

THE DAILY PROVINCE

MARCH 20, 1907

p.1

WILL DENY TO HINDUS THE RIGHT OF VOTING

Mr. Bowser Proposes Interesting Amendment to the
Election Act.

PENALTY IS PROVIDED.

Though British Subjects, Men Are Classed with Chinese
and Japanese.

Victoria, March 20.--(Special.)--The dusky Britisher from Punjab has made his initial bow to provincial legislation. But he is concealed beneath a veil of parliamentary phraseology, a notice of motion that on Monday next a bill will be introduced intituled[*Sic*] An Act to amend the Provincial Elections Act.

Mr. Bowser has given the notice of motion and on Monday will introduce the bill that will deny the Hindu the right to vote, even though he be a British subject.

The Chinaman, the Japanese, and as is well known already, the Indian, are specially legislated against by chapter 17 of the Statutes of 1903 and 1904, and by Mr. Bowser's bill the Hindu will now be included in that act by this special amendment.

Nothing has yet been said in the House, as upon a notice of motion of a promised bill nothing ever is said, but on Monday views will be expressed upon this subject, one new to legislation, not only of British Columbia, but

THE DAILY PROVINCE

MARCH 20, 1907

p.1

throughout Canada, for the Hindu has not yet chosen any other province as a place of permanent residence.

Whether Naturalized or Not.

There are but two sections in the bill:

“The expression Hindu shall mean any native of India not born of Anglo-Saxon parents, and shall include any such person whether naturalized or not.”

The second adds “Hindu” after “Japanese,” in section 6 of chapter 17 of the Elections Act, which now reads:

“No Chinaman, Japanese or Indian shall have his name placed on the register of voters for any electoral district, or be entitled to vote at any election.”

The penalty, should the registrar insert the name of any person so disqualified, is up to \$50.

It is estimated that there are over two thousand Hindus in British Columbia.