

THE DAILY PROVINCE

APRIL 1, 1912

RAHIM IS SENT UP FOR TRIAL

Hindu Is Charged With Having Committed Perjury.

**Alleged Crime Said to Have Taken Place Last
September.**

Houssein Rahim, after a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Shaw in the Police Court this morning on a charge of perjury, was committed for trial at the next court of assize.

Perjury was alleged to have been committed by Rahim in that he was alleged to have on September 14, 1911, uttered a false declaration that he was a qualified voter of the electoral district of Vancouver. The accused pleaded not guilty and was represented by Mr. George E. McCrossan.

The first witness was Mr. George D. MacKay, registrar of voters. He produced a copy of the declaration alleged to have been made by Rahim and which was signed by William e. Flumerfelt, a commissioner for the taking of affidavits.

On cross-examination by Mr. William M. Mackay, the crown prosecuto0r, the witness stated that these affidavits went through his hands. He knew of Mr. Flumerfelt's commissionership and was not in the habit of giving any great attention to affidavits made out by him as he knew that they had come through the hands of reliable person.

Never Knew Accused.

Mr. Flumerfelt, over whose signature the affidavit was subscribed, stated that he did not know Houssein Rahim and to his knowledge and never sworn out the affidavit while Rahim was present, the signature on the document was his, but he believed that he had been the victim of some smart

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rogue who had inserted the application unsigned among other documents of a similar nature in his office before he filed them away in his safe on September 14 of last year. He could not swear to this, but it was a supposition which in his mind explained the issuing of the affidavit.

"You are only supposing," said Prosecutor MacKay. "Give me the facts, not theories."

Mr. Flumerfelt, in response to the questions of the crown prosecutor, swore absolutely that he did not know the accused, and had never knowingly issued a voter's declaration to a Hindu.

Detective Thompson when called to the stand said that he had known the accused for some months, and had been present to assist in his arrest on the day after the provincial elections. In a search of the prisoner's effects he had found a quantity of I. W. W. literature. The detective also spoke of finding a petition among Rahim's effects signed by a number of Hindus and asking for the removal of Mayor Findlay from office.

When asked by the counsel for the defence if he had found among the papers of the accused a certain envelope with a Conservative pamphlet in it soliciting his vote at the recent election Detective Thompson stated that he could not swear as he had not made an inventory of the effects.

His Entry Into Canada.

Mr. W. C. Hopkinson, Dominion immigration inspector, and official Hindu interpreter, said he had first seen the accused eighteen months ago on his arrival on the steamship Moana. At that time he said Rahim had stated that he was on a tour of the world and proposed visiting the eastern American states.

On the strength of this and because he had a ticket for Montreal, Mr. Hopkinson said he recommended to the department that Rahim be allowed the privileges of a tourist. Rahim departed and he did not see him again for

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over two months when he arrived back in Vancouver, stating that he had completed business in Montreal and would shortly return to India.

Mr. Hopkinson swore to Rahim's signature on the voter's declaration and stated that he had seen him in a polling booth during the recent election at which time, he said, the accused had been acting in the capacity of scrutineer(Sic) for one of the political parties.

Mr. George McCrossan, prisoner's counsel, asked that the case be dismissed on the grounds that the prosecution had failed to prove two things, first, that Rahim was a Hindu and an alien, and second, that the declaration had never been properly executed.

In summing up, his worship considered the evidence sufficient to send the accused up for trial to the higher court, for while in his opinion perjury might not have actually been committed something decidedly irregular had been engineered and it should be left for the superior courts to find out.

Magistrate Shaw then formally committed the prisoner for trial.