

Minutes of a Board of Inquiry held this 22nd day of October, 1913, at the Dominion Immigration Hall, Victoria, B.C.

In the matter of
The Immigration Act

Gurdit Singh, son of
Pertab Singh,

alleged returning Hindu.

Present:-

Dr G. L. Milne, Chairman,
Dr H. B. Rogers,
Inspector R. Roff,
James Marshall, Secretary,
Inspector Wm. C. Hopkinson, Official Interpreter.
Mr Wootton, Government Counsel.

On behalf of the applicant:-

Mr C. F. Davie as Counsel.
Baboo Singh, Hindu Interpreter.
Munsha Singh, " "

Dr Milne.- Gurdit Singh, you have declared to the ship's officers who filled in the manifest of the boat on which you came, and also at your preliminary examination on board the "Panama Maru" on the 17th instant at Victoria, B.C., to officers of this Department, that you have had previous residence in Canada. These statements are unsupported by sufficient evidence, and the Examining Officers have declared that you are a doubtful case. This is an opportunity now being given you to prove to the satisfaction of the officers comprising this Board of Inquiry that you are a person entitled to re-enter Canada by reason of domicile. Any further evidence that you have to offer of domicile in Canada can now be presented, and will be heard and given consideration. The onus of proof of such residence is on you. Whatever evidence you have to offer orally will be taken on oath, and you have the right to be represented by Counsel at this Board of Inquiry.

Gurdit Singh affirmed.

Mr Davie:- Have you been in Canada before? A. No.

Q. How much money have you? A. Eight pounds gold.

Dr Milne:-

Q. When did you leave India? A. About 2/2½ months ago.

Q. Did you purchase your ticket in India? A. At Hong Kong to come here

Q. You purchased a ticket in India before that? A. Yes.

Q. What was the fare from Calcutta to Hong Kong? Rs 30.

Q. What was the name of the line? A. The Jardine line.

Q. Then you bought a separate ticket from Hong Kong to Victoria?

A. At Hong Kong I stayed one day and purchased another ticket and paid \$160.00 mex.

Q. You have a receipt for half that amount? Yes. (Produces receipt for the return fare, which is \$80.00 mex.)

Mr Davie.

What did you tell the Immigration Officer on the boat? A. A man at Hong Kong told me to say what I said on the boat.

Q. Is what you said on the boat true? A. The man at Hong Kong said to me "You say just as I am telling you and you will be landed" What he said to me there I said to you.

Q. What is the name of that man? A. I do not know because I did not ask of him. It was a man from India who wears a hat. He was one of our countrymen wearing a hat; I do not know whether he is a Hindu or a Mohametan.

Mr Davie:

Q. Who told you to change your story now? A. I find that I am not able to secure a landing and I am now therefore speaking the truth.

Gurdit Singh.

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Dr Rogers:

Q. Do you know whether the man with the hat belongs to the Steamship Co., or not? A. He was a man returned from Canada going to India.

Mr Davie:

Q. What made you decide to come to Canada? A. When I was in the temple I heard the Steamship Company were issuing tickets, and I went and purchased one. It was my intention originally to go to Manila, but I changed to here.

Dr Milne:

Q. Have you anything further to say? A. No.

Dr Milne: I am ready for a motion from the Board.

Dr Rogers:- In view of the fact that at the preliminary examination on board the "Panama Maru" this man stated that he had previous residence in Canada and a Canadian domicile, and even before that examination he declared to the ship's officers that he was a person returning to Canada, which information is incorporated in the manifest of this boat, and now he states that he is a person who is coming to Canada for the first time, I move that he be deported to India as a person attempting to enter Canada by misrepresentation; also as the man now states that he is a new arrival, I further move that he be rejected and deported to India, in conformance with the provisions of Section 33, P.C. 920 & 926, and Section 3, S.S. 1.

Inspector Roff: I second the motion.

Dr Milne: I concur and order the man deported.

Form B. served, same being handed over to Mr Davie, Counsel for the applicant, and duly accepted.

Dr Milne to applicant:-

You have the right to appeal to the Minister against the decision of this Board. If you decide to do so, it is necessary for you to file your appeal forthwith on Form C. provided herewith, and you shall have to deposit a sum of \$20.00 for your maintenance in this building, pending the final disposition of your appeal by the Minister.

Mr Davie: I will file an appeal on behalf of my client.

Preliminary Examination on board the S.S. "Panama Maru", 17th Oct. 1913.

When did you arrive in Canada? In 1907.

Q. When did you return to India? A. On 16th Oct. 1912, by the "Empress of Japan".

Q. Where did you work? A. I worked at the Fraser Mills, Millside, when I first came here, for four years. I also worked for one year ~~six months~~ or so for Dr Sundar Singh after working at Fraser Mills.

Q. Why did you make up your mind to come now? A. I have my uncle here, named Hahn Singh, who is sick, and I have come to see him, and intend to stay here.

Q. Have you any papers or documents to show you had previous residence in Canada? A. I lost whatever papers I had in Calcutta.

Q. How did you lose them? A. My box, in which my papers were, was stolen.

Q. What did you work at with Dr. Sundar Singh? A. I used to work with him while he attended to Hindu patients and gave them medicine. This was on Second Ave., Vancouver. I do not know the number.

Q. Do you know where Dr. Sunder Singh is? A. In Vancouver.

Q. How far is Second Ave. from the Post Office? A. Half a mile.

Q. Where is the Vancouver Hotel? A. I do not know.

Q. Can you mention any of the streets in Vancouver? A. Hastings St., Granville St., Water St.

Q. On what street is the B.C. Electric Station? A. Fourth Ave.

Q. Where is the Post Office. A. Half a mile from Second Ave.

Q. What street is it on? A. I know a Bank near the C.P.R. office in Vancouver.

Q. Where is the C.P.R. station? A. Hastings St.

Doubtful case, for further investigation by Board of Inquiry.