

HINDUSTANI WORKERS ON THE PACIFIC COAST

By

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To the Memory of
GOBINDA CHANDRA DAS
Late Vakil, Judge's Court,
Dacca India.

PREFACE.

A good deal has been said and written by the Americans and Canadians about the "Hindus" or Hindustanees on the Pacific Coast. As most of the speeches and writings were the outcome of the agitation against Hindustani immigration, they were generally prejudiced and erroneous. To find out the truth about the social and economic conditions of these Hindustanees had for several years been the intention of the writer. But the proper facilities for the study were not available until the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor, became interested in the subject.

The purpose of this study is not, however, the advocacy of Hindustani immigration. There exists in America a good deal of superstition and prejudice against Asian and Eastern European races and nationalities, some of which have migrated into America. The origin of such superstition and prejudice lies in ignorance. Although the Hindustanees in America are insignificant in number, they represent a great nation. The interpretation of their life to the American people is one of the objects of this study.

There is still another important object which has prompted the writer to this undertaking. Long before his arrival in America, he had been interested in social movements in India. With her immense resources and vast population as well as the spiritual and intellectual wealth of Hindu and Mohammedan civilisations, to which has been added Western culture, India stands today on the threshold of a new epoch and has all the possibilities of building up a new and great civilisation. The greatest part of the material for the upbuilding of this civilisation will come from the wants, requirements, ideals and aspirations of the masses, which have remained up to this time inert and passive. The Hindustanees on the Pacific Coast offered a splendid opportunity for the study of their latent faculties as compared with those of the other people and for the ascertainment of their ability to respond to the new social, political and economic conditions.

The writer does not claim anything new in the subject-matter or methodology. In fact, much more thorough studies have been made on similar subjects. But in most of the studies, the workers have been regarded as a bundle of material wants rather than a group of moral and intellectual beings. If the new democracy for which idealists are looking forward is ever achieved, it will be done not only by equalising opportunities in political and industrial fields, but also by establishing the fact that the life of the working classes is pervaded by the same spiritual and intellectual ideals which are found among the so-called upper classes. The writer did not fully accomplish what he aimed at. The unit of the study was too small and the time at his disposal was too short. Moreover, the investigation was carried on under the auspices of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the scope of which is restricted to the collection of industrial statistics rather than the interpretation of social facts. The writer has nevertheless attempted to make a comprehensive survey of a group life including both social and economic conditions as well as spiritual and intellectual ideals.

In presenting this treatise to the public, the writer wishes to express his deep gratitude to Mr. Ethelbert Stewart, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, whose kind interest made this study possible. He is thankful to Mrs. Margaret Gadsby of the same Bureau and Mr. S. N. Kar, M. A., of New York for kindly reading the manuscript and offering valuable criticisms. He also takes this occasion to thank the men and women in the United States and Canada, who, through reports, statements, interviews and many other ways, helped him complete the investigation.

New York, May 15, 1922.

Rajani Kanta Das.

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FOREWORD.

The study in the social and economic conditions of the Hindustanees¹ on the Pacific Coast was undertaken by the writer as special agent of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor, United States Government, in 1921-22. The present treatise has been based on the report made to the Bureau.

The writer spent several months in the field, beginning the investigation in Southern California, and extending it to British Columbia. During the study, El Centro, Fresno, Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco in California, Portland in Oregon, Seattle in Washington, and Victoria and Vancouver in British Columbia were made headquarters, and the investigation was carried on within a 100 mile radius of these centers. The writer interviewed over 200 Hindustanees and about as many Americans and Canadians, many of whom gave written statements. Besides he met over 400 Hindustanees in different group activities. Several questionnaires were prepared for specific information.

The subject-matter of the study was divided into the following groups: — First, representative Hindustani workers and their leaders on the Pacific Coast. Second, the group life of the Hindustanees in fields, factories and residences. Third, the attitude of the Americans and Canadians, both official and non-official, who came in contact with them either directly or indirectly. Fourth, the second-hand material related to them, such as reports, pamphlets, and articles. Except in the chapter on immigration and in a few places here and there, all the material used in the treatise was gathered by personal investigation.

¹ The people of India are generally known as "Hindus" in America and Canada. But the word means in India only those who believe in Hindu religion. The word "Hindustanees" has been used in this treatise to include all classes of people in India irrespective of their religion. Hindustani means related to Hindustan or India.

