

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JANUARY 27, 1912

REFUSED ANY HEARING.

Apart altogether from the merits of the question regarding the admission or exclusion of Hindu women the position taken by Mr. Falconer, president of Toronto University, and the committee of residents of that city, who have constituted themselves the advocates of the Hindu petition, in refusing to consider any representations from this province, is singularly unreasonable. Their position is made all the more unreasonable by the views on the matter expressed by the Christian ministers of Vancouver, who feel themselves constrained to oppose the entry of these women on moral if not on economic grounds as well. The fact that British Columbia more than any other of the provinces would be directly affected by such immigration entitles her residents to a large voice in the final settlement of the question and fair-minded men everywhere in Canada will give their arguments the utmost consideration. That President Falconer and his committee refuse that right is evidence enough that they are swayed simply by prejudice, and that the government would be quite justified in declining to accord them the reasonable privilege they refuse to others.

No disposition will be displayed in this province to ridicule the sentimental notions responsible for the efforts of these Toronto people on behalf of the Hindus. The principles of Christian brotherhood which they profess are held in quite as high respect by the residents of British Columbia, but those in British Columbia who oppose the growth of Orientalism in Canada do so not only with the motive of protecting white labor but of preserving our homes and people against the taint of eastern degeneracy. It is the principle of self-protection that governs their conduct.

It is time, however, that the people of Eastern Canada, and those especially of such centers as Toronto, should realize that the time has gone by when they can order matters calculated to affect the whole of the Dominion without allowing in the west a free voice and respectful attention.

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As far as this question of Hindu immigration is concerned it is one on which any opinion expressed by a man of President Falconer's narrow views, lack of knowledge, and doubtful common sense, should have the least weight. Probably that will be the conclusion of the government after the present incident reported in today's despatches.