

FCB/JR

6th June, 1914.

Memorandum:

Mr. Mitchell.

I am just in receipt of two night lettergrams from Mr. Malcolm R. J. Reid, regarding the present Hindu situation, these are as follows:-

" At request of counsel Gurdit Singh was permitted interview Bird Gurdin Singh in one launch Bird in another interview accordingly took place in harbour yesterday in consequence Bird asks submission following proposition Gurdit Singh will provide proper detention shed in which place Hindus on shore and supply provisions while right of Hindus to land is being determined will furnish immigration Department ship for return of all ordered deported himself returning to India immediately on Empress Russia eleventh instant this will allow him sell cargo Komogata Maru and take out cargo on her from here I strongly oppose proposition firstly, will be construed as weakness on part of government, secondly, if these men permitted on shore danger of riots by white population, thirdly because acting on Ritchies advice we offered take three cases on writ Habeas Corpus on understanding that judgment would go dismissing writ in order that appeal might go before court of appeal but proposition was refused this proposition made immediately on arrival Vancouver of ship, fourthly, Sir Hibbert Tupper representative states he has been secured as counsel for owners of ship apparently no funds behind this scheme and Sir Hibbert Tupper will assist in every possible way endeavor rid harbor of vessel by June twelfth, fifthly, should these men get into courts old question of bail would be brought to front and they might eventually by some loophole or by forfeiting bail enter Canada, sixthly, dangerous, difficult and expensive to guard large body of men as lengthy period of time necessary carry out involved legal proceedings, seventhly, no building known to me large enough and so situated as to afford necessary accommodation, eighthly, every facility already allowed for coal buyers to

" examine

" examine cargo two authorities having already inspected
 " same every facility afforded at request lawyer grant
 " New Westminster to place on board proposed cargo of
 " lumber, ninth, by permitting Gurdit Singh return
 " immediately would only mean this agitator cause trouble
 " in India and possible influence India government place
 " obstacle in way this Department successfully ridding
 " country of this shipload boards of enquiry, convened
 " yesterday and today for completion of cases returning
 " men Gurdit Singh refuses allow these men permission
 " attend board unless their cases are taken up in con-
 " junction with new arrivals board has decided to finish
 " returned men and then follow in order in manifest in
 " consequence of decision of board Hindus propose hunger
 " strike have stated they passed unanimous resolution
 " to die private information ships officers states Hindus
 " are eating at night after day shift of guards withdraw
 " am pursuing a watchful waiting policy Gurdit Singh. I
 " am now find received offer for coal from Hassan Raheim
 " agitator well known to Department and editor of Hindus-
 " tanee who is treasurer local committee interested in
 " Komagata Maru demand is being made on the charterer to
 " permit vessel to dock. Sir Hibbert Tupper interviewed
 " me on this matter and I have seen harbour master in
 " whose hands berthing of vessel lies he assures me on no
 " account will he make such action must vessel must lie
 " in stream in present position this is only scheme for
 " committee to secure some security for money raised at
 " meeting last Sunday the following cables were handed
 " me this afternoon together with forty dollars in gold
 " to pay for transmission of same I am forwarding paid
 " these messages with the notation that answers are also
 " prepaid cable begins "His Majesty King London. No
 " provisions since four days Reid refuses supply charterer
 " and passengers starving kept prisoners ends, signed
 " Gurdit Singh. Komogata Maru, the same message also
 " addressed Governor General, Ottawa absurdity of the
 " alleged starvation is plain in view of Birds proposal
 " and gold to pay for cablegrams and wires."

" Continuation my night lettergram even date
 " Hassam Rapeim on behalf committee requested me four
 " o'clock today permit provisions go aboard vessel, I
 " offered him use our launch and to convey same to ship
 " few minutes later phoned me thanking me for offer
 " but stated provisions already loaded Japanese launch
 " and our men went to steamer offering convey provisions
 " aboard but Gurdit Singh refused to permit same some
 " two tons flour three hundred pounds rice fruit and
 " other articles their request for food to myself is
 " absurd as they request in addition to 100 bags flour
 " ginger cabbage purified butter quarter ton ten boxes
 " milk fifty live sheep or goats one hundred live fowls
 " two hundred boxes cigarettes red peppers spices etc.
 " and crates of eggs do not think Department would feed
 " any class of immigrants of such expensive rations and
 " luxuries."

W. D. Scott

Sent 11-00 a.m. 0'clock
By <i>W. D. Scott</i>
Per <i>W. D. Scott</i>
6. 6. 14

Superintendent of Immigration.