

RG 76 vol 601 file 879545
FCB/JR

879545 Imm.

4th June, 1914.

19289

Memorandum:

Mr. Mitchell.

I received a telegram today from Mr. Malcolm R. J. Reid regarding the Hindu situation. The suggestion is made that in view of the exaggerated interviews given to the newspapers by the Solicitors for the Hindus, the Department might properly make some official statement.

I have been thinking over the situation the last day or two and I believe it would be advisable if the Minister would hand out a statement to the press making clear three things in connection with the present situation, as follows:-

1. That the Order-in-Council P.C.897, has been in effect now for some months, and that it was passed to prevent a further congestion of the labour situation on the Pacific Coast, that it applies to all classes of skilled or unskilled workers regardless of race and nationality, and that it includes the United States citizens, the British subjects living in the United States, and all classes of Europeans, in other words, that it is not a regulation applying only to Hindus, and that the Department was but taking proper precautionary measures to protect our own workmen in securing the passing of the regulations.

2. That the Hindus made enquiry of the Governor of Hong Kong ~~early~~ towards the end of March regarding the enforcement of the Labour Exclusion Order-in-Council. The Governor of Hong Kong was informed on the 6th of April that the Order had been renewed for six months, it having expired on the 31st of March. The "Komagata Maru" was reported by the Governor as leaving Hong Kong on the 4th of April. On the 1st ultimo the British Consul at Tokio cabled the Governor General here that the Acting Consul at Shimonoseki reported that the "Komagata Maru" was held up at Moji for lack of funds. On the 3rd ultimo the British Consul at Tokio cabled that the "Komagata Maru" had left Yokohama on the 2nd instant. It is evident I think from the foregoing that these people were or might have been aware that the exclusion order had been continued and that it was being applied by everybody, and yet in face of that they elected to come forward. In securing the exclusion order we were protecting the labour interests on the Coast and I think this should be recognized.

3. That every East Indian or Hindu that has complied with the law has been admitted to Canada and that there has been no discrimination in this way. The Chinese and every other person who has entered Canada at a British Columbia port has complied with all the regulations and the Hindu may come in if he complies with the law. Some of those on the "Komagata Maru" have already been admitted because they have complied with the law.

W. D. Scott

Superintendent of Immigration.