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# Early Immigrants



MEMBERS OF THE ILLINOIS CHAPTER, 1914.



# Asiatic Exclusion League

## MINUTES

OF THE

## Japanese and Korean Exclusion League

MARCH, 1907

Organized Labor Print.

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### Proceedings of the Asiatic Exclusion League

Council Hall, 318 Front Street, San Francisco, Oct. 15, 1911.  
The Asiatic Exclusion League met at the above date and place, and was called to order by President C. A. Townsend at 8 o'clock p. m.

#### Roll Call and Minutes.

On roll call of officers absentees were noted. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, September 27, was dispensed with, the same being printed and in the hands of the delegates present.

#### Credentials.

All credentials recommended by the Executive Board were received, and, on motion, the delegates were seated.

#### Report of Executive Board.

To the Officers and Members of the Asiatic Exclusion League:

Delegates—Referring to Haida immigration as reported at our last meeting relative to the position of this part of Haida families, the facts of this matter, of which you are not aware, are as follows:

There, in particular, of the male members of this Haida party were former residents of Canada, having emigrated to that country about six years ago, establishing a domicile there at about three years, and perhaps a year and a half in the United States. These men left Canada about a year and six months ago for the express purpose of reuniting with their wives and children, as also the wives and children of other Haida residents of the United States and Canada. They started on their return trip about the month of February of this year. At Calcutta they were unable to secure transportation for their wives and children to Canada. As far as we have been able to ascertain, they even went so far as to institute a suit against the transportation companies for the purpose of compelling them to issue transportation to Canada in order to conform with the immigration laws of that country, which necessitate that immigrants intending to enter Canada must come to a Canadian port by direct and continuous journey on transportation prepaid in Canada, or purchased by the head of their households. This they were unable to do in Calcutta. The party proceeded to Hong Kong, where they applied to the agents of the transportation companies for passage to Vancouver. The agents of the companies were willing to issue transportation to returning members and families who had had previous residence in Canada, but not to the wives and children who were actually immigrants.

The failure of this move at Hong Kong resulted in their securing transportation on one of the Japanese lines, and they arrived at the port of San Francisco on the Teryo Maru August 26th of this year.

As is already known, they were rejected at this port, but the effort made by prominent residents of this colony resulted in and secured San Francisco, such as Taku Nishii, Tatsu Nishii, S. M. Hiron, R. N. Poff, and several others, will never become known until the official record of this case is scrutinized.

As a result of this action on the part of the United States immigration authorities, the question of granting the wives and children of resident Haidas, both in the United States and in Canada, has been widely agitated by the well-wishers of their class, and it is authoritatively known that on the 25th of September, this year, a large Haida anniversary took place in

*I have used many of the facts and figures gathered by the League, not only in the speech that I made in the House but in personal conferences with members of Congress, with the very best results, and I am glad to be able to report that the feeling in Congress is very much more favorable to the proposition to extend the Chinese Exclusion laws to embrace all Mongolians that it was at the present session.*

— Congressman E. A. Hayes, 5<sup>th</sup> District, in a letter to the Secretary of the Asiatic Exclusion League, May 1906

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# The Bellingham

## Riot

THE BELLINGHAM NEWS

Special of the invasion of the city by the mob of six hundred workmen in the lumber mills raided the quarters of the Orientals, completely terrorized them and forced them to leave the city. Many of the Hindus were injured, but none fatally. Their squalid homes in the most wretched parts of the city were invaded, their belongings thrown into the streets, and in some instances their valuables stolen.

### THE HINDU IN THE NORTHWEST

WALTER S. WARD

With Special to Bellingham, and Staff at Bellingham, and Staff at Seattle, Wash., and Staff at Vancouver, B. C., and Staff at Portland, Ore.

**T**he first and the most serious of the invasions of the city by the mob of six hundred workmen in the lumber mills raided the quarters of the Orientals, completely terrorized them and forced them to leave the city. Many of the Hindus were injured, but none fatally. Their squalid homes in the most wretched parts of the city were invaded, their belongings thrown into the streets, and in some instances their valuables stolen.

