

Hopkinson

~~22 October~~

Malcolm Reid to W.D. Scott

22 Oct 1914

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183 Extract from Malcolm R. J. Reid
to W.D. Scott

Vancouver 22 October, 1914

66 ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Hopkinson left this office at about 7.40 a.m. as he was wanted to appear before the Grand Jury in regard to the Bela Singh trial. Unfortunately, or fortunately, perhaps, I did not reach the office in time to accompany him, as I had been out of bed till 3 a.m., being risen on the Hall stand in connection with the arrest of Captain ^{Bucholtz} ^{navy} who was wanted by the Navy officials.

It appears Mr. Hopkinson was walking through the corridor, when Meera Singh came quickly towards him and drew a revolver, shooting point blank at his breast. An eye-witness says that Hopkinson fell to his knees and caught Meera Singh round the thigh in an endeavour to grapple with him. It is said that Meera then struck him on the head with a revolver, partially stunning Hopkinson who released his hold. The assassin then poured five more shots into him - one revolver being empty and the other with one shot discharged - as he had a revolver in each hand.

Hopkinson never ^{uttered} a word and, apparently, expired at the end of some three minutes.

John McCann, senior janitor at the Court House, on hearing the first shot, ran towards Meera Singh and at the finish grappled with him, throwing him heavily on the ground - the Hindu attempting to shoot him in the meanwhile.

^{The inquest will be held today.}
This man Meera Singh is the same who was caught coming through the woods at Sumner with 600 rounds of ammunition with him, and a gun, during the Komagata Maru incident; and, at the same time Balwant Singh, Bhag Singh, and Harman Singh (over).

were also caught and refused admission into Canada. ~~Bha~~ Bhag Singh is now dead, killed by Bela Singh; and Harman Singh was recently deported by the U.S. officials to Hong Kong. Meera Singh was, as you are doubtless aware, prosecuted for having arms and ammunition in his possession and was fined \$50.00 and costs. He, apparently, afterwards became a personal friend of Hopkinson and is the last man one would have suspected of committing this deed, however, he was influenced by the local Hindu committee. The man is now perfectly cheerful in his cell and to all intents and purposes seems glad he has murdered Hopkinson.