

Borden to  
Hon. J. H. Perley  
17 Victoria St  
London

CO 42/980

October

17 July 1914

My dear Perley:

CONFIDENTIAL.

The delay in connection with the departure of Hindus has been very exasperating and it is apparent that the procedure provided by the Immigration Act will have to be amended at the next session so that more summary remedies can be adopted and that recourse can be had by attachment of any ship which brings an expedition of this character to our shores.

We are informed that those who organized the expedition had two motives. First, pecuniary advantage, if their project had been successfully carried through they would have received a large sum of money aggregating, it is said, nearly \$100,000. Second, fomenting prejudice and hatred among the people of India against the Empire by reason of the rejection of these immigrants.

At present the persons on board the Komagata Maru will have to be supplied by the Government with food or suffer. The assignees of the charter are unable or unwilling to make any provision and the owners disclaim any responsibility. We have agreed to provision the ship to Hong Kong at an expense not exceeding \$4000, provided the departure be prompt.

The Indian government has always taken the ground that they preferred to have immigrants rejected by Canada than to exercise any control. They must be the best judges of their own affairs but it would be well for them to realize fully that public opinion in this country will not tolerate immigration in any considerable number from Asiatic countries and that even more drastic measures and regulations will, if necessary, be provided in order to prevent any influx of Hindus.