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H.C. C 838  
CANADA

Immigration Branch,

Department of the Interior, Canada,

Vancouver, B.C., 17th November, 1910

*W.C. Stephenson to W.W. Cory*

W.W. Cory, Esq., C.M.G.,

Deputy Minister of the Interior,

O t t a w a .

Sir,

During the last week a man named Soonder Singh in conjunction with Kumar and a few other leaders of the Hindu community, have worked up a plan to bring out Hindus from India. The arrangements as far as I know are (a) to have a man in Calcutta to select Hindus, purchase their tickets, have them medically examined and put them on board the steamer, (b) supply them with sufficient funds to meet the requirements of the Immigration Act. The money is to be forwarded from here, and on arrival of the immigrant and his landing will be collected from him. The man selected for the Calcutta end of the work is one named Hira Lall, who returned to India on the last Empress of Japan, which sailed from this port on the 11th instant. Soonder Singh and the others will

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work this end. Hira Lall, I might state, was in the employ of the C.P.R. at Revelstoke, and had letters of recommendation from Mr. Kilpatrick, the Superintendent at that station. Soonder Singh and Hira Lall both visited the offices of the C.P.R. here, and it is freely stated among the Hindus here that they were able to induce the Railway Company into a promise to issue through transportation from Calcutta at the recommendation of Hira Lall at that point.

Before the departure of Hira Lall, a meeting was held in Kumar's house where there was a large gathering, and among the Hindus present was one Harman Singh (of a shady character, who was offered a thousand dollars to bring some kind of a charge both against Mr. MacGill and myself with the object of having us removed from the Immigration service, as we knew too much of what was going on among them for their peace of mind.

I reported these facts to Mr. MacGill, and he has communicated them to Mr. Scott by today's mail.

Yours obediently,

(sd) Wm. C. Hopkinson.