

119 W.C. Hopkinson's evidence before Immigration Board of Inquiry in the matter of Immigration Act and Natha Singh alias Bhagwan Singh

Vancouver, 21 October, 1913

On the 7th of June 1913, I met the R.M.S. EMPRESS OF RUSSIA at Victoria. On that boat, Natha Singh, the man present, who was known under that name at that time and manifested on page 12, line 26, appeared before me in Company with several other Hindus. I checked him up as per the manifest to which he answered the questions as contained therein.

His age was given as	'30 years.'
Married, or single or widower?	'Married.'
Have you been in Canada before?	'Yes.'
If so, when?	'In 1912.'
Where?	'Victoria'
How long?	'Five years.'
Do you intend to permanently reside in Canada?	'Yes.'
Are you able to read and write?	'Yes.'
Country of birth?	'Paunjab.'
Race of people?	'Hindu.'

Destination on the manifest itself was Victoria, but Dr. Milne would not let him land there, hence his destination was altered by me to Vancouver, Province of British Columbia.

His occupation given on the manifest was labourer. The answer to question contained in column 24, 'have you ever worked as a farmer, farm labourer, gardener, stablemen, carter, Ry. surfaceman, navvy or miner?' was given as 'Yes, as labourer.'

How long?	'5 years.'
When?	'In 1907 to 1912'
Religion given as	'Buddhist.'

These answers to the questions given in this manifest were taken by the Purser of the boat, and checked up by me in the course of his journey to Vancouver.

In the further examinations on the boat he made the following statements and submitted the following documents to me.

'Natha Singh, son of Surmookh Singh
Village of Viring
District of Jullunder.

I am reading now the examination as taken down by me in answer to questions put by me, after I had been through the manifest; I obtained the manifest and checked the questions in the different columns in the manifest.'

States he arrived in Victoria on 700 ship, in 1906, worked Barnet for North Pacific Lumber Co., for two years. Worked in South Wellington for

four years. Left for India on the 25th of October 1912 on the Shizoka Maru from Victoria.

He produced ticket at Hong Kong to come to Vancouver. He paid \$51.00. He also paid \$61.00 from Calcutta to Hong Kong. He stated he could not get a ticket direct from Calcutta to Vancouver. He produced a letter from the Pacific Coal Company dated the 27th September 1912, which you can mark 'Exhibit 1.' to these minutes. He also produced a passbook No. 154 on the Merchants Bank of Canada, in which there was a balance of \$8.60.

He has a knowledge of the temple; knows the priest of temple who is on delegation. Page 12, line 26, Ticket number 4674.

He had £5 at the time he was on that boat. This is the pass book, Exhibit 2. I did not land this man, and he in Company with 21 others, was detained for identification and further investigation. On the following day, i.e. the 8th, he was brought off the steamer in company with the remaining men and put before a Board of Inquiry, and previous to that, in the presence of seven of his countrymen for identification. These seven were:

Basant Singh
Babu Singh
Ram Singh
Bela Singh
Dr. K. Davichand
Hakim Singh
Bhag Singh

Each man was put before these people for identification, and as each man was identified the names of the identifiers were put against the particular man identified. Natha Singh was identified by Hakim Singh and Bhag Singh. The signatures were obtained of the persons who identified them and appear on the documents. This exhibit is marked '3'.

At the Board of Enquiry held at that time he made the statements in my presence that are contained in the Minutes of the Board and of which a copy is marked exhibit '5'. The ship's Manifest is marked exhibit '4'.

Subsequent to the landing of this man I received certain information which led me to believe the man had entered the country by misrepresentation. He was not proceeding under the name of Natha Singh under which he landed, but that of Bhagwan Singh.