

RG7, 901, Vol 200, File 332, Vol 2 (3B)

W. C. Hopkinson to W. W. Cory, [unclear] [unclear]

Immigration Branch,
Department of the Interior,
Canada,
Vancouver, B.C., August 12th., 1909.

W. W. Cory, Esq.,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Canada.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 5th. inst. I beg to report that on the 9th. inst. I proceeded to Victoria in connection with enquiries regarding a man named G. D: Kumar.

On arrival I got in touch with a Mr. Moore, who is the Hindoo interpreter at the local Court, and from him I learned that G. D . Kumar was a well known person in Victoria, having been before the Police Magistrate in three prosecutions for defrauding his countrymen of money. That on February 22nd. last in a case, in which a man named Pertab Singh charged one Boota Singh and others with assault and robbery, one of the witnesses for the prosecution named Hernan Singh, made a deposition before the trying Magistrate, the gist of which went to show that G. D. Kumar was holding weekly meetings in Victoria at which the majority of Hindoo residents were always present, and that at one of these meetings he exhorted them that instead of going into litigation and spending money with local lawyers, it would be better for them to make the money over to him to send home to India for the purpose of helping natives who were being imprisoned and in trouble with the English in India, and also that they ought to get rifles and start parades locally.

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In connection with this I came to learn from Mr. Seymour, clerk of the Police Court, that Mr. Jay trying magistrate had ordered him to send a copy of the deposition to the Attorney General for his information. A copy of this deposition I beg to enclose herewith. A full report of these proceedings was published in 'The Daily Colonist', of Victoria, on the 23rd. Feb., 1909, copy of which I believe has been forwarded to you by Mr. J. H. MacGill.

In connection with this man Kumar, on enquiry I found that he landed in Victoria on Oct. 31st., 1907, ex- S.S. 'IYO MARU' and shortly after his arrival got himself well acquainted with the Hindoos by starting a grocery store, at 1414 Store Street, with the help of Tarak Nath Gass who was a colleague of his in Calcutta.

He was constantly back and forth from Seattle and to the United States Immigration officials he stated that his intention in coming to Canada and the United States was to help his countrymen, and to stay and get better education and ideas, and at a recent examination by the same people as to his constant visits to Seattle he stated " I am President of a Society in Seattle, I go there once a month, I solicit help from some of the United States people to help my countrymen", and in confirmation of this he presented ^{them with} a copy of his card, which reads as follows :

G. D. KUMAR , Punjabi Budhist,

Worker in the cause of Temperance and Vegetarianism
and

Member of Dev Samaj

(A Religious, Moral and Social Society in Punjab, India)
University Student-Seattle-Wash.
Former Professor of Hindi and Urdu in National
College, Calcutta.
Correspondent to Different Daily and Weekly Papers

in English and Vernacular in India.

In consequence of these prosecutions, and the rumour going around Victoria, Mr. Dunn, Reporter of "The Evening Post" had an interview with G. D. Kumar which he published on the 17th. May, 1909, copy of which is herewith enclosed. Mr. Dunn stated to me that Kumar circulates the papers the "Free Hindustan" and had in his possession copies of "Indian Sociologist" published by Shyamji Krishnavarma of Paris, which goes to show that this man is in communication with the seat of Indian agitation, and that the source of the entry of these papers is Seattle.

I personally called to see Mr. G. D. Kumar, and found him in a grocery store off Johnston Street. I represented myself as being in the lumbering industry and in want of Hindoo laborers; he stated that he had no men at present to supply and showed me two or three telegrams and letters asking for Hindus whom he was unable to supply, but stated that he was going over to Seattle on Wednesday to consult with his friends there as to a way of bringing Hindoo immigrants out to Canada to meet the demand. He stated that the law required the immigrants to come direct from the land of their birth and also to be provided with the sum of \$200 before landing; and that the scheme they had in view would meet with all the conditions necessary, and that if even after the compliance with these regulations they could not get admission of Hindus into this country they would make representation through their people in India.

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In sounding him in regard to British rule in India he was very reticent in giving any information to an enquirer, but said "You wait and see what will be in " a littlewhile" .

In looking up records of this man in the Police Court I find that he comes from Village Pikel, Province Punjab, India, and that he worked as a clerk in the Commissary Department in the winter at Rawalpindi, and summer Murree, Province Punjab, also in the Post Office at Hong Kong and his card shows that he was a Professor of Hindi and Urdu in the National College, Calcutta.

Taking all these facts into consideration, and the information I have elicited from enquiry, I am confident that Kumar is an agitator and has been frequently before the Police Magistrate on different charges. Mr. Jay, the Magistrate, has himself warned Kumar to keep out of the Police Court, and on the last occasion told him that he believed him guilty of the charge but that there was not sufficient evidence to convict him.

Teja Singh is well-known, and has been seen in company with Kumar when visiting Victoria, and Kumar himself admits that Teja Singh is a co-religionist and fellow-worker of the same cause as himself. Kumar's monthly visits to Seattle are, I believe, to hold conferences with the Hindoo students in the University College, and it is from that source that he is able to obtain copies of the seditious papers which he circulates through B.C.

With reference to the Hindoo students at Seattle I beg to state that on enquiry I found the following to be studying at the University College in that City :-

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| 1. Behary Lal. | 5. Sohun Lal. |
| 2. Bissen Dass | 6. Debi Lal. |
| 3. Umrao Singh | 7. Mozumdar |
| 4. Khem Chand. | 8. Nabhi Ram. |

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These eight are all from the Province of Punjab, and have passed their University examinations in India. The last named, Nabhi Ram, is a brother of Udooy Ram, the Hindoo storekeeper at Millside, and is constantly over from Seattle to this City and back, and it was this man who was prosecuted by Captain Higgins of the S.S. Clan McInnis for causing Lascars to desert his ship, but as there was not sufficient evidence he was discharged.

In conclusion I beg to state that on further enquiry with regard to the Guru Nanak, Mining and Trust Company, Limited, I found that Teja Singh in selling shares of the above Company issues receipts in the following form appended: This is the only tangible evidence of a receipt for shares which Hindoos receive on payment of any money towards his Company, but there are no share certificates issued.

I am still continuing enquiries and would in the meantime suggest that enquiries be made in India with regard to G. D. Kumar, whose full name is Gurru Dutta Kumar, of Village Pikel, Province Punjab, but he will be better known in Calcutta, where he was Professor of Languages in the National College, Calcutta; the Commissioner of Police of that City will be able to trace the man and forward you a full report.

Yours obediently,

(Sgd.) Wm. C. Hopkinson.