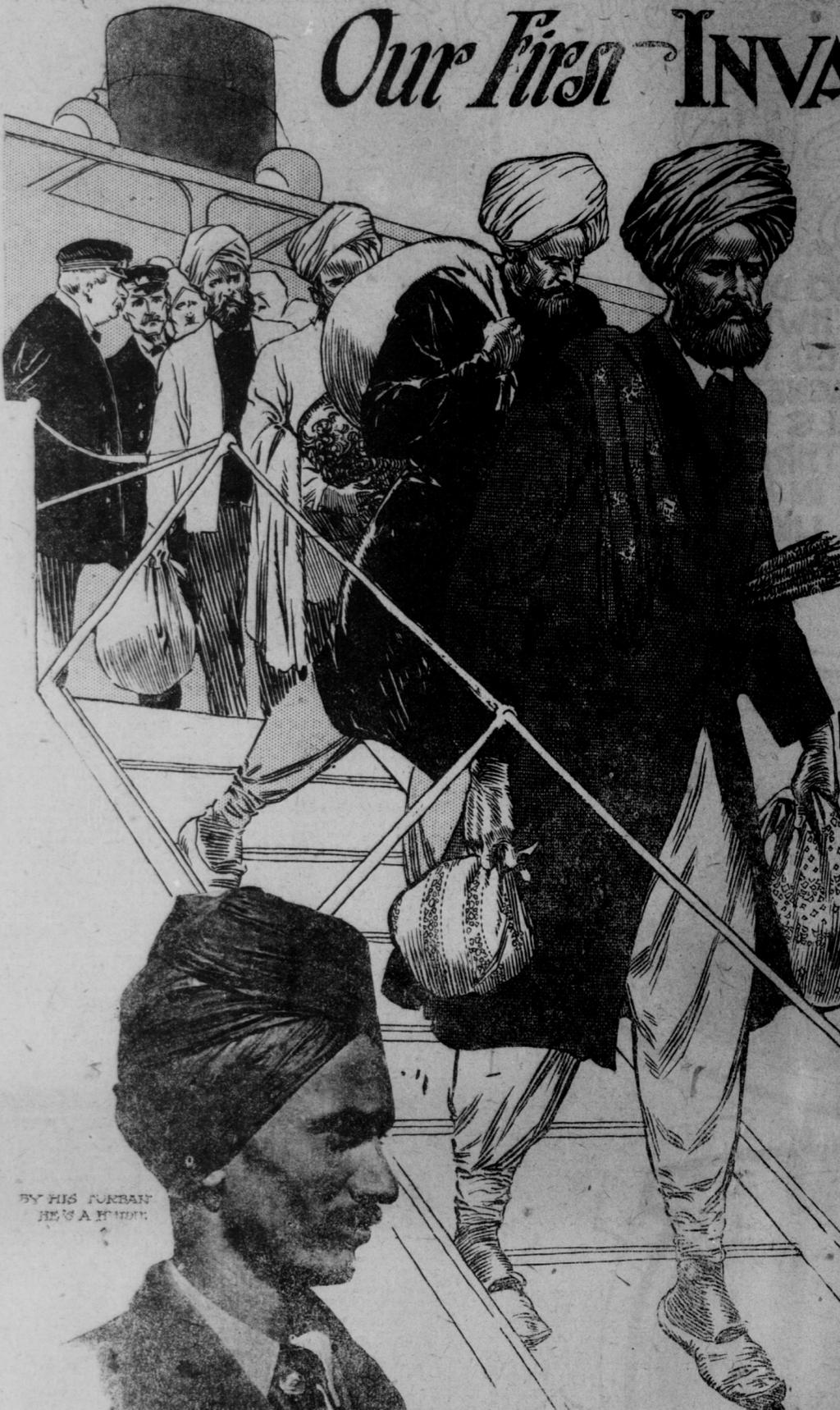


# Our First Invasion by HINDUS and MOHAMMEDANS



A GROUP OF GIANT HINDU SIKHS NOW RAILROAD LABORERS.

## SIKHS, HONG KONG'S CRACK POLICEMEN FROM THE PANJAB, HAVE DESERTED AND COME TO WORK ON A RAILROAD SECTION AT SAN JOSE

BY HIS TORBANK HE'S A HINDU.

liquor, and Mr. Gilleran says that Ismail is a model in this respect. The other natives drink, he declares, and Ismail has no friendship for them.