APPENDIX.

1. Documents Consulted.

1. Report of the Royal Commission appointed in 1907 to inquire into the methods by which Oriental laborers have been induced to come to Canada, 3827-1, Ottawa, 1908.
2. Report by W. L. Mackenzie King, C. M. G., Deputy Minister of Labor on mission to England to confer with the British authorities on the subject of Immigration from the Orient and Immigration from India in particular (No. 36a — 1908).
3. Canada, Reports of the Superintendent of Immigration.
4. Canada Year Books, The Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Vol. 1—11, Senate Document No. 747, 1911.
5. Abstracts of Reports of the U. S. Immigration Commission.
6. U. S. Reports of the Commissioner General Immigration.

Besides the above official reports, all the files of the leading San Francisco dailies, such as the Call, the Bulletin, the Chronicle, and the Examiner, as well as the volumes of several periodicals, such as the Survey, the World To-day, and the American Review of Reviews, for the past twenty years, were gone through.

2. Persons Interviewd.

(Partial List).

- Anderson, Wm., Chief of Police, Vancouver B. C.
 Applegate, H. J., Wood, Vallance & Leggat, Ltd., Vancouver, B. C.
 Ashford Brothers, Grocers, Tudor, Cal.
 Assistant Commissioner of Immigration Reed, Victoria, B. C.
 Atherton, Wanen H., Police Judge, Stockton, Cal.
 Beemis, R. E., President, First National Bank, Colusa, Cal.
 Bhagwan, S., Ranch owner, Fresno, Cal.
 Bird, J. E., Barrister, Vancouver, B. C.
 Bodeen, G. G., Asst. Cashier, First National Bank, Fresno, Cal.

- Bowman, Wm. T., Bowman's Hardware & Impliment Co., Sacramento, Cal.
- Brendel, Frank P., Physician and Surgeon, Sacramento, Cal.
- Brennan, Jas. J., Farmer and President of the Bank of Loomis, Loomis, Cal.
- Brown, Edward A., Chief Sanitary Engineer, State Commission of Immigration and Housing, San Francisco, Cal.
- Buchanan, J. H., Pro. Manager, Royal Bank of Canada, Vancouver, B. C.
- Cameron, D. O., Secretary-Treasurer, Cameron Lumber Co., Ltd., Victoria, B. C.
- Carr, I., M. D., Physian, Stockton, Cal.
- Clemenson, H. C., Secretary and Manager, Folsom Bank, Folsom, Cal.
- Columbia Trust and Savings Bank, and Astoria National Bank, Astoria, Oregon.
- Connarn, Wm. M., Secretary, Yuba County Chamber of Commerce, Marysville, Cal.
- Cook, Carson C., General Mgr., Rindge Land & Navigation Co., Stockton, Cal.
- Cooper, C. K., Manager, Pioneer Title Ins. Co., El Centro, Cal.
- Corry, W. Y., M. D., Physician, Vancouver, B. C.
- Covington, W. A., Real Estate Man, Brawley, Cal.
- Cowper, J. S., Special Correspondent, Vancouver Daily World, Vancouver, B. C.
- Daly Brothers, Cotton Buyers, El Centro, Cal.
- Dayal, Shib, Businessman, Sacramento, Cal.
- Dozier, Linwood, M. D., Physician, Stockton, Cal.
- Drisket, D. M., Fisher Bros. Co., Astoria, Oregon.
- District Attorney Simon, El Centro, Cal.
- Driver, Philip S., Lawyer & Landowner, Sacramento, Cal.
- Dunlap, Frank, M. D., Physican & Surgeon, Brawley, Cal.
- Duncan, James A., Secretary, Central Labor Council, Seattle, Wash.
- Ebert, J. E., Attorney-at-Law and U. S. Commissioner, Marysville, Cal.
- Engel, Chas. P., M. D., Physician, Calexico, Cal.

