

224 W. D. Scott to W. W. Cooy

Ottawa 18 August, 1916

MEMORANDUM

~~Ottawa~~

I return, herewith, a letter addressed to the Minister by Mr. Blount, to which is attached a copy of a communication addressed to Mr. Blount by Mr. E. A. Stanton, who quotes an extract from a letter addressed to the Governor General by Mr. ~~Rust~~ Ruston Rustonjee on the seditious movement amongst East Indians on the Pacific Coast.

It is very well known to the Department that there are a number of agitators amongst the East Indians in Canada, and it is also known that the source of contamination, so far as America is concerned, is in Berkeley, California, as Mr. Rustonjee so suggests. Comparatively few East Indians travel backwards and forwards between Canada and the United States, but I have no doubt that the flames are fed by letters and publications received through the mails. It is a subject very difficult to deal with, and I am afraid that active repression might do more harm than good at the present time. The East Indian agitators have succeeded in convincing, not only their own people but also many English-speaking people in Canada, that they have a great many

Very great grievance in the operation of
the immigration regulations. Agitators
are not unknown in India, and we might
as well at once undertake to deport the
entire lot we have in Canada if we
hope to stop all agitation. Whether
the utterances are seditious ~~is~~ is
something which can ~~only~~ only be
decided by juries speaking Hindustanee
and, then, the case would have to be
taken up in the courts. You are doubtless
aware that there is a gentleman now ~~in~~
on the Pacific Coast who represents the
British Government on a confidential mission.
His name and the particulars about him
may be secured from the Deputy's Office.

Mr. Clogston who acted for some time
as a Commissioner in connection with the
'Komagata Maru' disputes and who himself
is retired from the India Civil Service is
probably as well acquainted with the
Pacific Coast situation amongst Hindus
as any man in Canada, and if I
am not mistaken Mr. Clogston refers to
the matter of agitation in his main
report, which I suppose is of record in
your office.

W. D. Scott