

120. Malcolm R.J. Reid, Dominion Immigration Agent to W.D. Scott,
Superintendent of Immigration

Vancouver, 21 October, 1913

Sir:-

I enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of a Board of Inquiry in the hearing given Natha Singh, alias Bhagwan Singh, who entered this country under misrepresentation.

These Minutes are the result of a request made of the Minister for a rehearing in this case, against the decision given in the previous enquiry held on the 20th September last.

In the present instance Bhagwan Singh had the advice of counsel and did not tender himself for examination to refute the statement alleged by the officers of this department. In his previous hearing, namely that of the 30th September, he refrained making any statement.

It can be quite readily understood by the Department that there is no one man in the whole of the Hindu colony that would venture to come forward and testify that Bhagwan Singh is a new man and entered by misrepresentation of facts. I would go even so far as to say that should one present himself to this fact, he would either have to leave the country or be found laid up in hospital.

This Board of Enquiry held today has ordered him deported, and although the telegram from you reading as follows:

'Bhagwan Singh appeal dismissed.'

was received during the hearing, we did not wish to stop proceedings and let it continue until the end, and permit any appeal that the man cared to make against the order of the Board.

On the advice of counsel he has appealed against this decision and I am enclosing you herewith his appeal duly filled in in form 'C'.

I also enclose you a report of a meeting held at the Dominion Hall on Sunday the 19th instant, to appeal to the Minister of the Interior against the proposed deportation of Bhagwan Singh. I believe, independent of the enclosed report you have also received one from Inspector Hopkinson on the subject.

The present case is one which has arisen at a critical moment and the prestige of the Department needs to be sustained in this matter. If this subject ever goes to the Courts and by some legal technicality or otherwise the action of the Department is not upheld, we still have the chance of proceeding this now under the provisions of Section 33 subsection 7, for entering the country under misrepresentation, but in this prosecution it will be necessary to produce evidence from Hong Kong. However, this is a matter for the future, but I only introduce this matter with a view to disclose what can be done should such a situation arise.

Your obedient servant
Malcolm R.J. Reid