- Flanagan, A. T., Commercial & Savings Bank of Stockton, Stockton, Cal.
- Foisie, J. P., Secretary, Longshoremen's Organisation, Seattle, Washington.
- Fox, G. L., City Editor, Stockton Independent, Stockton, Cal.
- Fenstermacher, E. J., Attorney-at-law, Fresno, Cal.
- First National Bank of Linnton (Cashier), Linnton, Oregon.
- Gage, Clarence E., Real Estateman, El Centro, Cal.
- Garthwaite, E. L., Imperial County Agricultural Agent, El Centro, Cal.
- Gibson, Robert, Pres., Gibson's Ltd., Vancouver, B. C.
- Giffen, Wylie M., Farmer & President of the California Associated Raisin Co., Fresno, Cal.
- Goodman, F. B., Editor, Evening Tribune, San Diego, Cal.
- Gonnason, C. A., Lemon, Gonnason Co., Ltd., Victoria, B. C.
- Gould, Kelt, Lawyer, Clovis, Cal.
- Graeser, H. B., M. D., Physian & Surgeon, Holtville, Cal.
- Greene, John A., Mgr. Public Employment Bureau of the State of California, Stockton, Cal.
- Griffin, H. B., Justice of Peace and Recorder, Brawley, Cal.
- Hall Brothers, Grocers, Stockton, Cal.
- Hecke, G. H., Director, Dept. of Agriculture, State of California, Sacramento, Cal.
- Hermon, J. K., Pres., Security Commercial & Savings Bank, El Centro, Cal.
- Holmes, H. T., Asst. Cashier, Stockton Savings & Loan Bank, Stockton, Cal.
- Ireland, Geo. D., Director of Relief Association, Vancouver, B. C.
- Jansen, Jas., Jansen & Company, Linnton, Oregon.
- Jones, J. Chas., Deputy Att'y General, Sacramento, Cal.
- Jollife, A. L., Commissioner of Immigration of Canada, Vancouver, B. C.
- Judge, Mary J., Department of Charities, Sacramento, Cal.
- Justice of Peace Smith, Fresno, Cal.

- Kane, Miss E. M., Associated Charities, San Francisco, Cal.
- Karr, S., Editor, The Independent Hindustan, San Francisco, Cal.
- Kearney, R. W., Executive Officer, Commission of Immigration & Housing, San Francisco, Cal.
- Keller, A. H., Vice-Pres., First Nat'l Bank, El Centro, Cal.
- Ketchal, H. I., Manager, The Royal Bank of Canada, Victoria, B. C.
- Khan, Ali Mohamed, Secretary, Muslim Association, Sacramento, Cal.
- Kingsley, E. D., Mgr. West Oregon Lumber Co., Linnton, Oregon.
- Kissinger, John D., Secretary & Resident Mgr., Canadian Puget Sound Lumber & Timber Co., Ltd., Victoria B. C.
- Konigmacher, A. H., M. D., Physician, City & County Hospital, Fresno, Cal.
- Kuno, Dr. Yoshi S., Professor, University of California.
- Kutner, Goldstein Co., Grocers, Fresno, Cal.
- Lemay, George E., Sec. Fresno County Chamber of Commerce, Fresno, Cal.
- Lemna, Joe., Linnton Department Store, Linnton, Oregon.
- Lourare, J. E., Cashier, Bank of Commerce, Astoria, Oregon.
- Lubin, Simon J., President, Commission of Immigration & Housing, Sacramento, Cal.
- Lal, Sohan, Asst. Mgr., Eastern Lumber Co., Ladysmith, B. C.
- Mallory, L. B., Deputy Labor Commissioner, Fresno, Cal. Manager, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Vancouver, B. C. Manager, Timberland Lumber Co. Ltd., New Westminster, B. C.
- Martin, Fred L., Vice-President, California National Bank, Sacramento, Cal.
- Mayfield, I., Justice of the Peace, El Centro, Cal.
- Mayor Gale, Vancouver, B. C.
- McDonald, A. N., Justice of the Peace, Holtville, Cal.
- McHane, Bernad, Chief of Police, Sacramento, Cal.

