

Vancouver, B.C. July 3, 1914.

Dear Sir:-

For some time past complaints have been received at this Office through Hindu residents here, that their friends on board the Komagata Maru were suffering ill-usage at the hands of Gurdit Singh. Further, that sums of money, ranging from two pounds to twenty pounds or more had been deposited with Gurdit Singh by their friends for safe custody, and that owing to the non-supply of sufficient rations to sustain life on board, these men were compelled to purchase provisions from shore with whatever little money they had on their persons. This little supply being exhausted, they have repeatedly made demands on Gurdit Singh for a return if not of the whole of at least a part of their deposits. This demand has in every instance been met with a refusal and a statement to the effect that the money would be returned on their landing at Vancouver.

You are perfectly well aware of the fact that independent of the rations supplied by the Hindus on shore to the passengers on the Komagata Maru, the passengers themselves have taken every opportunity of securing provisions by means of handing over money to our officers who purchase the same for them in the city. Also that friends ashore of those on board have sent vast quantities individually to those on board and we have taken every opportunity to facilitate this arrangement by transmitting whatever they brought to this office in the shape of food.

You have been courteous enough to permit some

- 2 -

Hindus from points outside of Vancouver to speak to their friends on board the Komagata Maru from our launch. This morning we had an application from four Hindus, three from Nanaimo, complaining that their friends had written to them stating that they were in dire circumstances and in need of food, and that Gurdit Singh, with whom they had moneys on deposit, refused to refund them the amounts to their credit and thus enable them to purchase food independent of the ship's supply. We have not conducted any policy of obstruction heretofore, and to facilitate and not cause any inconvenience to any individual on the boat an arrangement was made to permit these four men to board the Immigration launch and lie alongside the ship for a few minutes and permit of a conversation between interested parties. Assistant Interpreter Gwyther proceeded on board our launch, taking with him these four men. On arrival at the ship's side pretty near every soul on board hung over the railings of the ship, which obstructed any conversation whatsoever, in view of the noise made by them in conversing with each other in loud tones. Five Hindus, friends of those on our launch, came down the gangway to talk with those on our boat. Shortly after these men had put foot on our boat Gurdit Singh and his Secretary instructed the passengers to pull up the gangway, thus leaving the five men on our boat. Mr. Gwyther remonstrated but his objections were of no avail. On his return to shore the matter was reported to me and I proceeded on board and talked over the situation with Gurdit Singh. Gurdit Singh informed me that these five men were in a conspiracy with the Immigration Department, and that the passengers had taken it on themselves to raise the gangway and would not permit the return of these men on board. From my own observation of the situation I understood that the whole affair is a plot on the part of Gurdit Singh and Daljit

Singh, who have incited the passengers to this action more with a view of causing inconvenience to the Department and also to the passengers on our boat. I could not induce them to see the matter in its proper light and the situation remains as it was at the time Mr. Gwyther returned with the boat.

I had not been on board since last Sunday when I did not make any particular inspection, but today had an opportunity of looking around and find that it is in a most filthy condition, and if the Charterers do not take measures to remove the debris and refuse there is a probability of some kind of epidemic breaking out on this ship. The men themselves are excited and brought to this pitch by Gurdit Singh and his Secretaries, who wish to offset their demands for the return of money by an agitation against this Department.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Wm. C. Hopkinson.

Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.,

Dominion Immigration Agent and Inspector,

Vancouver, B. C.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. REID AND CAPTAIN YAMAMOTA.

July 4th 1914.

MR. REID: We missed you last night.

YAMAMOTA: Yes, I stayed on shore last night, as I missed the boat.

MR. REID: Yesterday about noon three Hindus came over from Nanaimo in order to find out how some of their friends were progressing on board the s. s. KOMAGATA MARU. In view of the fact that they had come from a long distance and were known to our officers, they were taken out on our boat in order to talk from the launch to to the deck to their five friends. They were unable to talk, as the passengers made such a noise yelling and singing, so, unfortunately, our interpreter allowed the five men to come on the launch to finish the conversation, as he was present to hear what transpired. Immediately the men got on the launch, the gangway was hauled up, and were forced to keep the men. Last night we waited for you as being the Captain of the ship and having power, but as you state, you missed the boat, we went out without you and spoke to your officer in charge requesting him to lower the gangway and take these men back on the ship. He was either unable, or refused to lower the gangway to take these men up, although he was successful in placing a rope ladder for the steward to go on board.

