

FRANK J. BARRY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
NOGALES, ARIZONA

March 9, 1921.

His Excellency Honorable Alvaro Obregon,
President of the Republic of Mexico,
Mexico City, D. F.

Esteemed Sir:

I have read with much satisfaction the publication in the press of your plan for stimulating the development of the agricultural resources of Mexico. I think it is one of the wisest, if not the wisest, policies ever adopted by a Mexican statesman. Throughout the world and during all history farmers have been the mainstay of nationality mainly because they have been attached to the soil of their country, and because their lives have been spent in open and healthful pursuits. They have been noted as conservative and wise protectors of their country's interests. Besides, they form the industrial mainstay, and, therefore, that country is happy, prosperous and advanced which can count upon an industrious and conservative farming class. I feel that Mexico is to be congratulated upon your adoption of a plan for the development of the great agricultural resources of your country.

I assume that the main point of your plan is the increase of your country's prosperity by development of its agricultural area and by the establishment of a citizenry which will have respect for law and order. I recently had some inquiries from representatives of certain Hindu farmers in the Imperial Valley of California who desire to settle in the West Coast of Mexico. These men have been the principal growers of cotton in California, and are noted for their industry, thrift and progressive farming, and for peaceful and inoffensive living. No one who has dealt with them but will testify to their excellence as farmers and law-abiding citizens. Upon receipt of the inquiry in question, an associate of mine brought the matter of their desire to come to Sonora to the attention of the Governor of that State, and asked him if they would be welcome, and to this request the Governor made the following official reply:

"SEAL"

SECCION DE
GOBERNACION

ASUNTO:-Que este Gobierno dará
toda clase de garantías a los colonos Hin-
dues que se establezcan en este Estado. -

NUM 5265.

Con todo el interés que merece se ha impuesto el Co. Gobernador de la atenta nota de Ud. fecha de ayer, en la que se sirve informar que la colonia de Hindues que actualmente se encuentra radicada en el Valle Imperial, Estado

His Excellency Hon. Alvaro Obregon,

March 9, 1921.

de California, ha concebido el propósito de establecerse en esta Entidad Federativa, dedicandose al ramo de agricultura.

En respuesta, tengo el gusto de manifestar a Ud. por acuerdo del mismo Superior Magistrado, que llegado el caso de que la Colonia de Hindues de que se trata se establezca en cualquiera región de este Estado, el Ejecutivo le dará toda clase de garantías.

Protesto a Ud. las seguridades de mi distinguida consideración y aprecio.

SUFRAGIO EFECTIVO NO REELECCION

Hermosillo, Febrero 18 de 1921

El Secretario de Gobierno Interino

A. M. Sanchez. "

Since receipt of the communication from the Governor of Sonora above quoted, I have had other communications about the matter, and to-day my associate has received a telegram from California, which I beg to quote:

"Regarding land proposition have explained as fully as my information permits, and my client here says can colonize any number acres with Sikhs direct from India. These are all Caucasian race and will come direct to Mexico but will want guarantee from Government that they are desired. Will bring their families and are all people of moderate means and good education. Will be necessary in next few weeks you meet my party Los Angeles talk over character soil climate, etc. then if passports can be arranged to them he will view land and then send emmissary to India to arrange for families to sail. Would suggest before you come Los Angeles you get your permit and request for colonization in writing from Government authorities. The Sikhs are the high caste Indian and not the ones we generally accept as the Hindoo in this country and the thing that appeals is the ultimate ownership of the soil."

I respectfully request you to advise me your views in reference to advancing a project of colonization on the West Coast of Mexico by Hindu families, such as described in said telegram. I am personally more or less well informed as to the character and habits of this particular class of Hindus and am certain that whatever region they colonize will rapidly become one of the most prosperous in Mexico. It has been my good fortune to have met certain individuals of this class of Hindus and I found them highly intelligent and possessing all of the high qualities and virtues of the best class of Europeans. These people are wonderful farmers and very industrious and thrifty which are assets which would redound to any country's advantage.

His Excellency Hon. Alvaro Obregon.

March 9, 1921.

On immigration to Mexico they would, of course, become Mexican citizens according to your laws, and thus would become subjects solely of your laws and would unquestionably uphold all of your country's institutions.

Inasmuch as your official endorsement of this project would aid considerably in the advancement thereof, may I not request that you make such endorsement in whatever official form may best serve the purposes in view? And, in case you favor the project, I respectfully request that you telegraph me to that effect and that you are transmitting your official endorsement by mail.

With assurances of my esteem, and with best wishes for your continued success and prosperity of your country, I am,

Most respectfully yours,

Frank J. Barry.

FJB-RM