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No. 57.

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S. H. Phipps, British Consul General, Kobe, Japan,
Sir James M. MacDonald, British Ambassador, Tokyo,
British Consulate-General,

K O B E ;

Kobe, ³¹ August 31, 1911.

No. 57.

Sir,

In reply to Your Excellency's despatch No. 30 of the 18th instant instructing me to make inquiries as to the antecedents of one Hossain Rahim, a British Indian subject, I have the honour to report as follows:

A man named Chugon Kheraj was Manager for a number of years of the firm of Varma and Company at Kobe, which is presumably the "Burma & Co." alluded to in Mr. Hopkinson's letter enclosed in Your Excellency's despatch. In view of the similarity of names, it may be surmised that Chugon (pronounced "Chuggon") Kheraj and Shagan Lal are one and the same, but no evidence has been obtainable locally connecting the name Hossain Rahim with this person.

Chugon Kheraj is described as having been a stout, well built man about 40 years of age, clean shaven, with a short neck and hunched-up shoulders. This man absconded with funds belonging to the firm, and as a result of his defalcations, which are reported to have amounted to a very large sum, Messrs. Varma and Company went out of business. No certain information as to the present whereabouts of Chugon Kheraj has been forthcoming, but it was believed at the time of the latter's disappearance

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir Claude M. MacDonald, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,

etc., etc., etc.,

disappearance that he had gone either to Canada or to Honolulu. One report states that he is dead, but of this I have been unable to obtain confirmation.

Subject to Your Excellency's approval, I propose to make inquiries, through the Bombay Authorities, of Mr. Jamshedji Manekiji Namporia, who was the Manager in that city of Messrs. Varma and Company, and was for a short time in Kobe, but has now returned to Bombay. This man is no doubt the "Sait Jemhaid" mentioned by Mr. Hopkinson, and may be able to throw some light on Chugon Kheraj's present whereabouts.

I am endeavouring to obtain a photograph of Chugon Kheraj, and will, if successful, forward it to Your Excellency without delay. In the meantime, I venture to suggest that Mr. Hopkinson be requested to procure and forward a photograph of Hossain Rahin, in order that this may be shown to persons who know Chugon Kheraj personally at Kobe, and that the question of the identity of these two men may be conclusively settled.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble Servant,

(Signed): G. H. Phipps.