### Sikhs From the Panjab.

Mr. Gilleran calls them "Turks." Now a Turk is a Muhammadan, and the Sikhs are Hindus, coming from Panjab, the Land of the Five Rivers, whose inhabitants still remember the four great battles in which they fought the British to a standstill, and when each side claimed the victory.

The Panjab is the land of brave men and handsome women. It was the Panjab which saved India to the British in 1857-58, the days of the mutiny, when Roberts, then a lieutenant in the Bengal Horse Artillery, showed the stuff that was in him. Roberts was in Peshawar, Panjab, then a frontier post. Nicholson was there, too, and the Panjab to this day put their ears to the ground to hear the hoof-beats of Nicholson's saboteurs.

It is the land where warriors are bred, and the greatest of her warriors was Ranjeet Singh, the Lion of the Panjab, at whose funeral pyre 300 of his wives were burned to add to the sorrow that was felt at his death.

Here in the Panjab is recruited the Indian army. When the mutiny broke out it was the cry among the British: "Law about the Egnah!"

Sir John Lawrence, afterward Lord Lawrence, went to Lahore. He gave her ruler three extra guns, and Panjab sent a contingent to help crush the mutineers.

Ismail, like all the followers of Mahomet, hates a Hindu.

"They are all mad" (puggia walla), he explained, which means more than insane.

"Yes," he says, "they were in the police. No, I can't say that they deserted. They left Hongkong and came over here. First they went to British Columbia and I came down here because the climate is better and you can get

lots of work. They worked at the quicksilver mines and many are there now, but they have come down here and are employed upon the railroads. Oh yes; they are strong, very strong. I have nothing to do with them. We don't agree," he added with a laugh.

### Race Hatred Strong.

And so in this corner of the world the Muhammadan and the Hindu glare at each other, and were it not for the law the Muhammadan and Hindu would slay each other. The Muhammadan by killing a Hindu would gain eternal paradise, and the Sikh by killing a Muhammadan would gain merit by sending to another world the oppressor of the Hindu.

Ismail will eat the flesh of cows and sheep and chickens, but he will not touch the meat of a pig. The Sikhs will eat no flesh whatsoever, nor will they handle the flesh of the sacred cow. They are strict vegetarians, and live in community form. Their lineage is shown in their names, for no man not of the warrior caste would be a Singh—Narin Singh, Sher Singh, Perash Singh and Tokik Singh, and among these warriors is a priest, Adial Swami.

Perhaps these warriors, whose ancestors have fought in many a war, carry with them a pistol so that they stray not too far from the teachings of Buddha.

"The priest, true to his faith, does not work. The warriors who have worn the British uniforms now work upon the Interurban Railroad, and they are said to be good workmen. For their strength and their courage all who know them entertain respect, and as an American said:

"I have seen them sling a 200-pound bag of sulphur over their shoulder as if it were a feather pillow."

"Will you ever go back to the Panjab?" I asked one of them.

"If it is the pleasure of God," he piously answered.

### IMPROVED REVOLVER BELT FOR THE NAVY



THE United States navy is now being supplied with an article of equipment which has not only been long desired, but is novel and of a character suited to the growing needs of both officers and men of the service. It is a peculiarly woven cartridge belt and revolver holster.

The combination article consists of a belt with a series of pockets for carrying cartridges and bearing a holster of peculiar pattern. That for the officers is of blue-black mercerized silk, that for the men of drab mercerized cotton. All the metal attachments, such as buckle, size-adjustments and the like are bronzed. The beauty of this choice of materials is that, unlike leather, they will not dry and crack, and, unlike the conventional brass, the bronzed metal will not gather the green mold from which the usual brass suffered. The mold that comes to leather from exposure to dampness is also avoided.

The belt is 2 1/2 inches wide and has eight pockets, each capable of holding six cartridges, the number carried in the cylinder of the regulation navy revolver. There is a separate cover and also an inside flap for each pocket, the cartridge within being thus secured against damage from exposure. The

belt is woven in one piece and is as simple as it is strong.

The holster is also in one piece, the only holster yet designed in one piece. Glove fasteners hold the flaps of the cartridge pockets and also of the holster in place. The whole affair is light, that for the officers weighing but 10 1/2 ounces while that for the men weighs only 14 1/2 ounces.

