

THE DAILY PROVINCE

DECEMBER 9, 1913

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VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA,

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1913.

EMBARGO PLACED ON IMMIGRATION

**Artisans and Laborers from Abroad Must Not
Come to B. C. Until April.**

**To Prevent Influx of Hindus, Government Issues a
General Order.**

Ottawa, Dec. 9,--The government has taken prompt and drastic action in dealing with the Hindu problem at the coast.

An order in council was passed yesterday prohibiting until March 31 the entry to British Columbia of all artisans and laborers.

The order is general in its application and is not restricted to any particular race or people coming from any particular country.

Officially the reason set for the government's actions is the present congested condition of labor on the Pacific coast; however, the matter was brought to a head by the Hindu question arising out of the judgment of Chief Justice Hunter of British Columbia, declaring in effect that the restrictions heretofore imposed by the government in respect to immigrants of this class are untenable and not constitutionally operative.

This opened the door to an influx of Hindus. The government realized that the situation was serious as there was nothing to prevent whole shiploads of Hindus from entering British Columbia precipitating possibly an Imperial crisis.

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The government decided to avail itself of section 38, which gives wide and drastic powers in excluding immigrants, and the present order in council was passed.

The government has been careful in dealing with the situations not to discriminate against race or nation. This order consequently is made general in its application and affects, for instance, the United States as much as any other country, as immigration via border ports into British Columbia is also prohibited.

The present is a temporary expedient called forth by the exceptional conditions prevailing on the Pacific coast and its tenure is only until the end of March. In the meantime an endeavor will be made to work out a permanent solution of this vexatious problem.

The order in council is couched in the following terms:

"H. R. H. the Governor-General in council, under and in virtue of the provisions of subsection 3 of section 38 of the Immigration Act 9-10 Edward VII., and in view of the present overcrowded conditions of the labor market in British Columbia, is pleased to make the following order: 'From and after the date hereof and until after the 31st day of March, 1914, the landing at any port of entry in British Columbia hereinafter specified of any immigrant of any of the following classes or occupations, namely, artisans, laborers (skilled or unskilled) shall be and the same is hereby prohibited.'"

The order then specifies all of the ports of entry in British Columbia as coming under its terms.