

Part 1: History: A strong India → The Diaspora live in dignity in Canada

North America: A story of Discrimination faced by Punjabis Part 1 (1900-08)

May 2, 2024

A Punjabi Poem or a cry in the wilderness, with no redress:

“Some push us around, some curse us.

Where is your splendor and prestige today?

The whole world calls us black thieves,

The whole world calls us “coolie.”

Why doesn’t our flag fly anywhere?

Why do we feel low and humiliated?

Why is there no respect for us in the whole world”

References: <https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/cics/resources/68861-UFV-Booklet-May-2015.pdf>

EDITORIAL COMMENT: The poem, penned in 1907, was from a period when the **Asiatic Exclusion League** leaders from Washington State, USA and Vancouver, Canada had joined hands to remove the fear of Great Britain, the super-power and when the local newspaper- **the Reveille**- issued “*A Word of Solemn Warning*” against an **attack on the Japanese workers**. The editor said that a riot against Japanese could **precipitate a war with Japan and rioters** would be severely prosecuted. The editor concluded, “we **warn the mob** to keep its hands off the Japanese”. (**Bellingham Reveille**, Sept 8, 1907).

The city of **Bellingham** on the west coast of North America: In 1880, the Chinese laborers had been thrown out of the city, after a riot against them by the white workers whose numbers had swelled to about 20,000. The calamity, which befell on the Sikhs, is only an example of what was happening all over the **Puget Sound region** of Washington State, USA. (**map on the next page.**)

As Part 2 of the Historical series will show, the then **Mayor of Vancouver** and the **Prime Minister of Canada** were openly for a **white Vancouver in a white Canada**. Though the number of Punjabis in Vancouver was larger than in **Bellingham**, they continued to face injustice even in Canada.

---- The DARK NIGHT of September 7, 1907 for Punjabis----

By September 2007, about 200 Punjabis were working in the timber yards of **Bellingham**. The local newspapers were continuously pointing towards the arrival of the Hindoos, Indians or turbaned people, while referring to the Indians, who were Jat-Sikh-young-men from Punjab.

An Anti-Indian mob came together in the evening of September 7, 1907 and attacked the Sikhs. The Mayor of the city could not save the Punjabis' residences, which were burnt out. To save their lives, the Mayor took them to the local prison and before morning, he asked them to leave the city.



Puget Sound region of Washington State, USA

The only objective reporting was by Horace Cayton, in a column titled, “Always ready to riot.” Cayton (1859-1940) was an African American and former slave who was born in Mississippi. He lived in Seattle for most of his life. In September 1907, he was the editor and publisher of the **Seattle Republican**. He wrote:

Whether it be North, South, East, or West in the United States, it is always a safe bet that the white man is ever ready to do violence to some class of human beings if they happen to have a darker skin than their own. But a few days ago the white folk of Shelbyville, Ind. were driving a number of Negroes out of the town... so common to the Southern states that comment is unnecessary. Another day the report comes that the citizens of Bellingham are mobbing a lot of Hindu people because they not only wanted to work, but were actually working and the Lord only knows what would have been the result if the British flag had not been displayed, the Hindus being British subjects, which alarmed the whites (Seattle Republican, Sept. 13, 1907).

It is probably this fear that prompted the Mayor of the city from killing the Hindoos.



Even the educated middle class did not come forward to help the Punjabis. A researcher has quoted the following from the private correspondence of one such person. **A.W. Mangum** (1876-1924), a 31-year-old soil scientist, was living and working in the Bellingham area in 1907 surveying the soils of the Puget Sound region. Writing to **his mother in North Carolina**, three days after the riot, **Mangum** said: These Hindos (Indians, Sikhs, Hindoos are words, used by the people and the media to describe the group of Punjabis.) are very undesirable citizens. They will

work for wages that a white man can't live on. I am not in sympathy with the laboring men who started this riot, because they ought to mob the mill men who hire these laborers rather than mob the Hindos themselves. If the mill owners did not hire them, they would not come here in such crowds. They are worse than the Japs and China men and have caused trouble ever since they began to be numerous. (Mangum, Sept. 8, 1907). Thus **Magnum wanted that the hard-working Punjabis should not have been hired!**

Bellingham's weekly **Norwegian paper, *Nya Varlden***, issued a strong criticism of the mob and the city for not taking stronger action to quell the lawlessness, comparing Bellingham to "the darkest of Russia." However, the editor, writing in English, made it clear that **he was not a "friend of the Hindus," and blamed the mill owners for employing them** (*Nya Varlden*, Sept. 13, 1907)

The poor Sikhs, having lost their belongings, trekked over long distances to find a safe place in other places, with Indians.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com wonders whether Punjabis would have suffered if India were free and united. If it were to be the case, India would have been a much stronger power as compared with the small Japan.

Note: Please read the EDITORIAL COMMENTS in "Canada: China's Interference in Election Process; Relations with India", DATED April 7, 2024 at <https://diginews360.com/canada-china-interferes-in-elections-relations-with-india/> . These are repeated below:

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com notes that both the proceedings of the (Canada's) **Foreign Interference Commission** and the important statement of **David Vigneault** (the **Director of Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)** from June 19, 2017) bring out the challenges being faced by Canada today due to the interference by the Chinese Communist Party in the internal affairs of Canada. Both of them have not mentioned India, anywhere. www.DiGiNews360.com understands that the relations between India and Canada have been damaged since the minority Government of Prime

Minister **Justin Trudeau** depends on the votes of NDP, which is headed by **Jagmeet Singh**, a well-known Khalistani and anti-Indian politician.

However, PM **Trudeau** is too astute and experienced a politician, not to be able to work with the Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** towards improving the relations between the great democracy of India and Canada.

Note: For Khalistani Terrorism **that stalked Punjab till 1992:**

(Now Khalistani terrorists and their sympathizers are found in Canada, with some remnants in USA, UK and Australia. However, the governments of UK and Australia are no longer willing to permit separatist activities against India, a fellow country of the Commonwealth, from their soil.)

Please read “Khalistanis Threaten Indian Diplomats in Canada, UK, Australia & USA” dated July 9, 2023 at <https://diqinews360.com/khalistanis-threaten-indian-diplomats-in-canada/> . The news is followed by a 4-page Backgrounder on the History of Khalistan. On the last page is the INTERESTING Editorial Page of www.DiGiNews360.com .

Please read “Khalistani Attacks in Canada: Without Any Restraint” dated 29th March 2023 at <https://diqinews360.com/khalistani-attacks-in-canada-without-any-restraint/>

Please read “California Police arrests Canada-based terrorist, operating in India” dated December 3, 2022 at <https://diqinews360.com/california-police-arrests-canada-based-terrorist-operating-in-india/>
