the great presidency of Bengal. He is here and is going closely into all the facts,,[Sic] and he will report to his people.

In reply to an inquiry as to the character of the men who are coming here, Mazoomar says, "They are all Punjab Sikhs and all soldiers. They helped Britain at the time of the Mutiny, and they went to the Boer War. They are loyal to the British flag."

In India, he said, they were farmers, cultivating wheat and rice and sugar. At home they made a living of from \$6 to \$10 per month.

How Good News Spread.

He attributed the present influx to the Hindu police of Hongkong, who heard of the labor shortage in British Columbia and passed the word to their countrymen that they could earn \$2 or \$3 a day here. He was asked who was

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responsible for the influx, and was told that it was understood there was an organization formed in British Columbia which was bringing in the Hindus.

“It is not so,” he replied. “They come in batches of their own account.”

Asked if there were many more coming, he said about a thousand more would soon arrive. He said his mission was at the instance of his people, who sent him to find out how their countrymen were getting on, if the country is a good one for them, and if they can make progress here. He said he would spend two months in British Columbia and then report. If this report is favorable, he couldn't say how many might come, in fact there was no limit. There were many who would sell their farms to pay their passage here.