

RB 76 vol 601 fl 879545 12
F.C.B.-L.G.S.



ADDRESS:
THE SUPERINTENDENT OF IMMIGRATION
OTTAWA

IN YOUR REPLY REFER TO NO. 879545 Imm.

KINDLY DO NOT WRITE OF MORE THAN
ONE SUBJECT IN ANY ONE LETTER

Ottawa, 9th June, 1914.

Memorandum:

Mr. Cory.

I return you, herewith, 3 References from Sir Joseph Pope, the first being a telegram addressed on the 6th instant to the Governor General by the passengers of the "Komagata Maru"; the second being a telegram addressed on the 7th instant to the Governor General by the Charterer of the "Komagata Maru", and the third, being a letter, dated the 8th instant, addressed to you by Sir Joseph Pope, to which is attached a copy of a telegram, dated the 7th inst., from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor General, quoting a telegram received by His Majesty the King, from Gurdit Singh, Charterer of the "Komagata Maru".

Regarding the first of these messages, I may say that the Department received advice some days ago that the passengers of the "Komagata Maru" (376 in number) had gone on a hunger strike. They claimed that the Canadian Government was responsible for furnishing food. I wired Agent Reid on the 5th inst. to see that passengers did not suffer from hunger. From the crew of the steamer it was learned that the Hindus were eating at night, but fasting in the day time. 2 tons of water was taken aboard on the 3rd inst. and Agent Reid offered to place on board 2 tons of flour, 300 lbs. of rice, with some fruit, but the Hindus refused to permit this food to be placed aboard unless with it they

received

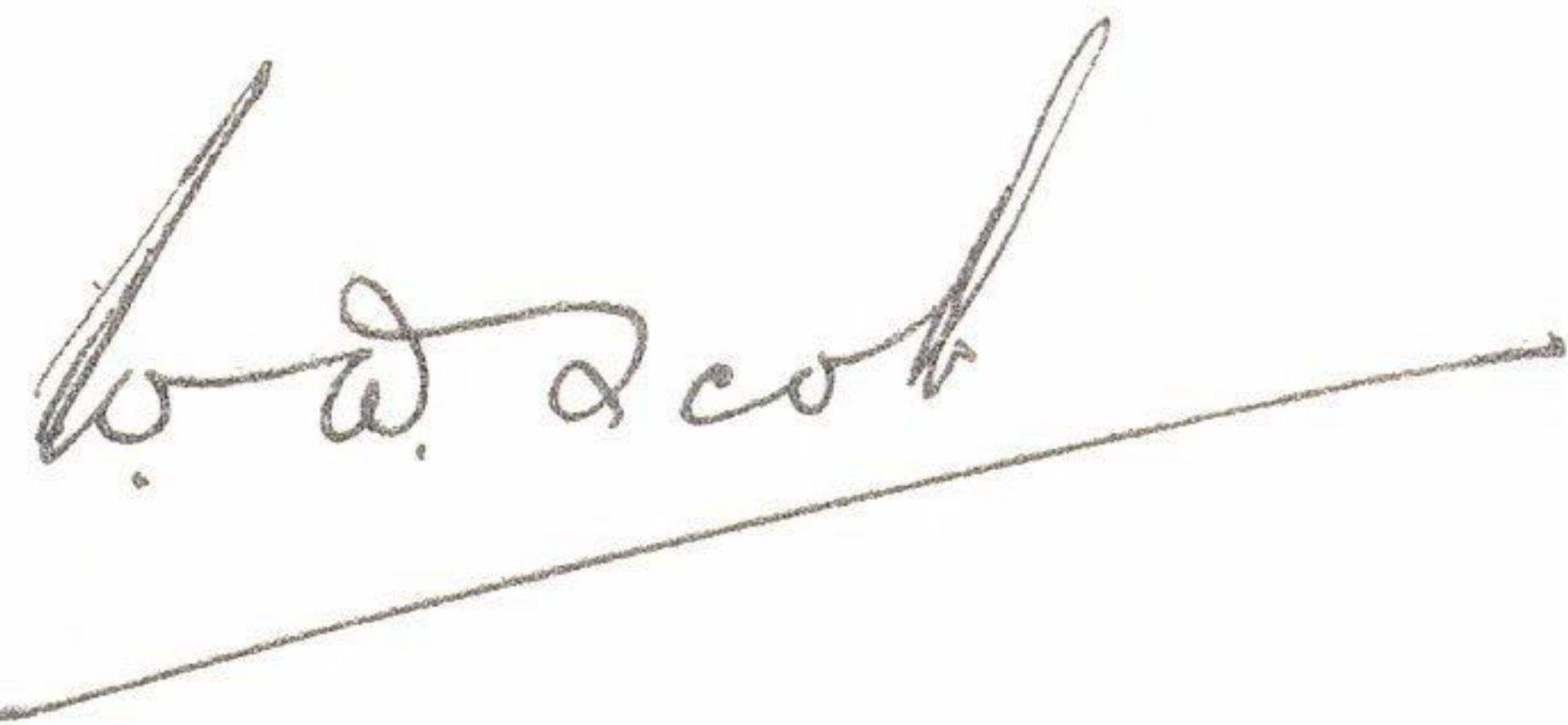
received certain specified quantities of ginger, spices, cabbage, eggs, red pepper, purified butter, milk, 50 live sheep or goats, 100 live fowl, and 200 boxes of cigarettes. As we do not supply such food to any people under detention it was not considered necessary to supply it in this case. I am this morning in receipt of a message from our Agent at Vancouver, saying that the hunger strike is now broken and that the charterer of the ship has sent off an order for food.

Regarding Message No. 2, I may say that the Shipping-Master of Vancouver, under The Canada Shipping Act, instructed that the ship take up her berth in the harbour in her present position. Agent Reid, acting under the Immigration Act, is examining the passengers on board because we have no suitable Immigration Building for their detention, and also because of the danger of escape and the intense feeling that exists on the Coast, owing to the present over-crowded labour market. An arrangement has been offered Gurdit Singh for the discharge of his cargo and for re-loading, but he will not have anything to do with the offer, because he desires to force the landing of the passengers. Agent Reid has allowed communication between Gurdit Singh and his solicitor.

With reference to the 3rd Message, I may say that the landing in Canada of the ship load of East Indians now in Vancouver Harbour, is prohibited because they are labourers, the Order in Council covering the case being P.C. 897, which was in effect for ~~27~~³² days before the "Komagata Maru" sailed from Yokohama. The Governor of Hong Kong

made

made inquiries in March regarding the exclusion of labour at British Columbia ports of entry and I have no doubt that the Hindus on this ship were perfectly aware for upwards of 27 days before they sailed that there was in effect an Order which would debar their entry to Canada. Notwithstanding this, they elected to come forward, with the present result. The exclusion Order not only applies to Hindus, but to all others as well, including English-speaking people in the United States. The only way to handle this ship load without danger of escape or riot was to examine them on board ship at some distance from a wharf, and this is being done. They have both water and food; they are permitted to consult their solicitor, and arrangements have been made that the charterer can unload his cargo and re-load.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. D. Scott", is written over a horizontal line.

Superintendent of Immigration.