



THE SUPREME COURT OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

LAW COURTS

(91) Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison to
The Secretary of State, Ottawa,

VANCOUVER, B.C.,

9th November, 1914.

The Hon. the Secretary of State,
OTTAWA.

Sir:

REX v. MEWA SINGH

The prisoner in this case is a Sikh and was tried before me on the 30th October at the present Assize on a charge of murdering Inspector Hopkinson of the Immigration Staff of British Columbia in Vancouver. Mr Hopkinson was born in India and spoke the language of the prisoner fluently and was in consequence employed as an interpreter in the Hindu colony. There exists the greatest illfeeling between different factions of these people, one faction apparently working in with the immigration people whose work necessitates investigating alleged acts of the other faction, who are assumed to be antagonistic to the peace of the community and who are said to carry on a propaganda of sedition. During the Assize, a few days before he was shot, Hopkinson had given evidence at the trial of a Sikh on a charge of murder, who, it is said, belonged to the immigration element, and in consequence of Hopkinson's evidence was acquitted. The day on which Hopkinson was shot he was to have been a witness for the Crown before the Grand Jury in the case of Bela Singh, who was also



THE SUPREME COURT OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

LAW COURTS

-2-

charged with murder and Bela Singh was also one of the immigration faction whom the prisoner was desirous of having convicted. The prisoner had a strong opinion that Hopkinson was instrumental in interfering with his faction and was in some way responsible for the murders which had occurred in the Sikh Temple. Whilst the prisoner, Hopkinson and other witnesses were waiting their turn to be called before the Grand Jury in the corridor of the law courts the prisoner deliberately killed Hopkinson in the presence of several witnesses. Mr Hopkinson died almost immediately. The prisoner acknowledged his act and in a long statement, which was put before the jury, he explained his reasons. The jury after being out a very short time brought in a verdict of guilty and I sentenced him to be hanged on the 11th January next.

I have the honour to be, *etc*

Aulay Morrison

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Aulay Morrison