

COPY/EC.

Vancouver, B. C.: June 17th 1914.

Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.,

Chairman of the Board of Enquiry,

Immigration Office,

Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

Since telephoning you this morning, when you were pleased to say that you were not going to hold any Board of Enquiry this morning, because the Hindus on board were "flim-flaming" you, it appears to me that the Hindus on board in refusing to allow your Board to proceed contrary to the provisions of Section 15, without being represented by counsel did perfectly right. The preliminary hearing of your Examiners was concluded about two weeks ago, and the matter has been proceeding since by the Board of Enquiry. A Board of Enquiry adjourns in order to re-assemble a board for the purpose of getting evidence against the Hindus in a most improper manner. The whole conduct of the Board of Enquiry is, a respectfully submit, a scandal. Everything is being done by your Board to prevent any test case coming to the Court. As you stated over the 'phone this morning, you do not know that you are going to pay the slightest attention to any orders of the Court, if any are made. All I suggest is that you bring forward a proper case and make a test of it without delay, and it will very soon be determined as to whether these men have a right to land or be deported. You can understand I positively make a charge that the Board of Enquiry as at present conducted is a travesty on justice. The prosecutors are the judges.

Yours very truly,

Sgd. J. Edward Bird.