

RF 76 Vol 601 file 879545 3
157 Extract from W.C. Hopkinson
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W.W. Copy

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

In your reply refer to No. 98.

Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior
Canada

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WCH/DMcN.



Vancouver, B.C. 22nd June 1914.

Sir,

I beg to confirm my night-lettergram of the 21st instant as follows:-

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"Hindus held Mass Meeting at Dominion Hall to-day.
 "Mr. Bird Counsel on behalf of Hindus addressed the
 "audience composed of about 400 Hindus and about 125
 "white socialists. He protested against the treatment
 "of those on board the Komagata Maru and stated that
 "the Government were procrastinating and delaying to
 "force these people to return to India. That Government
 "were afraid to allow a test case to go before the
 "Courts as the Chief Justice had declared the Act invalid.
 "He was followed by a rabid socialist named Fitzgerald
 "who advised the Hindus to return to India and raise the
 "flag of revolution and thus become masters in their own
 "country, when they could demand entry here. Two other
 "socialist speakers were to have addressed the meeting,
 "but did not put in an appearance - Rahim is responsible
 "for the introduction of the socialist element as he is
 "secretary of the socialist party here - Bird himself
 "is a socialist - other Hindu speakers also addressed
 "the meeting which terminated with the passing of the
 "following protest to be sent to the Secretary of State
 "for India and the Premier of Canada whereas the
 "Hindustani passengers on board the Komagata Maru are
 "unlawfully prevented by the Immigration Authorities
 "from consulting with their legal advisers and from
 "procuring provisions and water from their Hindu friends
 "making their lot on board a lot to which cattle would
 "not be subjected and whereas such brutal and unlawful
 "treatment of Britishers of the same type as the Hindus
 "would not be tolerated in India, we urge the Dominion
 "Authorities under the principle "Do unto others as you would
 "they would do unto you", see that the Hindus are saved
 "from the high-handed actions of the Immigration Department
 "We further protest that the action of the Immigration
 "Officers in Vancouver are as unlawful as anarchists and
 "are so provoking that the Hindus shall never forget or
 "forgive the powers that be, if they do not remedy the
 "Immigration situation here - Meeting called by United
 "India League and Khalsa Diwan. Rajah Singh and Sohan
 "Lal and Balwant Singh advise Hindus to return to India
 "and raise revolution, re-iterating statement of Fitzgerald
 "the socialist - Letter Follows."

and also to enclose you herewith the stenographic notes taken at the meeting. These notes are of interest to all parties concerned.

The Government are already aware that Rahim is the Secretary of the Socialist Party in Canada in Vancouver, and through his connection with this organization, he was able to induce one of the rabid speakers of this organization to address this meeting. It

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It was his intention to have two other men named Lester and Gosden also address the meeting; but for some reason or other, these two did not put in an appearance. I saw Lester in the hall; but he apparently noticed City detectives in the building and did not care to get on the platform, for once before an audience he is unable to control his language. I presume he considered the old maxim "Discretion is the better part of Valour", and left the building.

part here
The public at large are at a disadvantage at any meetings held by Hindus, for the simple reason that the leaders of this community will not speak in the English language; but when they do so, their general attitude is that of submission, and when speaking in their own language, they have no hesitation whatsoever, in denouncing and preaching sedition.

Matters are assuming such a state, that sooner or later the Government will have to take a hand in dealing with the leaders of this community. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the law on the subject of the deportation of people who do not fall within the purview of the present Immigration Act, and whom it is desirable to remove from this country on account of their attitude against the laws of this country.

The removal of the Hindu agitators somewhat on the same basis as the removal of the white agitators from South Africa, would have a salutary effect on the remainder of the community. I am aware it is a drastic procedure; but it appears to me that these men are becoming bolder and bolder every day, and whereas, political agitation was carried on under-handedly, these people have come out openly against the British Government.

We cannot possibly deal with them under the Immigration Act, as every one of them has Canadian domicile by reason of which they

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cannot be touched.

Last Friday an application was made to the Judge of the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus against the Immigration Department, to compel the latter to give decisions in the cases already heard. This matter comes up for hearing to-day and I shall advise you of the position later.

I need not enlarge on what took place at the meeting, as the enclosed stenographic notes contain an almost verbatim account of what transpired.

Yours obediently,
W. C. ROBINSON

W. W. Cory Esq., C.M.G.

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

Ottawa.

P.S. Copy of the stenographic notes are being forwarded to Mr. W. D. Scott, under separate cover, by Mr. Reid.
(Copy for the information of W. D. Scott Esq.,
Superintendent of Immigration,
Ottawa.)