

*I was present on
this occasion H.N.D.*

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Vancouver, B.C., July 20, 1914.

Dear Mr. Reid:

I have to report for your information that I took on board the "Komagata Maru" this morning at about 10:05 a telegram addressed to the passengers of this boat. On going up the gangway I was met by quite a few of the passengers and in inquiring for the Secretary or one of the Committee, the Secretary Daljit Singh put in an appearance and to him I handed the telegram. He opened the same, read the contents, but did not communicate what was conveyed.

After reading the wire he wished to know if the Government intended sending any provisions on board, and I replied that it was not the intention of the Government to send any provisions on board till such time as the Hindus decided to obey the law. I further went into detail as to the intention of the mission of Saturday night, and pointed out that the boat had \$6,000.00 worth of provisions ready to put on board. After a great deal of discussion, and on making a particular demand for some reasonable proposition, Daljit Singh informed me as follows: That the passengers would permit the getting up of steam and leaving of this harbor on the following conditions:

1. That the provisions be put on board.
2. That the two charterers, Bhag Singh, and Rahim be brought alongside the ship so that they could talk to them and receive their permission to leave.
3. If the two above conditions were satisfactorily arranged steam would be permitted to be got up.

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I replied that under no circumstances could we possibly acquiesce to all three demands, but in the alternative proposed the following:

(a) That Captain Yamamoto be permitted to issue orders to his crew to get up steam.

(b) That within four or five hours after they had started getting up steam we would come alongside with a scow loaded with provisions for the voyage and also Rahim and the Secretary of the Sikh Temple; that they could hold a conference with these two men and if they decided to move out and gave us an assurance in writing that they would do so, we would then load the provisions; that when the provisions were loaded the ship would immediately start on her voyage to Hong Kong, as the Captain was already in possession of his clearance papers.

This proposition was absolutely rejected and Daljit Singh, together with quite a few of his countrymen around him stated that unless and until such time as the provisions were first put on board, they would not permit the anchor to be raised or steam to be got up or the ship to leave the harbor, under any circumstances, and they would perish by hunger.

I asked for some assurance or guarantee that if we complied with their request they would carry out their proposition, but received no assurance and no guarantee that they would do so. I further went into the matter of explaining the guarantee question - that the Government had no assurance that if the provisions were put on board they would move out, inasmuch as by

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by putting the provisions on board they would then have themselves fully equipped with water and supplies for a period of one month and they could lie in that harbor for that length of time without making a move.

Daljit Singh further stated to me that five of the Hindus had been injured in the melee on Saturday night, and that one of them was seriously hurt. He requested that the man be taken ashore for treatment, but before giving him any satisfactory answer I requested that the four or five alleged injured men should be produced before me or that I be permitted to see them wherever they were, so that I could make such arrangements - if I was satisfied that they needed medical attention - as would be necessary in order to have the same attended to by our medical officer. Daljit Singh refused to produce the men or permit me to go and see them, and said that unless provisions were put on board there would be no benefit from seeing these men whatsoever.

Making no headway in our deliberations, I finally informed them that no provisions would be put on board until they were of a more reasonable turn of mind and had decided to obey the laws of this country, and with this parting injunction I came down the gangway and boarded our launch for shore.

Yours truly,

Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.
Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.,

Canadian Immigration Agent and Inspector,

Vancouver, B. C.