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Per R.M.S. "Empress of Japan"

Vancouver, B. C., 27th May, 1914

Messrs. Y. Sato & Co.
Ship Brothers,
Kobe, Japan.

Dear Sirs:

Referring again to your esteemed favour of 4th inst, for which thank you, but which it is only fair to at once tell you may bring about exceptional and extraordinary costs.

We take this special opportunity of writing you by S. S. "Empress of Japan", which should arrive in Kobe on 12th June next - an important date in your Contracts attached to your Charter Party - and placing before you facts and conditions as they exist here just now. If the writer adds to this letter up to date of mailing you will understand that it is because conditions are changing hourly. The question in short being - Will the Canadian Government allow your immigrants to land. At this writing, May 27th, they will not.

If they will not, and have not by 12th June, we ask you to cable setting forth your wishes, i. e. are we to delay decision on your part, and await a possible chance of their being permitted to land, or are we, the Captain and ourselves as your Agents, to despatch the steamer for Hongkong, whether the Passengers and/or cargo remain on board or not (see Contract).

Present Position - As already reported to you, the steamer is safely anchored in the Stream, but with the exception of the Captain, Chief Engineer and Chief Steward, whom the writer obtained passports for, no one is allowed to come ashore. The Immigration Department have full control and charge of the vessel, with the Medical Health Officer.

Round and round the vessel a steam patrol is going night and day, with officers on board armed, we are told, to prevent anyone approaching the steamer or leaving same. Ourselves we do not think this is legal, but see later.

Gurdit Singh: Your Charterer is still on board, not being allowed to land. The writer has interviewed him twice - two different days, and after writing him and receiving an answer as per enclosed copies, again waited on him with a demand for your coal money and your 5th and 6th months' Charter money, but Gurdit Singh refused to pay, claiming his voyage is not yet completed, as he is not at a wharf, and cannot get ashore. This, of course, he is advised to say by his Solicitor, who, however, is not allowed to see him or go aboard, nor Gurdit Singh to come ashore and see him.

The Captain is unaware of what we write under this heading but we shall tell him. He is to be asked, we know on good authority, to get under weigh and sail for a port that is not mentioned in the list of ports in the Order in Council prohibiting the landing in British Columbia up to 30th September 1914, of any laborer, "skilled or unskilled", same being the Order in Council which the Immigration Authorities are working under in the present instance. But while the law might be evaded in this way, we are afraid that were your ship to move without permission from the Customs she might be seized and possibly confiscated. Yet we have to admit that your Charter Party permits the Charterer, Gurdit Singh, to order the vessel anywhere within the limits set forth in the Charter Party.

Counsel: As the Hindu population of Vancouver have engaged an eminent fighter for their Race, who, as we have mentioned, cannot obtain access to your Charterer, we ask that you permit us to obtain counsel on your side. We would suggest the same as fought the "Fakui Maru" for us, i. e.

Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K.C., C.B. This we would ask you to cable about.

Expenses: We do not know exactly what to do if the Charterer refuses to pay the expenses, which are most heavy. The patrol will not be less than \$20.00 a day. The special officers of Immigration also not less than \$20.00 a day. Our own expenses going to and coming from the steamer, counsel whom you must engage to fight the Dominion Government if you wish your immigrants landed, cables, telegrams and our own fees, will all make up a big total, which Gurdit Singh will not pay. Can you collect it if we send him back?

Cable: We know cable messages from Japan to British Columbia are expensive, but we hope you will see the necessity of cabling us fully if you have not do so before this reaches you.

We shall mail this in duplicate, registering one copy.

Please be assured that we are doing, and will continue to do all possible in your interests, and remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd. C. GARDNER JOHNSON & CO.

P. S. We might inform you that yesterday we had an interview with Gurdit Singh's solicitor, who claims that the Charter money is not due until the vessel is safely moored alongside the wharf here. This contention we are not admitting in any way whatsoever, as we claim the vessel now being safely anchored in the Harbour of Vancouver has completed her present voyage.