

Addressed to Bhai Tarn Singh or Mitt Singh, Secy. Sikh
Temple, Vancouver, B.C.

550

19/17/14.

Bhai(Brother) Balwant Singh.

Greeting through our Guru.

Dear Brother,

I have received your registered letter.

I am glad I received one letter in your handwriting.

Dear Brother what can I write about ourselves.

We have our troubles and we do not like to trouble you with our troubles, but we have no one to look after our troubles. Our minds are troubled day and night. We have troubles every day but we do not mind it is better for us to die.

Really we are in a very bad position. It will be alright if we win but if we lose it is better that we die, and thus save ourselves all this trouble. These tyrants do not let us sleep at night. I am writing of what took place last night.

First all this dishonest Gardner Johnson came and made a speech that I am sorry you are ordered to be sent back. We have all the provisions ready and it is advisable for you to go back quietly for it is no use for you to stay here any longer. It has been arranged to put the provisions on board outside the three mile limit. We informed him that the passengers are ready to go back but we want provisions to last us as far as Calcutta because we do not trust you that you will put the provisions at the three mile limit so we want them put on here.

We do not intend to get off at any place but are going right through to Calcutta but he informed us that we would be forcibly sent back by the Police and to take his advice and go back quietly. We answered him No, send us the provisions first. All this happened at 7.30 P.M. but what happened afterwards we never dreamed about. At 1 A.M. The Immigration

officers together with the Police and Mr. Reid came to the ship with a letter for the Captain, they were all armed. Our sentries were patrolling the ship so they could not come on board but they recognized one man and calling him by name asked him to call the Captain and gave him an important letter to deliver to the Captain. But this man said this is not the time bring it in the morning but they insisted and said lower a pugree and they will tie the letter in it and this was done. The contents of the letter were as follows: The Captain was told to take the ship back at once and if he did not do so the Police were ready to help him. As soon as we understood the meaning of the letter we answered it and gave the answers to the fool Captain who made it over to the Immigration men. Reid said this is not the signature of the Captain or Daljit Singh. Reid told me to call the Captain and I did so on his arrival he was threatened by Reid who said if you cant do anything with the ship let me know on which the Captain said he could not do anything as there were many Hindus and I can't go today After this Reid took the Captain ashore. We told the Captain not to come back to the boat till the morning as we would not let him on board at night. This is what happened that night.

You told us to keep quiet but if we had not been prepared you would have lost your ship and we would have gone without your knowledge and what could have been worse than this. First we are hungry and then the tyrants do not let us sleep at night. You look after yourselves. You have spent a lot of money on us and we have given you a lot of trouble and had we known that we would be treated like this we would not have starved or given you the trouble for we would have landed on arrival or gone away at once but we were to see this trouble now look after yourselves for they might take the ship and us without your knowledge and this would be a great loss to you. Send a notice to dishonest Mr. Johnson and ask him what right he had to order the ship

back without your orders. I am sending you a copy of Johnson's letter on which you should do something to Johnson and Reid. or otherwise you will lose your ship through Johnson.

Remember this is your own ship and you can get all kinds of damages. The Government have nothing to do with the ship but the owners have to empty the boat. You ought to punish Johnson for such dishonest work and send him notice otherwise you will lose your ship and Johnson will say that the Hindus have taken the ship away forcibly.

The Captain cannot move the ship without your orders and you ought to send a notice to the Captain that his owners will be responsible for damages and it is up to you to do this at once. If Khalsa had looked after this ship all your efforts to do business with passengers, coal, etc., would have come to naught. Our state is this but still we are helping you. These tyrants will not give us rations until we say that we are going back but we would rather die of hanger than permit you any loss through the ship. We again remind you to send notice to the Captain and Johnson. Please send the Governor General a telegram that if Reid takes any such action we will hold the Government for their forcible action. Kindly notify the papers of the forcible actions being taken and also draw the attention of other Government officials.

