

## Immigration Branch

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Department of the Interior

Canada File No. 29

WCH/EC.

Vancouver, B. C., October 25th 1913

W. W. Cory, Esq.,

Deputy Minister of the Interior, OCT 30 1913

Ottawa, Ont.



Sir:-

In continuation of my letter of the 20th October, I beg to advise you that I proceeded to Victoria on the 21st. to continue the examination of the Hindu arrivals at that port.

A Board of Enquiry was convened, the members of which consisted of Dr. G. L. Milne, as Chairman, Dr. Rogers, the Medical Officer, Inspector Roff and Mr. Marshall as Secretary, while I was the Official Interpreter. On behalf of the Hindus on that date there appeared Mr. F. C. Davie as Counsel. A Hindu named Babu Singh and another named Muncha Singh were admitted with counsel for advisement, and as being fair to the Hindus during their examination.

On this day when the examination started, it developed that the Hindus had changed front altogether. The examinations were concluded on the 24th instant, and during the three days' examination, out of 39 men detained, only one of them stuck to the story that he was a returning man and had

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previous residence in Canada. The other 38 denying the 19 statements contained in the manifest of the boat on which they arrived, as taken down by the ship's officers; They further denied and alleged they had no knowledge of a preliminary examination held by our officers at Victoria on the 17th instant when the PANAMA MARU arrived.

Of the 39, with the exception of about 7 or 8, every one had some kind of a document in the shape of tax receipts, post office receipts for money orders, time checks, deeds, agreements for sale, etc.etc., to prove their former residence and the statements that they originally made at the preliminary examination. In every case, with the exception of 2, as far as the documents were concerned, these men stated they had secured the same from Hindus returning to India, whom they had met both at Hong Kong and Calcutta. That these returning men had endeavored to find out whether they intended to proceed to Canada, and if so, stated they could provide the men with papers which could be presented at the port of entry to the officers there, and on their examination, coupled with a slight knowledge that they would gain by being tutored, they would secure an entry into the country.

In some instances moneys were paid by the present arrivals, to returning Hindus for these documents, and in one



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particular instance the sum of ten rupees was demanded and five paid, for a certified copy of a deed in respect to a piece of land in the City of North Vancouver. In two instances, at their examination these men stated that the reason they denied their previous statement, was that in the first instance I, the Hindu interpreter, had stated to them that if they said they were old men, they would be landed, and when asked why that statement had now been changed, they said that inasmuch as they had not been landed, they were now speaking the truth.

Further in the course of examination it developed that these returning Hindus were the cause of the present rush, inasmuch as they in trafficking with old papers to new arrivals, gave them the impression that the possession of such papers would be a passport into Canada. This news apparently spread very quickly among the residents of Hong Kong and in India, resulting in so many men applying for tickets to the Osaka Sahesun Kaisha S.S. Line at Hong Kong, and here I must point out that this Company is also responsible partly for this state of affairs, inasmuch as it has been brought out in the evidence taken on oath that they did not trouble themselves to make any enquiries of these people as to whether they were returning men with residence in Canada, or immigrants.



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They, however, protected themselves by taking double fare from each man in case he should be deported.

A further cause for this rush might be the success with which Bhagwan Singh effected his entry into this country, on the production of documents and the knowledge that he had gained of the country by being tutored. I have believed all along and am still of the opinion that along with Bhagwan Singh, there were possibly two or three others who secured entry into the country under similar circumstances. The Hindu colony here, finding that these men were successful, communicated with their friends and relatives in India and Hong Kong, and possibly sent them papers, with instructions to proceed to Canada as returning men.

Bhagwan Singh and these others, arrived on the 7th of June. The time that has elapsed since their arrival is just about sufficient to permit of this attempt.

In every case out of the 39 the board of enquiry have ordered these men deported on three grounds. In the first, that each one of them was attempting to enter Canada under misrepresentation, vide Section 33, Sub-section 7.

Secondly, That they did not come in conformity with the provisions of P.C. 920, re continuous journey, and



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through tickets, and thirdly, not coming in conformity with provisions of P.C.926, re the sum of \$200. necessary to be in their possession on arrival here.

The one Hindu who stuck to his story that he was a returning man, has been rejected as a person who is not able to prove his previous residence, and as therefore been treated as an immigrant and ~~remains~~ <sup>comes</sup> under the provision of 920 and 926. This man has also been found suffering from Trachoma.

Of the remaining 38, all have been examined and of this number another is also found to be suffering with Trachoma and refused a landing on the certificate of the medical officer, Dr. Rogers.

In every case, an appeal has been made to the Minister by Counsel representing the Hindus, and in the case of the man rejected for Trachoma, counsel has advised that he will appeal to the courts for his release.

It has further been learned that the counsel for the Hindus intends to try and bring the matter into the courts on a writ of habeas corpus, should the appeal to the Minister fail.

In a letter dated 11th of June, I drew the attention of the Department to an attempt being made by these Hindus, under the same circumstances as has been attempted in Victoria



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and recommended the issuing of registered certificates to returning Hindus. The matter has been assented to by the Superintendent, vide his folio No. 536999.

In view of the situation that has arisen in regard to this matter, I am afraid I shall not be able to proceed to San Francisco on the 1st. prox., but I shall endeavor to see that everything is all right before I proceed South.

I think it would be advisable, in view of any future attempts of a like nature, to have a Hindu interpreter appointed during my absence as an assistant interpreter. Such a man can be found, but will not take temporary employment. The registering of Hindus is another matter which also needs the attendance of a Hindu interpreter, and if the Government can possibly see their way to appoint an assistant interpreter it would be of great value to the Government. Victoria has no interpreter for these people, and should occasion arise of a serious nature, and I am not available, the Department would be in an awkward position with regard to securing the services of a good man.

Trusting that you can see your way to consider my suggestion, regarding an additional man, I am,

Your obedient servant,

W.C. Hopkinson

P.S. a further medical examination for Hookworm will be made in each case by Dr. Rogers W.C.

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