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The first climax in the invasion of the West by the Hindus occurred at Bellingham, Washington, the night of September 5, when a mob of six hundred workmen in the lumber mills raided the quarters of the Orientals, completely terrorized them and forced them to leave the city. Many of the Hindus were injured, but none fatally. Their squalid homes in the most wretched parts of the city were invaded, their belongings thrown into the streets, and in some instances their valuables stolen.

The spirit of the mob was one of hilarity and good humor. The object was to impress upon employers the resentment of the laboring men against the importation of Hindu workmen.

When the acquiescence of the police was assured, the Hindus were gathered together from all quarters and herded along the streets like cattle. After two hundred of them had been collected they were driven to the city hall and placed for the night in a large room, the court room of the municipal judge, adjoining the office of the chief of police.

Whether for good or ill, Bellingham has probably solved for herself the Hindu problem just as she solved the Chinese problem several years ago. The Chinese, once having been intimidated, now steer clear of that city.



THE TWO HUNDRED HINDU PRISONERS  
The room in which they were confined by the mob during the night



HINDUS ON THEIR WAY TO THE MILL TO DRAW THEIR PAY  
They are under guard of the police after having spent the night at the City Hall as prisoners of a mob

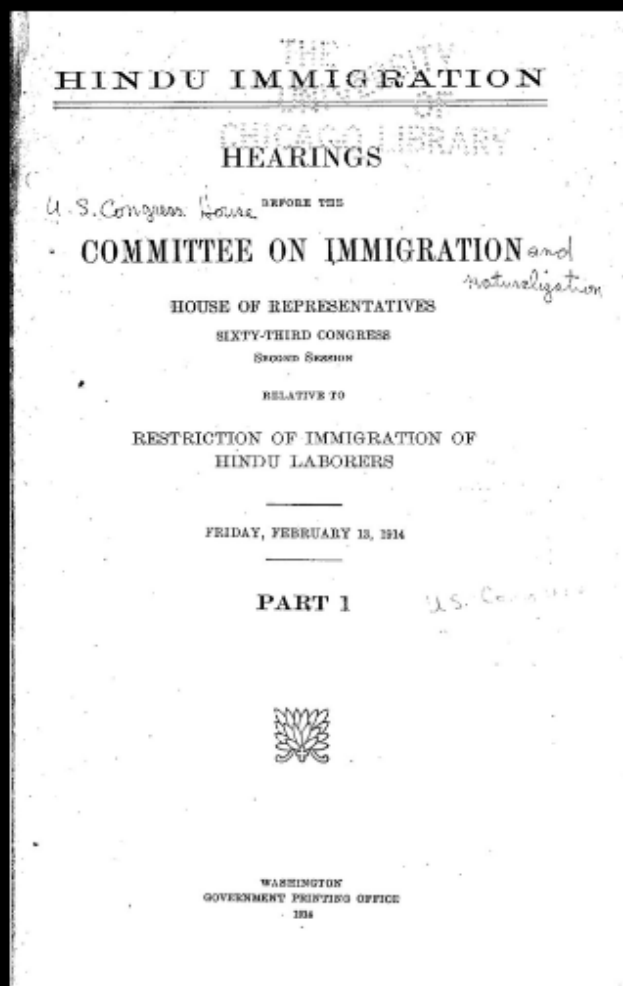
## Hindu Immigration Hearings

*REP. MANAHAN: ...I would be in favor, if I could, of having our business and social and economic conditions adjusted so that the period of time when any American white girl would be compelled to do the dirty work in the kitchen would be as short as possible... I do not think there is any need at all of our own white girls doing drudgery work.*

*REP. RAKER: Would you put up a barrier of class distinction —*

*REP. MANAHAN (interposing): There is no class about it. I say that the race that can come on top should enjoy the best things of life, and if other races are willing and able to do the drudgery and hard work, let them do it. That is what I claim. I would not want to see your son or my son out on the Northern Pacific digging in the ditches if anybody else is willing to do it.*