- McLaughlin, John P., Commissioner of Labor, San Francisco, Cal.
- McManus, Mrs. Elizabeth, Director, Bureau of Social Hygiene, State Board of Health, San Francisco, Cal.
- Merry, C. H., Sey., Pacific Rice Growers' Association, Sacramento, Cal.
- Miller, Howard L., Chief Clerk, Public Employment Bureau, Sacramento, Cal.
- Miller, R. Justin, Attorney and Executive Officer, Commission of Immigration and Housing of the State of California, San Francisco, Cal.
- Mohammed, Golam, Farmer, Brawley, Cal.
- Morewell, Ray, District Attorney, Marysville, Cal.
- Morris, Will E., Vice-President, Sacramento-San Joaquin Bank, Stockton, Cal.
- Mukunda, Bal, Mgr., Virginia Lumber Co., Ltd., Coombs, B. C.
- Mulligan, E. J., undertaker, El Centro, Cal.
- Mehar Chand, Bharat Lumber Co., Vancouver, B. C.
- Owen, W. C., Assistant Cashier, First National Bank, Marysville, Cal.
- Oliver, Honorable, John, Prime Minister, British Columbia, Victoria, B. C.
- Rahim, H., Businessman, Vancouver, B. C.
- Ram Chanan, Godha, Secretary, Hindu-American Conference, Sacramento, Cal.
- Ram Chand, Pres., Hindustanees' Welfare and Reform Society of America, Cal.
- Rankin, J. H., Mgr. Hammond Lumber Co., Astoria, Oregon.
- Raptis, Gust, Cantaloup Grower, Prueth Ranch, Calexico, Cal.
- Read, Emerson W., Vice-Pres., Farmers & Mechanics Savings Bank, Sacramento, Cal.
- Reed, Howard, Fruit Ranch Owner, Marysville, Cal.
- Roach, F. W., Justice of Peace, Calexico, Cal.
- Robinson, Oscar, Pres., Board of Trustees, Colusa, Cal.
- Rumsey, W. M., Grocer, Folsom, Cal.
- Sasaki, M., Sey., Japanese Farmers' Association, El Centro, Cal.

- Sexton, Chas. B., Office of the State Superintendent of Employment, San Francisco, Cal.
- Shaugnessy, M. P., Attorney at Law, Stockton, Cal.
- Shelley, L. M., Attorney at Law, Sacramento, Cal.
- Shelley, M. J., Justice of the Peace, Sacramento, Cal.
- Shumaker, S. F., President, Central Bank of Imperial Valley, Calexico, Cal.
- Simpson, W. M., Chief of Police, Stockton, Cal.
- Singh, Asa, Farmer, Imperial, Cal.
- Singh, Bhai Bewa, Priest, Sikh Temple, Stockton, Cal.
- Singh, Bishan, Journalist, San Francisco, Cal.
- Singh, Gopal, Priest, Sikh Temple, Victoria, B. C.
- Singh, Gurdit, Secretary, Swaraj Shabha, Vancouver, B. C.
- Singh, H. S., Journalist, San Francisco, Cal.
- Singh, Jalwant, Student, Stanford University, Stanford, Cal.
- Singh, Jewen, Priest, Fraser Mills, B. C.
- Singh, Kapoor, Swaraj Shabha of Vancouver, B. C.
- Singh, Lochman, Mgr. Virginia Lumber Co., Ltd., Coombs, B. C.
- Singh, Mit, Secretary, Khalsa Dewan Society, Vancouver, B. C.
- Singh, Lal, Student, University of California, Berkley, Cal.
- Singh, Dr. Pardman, Berkley, Cal.
- Singh, Soran, Assistant Manager, Eastern Lumber Co., Ladysmith, B. C.
- Singh, Varyam, Foreman, Fraser Mills, B. C.
- Snow, W. R., City Editor, El Centro Progress, El Centro, Cal.
- Stewart, Holton, Grocer, El Centro, Cal.
- Takimoto, Tamez, Secy. Japanese Association of America, San Francisco, Cal.
- Toomey, W. F., Ex-mayor and rancher, Fresno, Cal.
- Trotter, W. R., Labor Union, Vancouver, Cal.
- von Geldern, Chas. E., M. D., Physician, Sacramento, Cal.
- Walker, B. R., Associate Editor, the Republic, Fresno, Cal.
- Walrond, H. E., Ranch Superintendent, Stockton, Cal.
- Walther, E. J., Commission of Immigration and Housing, San Francisco, Cal.

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Waterman, Frank, Employer, Manteca, Cal.

Webster, Irving H., Registrar, Associated Charities, Stockton, Cal.

White, Edward, Commissioner of Immigration, Angel Island, San Francisco, Cal.

Wray, Alban E., Manager, Valley Fruit Growers' Association, Fresno, Cal.

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