These five men must be taken on boat this morning. I am going to ask you to go on with us now, and those five men must go on board the ship.

I went out last night with the men, as well as Mr Howard. We stayed by the big boat and put them in the little boat and went with the Japanese steward of the

- 2 -

ship and told them they must let the men on board. The Chief Officer endeavored to lower the gangplank but was not permitted to do so. The Hindus would not permit the gangway to be lowered and said they would kill those men, or any of our officers who came on board.

The Captain is responsible. The men are passengers on his ship and must go on board.

Explain this to him, Mr. Yoshi.

YOSHI: You told him, Mr. Reid, and he understands. He says he did his best to pacify the Hindus on board but they are very excited and his men and himself could not take the five Hindus on the boat just now. He says he could not take these men on board but he may be able to some time after today, but in the meantime he says his men are only a few and they cannot resist all the Hindus there.

MR. REID: Does the Captain admit he could not control his own ship?

YOSHI: He says so far he could not control it. He says he has talked with Gurdit Singh. Gurdit Singh says when Mr. Bird wanted to come to the boat to get his signature, the authorities refused it and this time the authorities allowed the five men to go in their boat.

MR. REID: Gurdit Singh had the same privileges accorded him to interview his lawyer and in view of the fact that these men were starving and Gurdit Singh had their money, that was the reason of their interview.

YOSHI: The Captain knows all about it. He says you are treating the Hindus all right, and he explained to Gurdit Singh all about it, but he was so obstinate.

MR. REID: Is the Captain aware that Gurdit Singh is not the Charterer, and has nothing to do with the ship now?

YOSHI: He knows all about it, but he tried his best to pacify Gurdit Singh but Gurdit Singh has no common sense.

- 3 -

MR. REID: Does the Captain admit that when the time comes - as it will within a few days - that he cannot control his ship?

YOSHI: He says he talked with Gurdit Singh if your authorities refuse their entry and give notification also to the Captain, and he want to go back to Japan, Gurdit Singh told him if he was notified about rejection or refused the landing by your authorities, he is going back to the Far East.

MR. REID: Then he cannot state definitely that he is out of control of his ship?

YOSHI: He confided in strict confidence, he thinks the Hindus are going back, because they are packing their articles to go back. He thinks the Hindus will not stay. He is sure, from his own experience, the Hindus are going back. He wanted to keep that secret. They are trying to find a cargo to take. He will have to pay more charter money if he stays until August. He has not paid \$4,000.00 on the coal money.

MR. REID: Those five men have to go back on board the ship. We will go with him to the Japanese Consul and the Chief of Police. Let him tell the Chief of Police he must have help. We order them back; he is responsible for his ship. The police will go out; he must muster his crew and put the men on by force.

MR. HOPKINSON: (To Yoshi) We will let you go on board the Komagata Maru and explain this to Gurdit Singh. He is not the charterer any more. The second thing is that Gurdit Singh has no command on that boat. The commander of the boat is the Captain. When the Captain says the gangway is to be put down, anybody who interferes is obstructing the commander; and tell Gurdit Singh he is doing wrong, and that the Captain is going to consult the Chief of Police and the Japanese Consul, independent of the Immigration Department; that this is not a matter

- 4 -

for the Immigration Department; that he will take action himself.

YOSHI: They are very excited just now. He says Gurdit Singh has no common sense at all, and sometimes looks like he is out of his mind a little bit. The Captain says if he is given time, say a day, he may be able to arrange it.

MR. HOPKINSON: Explain to Gurdit Singh thoroughly that this is a matter between the Captain of the Komagata Maru and these men on board, and they are refusing to do something which the Captain has a right to do. We do not recognize Gurdit Singh in any way.

Supposing he was now lying in the Port of Victoria, without any Hindus on board, but some passengers and those passengers refused to permit his crew to lower the gangway, what right has he got to compel that gangway to be put down, under his own Marine Law?

YOSHI: He says when he is on duty he can control. He can go to the police.

MR. HOPKINSON: This is a similar position, and when he finds Gurdit Singh will not do what he asks him to do, it is up to him to consult the Japanese Consul, the Chief of Police and the Agents of the ship, and in conjunction with these men to take what action he thinks necessary to compel them to lower that gangway.

YOSHI: He says that is the final step. But he wants the time to talk with Gurdit Singh and arrange it.

