

# HINDUS' CASE IS BEFORE PREMIER

Facts of Plight of Komagata's  
Passengers Now Before Sir  
R. Borden and India Office  
—Who Must Feed Hindus?

There was a rumor yesterday afternoon, a rumor which "The News-Advertiser" is in a position to state has some foundation in fact, that the whole facts of the present Komagata Maru imbroglio have been laid before Sir. R. L. Borden, Premier of Canada, by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who is acting for the Japanese owners of the vessel and that these facts have been put from several points of view and a way out of the difficulty suggested.

Further, the India Office in London has been communicated with officially with a view of arriving at a solution.

Interviewed yesterday by "The News-Advertiser" upon this point, Sir Hibbert would make no statement one way or the other, as he said it would be unprofessional and not fair to his clients.

## **Gurdit Singh Responsible.**

"The local Hindu charterers have no responsibility whatever with reference to the feeding of their fellow-countrymen aboard the Komagata Maru, observed Mr. J. Edward Bird, their representative, yesterday in conversation with "The News-Advertiser." "They have already spent a large sum of money to keep the vessel here in order to test the attitude of the courts.

"Gurdit Singh, in his original charter party, is responsible to those passengers by reason of the passengers' contracts and the sale of tickets. These local Hindu charterers, who had the charter assigned to them on June 20, 1914, assumed no responsibility whatever in connection with the passengers and they are absolutely clear of any responsibility with reference to provisioning them."

## **Local Hindus Position.**

Asked whether Gurdit Singh is really a man of means, as has all along been maintained, Mr. Bird said: "We don't know whether he is or not. I have only been permitted to see him once or twice. The local Hindus are no wiser in this matter than I am. Everything that has passed between Gurdit Singh and those on shore has passed through the immigration office."

Mr. Bird added that he had demanded damages of the owners of the Komagata Maru in Kobe in that they had not fulfilled their part of the charter-party, which was to land the Hindus in Canada. He admitted that the owners were between the devil and the deep sea—he did not specify which was the devil.