

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.

