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Kindly do not write of more than  
one subject in any one letter.

In your reply refer to No. ....

## Department of Immigration and Colonization

Canada.

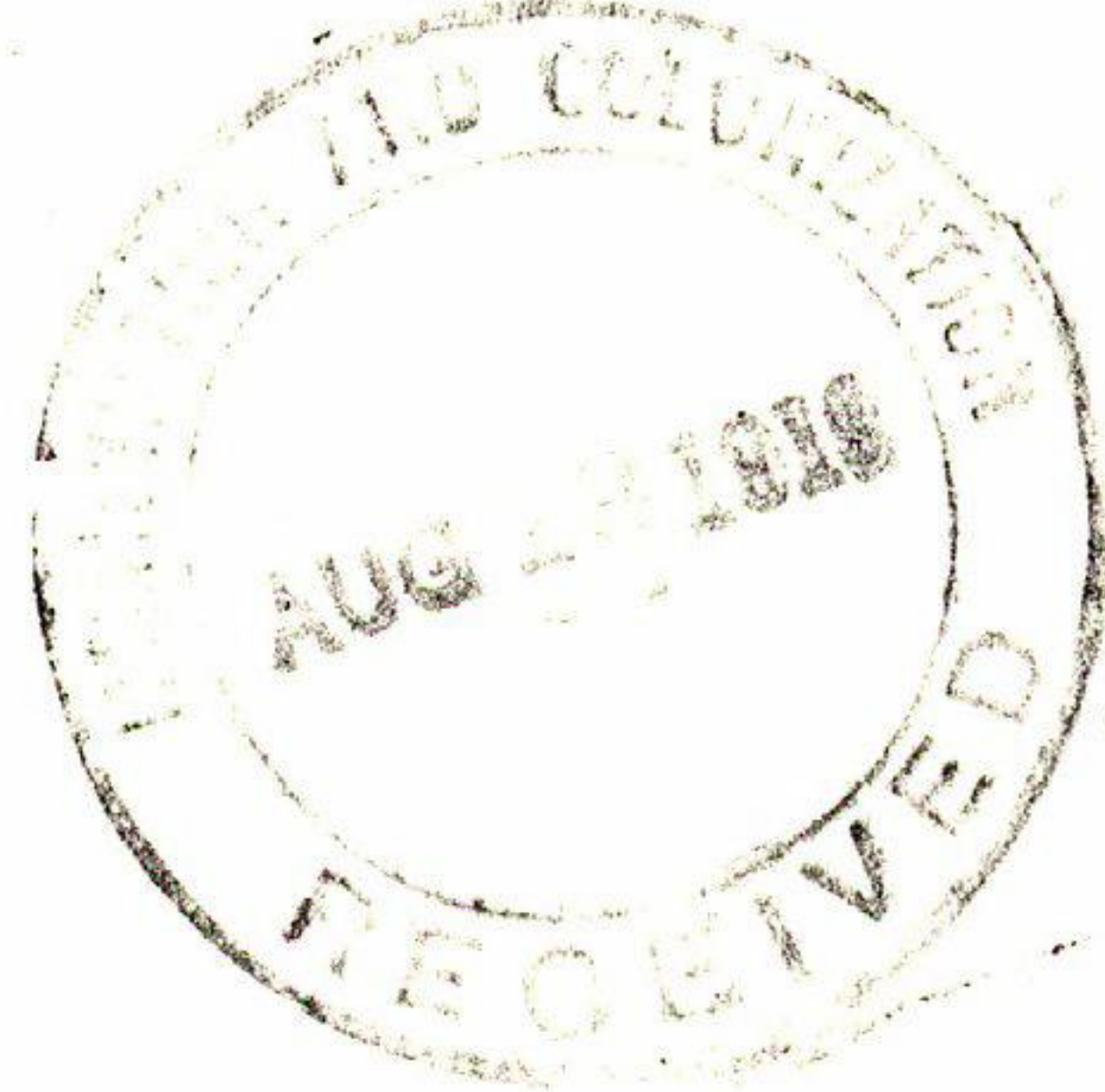
631. Malcolm R. J. Reid, Special Immigration Officer for Western Canada,  
to W.W. Cory

Vancouver, B.C., August 4th, 1919

MRJR-DM

Confidential.

(In Duplicate)



Sir:-

The Commissioner of Immigration here has reported the arrival of a Hindu, ex "Empress of Russia" July 29th, Chanda Singh, son of Mal Singh, a prior resident who was duly re-admitted.

Chanda Singh  
file 965-888

In this connection I enclose herewith copy of affidavit which I will refer to later. In order to properly understand the significance of this case, it is necessary to refer you to the time when I was Immigration Agent and Inspector at the Port of Vancouver.

