

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

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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?	'Poonjeb.'
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, stableman, carter, Ry. surfaceman, navy 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 Virling
District of Julundur

I am reading now the examination as taken down by me in answer to questions put by me, after I had seen 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 Barret for North Pacific Lumber Co., for two years. Worked in South Wellington for

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Hopkinson, William Charles, 1880-1914; Singh, Natha