Buckley Banner

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TELEPHONE MAIN

HINDUS ON THE PACIFIC COAST.

It is reported that more than 1,000

Hindus have crossed the Canadian border into the State of Washington recently and have become competitors in the labor market of the state. Men of their race, who present a strange and curious type, to most Americans, may be seen now on the railroads of California. They are made conspicuous even at a distance by their furbans, and without this queer headgear they would appear on a closer inspection to be very different from other oriental or European immirrants.

Up to the present time their entrance into the labor field has caused no excitement, and it is probable that there are very few of them in California. A gang here and there makes an impression on the traveler without being noticeable because of its size. But there is a population of 294,361,000 in India, an area of 1,766,642 square miles, as against a population that is probably considerably less than 400,000,000 on an area of 1,532,420 square miles in China, and a population on 47,000,000 on an area of 147,655 square miles in Japan. It is obvious, therefore, that if the Hindus should take to emigrating there are enough of them to bring about a new development in our immigration problem. The idea of exclusion might be broadened so as to apply to all eastern Asiatics, and it is certain that a large labor invasion from any Asiatic country would produce just such an agitation as resulted in the laws barring out the Chinese.