Doubtless you remember the Ghadr propaganda, carried on amongst the East Indians along the Pacific Coast, which urged preparation for mutiny and freedom of India by expelling the British. The following are several quotations from their paper:-

"This is the time to prepare ourselves for mutiny, while the war is raging in Europe."

"Wanted: Brave soldiers to start up the Ghadr in India. Pay--Death; Prize--Martyrdom; Pension--Liberty; Field of Battle--India."

"Get up and open your eyes, sacrifice your lives to obtain liberty."

"They have raised the flag of Mutiny---Sikhs, Hindus and Mohammedans all have joined.....Let us go to our Country and fight. This is our final order."

However, it is not necessary for me to quote further as you, no doubt, have a recollection of this matter. This propaganda had the desired effect and, shortly after the outbreak of war, I received a very urgent message from the Department to the effect that the Imperial Authorities were alarmed at the exodus of East Indians from the Pacific Coast who apparently were going with the intention of starting a revolution in India, and suggesting I do my utmost to prevent these people leaving. The steps I took were as follows:- First, I refused outwards registration to any East Indian whomsoever, and informed any who persisted in leaving for the Orient without registration that they would not be accepted in to Canada again on any condition. Second, the same proced-



W. W. Cory. Re Chanda Singh etc.

ure was followed at Victoria, and further the Steamship Companies were asked to provide manifests of all out-going East Indians prior to the departure of the vessel. In some instances the boats were detained for some hours at my orders until this manifest had been supplied. In fact, on account of this, some of the Transportation Companies refused to sell tickets to Hindus. It was found, when the names were insisted upon, that many were giving fictitious ones. I then placed the late Mr. Gwyther and Ganga Ram at the gang-plank and had them check each individual. In this way many were identified and their correct name secured. The measures taken had a very beneficial effect and a great many Hindus decided to delay their departure indefinitely.

The strongest measures were directed against two Japanese boats, the "Tenyo Maru" and the "Shinyo Maru" which had been chartered by the revolutionary Hindus in California to sail direct for India carrying those who were known to be of revolutionary tendencies, and disciples of the Ghadr doctrine. I believe it developed during the recent German-Hindu Conspiracy trial in San Francisco that these two vessels were in reality chartered with German money and the German agents along the Pacific Coast played a strong hand in this propaganda. About one hundred East Indians left Vancouver on the local boats via Victoria to San Francisco on October 15, 1914, holding tickets which had been sold locally for the "Tenyo Maru". Among these was Chanda Singh, son of Mal Singh, previously mentioned. Two of the number were appointed to assassinate your officers as they expected they would all be down at the dock that night checking them out. As a matter of fact I was the only one present, being accompanied by friends, and they did not take the risk. A week later Inspector Hopkinson was shot.

Regarding the affidavit of Arthur Hand Burton, who describes himself as the "Official Hindustani Interpreter for the Dominion Immigration in the City of Vancouver", dated the 4th of June, 1919, I am not aware that Mr. A. H. Burton ever received an official appointment as interpreter for the Immigration Department. Commissioner Jolliffe states that on five or six occasions Mr. Burton interpreted for them but certainly not since Mr. Jolliffe was aware of the appointment of Ganga Ram, although during June Mr. Jolliffe was absent on sick leave.

Mr. Burton was employed under my direction from May 1, 1916, to April 30, 1918, his salary being paid from the special appropriation granted by those friends interested in Hindu work. His position was a confidential one, principally connected with checking translations, but it was not known that he was connected with this office. Our friends dispensed with his services on the above mentioned date on the ground of reducing expenditure, but possibly they may have had other reasons for doing so, although his work as an interpreter was, in my opinion, highly satisfactory. For some time past he has been engaged in carrying on business as a palmist and crystal gazer, advertising in the Personal column of the papers. The Police summonsed him on the grounds that crystal gazing was a fraudulent practice, and consequently fined him. He now carries on business as a palmist only, or at least confines his advertisement to that.

Mr. Burton has been associated with the Hindus, and from time to time has assisted the C.P.R. Ticket Brokers, conducting Hindus to the C.P.R. Offices when they were purchasing their tickets. For some time there have been rumors that some seventy-



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five or one hundred passports had been issued through Mr. Burton and C.P.R. influence. On enquiry this was never confirmed at Ottawa, and it seems to be now evident that the rumors were connected with the affidavits sworn to by Burton before Chas. E. Blaney, who for many years past has been employed in the C.P.R. Trans-Pacific Offices, a position he still holds. Further, he has an office in this Building, across the hall from me, which apparently he uses in the manifesting out of Chinese.