MR. REID: So long as he will let us know whether the thing is going to be done or not.

MR. HOPKINSON: We will give him until Monday morning. When they are in a port and can do this, what are they likely to do on the high seas. What guarantee have we that they will not beach your ship, say on the West coast of Vancouver Island.

- 5 -

YOSHI: He says in case Gurdit Singh tried to compel him to go some place on our coast, there might be international trouble and the boat belongs to Japan, and he will, he says do his best to go straight home. He believes that that will not happen.

MR. REID: What about the situation today, and his practical admission that he is powerless --

YOSHI: He says that is quite different. When he hears from the authorities that they are not allowed to land - He says there is a rumor that the Hindus outside tried to steal - He keeps five men on watch at night and sometimes he did watch himself, and the authorities would now allow men even within distance of talking.

MR. REID: We are not going to allow any provisions on board, or any interviews to take place, because they have threatened our men. As long as the people are in that mood we cannot continue to hold the Boards of Enquiry. By Gurdit Singh's action everything has ceased, and we cannot do anything else. We would have this trouble every time we took a man off that ship. We have no guarantee that they would not refuse to allow the Captain on his own vessel.

YOSHI: He knows that this situation is between himself and the passengers on his boat. He understands that.

MR. REID: He can ~~have~~ wait until Monday and then let me know. If in the meantime Gurdit Singh is willing to allow the gangway to be let down, all he has to do is to signal the boat and those men will go on board.

REPORT OF YOSHI - JAPANESE INTERPRETER.

I went up town with the Captain, Yamamota. He was going to see the Japanese Consul and Mr. Gardner Johnson. I wanted to know what he was going to talk to the Japanese Consul. He said he did not see Mr. Hori that time. He said Mr. Hori was no use to him, and also I asked if he was going to see Mr. Gardner Johnson, and he said he did not want to see Mr. Johnson now.

I invited him to take a drink with me in a Chinese restaurant. I suggested to go around over Cambie Street, but he refused to go to a Chinese restaurant. He explained he was going to see a Hindu man and went straight down Hastings Street. He went around Pender Street and then around into Main St. He said he was going to take notes from that man (presumably Rahim) to Gurdit Singh. He said when he came there the man asked him to take note down to Gurdit Singh.

I asked him about Gurdit Singh and told him all about newspaper talk that Gurdit Singh lose influence over people on Komagata Maru. He said this is not true as Gurdit Singh keeps strict influence upon passengers. What he wants them to do, he just says the word. He thinks Gurdit Singh and the passengers will return after the decision is given at Victoria, but Gurdit Singh said they wanted to give the authorities as much trouble as they could give. Also he says he does not care; they will turn back to India or any place; but he took the men from the Far East to show them this country and they will return and start an agitation in India. His object was to show them that they would not be admitted so they could start an agitation in India.

The Captain says some organization, the Church or someone is backing Gurdit Singh and his passengers, and if passengers paid some passage money to Gurdit Singh - he said everyone paid £20; just for the charter (passage?) money. They also, if there is any chance want to get on shore if allowed and then get money

- 2 -

here, and with that money try and start agitation in India. I think naturally the Captain sympathizes with the passengers.

MR. HOPKINSON: You ask the Captain. Did he go to Kobe with Gurdit Singh and did they have a dinner at the biggest hotel to which were invited Sato, and also Japanese gentlemen and speeches were made by Japanese men to the effect that they would help Gurdit Singh as much as possible to land these men here; and also that they were glad to see the Hindus had taken the assistance of the Japanese nation by chartering one of their boats to make an enterprise of this kind. This is all what transpired in the meeting that took place at that Hotel. One of the Japanese said that 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.

Also there was a newspaper man at this meeting and he told Gurdit Singh to carry on this enterprise; and also that he was glad to note that three countries would be united and become one power and control a situation of this kind.

YOSHI: I asked if he knew about this trouble when he left Japan. He said he knew in Hong Kong there was trouble of some kind. He knew before he left Japan there was some trouble in connection with the boat coming.

STATEMENT OF YOSHI - JAPANESE INTERPRETER.

On Saturday afternoon I went into a Chinese restaurant. Mr. Hori and the Japanese Captain were talking about the troubles of the KOMAGATA MARU. The Captain told Mr. Hori that the five Hindus on the Immigration launch were no fault of his. That the Immigration officer allowed them to come down and that it was the Immigration officer's fault. After that Mr. Hori said if the Immigration authorities send some armed men to force something, then Mr. Hori would report to the Government to get instructions and may be protest because the boat belonged to Japan.

