

79 W.C. Hopkinson to W.W. Cory

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

(Copy)

Canada VANCOUVER, B.C.

26th September 1911

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your lettergram of the 23rd inst. as follows : -

"Re your letter 29th June last - Wire if any further facts"
"disclosed why Dass application for naturalisation should be "
"refused by United States authorities"

to which I replied by lettergram as follows : -

"No further facts disclosed here but reliable information"
"can be secured by visiting Pacific Coast American Cities. "
"Kumar returned here 3 weeks ago intended sailing 17th August "
"on Minnesota from Seattle, postponed till Dass ready. Dass "
"Hindu meeting here today. Adopted resolutions to send dele- "
"gates to Ottawa to try and induce new Government to change "
"immigration regulations and permit wives and children to join"
"them here. Can better explain situation by personal inter- "
"view with you".

With regard to securing information and evidence which would
debar Dass from securing Naturalisation papers, I beg to state
that it is difficult to obtain information at this point for this
reason - There are few Hindus here who are educated enough, and
in whom I can place any reliance, who visit the United States and
on their return furnish me with what they have been able to gather
in the way of information affecting Hindus. As suggested in my
lettergram the only way I can see to secure information is to
visit the American cities with large Hindu populations, for in-
stance Portland, Ore., Oakland, Cal., San Francisco, Stockton,

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and a few other points, as these different centres are frequently visited by Dass, Guren Boso, Kumar, Harman Singh and a few other educated active agitators.

At the Mass meeting held at the Sikh Temple yesterday, it was decided by those present to send a delegation consisting of one European and perhaps two or three Hindus to interview the new Government on the question of the regulations affecting Hindu immigration to Canada.

Prominent among the speakers at this meeting yesterday was the Rev. Dr. Spencer, Local Optionman, as also a Mr. Humming belonging to a Society associated with the Quakers of Philadelphia, otherwise called the "Society of Friends", who has interested himself in Hindu matters from a religious point of view. Other speakers were Rajah Singh, Kartar Singh, Dr. Rahim and Dr. Soonder Singh. The speeches delivered by the two white men were interpreted to the meeting by Dr. Soonder Singh and I am informed the interpretation was not what was actually meant in the speech, but construed to suit their own purpose and gave effect to the Hindus as coming from white men who were interested in their cause.

It has been decided that Dr. Spencer or Mr. Humming will

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accompany a delegation of Hindus to Ottawa in the near future with the object of trying to induce the Government to set aside or relax the Immigration regulations affecting Hindus. A collection was taken for this purpose at the meeting.

A Hindu named Bhag Singh, a former resident of Vancouver, has been trying for several months past to return here with his wife and children. With him are also the wives and children of several other Hindu residents of this City. I am informed that this man applied for transportation for this party at Calcutta and Hong Kong but was unsuccessful. He then proceeded to San Francisco where the whole party were refused a landing and sent back to Hong Kong. This information was received here in a letter a few days ago resulting in this Mass Meeting.

It has been my purpose for some time past to approach you with a request that I be given an opportunity to discuss Hindu matters with you personally, and am fully aware that I could give you a better idea of the situation here and the doings of these people if I had a chance of talking the matter over with you.

The Superintendent of Immigration has in his File # 820913 ordered the deportation of an insane patient named J.B. JOHNSON

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from the New Westminster Insane Asylum to Atlanta, Georgia.
If I conveyed this prisoner to destination on the way back I
could conveniently call at Ottawa and interview you, and if this
proposal meets with your approval, it will be much appreciated.

Yours obediently,

(Sgd) W.C. HARRISON.

P.S. I see from a letter today that a Mr. Hughes, Bacteriologist,
attached to the Insane Hospital has been recommended by the
Superintendent of that Institution as Guard in charge of the
deport John Bascom Johnson, and I believe Mr. J. Bruce Walker,
to whom the application was made, has sanctioned it.

W.E. Cory Esq., C.M.P.

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

Ottawa.