

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

(COPY)

Canada VANCOUVER. B.C.

19th November 19 10

Sir,

In continuation of my letter of the 16th inst. I beg to state that I called on the C.P.R. in connection with the intended immigration of Hindus to Canada. In an interview with Mr. Brodie the A.G.P.A. he told me that he did not know of the proposed immigration but that he would look up the files in connection with this matter as he could not let me know definitely until he had been through the correspondence. In the meantime he asked me to call upon Mr. Baird of 541 Hastings Street West who would be in a better position to let me know about the matter in question. I called on Mr. Baird in the office of the Columbia Trust Co. Ltd. at the above address and in an interview with him he stated that he had been approached for some months past by leaders of the Hindu Community in connection with the bringing out of Hindus from India to this Country. That in furtherance of this proposition and after looking into the genuineness of the intention of these people he approached Mr. Foster of the C.P.R. on this question and learned from him that he would be willing to undertake this scheme and that his Company would undertake the work if the whole thing was done in conformity with the present Canadian Immigration Act.

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As a result of this interview with Mr. Foster he met the Hindu Leaders and from them secured a petition to Mr. Foster stating that they were willing to appoint Mr. Baird, and did appoint him in that document as their sole agent in connection with this matter and that whatever he said or did they were willing to go by.

On the receipt of this Mr. Foster wrote letters to Mr. Baird and to the Agent at Hong Kong also to Messrs Gillanders Arbuthnot and Jardine Skinner & Co. of Calcutta, India, to the effect that the former was to recognise the transportation issued by the latter over the Indo Chinese Navigation Co. of which Jardine Skinner & Co. were the Agents; that transportation issued by them would be for steerage passage of Hindu immigrants who had been selected by a representative of the Community stationed in Calcutta on whose recommendation the intending immigrants would be supplied with transportation, and before the issuing of the transportation the Hindus would have to pass a medical examination, be provided with the sum of \$200.00. apiece and 14 days before the sailing of a boat from that City be under medical observation. That Mr. Baird and his Hindu Committee would be responsible for the maintenance at their immigration shed here of any rejected

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Hindus and any that were involved in Habeas Corpus proceedings, or for that matter in any Court proceedings and that they (the Transportation Company) would not incur any extra expense in the transportation of these men. Further than this Mr. Baird and his party were to agree that all Hindus coming out were to come over the lines of the C.P.R. as arranged, for if any other Company came into this business the C.P.R. would drop out.

According to this Arrangement the first shipment of about 20 Hindus to be the first test consignment were to leave Hong Kong about the 14th January next or the 21st of that month on the "Monteagle" and it would then be seen on their arrival here whether there would be any rejections or whether the scheme would work out and there be no hitch to it.

Mr. Baird tries to make out that he is taking up this question from a philanthropic point of view and for the bringing into this Country of a better class of Hindu immigrants. He also proposes to have recreation grounds, gymnasiums, &c. in connection with the local colony for their mutual up-building and to bring them to a better standing amongst the white people of this Country. I may point out that in the letter referred to above Mr. Baird is to be appointed as sub ticket Agent in this City

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established for this Hindu transportation and thereby receiving a commission for all tickets purchased through him.

Mr. MacGill is reporting on this to Mr. Scott by today's mail.

Yours obediently,

(Sgd)

WILLIAM C. HOPKINSON.

W.W. Cory Esq.,

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

Ottawa.