— Congressman James Manahan, Minnesota and  
Congressman John E. Raker, California



### HINDUS TOO BRUNETTE TO VOTE HERE

NOT EVEN THE HIGH-CASTE BRAHMIN, the scientists may maintain that his Aryan ancestors came from the same Caucasian stock as our own, can any longer, the Fresno (Calif.) *Morning Republican* points out, be considered "white" in this country. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that Hindus are not "free white persons" has been hailed for the most part with delight by the California press and that of our Western seaboard, which we find has a Hindu problem just as much as a Japanese problem, and the Fresno paper opines that "this is surely an instance in which a court has decided on facts and not on inferences."

Bhagat Singh Thind, "a high-caste Hindu, born in the Punjab, India," according to Associated Press dispatches from Washington, was the subject of the decision. He had entered this country in 1913, despite the immigration authorities, been drafted in the war, served six months, been honorably discharged, and applied for naturalization papers. Judge Charles E. Wolverton, of Portland, decided in his favor, and the case was appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals and by them passed on to the Supreme Court of the United States. Bhagat Singh's claim that as a descendant of the Aryans of India, belonging to the Caucasian race, he is "white" within the meaning of our naturalization laws, was disallowed by the Supreme Court. The words, "white persons," are words of "common speech and not of scientific origin," it held, and are to be interpreted as synonymous with "Caucasian" only so far as that word is popularly understood. Whatever may be the speculation of the ethnologist, it does not, the court held, include the body of men to which the Hindu belonged. For, in the words of the decision:

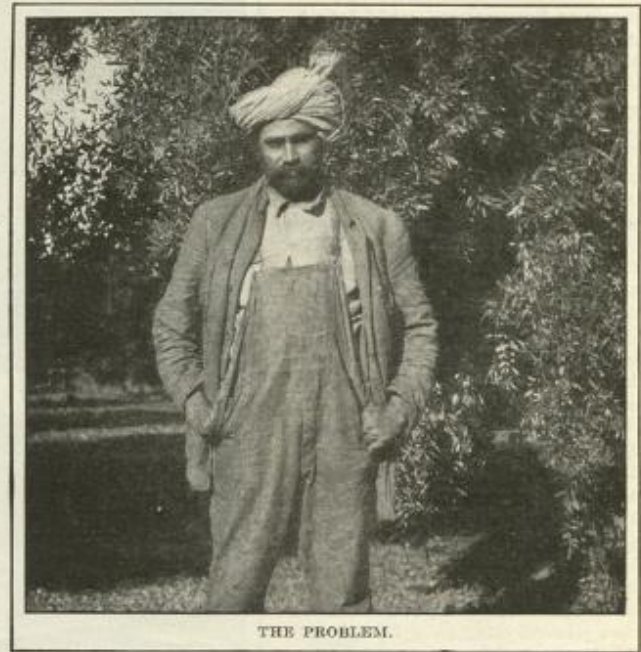
"It would be obviously illogical to convert words of common speech used in a statute into words of scientific terminology when neither the latter nor science, for whose purpose they were coined, was within the contemplation of the framers of the

at that time, and 2,099 acres of land actually owned by them. In addition to that, Hindu farmers were operating under leaseholds and contracts upon 86,340 acres of the most fertile land in the State. Since 1919 the Hindu population has increased amazingly, and their ownership and farming of lands increased accordingly, the Exclusion League cited, altho definite statistics are lacking."

Says an editorial in the *Sacramento Bee*:

"The decision of the United States Supreme Court, that Hindus are not eligible to American citizenship, is most welcome to California.

"The decree in a test case brings Hindu holders of land



THE PROBLEM.

## *United States v. Bhagat Singh Thind*





Post-9/11



"Dotbusters"



# Our Stories

A celebration

July 8, 2021





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