

THE DAILY PROVINCE

MARCH 10, 1908

HINDUS GUILTY OF BREAKING NATAL ACT

**Magistrate Williams Impose Fine of \$500 or Twelve
Months in Jail on Eighteen Orientals.**

Fifteen Hindus who could not comply with the provisions of the Natal Act, were this afternoon fined \$500 each, and in default of payment will have to go to jail for twelve months. An appeal will be carried to a higher court by Mr. F. E. Ross, counsel for the Orientals.

This was the effect of the decision handed out by Magistrate Williams this afternoon. Judgment was reserved from last Thursday. The point on which the decision hung was whether or not the test had been properly applied in that its wording differed slightly from the wording of section 4 of the act under which the test is carried out.

The statute provides that the party desiring entrance to the province shall speak and write English or some other European language. The wording of the test, which the interpreter used was that "you shall read and speak English or other white man's tongue or language." Counsel for Hindus raised the point that Hindus might not accept white man's language as meaning a European language.

Three other Hindus who were recently released from quarantine and could not comply with the act were also fined \$500 or twelve months in jail. They too will appeal.