

June 19, 1914.

Messrs. MacNeill, Bird, Macdonald & Darling,
Barristers, etc.,
Metropolitan Building
C i t y

Dear Sirs: (Attention Mr. J. E. Bird)

Your letters of the 17th June to Mr. Malcolm R. J. Reid at hand and contents noted.

We always thought that communications of this kind should pass between the solicitors engaged and it is a surprise to us that such letters should be sent directly to our clients instead of to us. This may be a new practice but we are inclined to favour the old fashioned practice and should be glad if you would forward your complaints to us direct hereafter, - it would probably save time as Mr. Malcolm R. J. Reid will only forward them to us in any case.

Relative to the statements therein made, you know as well as we do that the reason for some delay in the proceedings in certain cases was due to the fact that you did not appear when called upon by individual applicants. A further delay was caused by some individuals absolutely refusing to leave the ship, on the instructions, as we understand it, of Gurdit Singh. Every endeavour is being made, although hampered by obstructive methods pursued by yourself, as well as your clients, to bring these cases before the Board of Inquiry and to have them disposed of. Our Mr. Ladner has been almost burly in attendance at the Immigration Sheds and when it was impossible for him to be there he has had a representative. He has even been in attendance on Saturdays, as well as on the whole of the King's birthday.

While we have always been willing for you to have the assistance of a Hindu for the purpose of checking the Board's interpreter, we must insist that Solal Singh no longer attend with you in that connection. He endeavored yesterday to exceed the arrangement made by our Mr. Ladner with Mr. H. I. Bird, and the day before, we understand, tried to get some secret advice or instructions on board. If your assistants or interpreters try to take advantage of the Immigration Officers in this way nothing remains but to refuse to allow such individuals in or around the Immigration Office.

We note your criticisms of the Board of Inquiry. We do not propose to pay any attention to mere abuse. So far as we can see, considering the mass of business which the offices of the Immigration Board have to do and the tremendous volume of work occasioned by your clients, we think that they are doing very well under the circumstances.

When you state that "Everything is being done by your Board to prevent any test case coming into Court", your statement is not correct. Immediately the ship got here our Mr. Ritchie agreed to make a test case in which the whole matter could have been brought up and heard before the Court of Appeal, but this was refused by you and it has been necessary since to go through the ordinary routine. You would be the first to take advantage of any omission on the part of the Immigration Officers.

Evidently your idea of a Board that is not a "travesty on justice" is a Board that gives you everything you ask for, whether proper or otherwise. We do not intend to discuss this point.

RLR/GMD.

Yours truly,
BOWSER, REID & WALLBRIDGE
Per _____