

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

2392

Vancouver, B.C., July 8th

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MRJR/EC.,

Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:-

I beg to confirm my night lettergram of yesterday's date, as follows:-

"Bird suggests waiving our rights under forty-four and forty five Immigration Act and that we pay costs of return of Hindus by Komogata; also that ship be docked to load cargo and that twenty thousand dollars be paid by Government for passage money and provisioning ship. I strongly advise against any such concessions or allowing ship dock fearing escape of passengers and disturbances by citizens. Otherwise would repeat suggestion to deport by Empress sailing Thursday. Canadian Pacific will quote rates later. Would ask authority to issue peremptory order to deport all on Board on report of preliminary examination by officer either by Komogata or Canadian Pacific report discloses none are entitled to land as Appeal Court rules orders in council valid. In addition would reject as likely become public charges and on medical inspection would suggest as final concession if unavoidable that we provision ship to Hongkong as ship proposes clearing for that port. May also be necessary supply guards for trip. Do you approve as possible Captain may land passengers surreptitiously; also possibility disturbances aboard. Answer by code confidential."

I further enclose copy of an alleged communication written by Wilkinson & Grist, to Gurdit Singh. This communication is being construed by Bird through the newspapers here as the reason for the Hindus leaving Hong Kong. How any lawyer can construe such a communication as being authority to enter Canada, I cannot conceive. The letter simply states as far as this colony was concerned there were no restrictions, that is, as far as Hong Kong was concerned.

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Mr. Bird is further through the newspapers, endeavoring to create sympathy by stating Governor at Hong Kong wired Ottawa for permission to come forward. After delaying the boat for many days no word was received, and accordingly the boat sailed.

At the suggestion of counsel yesterday, Bird was permitted to go on board the Komogata Maru for the first time. He interviewed Gurdit Singh privately, although Mr. Ladner, our legal representative and Mr. Hopkinson of this staff were also on board.

Encl.

He further obtained the enclosed communication re waiving Boards of Enquiry, committee all signing this with the exception of Dr. Ragunath Singh, who is anxious to enter Canada, and whose case I am taking up with you later.

My reply to Mr. Bird is to strengthen our guard, and to see that no attempt is made to enter surreptitiously.

I cannot see that any concession should be granted, as this was a most deliberate and flagrant attempt to evade our laws. In fact Gurdit Singh announced on the morning of his arrival, that he knew their coming was against the law, and that they were determined to force themselves into Canada. Also that his first endeavor would be to rent, or build or lease a wharf in order to run two boats a month from Calcutta.

Gurdit Singh had seen and consulted with solicitor Bird before, and could have produced this alleged communication of "authority" to come forward.

The fact of the matter is the local colony have used all their available funds and have now refused to pay for food for these passengers any longer.

Gurdit Singh has produced a Bank book showing some \$9000. on deposit in Kobe, and rest assured the Government

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will not be put to any expense by myself in feeding these people unless it is absolutely necessary.

I will report to you from time to time any interesting developments.

Your obedient servant,

Malcolm R. J. Reed

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.

Enclos.