

Copy for the information of:

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H. H. Stevens, Esq., M. P.
203 Kingsway,
C I T Y.

MRJR/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., July 7th

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Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:-

I enclose herewith correspondence with reference to recent incidents which have happened on the s.s. Komogata Maru, and further beg to confirm my wire, as follows:-

July.6th- "Re Munshi Singh - Appeal dismissed. Appeal Court Unanimously uphold Immigration Department on every count."

The past few days have been fraught with intense interest owing to the defiant attitude of the Hindus. Inspector Hopkinson's communication to myself, will explain to you the matter of how the five Hindus came on the launch to discuss the question of food, etc., with three of their Nanaimo friends.

The incident occurred at noon on Friday, when the gangway was raised by the orders of Gurdit Singh, and until eight o'clock last night the Hindus on the ship prevented the Captain of the ship from lowering same.

I discussed the matter with the Captain and gave him until 2 o'clock yesterday to state whether he was in control of his ship or not.

At the request of the Japanese Consul who went on board, the time was further extended.

In the meantime I interviewed the Chief of Police

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and at the request of the Mayor, attended a meeting of the City, held yesterday, between the Mayor, the Chief, the City Solicitor and myself, when the matter was frankly placed before them. I received their hearty co-operation and was told I could secure any number of police I required for the purpose of forcing these five men aboard the vessel.

I then got in touch with the Captain and the Japanese Consul, who stated the matter was in the hands of their solicitor, Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper.

Our solicitors maintained that the Captain must accept these men back on the ship, and the question of who was in control of the ship must be established.

The following letter was forwarded by myself, and a receipt taken at 6.10 o'clock p.m., to the Captain, viz:-

July 6th, -1914.-
"Captain Yamamoto,
S.S. Komogata Maru,
City.

Dear Sir:- There are five men, passengers by the Komogata Maru, who have not been landed, who were allowed off the Steamer for the purpose of conversation with friends but who have not been allowed to return to the Steamer. Unless you permit these men to be put back on board the Komogata Maru we must take it that you are assisting them to land, or, attempting to land them, which is against the provisions of the Immigration Act. Kindly therefore, make arrangements to have these men put back upon the Komogata Maru at once."

The five Hindus, during all this controversy, remained^{ed} on the launch, and at night were transferred to the WINAMAC, sleeping on the top deck.

At eight o'clock last night, I left with Inspector Howard and Interpreter Gwyther, and the five Hindus, in the

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small launch under hire to this Department, the WINAMAC standing by with the remainder of the patrol.

The gangway was lowered and Gurdit Singh and his Secretary came down, wishing to argue the point, as to whether or not they would receive the five men back on board. I gave them two minutes in which to make up their minds, and ordered the rope thrown off. They then acquiesced and the five men went aboard peaceably, thus avoiding possible complications, which your officials have endeavored in every possible way to avoid.

I might further state that Mr. J. Edward Bird has renewed his application to have the Hindus landed temporarily in the Detention Shed here, and in view of the fact that he was making direct application to the C.P.R., I accordingly interviewed Mr. F. W. Peters, General Superintendent of the C.P.R., and Mr. H. W. Brodie, General Passenger Agent, and got their promise to forward a letter of refusal to myself.

Needless to say, I put the strongest possible light on it, and showed the Company that in all probability an attempt would be made to fire the Detention Shed, as these Hindus are determined to land in this country. I secured the following communication from them, which I now transcribe:-

"July 3rd 1914.

"Mr. Malcolm R.J. Reid,
Dominion Immigration Agent,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

Use of Detention Shed for Hindus:

Your letter of the 2nd instant, in regard to the use of the Detention Shed for the temporary housing of some 354 men, women and children: As you are aware, the facilities at our Detention Shed are already taxed to their utmost capacity to take care of our present regular business.

Yours truly,

Sgd. H. W. Brodie."

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Enclos.

I further enclose herewith copies of correspondence between Mr. Bird and our solicitors, as well as conversations between Captain Yamamoto and myself on July 4th., and statement by Japanese interpreter Yoshi, and verbatim report of Messrs C. Gardner Johnson & Co., Agents for the s.s. KOMOGATA MARU.

From this you will note that prior to the departure of the s.s. KOMOGATA MARU from Japan, a meeting was held in a prominent hotel in Kobe. At this dinner were present Sato (owner of the KOMOGATA MARU) and many Japanese Gentlemen, as well as Gurdit Singh and his Secretary Dalgit Singh. Speeches were made by the Japanese to the effect that they would help Gurdit Singh as much as possible to land these men here. Also pleasure was expressed that the Hindus had taken the assistance of the Japanese nation by chartering one of their boats to make the trip in an enterprise of this kind.

One of the Japanese is said to have stated he was closely connected with the Prime Minister of Japan and not to fear any kind of trouble in this matter because they would get the backing of the Japanese Government.

A newspaper man also who was present, urged Gurdit Singh to carry out his enterprise, and the tone of the meeting appeared to be that the three countries, Japan, China and India would become united and control any situation of this kind which might arise.

I am inclined to think there is more in this abortive attempt of Gurdit Singh's to force his Hindus into Canada, than really appears on the surface. I would refer you also

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to the cabled message received by Consul Mori, from the Japanese Government, as follows:- (Parport of telegram)-

"They wish Mr. Reid understand that Japanese Government has no connection with this enterprise, although they sympathize with situation it is hard for Japanese Government to interfere with legitimate enterprise of its countrymen."

You will note here that the Japanese Government mention they have had no connection with the enterprise from the commencement. It seems peculiar that they should harp on this point, as no one until now has suggested the Japanese Government did have anything to do with the matter.

Mr. Edward J. Buck, of North Bank, Simla, who has been touring Canada, and whom I understand is Reuter's correspondent for India, came yesterday to this office with a letter of introduction to Mr. Hopkinson, and the request that he be permitted to interview Gurdit Singh. He was accordingly taken out and talked from our launch.

He discussed the matter further with Mr. H. S. Clements, M.P. and myself, as well as a friend of Mr. Clements', Mr. Camwell, M.P., from Quebec.

Mr. Buck claimed to be very intimate with Lord Hardinge, and forwarded the following cable:-

"6th July. 1914.

"Carefully felt pulse Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Komogata Maru question tour through Canada press public adamant matter. Vancouver citizens threaten violence if Hindus land. Visited ship conversed Gurdit Singh. Indians appear well fed many cheerful. Suggest best solution arrange immediate return ship India. Patience Vancouver City unlikely last indefinitely. Buck."

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm R. J. Reid

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DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR