

RUSH

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior
Canada

Kindly do not write more than
one subject in any one letter.

In your reply refer to No. 2392

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Vancouver, B. C., June 3rd 1914

1996400

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.



Sir:-

I enclose herewith correspondence with reference to the case of the s.s. "Komogata Maru."

The cases proceeded yesterday but no decisions have yet been handed down. While Mr. J. Edward Bird, Solicitor for the Hindus represents that we are unduly delaying the Boards of Enquiry, this is incorrect. The delay is caused by his own tardiness and prevarication. He still insists upon seeing his clients aboard the vessel, which in view of your telegram, I cannot permit.

A proposition was made this morning to the effect that Mr. Bird and one representative of the Hindu colony, be permitted to interview on board our launch, Gurdit Singh and his Secretary. Mr. Bird demanded that Hassan Raheim be the man selected, to which, after some argument, I agreed, and then Mr. Bird refused to carry out the proposed arrangement but insisted upon going on board, as his right. The watch was doubled, and our officers, -acting on the legal advice of Mr. W.H.D. Laidner and Mr. R. L. Reid, - were instructed to arrest Mr. Bird for attempting to interfere with officers in the discharge of their duties, should he commit any assault or forcibly endeavor to secure a foothold on the gangplank.

I beg to transcribe for your information, other communications received from Mr. Gurdit Singh. You will note

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here, that Dalgit Singh intends to wire the Duke of Connaught at Ottawa and His Majesty the King and Emperor. Every facility is afforded these people for bringing their mail ashore, and any statement to the contrary is false.

(Letter No. 14, from Gurdit Singh to Malcolm R.J.Reid.)

"June 2nd 1914: - I beg to draw your attention to my notice at 23rd of May 1914, about the suffering of heavy loss for my detaining on the board being a business man, but have not received any reply as yet, which was very necessary, so I again notice you about the above and under-mentioned:-

"You take one man alternately to shore, and return him back; this will take a long time to enquire, which I think child's play. If you have to prosecute the same procession, better take away the passengers from the vessel and keep them where you like and make a play with them as you like. Better relieve the passengers on bonds.

"You know full well that the detaining of the ship without any reason, cause a heavy loss, and it is quite against the trade law, which is known by all the Powers of the world, and they can interfere into the matter.

"If you are on right point, take away the passengers from the vessel and sue me in the Court for my not coming direct from India.

"If I could get an opportunity to go into Court, then I will explain there that either it is a law or child's play.

"It is absolutely essential for you to settle for yes, or no, because damages against your Department are increasing daily. I have sufficient proves that you are damaging me willingly. Your this behavior will not make the Canadian Government only the responsible for the damages but its unjust will be known by the nations of the world.

"In conclusion I beg to remind you that I am not a passenger but a bona fide merchant, so my detention is quite against the law; remember if I could not be able to go ashore, I will not lose only the merchandise but also the ship, as I have to pay the charter money on shore for the damage of which you will be held responsible.

Sgd. Gurdit Singh,
Charterer s.s. Komogata Maru."

(Letter No. 15, from Gurdit Singh to Malcolm R.J.Reid.)

"June 2 1914: - Replying to your letter No. nil dated 2nd June 1914, I again beg to bring your notice that the Captain of the vessel has nothing to do with our provisions and the charterer is not allowed to go ashore.

"It is your duty to provide us with edibles, according to my list already forwarded to you, as it is your

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(Lr. 15., from Gurdit Singh.)

"your Department who has detained us here. So I again remind you to supply provisions as soon as possible, or allow the charterer, Gurdit Singh, to go ashore to arrange everything; otherwise you will be responsible for the starvation.

"We don't want to communicate through our solicitor in connection with provisions etc.,

Yours truly,

Sgd. Dalgit Singh,

Sec. to Charterer s.s. Komogata Maru'

(Lr. No.16, from Dalgit Singh to Malcolm R.J.Reid.)

"June 3rd 1914: I beg to remind you that yesterday I sent you two notices for the supply of provisions; but you paid no attention. Our passengers are quite hungry and thirsty as there is no provisions at all from yesterday morning. Again I am going to bring to your notice that it is you who have to supply us with edibles, as you have detained us here like prisoners. If could not get provisions till noon, I shall be compelled to wire to Duke of Connaught at Ottawa and His Majesty the King and Emperor about the provision.

Sgd. Dalgit Singh,

Sec. to Charterer s.s. Komogata Maru."

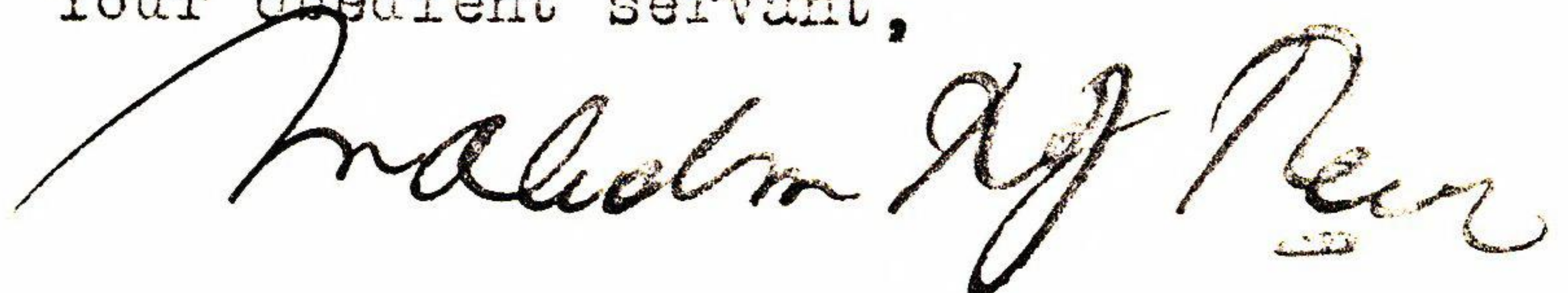
We have been endeavoring for the past twenty-four hours, to carry on the boards of enquiry, and at the hour of writing - 2 p.m., Mr. Bird has still blocked our way by his childish play.

Mr. C. Gardiner Johnson has just gone aboard, demanding payment of the charter money, but without success. They are now, on the advice of Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, serving Mr. J. Edward Bird, with a notice that the money must be paid forthwith.

The stories with reference to the lack of water and supplies, are mere fabrications, some 200 tons of water having been placed on board this morning.

It may interest you to know that the whole staff, including the stenographers, are working today, although it is a public holiday.

Your obedient servant,



Dominion Immigration Agent