A similar affidavit was filed on the return of Isher Singh, son of Narain Singh, on the same date. Isher Singh, however, was not a "Tenyo Maru" or "Shinyo Maru" passenger. I am informed that both Chanda Singh and Isher Singh stated they paid One Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$140.) each at Hong Kong for their tickets to Vancouver, although the regular fare is Sixty Dollars (\$60.). Either the Company are taking a double fare, in contravention of the Immigration Act, in order to pay return passage in case of deportation proceedings, or else some Eighty Dollars (\$80.) is graft. Under ordinary circumstances C.P.R. ticket agents in Hong Kong and the Orient will not sell a ticket to an East Indian unless they are certain that, on arrival, he will not be refused permission to land by Immigration officials at Vancouver or Victoria. Neither will the local offices here sell a round trip ticket. But you can well understand that, with an affidavit, from one who is alleged to be the official interpreter for the Dominion Immigration Department, sworn to before a well-known C.P.R. employee, such as Chas. E. Blaney, a party would not have any difficulty in securing a ticket at Hong-Kong. On his arrival here difficulties would immediately be encountered, as in case of rejection it has been customary for Habeas Corpus proceedings to be taken, and from my past knowledge it is quite difficult to say just what stand the local Judges would take, say in the case of Chanda Singh. I have no doubt that this phase of the question was duly considered by the local Commissioner of Immigration when he decided to admit Chanda Singh.

It seems to me of great importance that C.P.R. officials at Hong Kong be warned in regard to this matter, thus avoiding legal complications arising at this end. May I also suggest that Mr. A. H. Burton be strongly informed that he must cease his activities or stringent steps will be taken. It is quite possible that since such affidavits have secured two successful landing, more are still being issued and dated back. I may add that it was through the representations of Mr. Burton that Thakar Singh, (see my letters #58 and #136) obtained a ticket. This man was found not to have been a prior resident, as claimed, and his case is now the subject of an Appeal to the Minister.

One point is quite obvious, that it would be very unwise to re-admit into Canada any of the revolutionary Hindus who left under the circumstances outlined above. In this connection I would refer you to my letters #157 (Channan Singh), #137 and #138. I trust you will ask your Commissioner to reject, if at all possible, any of those Hindus who left shortly after the outbreak of war.

Your obedient servant,

*Malcolm R. G. Ross*  
Special Immigration Officer  
for Western Canada.

W. W. Cory, Esq., C.M.G.,  
Acting Deputy Minister,  
Immig'n & Colonization,  
OTTAWA, Ont.

(Over)



W. W. Cory. Re Chanda Singh. Etc. Confidential. #189.

P.S. You will note that Chanda Singh and Isher Singh did not carry regulation passports but only these affidavits. Surely this shows laxity on the part of the authorities at Hong Kong.

*MR*  
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DOMINION OF CANADA ) IN THE MATTER OF  
Province of )  
British Columbia )  
To Wit: ) CHANDA SINGH.

I, ARTHUR HAND BURTON.....of the CITY.....  
of VANCOUVER.....in the Province of BRITISH COLUMBIA..  
Do Solemnly Declare that I am THE OFFICIAL HINDUSTANI INTERPRET/  
ER FOR THE DOMINION IMMIGRATION IN THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND THAT I know CHANDA SINGH, s/o  
Mal Singh, WHOSE PHOTOGRAPH IS HEREWITH ATTACHED, LEFT VANCOUVER  
IN THE YEAR 1914, TO VISIT RELATIVES IN INDIA, and FURTHERMORE  
I KNOW HIM TO BE A PROPERTY OWNER IN SOUTH VANCOUVER.

(SEAL)

(PHOTOGRAPH)

And I make this solemn Declaration, conscientiously believing  
it to be true and knowing that it is of the same force and ef-  
fect as if made under oath and by virtue of the "Canada Evidence  
Act."

DECLARED before me at Vancouver  
in the Province of British Columbia  
this 4th day of June, A.D. 1919.

(Sgd) Arthur Hand  
Burton.

(sgd) Chas. E. Blaney.

A Notary Public in and for the Province of British Columbia.

(Ticket No. 11550)

(Over)



Dated June 5th, 1919

In the Matter of

CHANDA SINGH

STATEMENT DECLARATION

Chanda Singh, s/o Mal Singh, Village Tarkhanwadh, Dist. Ferozepur--Punjab--India.

First came to Canada in 1907, worked in Fraser Mill up to 1910 after that up to 1911 I worked in Anglo-American Lumber Co. I left for India in 1911. I stay in India about one year, then

I come back to Canada end of 1912. I start working again on my arrival in Fraser Mill, up to 1914. I was working there in 1914. I left for India again from San Francisco. I never mixed in any trouble in India.

(Signature)