

Copies for Sir Robert Borden
Hon. Arthur Meighen
Mr. J. A. Cote.

22nd July, 1914.

Memorandum:

Hon. Mr. Doherty.

I beg to quote for your information three messages received last night from Vancouver:

"Committee of ten local Hindus put aboard Komagata at 2.26 p.m. Food shewn them on wharf and in order reach same they were paraded between the troops with fixed bayonets. At 3.26 p.m. negotiations must cease."

"At 6.30 matter appears satisfactorily adjusted. Agreement reached by which several thousand dollars' additional provisions placed on the ship. Steam will be raised tonight as soon as provisions placed on the ship and departure will take place. Local Committee now going aboard complete final arrangements and ask Hindus let Captain get up steam immediately. Some further concessions re the inquiry by independent authority given by Hon. Martin Burrill. Agreement reached apparently satisfactory resulting in peaceful solution. Brodie informed me this afternoon he received confidential advices from Hong Kong to effect that his Company would probably be sued for damages if Hindus were returned on regular Empress liner. I communicated with Blue Funnel Line Tacoma and here and as next ship leaves August fifth and passenger accommodation full no doubt conveniently so nothing could be done. In any case this method deportation very expensive and Burrill promises now some surety vessel will cross Pacific without seeking surreptitious landing."

"I have the honor to report Komagata getting up steam. Will leave at latest tomorrow afternoon. Militia will be disbanded by morning. Will arrange Rainbow escort one day out. Owing to steam being got up danger rioting in city will pass although at times of wiring thousand crowded waterfront and Chief Police somewhat anxious. Hindus cheered vociferously when we pulled away."

The last two arrived at 1.45 this morning and as I presumed that neither the Prime Minister nor yourself would care to be disturbed at that hour, I took the liberty of giving to the press the item which appeared in this morning's Citizen.

E. Blake Robertson

Asst-Superintendent of Immigration.