The Captain conferred with the Japanese Consul, if he would admit he could not control the passengers on the Komagata Maru or not. That is, would it be better to admit he could not control or not. If the time came, the Consul said it would be better to admit.

They noticed me then and after a while invited me to take lunch with them, but I went on in the same box.

I asked the Captain if he went to a certain Hindu on Saturday morning and he said he did. - The Charterer who has an office in Chinatown. I said "What for?" and he said: "To get some note to Gurdit Singh from him. I just suggested to the Captain, better not do anything to agitate trouble, and also I suggested do not give suspicion to anybody to start a trouble. He said he got note just to pacify the people on the Komagata Maru and he promised he would bring down note before he took it to Gurdit Singh.

The Captain and Consul were pretty mad at me and criticized my action and said I was working for the Immigration Office as a spy. Afterwards Mr. Hori apologized and retracted his statement.

With reference to the dinner given in Kobe, I asked the Captain if he went to Kobe with Gurdit Singh to be entertained by some Japanese people at Kobe; the Captain said he did not go with him but Sato went with him. That was when he

did not know anything had happened at Kobe. Also the Captain says Gurdit Singh went to Yokohama from Kobe and took the Komagata Maru from there.

INTERVIEW BETWEEN MR. C. GARDNER JOHNSON, MR. REID and CAPTAIN
YAMAMOTA.

MR. C. GARDNER JOHNSON: The Captain says he did not allow the men to go into the Immigration launch. That he would not have allowed it under any circumstances. He says if he had been on the boat he would not have allowed it.

MR. REID: He was not on the boat.

MR. JOHNSON: We will go and see the Consul. The Captain says if the Police go on they will start a fight.

MR. REID: Can the Captain muster his 39 men and hold the passengers back while we put the five men on?

MR. JOHNSON: He does not think he has broken any law.

MR. REID: It is the Captain of the ship who is responsible for the actions of the passengers. Our advice from our Solicitors is to put the five men on board if necessary by force.

MR. JOHNSON: The Captain says he has no fear when the charter is out.

MR. REID: If we order these men deported does he propose to allow these men to lie in the harbour until the charter is up?

MR. JOHNSON: The Captain is the servant of the charterer.

MR. REID: We do not recognize any charterer. This man who signs himself as charterer, is not the charterer.

MR. JOHNSON: I thought he was one of the charterers.

MR. HOPKINSON: Did you inform the Captain that the charter has been transferred?

MR. JOHNSON: Gurdit Singh assigned an interest. Gurdit Singh and Rahim and another are the three charterers.

MR. REID: I have difficulty in preventing people in town from getting tugs and towing the ship out.

MR. JOHNSON: I would ask you to await the decision. They think word may come to allow them to come ashore.

MR. REID: We will wait until this afternoon. If the Captain refuses then, the Captain is out of control of the ship and some one else will have to take control.

July 6th., 1914.

J. Edward Bird, Esq.,
C/o Messrs. MacNeill, Bird, Macdonald & Darling,
Barristers, etc.,
Metropolitan Building,
C I T Y.

Dear Sir:- re "KOMAGATA MARU"

Your letters of the 3rd. and 6th. inst. at hand and contents noted.

Neither Gurdit Singh nor any of his friends have any right to violate the law by refusing to allow certain passengers to return to the ship because the Immigration Officers have been good natured enough to allow them to step on a Tug for the purpose of conversing with their friends. His action in this matter entirely justifies any seemingly drastic measures which have been forced upon the Immigration authorities. As to the right to detain unlanded passengers on board the Ship, we refer you to the provisions of the "Immigration Act" and especially sections 25, 33, 44, 52, etc.

We would "respectfully urge" that if your clients expect anything but the most rigorous treatment they must not attempt to carry things with a high hand as Gurdit Singh appears to have attempted to do in connection with the five Hindus now on the Government launch.

Yours truly,

BOWSER, REID & WALLBRIDGE,

RIR/GMD.

per

(Copy)

VANCOUVER, B.C. 6th. July, 1914.

R.L. Reid, Esq., K.C.,

Canada Life Building,

Vancouver.

Dear Sir:- Re "KOMAGATA MARU".

I am instructed this morning by the Legal and Provision Committee appointed by the Sikhs and Hindus in Vancouver to communicate with you to the following purport.

