

[E. Blake Robertson, Assistant Superintendent of Immigration, to Mr. Cote. Copy]

64-535777 of 4
S.A. Copy
COPY
22nd July, 1914.
SIR,
Mr. Cote,
I return you herewith copy of telegram addressed to the Governor General by the passengers on board the "Empress of India".
There is no provision in the Immigration Act which provides that applicants for admission shall be admitted merely because they are British subjects. No advice was given by the Canadian Government for these people to come forward, and the provisions of P.C. 897 were made widely known during December and January. No papers or other legal documents which might have been produced in court would have had any effect in the court's decision as the judges unanimously held that P.C. 897, P.C. 898 and P.C. 899 were *intra vires*, and consequently the passengers on the "Empress of India" were unable to qualify.
Judging by the experience of the Hindus who have already come forward it would seem unlikely that those on the "Empress of India" would engage in agricultural pursuits, and if the Hindus now in the country have means of their disposal which might be used in leaving their countries or farm lands, it would indeed appear unfortunate that they refused to use that money to settle legal obligations incurred for treatment in the Lee and Co. Hospital.
With regards

*Copy for
J. A. Cote
23/7/14*

Robertson

IDENTIFIER

2021_07_4740

ARTIST

Cote, J. A.; Robertson, E. Blake