

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior

Canada

MRJR/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., June 19th 1914

05872

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont.

Sir:-

I beg to confirm my code message of the 18th

June, as follows:-

Information is received here by letter addressed to Gurdit Singh, Charterer "Komogata Maru" from Shanghai, written by Dasounda Singh and Bishen, ex Goal Guards that a woman has chartered a boat at Calcutta or the United States. This woman gives a contract to her passengers which guarantees them \$2.00 a day. She charges a fare of \$100.00 for the trip. The boat is due in Shanghai on the 18th instant, and the writers purpose taking passage on her. Letter ends. Gardner cable Kobe June eighteen begins. Two months hire if they will not pay within twenty-four hours despatch direct Hong Kong. Please obtain certificate Customs Harbour other authorities and steamer has anchored in harbour voyage completed and immigrants not allowed to be landed because according to regulation not by ship's default. Cable ends. Bird informed our Counsel Thomas McInnes Ottawa had wired he would accept brief for Hindus."

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and further my night lettergram of the same date referring to code messages:-

"With reference to code messages received by Gardner Johnson from owners "Komogata Maru" Kobe, copy forwarded in code to you today by me. Gardner Johnson has requested I give him letter meeting wishes of owners, to which Counsel suggests I reply as follows: Begins, You have communicated with me as Immigration Agent and Inspector for the Dominion of Canada at the Port of Vancouver with jurisdiction over the Pacific Coast ports of entry requesting me to inform you whether the Hindus on board the Komogata Maru will be allowed to remain in Canada. You will understand that section thirty-three of the Immigration Act applies to that matter. Pursuant to the provisions of that section I have had all the Hindus who came on the said steamer appear before Inspector Hopkinson, as examining officer. Some of the Hindu passengers had previously been in British Columbia and their cases have been heard by the Board of Inquiry and they have been allowed to land. From Inspector Hopkinson's report and from that of Dr. Monro,

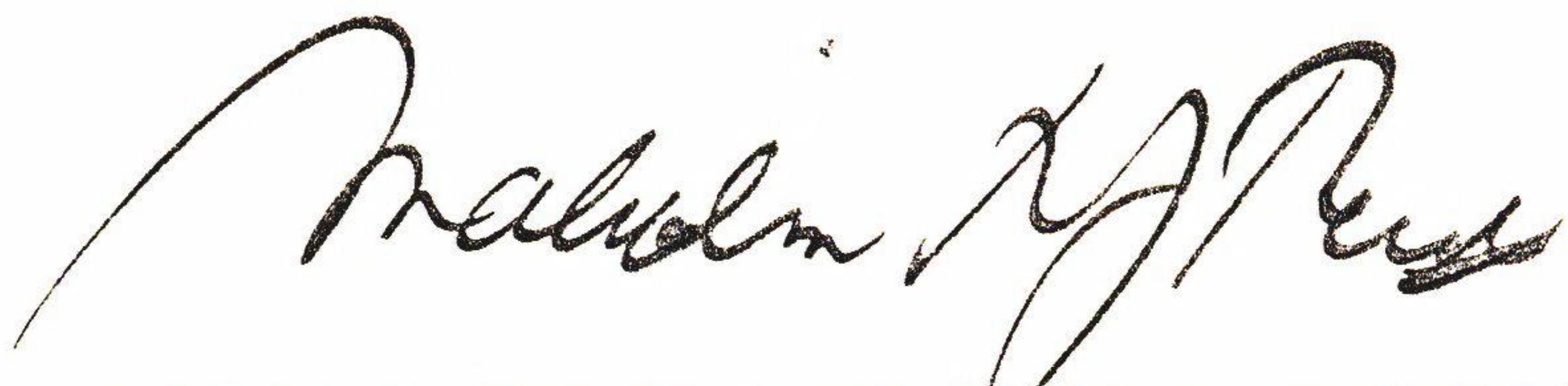
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.....Monro,
the examining physician, it seems probable that the landing of the remainder of the Hindu passengers would be contrary to the provisions of the Act and to the Orders-in-Council made in pursuance thereof. You will understand, however, that the question of their right to be admitted to Canada, where the examining officer is in doubt as to their right to land, has to be decided by a Board of Inquiry, and in case it comes to the conclusion that the passengers on the said steamer should be rejected, the Order for Deportation must be made by it. I would call your attention to the provisions of Section 23 of the Act, quoted in full. Letter ends.

"Counsel think it unwise to forward such a letter but are of the opinion that I should get the approval of the Department before forwarding any such communication. In view of the peculiar situation arising already and further complications re Hindu passengers as outlined in code message to you today, public opinion tends to quick relief of this situation by despatch of vessel immediately. Will you authorize me to forward such communication as above outlined. Local Hindus according to Gardner Johnson have raised balance of money required to hold ship for at least two more months, viz: \$38,000.00 \$14,000.00 in gold to be paid immediately. Balance to be placed Bank in escrow whilst litigation conducted through courts. Representative Dominion House urges me speediest possible action. Japanese warships will arrive Saturday morning six o'clock. Any demonstration can be speedily quelled. In case incumbent this Department to make demonstration have list of guards, ex service men on file ready at a moment's call; but every endeavor will be made to satisfactorily rid this harbour of ship without any riot or trouble. Reply as soon as possible."

These were sent via Great Northwestern as from information received I am led to believe that Mr. J. Edward Bird is endeavoring to secure information through any leakage which might be found. In fact I understand, indirectly, that one C.P.R. official had been approached.

Your obedient servant,



DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.