The Committee met in consultation over the situation yesterday, and they desire me to send notices to the Immigration Department and to others concerned, making formal protest against the further detention of their ship by the Immigration Officers. The Charterer desires the ship cleared of the Hindus on board if the order of the Court of Appeal is for their deportation, and they want their ship at once for loading. The charterers are in no way responsible to these passengers for return trip to the Orient, and do not propose to take anybody on board unless he pays his passage, and, so far as it lawfully lies in their hands to assist you, will do so, but you will understand that they feel they are legally under no obligation whatever to carry any of the intending immigrants on board the "Komagata Maru" back to the ports from which they sailed.

The Committee also desire to say that they have nothing whatever to do with any action of Mr. Gurdit Singh or the other passengers on board the ship in regard to the raising of the gang plank. Mr. Gurdit Singh has sought advice from his solicitor in regard to the position and in regard to various threats that have been conveyed to him, but the Legal and Provision Committee have nothing whatever to do with this.

I am advised by the Charterers that they are in a position to get a full cargo, providing the ship will be allowed to load forthwith, and providing that they sail for Asiatic ports on or before the 20th. or 25th. of this month. Any attempt to delay their taking on cargo may indefinitely delay the leaving of this ship for the Orient, and any further delay caused under the circumstances will be the subject of an action to recover any damage that may be sustained.

Yours very truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD."

(Copy)

VANCOUVER, B.C. July 6th., 1914.

R.L. REID, ESQ. K.C.

Canada Life Building,

Vancouver.

Dear Sir:-

Re "KOMAGATA MARU"

On behalf of Gurdit Singh, and on his behalf only, I respectfully urge a reply at once to my letter written to you on Friday. I am in receipt of a letter from him this morning which would indicate that he has not received my answer, and that, apparently the Immigration Department are holding up communications between him and myself. With this I know you will not concur.

I feel that an article that appears in this morning's "Sun" is inspired from the Immigration Department, Vancouver, as many of the phrases used in this article are in familiar use at the Boards of Enquiry.

It appears to me that the situation is extremely serious, Gurdit Singh is not afforded any protection and actually claims that Immigration Officers have been conspiring in a manner that his life is at present in danger from the passengers on board ship. Now if in view of the fact that no protection is afforded him he takes steps for his own protection by keeping conspirators off his ship, I do not see that anybody can complain concerning his action, especially in view of the silence of the Immigration Department since my letter of Friday last.

Yours truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD".

(Copy)

VANCOUVER B.C. 6th. July, 1914.

Messrs. C. Gardner Johnson & Co.,
Agents of the Owners of the "Komagata Maru",
522 Seymour Street,
Vancouver.

Dear Sirs:-

I beg herewith to forward you copy of letter I have written to Mr. R.L. Reid, K.C. solicitor for the Immigration Department, which shows the position of the charterers, Messrs. Bhag Singh and H. Rahim.

You will understand that the charterers have nothing whatever to do with the alleged troubles on board the "Komagata Maru", reported in the local papers.

We also desire, in case the Munshi Singh case, now before the Court of Appeal, is decided against Munshi Singh's contention this morning, that the Hindus on board ship shall be taken off immediately for deportation, as the charterers do not propose to be responsible for keeping these men on board, or provisioning or supplying them thereafter. A Committee of the local Hindus is prepared to go on board at any time and do their utmost to persuade Gurdit Singh and the passengers on board to lower the gangway, always on the understanding that they are not further deprived of their rights as charterers. You will understand that so long as they are kept out of these rights they respectfully refuse to interfere.

Will you please give the Captain the instructions of the charterers contained in this letter.

Yours truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD".

(Copy)

VANCOUVER, B.C. July 6th., 1914.

Y.A. Hori, Esq.,

Japanese Consul,

37-539 Pender St. West,

Vancouver.

Dear Sir:-

I beg respectfully to hand you copy of letter written to C. Gardner Johnson & Co. agents of a certain Japanese company, the owners of the "Komagata Maru", and a copy of a letter written to R.L. Reid, K.C., solicitor for the Immigration Department. These letters set forth clearly the position of the charterers.

You will understand that the charterers are not party to any unlawful acts, if such are taking place on board ship, of which the charterers have no knowledge, as they have not been allowed the liberty of exercising their charter rights.

