

Copy for the information of:  
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C I T Y.

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MRJR/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., June 25th

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Ottawa File No. 879545 Imm.

W. D. SCOTT, ESQ.,

Superintendent of Immigration,

Ottawa, Ont..

Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your wire of yesterday's date, as follows:-

"Home authorities anxious that force shall not be used unless absolutely necessary to prevent illegal entry of Hindus."

This anxiety of the Home authorities is noted. In this connection I beg to say that the utmost tolerance has been shown by your officials at the Coast, in dealing with this question.

I need only refer you to the time when the guard of seven men aboard the s.s. KOMOGATA MARU, were requested to leave and not return, by Gurdit Singh. At that time I went to the ship, accompanied by Inspector Hopkinson with a squad of police concealed in the cabin of the launch, and decided, in order to avoid trouble, to withdraw the guard, relying upon the patrol launch entirely for protection and safe-guarding any attempt to surreptitiously enter or escape from the ship.

Similar trouble developed when the question of moving this ship arose to make room for the ASAMA and the AZUMA, the visiting Japanese squadron.

The following letter was received from Gurdit Singh, addressed to myself, -of which I quote a part:-



W.D.S. - 2.

"June 16th 1914: No. 37.-

The object of Gardner Johnson and you by detaining me as prisoners by stopping by communications and friends, and by not letting my legal advisors to see me, can never bring a successful result in returning my ship. We will not hoist the anchor to remove the steamer till the decision of the Court."

The same evening the Hindu Committee came to this office and stated they would put our Department to every possible expense and we would now have to hire a tug in order to move the vessel. After consultation with the Harbour Master, it was decided to take no steps at all in order to avoid possible riot and trouble, and the ship remained in her position. I was careful, however, to explain to the Hindus the following morning that it suited our Department to have her in her present berth, as it was right in view of our office windows, whereas the proposed berth was out of sight and some distance up the Inlet.

Strange to say, in the morning the Japanese Captain requested us to send a tug, and this was the view of the matter I presented to him. Consequently the ship remained where she was.

You can inform the Home authorities that your officials will use the utmost discretion and diplomacy in this matter, but we waive any responsibility in connection with any illtreatment or rioting if these Hindus are allowed to land. In the present temper of the citizens of Vancouver, I feel certain disastrous results to the Hindus will follow such landing.

Your obedient servant,

DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT & INSPECTOR.