The new belt and holster outfit was designed by the officers on duty in the Bureau of Ordnance in the Navy Department.

### The Spreading of the English Language

THE fact that nearly one-half of the shipping traffic to and from Antwerp is carried on under the British and American flags has made Antwerp almost an English-speaking port. The authorities are awake to the fact and are encouraging the study of the English language in all the classes of society. Free night schools for exclusive classes in English, organized by the city authorities, are attended by thousands of pupils, while special attention is paid to the study of English in all the grades of the day schools, public as well as private.

This desire to popularize the English language is not confined to Belgium, but has extended to Germany as well, where recent orders of the Government require the officials and employees of the railroads to learn and speak the English language. Schools of instruction for this purpose have already been established at Munich and Nuremberg by the German Government.

### By John Hamilton Gilmour

TO SPEAK a language which one had spoken as a child; to forget that language and learn it again as an unknown tongue, then not to have heard it spoken for twenty years; and then again to plunge into its trial for a newspaper interview was my peculiar task last Sunday.

The week before, sitting in the lobby of the St. James Hotel, San Jose, with my friend E. K. Johnston, the managing editor of the Mercury, I saw pass before the windows some twelve to fourteen Hindustanis.

service in India aroused my suspicions, and I asked my apparently innocent friend if the Japanese did not evince interest in the relations that existed between the natives and the authorities.

He confessed they did. A few months later I received a letter from India in which the writer voiced this fear over the growing friendliness between the Japanese and the Hindustanis.

"It is not an augury for good," he wrote. "They are up to mischief." Then came the war; and again the same person wrote: "The natives are strangely agitated over the war. I have long declared that the Russians were not to be feared, for which I have earned the cordial dislike of every soldier in India. Much as I detest Russia, I hate the idea of being whipped by an Asiatic, for it has made the natives unbearable and the cry is revived, 'Asia for the Asiatics.'"

### The Hindu in America.

A native in India and a native in America! In India the white man is dominant and the native a subject, and has to behave like a subject. He dare not appear in your presence without a turban, and he must be barefooted. In America he greets you as an equal, and if you want to talk to him you must take your medicine. He may use "ap" for a minute, but he lapses into the familiar "toom," "thou," which would be an insult in his own land. All this I knew. But when I saw these Hindustanis walking down First street in San Jose their red, green and yellow turbans, and saw that some had the military jacket worn by the Hongkong police, and that all had the stride of the soldier, my heart warmed to them, for the spectacle suddenly carried me back to India; brought vividly to me the sight of her groves, her temples, her mosques, her streets swarming with life, and that army which made possible a Duke of Wellington, a Havelock, a Colin Campbell, a Nicholson, and last, but not least, Lord Roberts of Kandahar.

It gave me a touch of homesickness, these natives in San Jose, and I recalled the words of an Englishman I met years ago in Hongkong. He was born in India, was the son of a British general and the grandson of an Earl.

"Do you know," he observed, "that one feels an affection for the land where one saw the light? I have not been in India since a baby, but these Sikhs," pointing to the police, "arouse in my heart a desire to see India." "Let us go back," I suggested. "No," he said; "you go back. I am going with the Chinese Government. Don't, don't go to America," he urged. "I have been in Australia, and where the English language is spoken they work you mighty hard."

### A Hindustani Contractor.

As I entered the garden a man came forward, whom I recognized as a pure Hindustani, and I greeted him with the words: "Toom Hindustani admi tha." "Jehan Huzoor!" and I was launched into the language I had unconsciously learned, forgotten and learned again and again forgotten. Ismail is a Muhammadan, born on the West Coast, and Bombay is his home. He has led an adventurous life for a Hindustani, for he took ship and went to London, then to Glasgow and



ISMAIL, THE MOHAMMEDAN

again taking ship he rounded the mastery of slang. He knows what Horn and arrived in San Francisco. He does not like this city, and so he started on a voyage of climatic discovery and found San Jose. He arrived in the Garden City last February and has been with J. J. Gilleran since, tending his horses and doing odd jobs, sometimes working as a contractor, making money and winning the affections of those whom he meets. Ismail attends night school and Gilleran intends to make him "a good American citizen."

When he arrived in San Jose his knowledge of English was limited, but now he converses fluently and has a