The charterers have given formal notice to the Customs Office, to the Immigration Department and to the agents of the owners that the ship is not to be cleared without their sanction or concurrence. If, therefore, you are in any way, as the representative of your Government, concerned in this situation, I would respectfully urge you to assist the charterers to obtain possession of their boat, unencumbered by the presence of passengers who are unable to pay their return passage. The present charterers have nothing whatever to do with the bringing of the Hindus on board the "Komagata Maru" to Vancouver, and the business end of the proposition undertaken by these men as charterers is entirely distinct from their personal interest as members of the Hindu community in Vancouver. They therefore respectfully urge your assistance in this matter, as they desire to forthwith load cargo for Oriental parts.

Yours truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD".

(Copy)
VANCOUVER, B.C.
July 3rd., 1914.

Messrs. Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge,
Barristers,
Canada Life Building,
Vancouver.

Dear Sirs:-

I am just in receipt of information from the Komagata Mary, by way of letter from Gurdit Singh, which I have acknowledged to-day. It would appear that Mr. Gurdit Singh is complaining that the Immigration Officials who have taken charge of the ship are conspiring with certain of the disaffected passengers on board the Ship to give Mr. Gurdit Singh trouble, and he frankly says that he is in danger of his life. A number of those more particularly interested in what he alleges to be a conspiracy, which is being diligently fostered by certain of the Immigration Officials, got on board the Police boat to-day to consult with some of the Hindus who are associated with the Immigration Department, and whom the Hindus on shore deem are not friendly to the interests of the Hindus in general on board the Ship, and Mr. Gurdit Singh, feeling that he had a right to protection of his life and to rid himself of those who were conspiring to do him an injury, refused to allow them on board the ship. Under the circumstances, I have advised Mr. Gurdit Singh that the Criminal Law of this Province is open to him and he is entitled to lay an information against those conspiring, including the Immigration Officials; but we are not allowed on board the ship to consult with him, nor is he allowed on shore to lay such information nor claim the protection of the law. It is therefore incumbent upon him to take such measures for his own protection until he is given such measure of freedom and liberty as will enable him to lay the matter before the Officers of the Crown who have the burden of administering the criminal law of this Province. I have offered to go on board and do what I can to find out whether there is anything in the statements made by Gurdit Singh, or any foundation for his fears, but I am not permitted to do so.

Yours truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD".

(C o p y)

JULY 3rd., 1914.

J. Edward Bird, Esq.,
C/o Messrs. MacNeill, Bird, Macdonald & Darling,
Barristers, etc.,
Metropolitan Building,
City.

Dear Sir:- re "KOMAGATA MARU".

Yours of the 2nd. inst. at hand and contents noted.

The Immigration Officers have never made any objection to the loading of the ship and do not now. Whether it be possible to obtain the C.P.R. Detention Shed for the men on board is a matter on which I am not yet informed. I am making enquiries as to whether this is possible and will advise you later. There should be no trouble in loading the vessel where she lies in the stream.

In the event of your Munshi Singh application not succeeding before the Court of Appeal, the question is not what the Department proposes to do, but, what your clients purpose to do and we shall be glad to hear from you on this point. If they insist upon continuing their endeavors to enter Canada, the terms of the Act will have to be complied with in the light of the decision of the Court of Appeal.

We should be glad to know what course your clients propose to take in case the decision of the Court of Appeal should be against your application and should hold the Order-in-Council valid.

Yours truly,

RIR/GMD

(Copy)

VANCOUVER, B.C. July 2nd, 1914

R.L. Reid, Esq., K.C.

Messrs. Bowser, Reid & Wallbridge,
Canada Life Building,
Vancouver.

Dear Sir:- Re "KOMAGATA MARU".

I desire to approach now the matter of this Ship on behalf of the Charterers. I am instructed to request that there be no obstacle put in the way by your Department, of this Ship proceeding at once to load cargo for return journey. If an arrangement could be made that the C.P.R. Detention Shed could be secured temporarily for these men during the time the ship is loading, it might be a matter of convenience to the Immigration Department to deal with the men in this way. It will take some time to get instructions from the Department, at Ottawa, and I would therefore ask you to please advise me as to what, in the event of the Munshi Singh application not succeeding before the Court of Appeal, the Department proposes to do. I assume the Department is going to proceed at once with the further Boards of Enquiry. I shall be glad to have notice of any of the hearings and be represented there.

Yours truly,

"J. EDWARD BIRD".