We have no provisions and will you please send a telegram to stop this tyrants work. About four hundred tons of water have been loaded but another load of water came last night and it was sent back by the Immigration officers.

As long as we have life left in us we will not allow them to send this ship back forcibly, we do not care if we have to die of hunger. If we had that thing it would have been great but whatever you say we will do. They are taking away your ship forcibly so do think and do something. Sgd. Daljit Singh.

P.S. In obeying your requests we are undergoing a lot of trouble (Hunger & Thirst) but these tyrants will not let us sleep at night. Do not be angry with us thinking that we are not obeying your orders, it is better for you to write or wire to the Governor General all about this trouble and also inform him that the Police are going to do something for which we will not be responsible. We are willing to act within the law till such time as we get into touch with our brothers in the Army unless of course we die under such circumstances as took place last night. Death is hovering round this ship but the Khalsa (Sikh faith) is prepared with a shoe to beat it back every time. We do not know if we will have an opportunity again to write a letter but we hope to do so with God's help. We were writing a letter which we have not finished but when we do and you get it copy it and sign it and send it to the newspapers and copies to the Governor General and Minister of the Interior.

We are not going to be successful but we are going to show that we were always within the law. Bande Mataram. (Hail Mother Country) We are surprised that the Captain has got his clearance papers.

Strong Mind Hurt

We have heard through the Captain that our dear brother Sirdar Bhag Singh has been arrested in Seattle in some alleged case since we heard this news our minds are very disturbed, please let us know about this. We have heard that five or six others are also arrested. We are helpless and you should consider our state, anyway we are very sorry about our dear brothers. We do not quite believe this but we trust through out Guru that it is false. Bande Mataram (Hail Mother Country) Sgd. Daljit Singh.

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Sunday July 19th. 1914.

If we tell you all our troubles it will be giving you trouble. They are trying to deport us forcibly and they will tell you afterwards that the ship was taken away by the passengers. About 1-30 this morning a tug boat came full of Police and tried to get on board by intimidation and tried to capture Bhai Gurdit Singh. We did not trouble them first. How can we take the boat away without provisions? They turned the hose on us and tried to come on the boat forcibly on this the Sikhs took their lives in their hands and repelled them by using pieces of coal. All the windows of their tug were broken it was a good fight. They fired on us quite a few times but fortunately no one was hurt. Four of our men are seriously hurt with their Police cutting instruments but with the help of the Guru we won, and saved the honour of our flag. We are ready to die and kill. We will not take the boat away without your orders and then only when they put the provisions and water on the boat first. It is better for us to die here than go back without provisions and your orders. Send a notice to the Captain that if he takes the boat away without your orders he will have to pay damages amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars. The Immigration is trying to scare him and the Police is with them and it will be a good idea to wire the Governor General and tell him that the Immigration are trying to send the boat back without our consent, and the Government will taste of the fruit of their work. Send a strong wire saying that the Police forcibly tried to come on board to loot the ship. This is our last notice and we will die right here unless you can come down and personally with the consent of the Government and ask us to go back.

Dont hesitate we are ready to kill and die and for the way they have forcibly treated us we are not going to die shamefully. You have a good claim against the Government and send notice to Johnson, Captain, Treid and the Governor General. What happened last night is a serious matter and there will be bloodshed before we leave. Hopkinson told us that Balwant Singh Bhag Singh and Rahim are in gaol. We thought that they came to arrest Gurdit Singh and myself. Write us what is the matter. We dont get any news from outside now find out from the hospital how white men are hurt, they were certainly treated badly. These dishonest people are trying to keep us down otherwise what can they do. Our thirsty and hungry Sikhs showed them their hands last night and if this had not happened they would have taken the boat forcibly.

If you cant write much write a few lines and put the stamp of the Diwan so that we can believe. Without letters it is very hard. We have asked these tyrants to bring our friends so that we could thank them for the trouble ~~undertaken~~ but they do not do so.