

Rt7 GDI vol 211 No 332 B

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No. 21.

British Consulate,

Shimonoseki.

May 2 1914.

Sir,

With reference to Your Excellency's telegram of yesterday I have the honour to recapitulate the circumstances attending the arrival and departure at this port of the Japanese S.S. Komagata Maru with a party of Indians on board bound for Vancouver B.C. to test the exclusion laws of British Columbia. The Komagata was chartered by an Indian named Gurdit for six months from April 1st last from Hongkong. The charter money was to be 11,000 Yen per month, payment of 22,000 Yen (two months charter money) to be made within fourteen days of the vessel's departure from Hongkong on the 5th April. The vessel arrived at Moji on the 19th April to coal and I believe to pick up various Indians who had come ^{to Nagasaki} from Manila. The charterer (Gurdit) advertised for the supply of 2,500 tons of coal, which would be enough to take the vessel over to Vancouver and back to Japan. Many bids were made but when asked for advance payment Gurdit was only able to pay for 1000 tons, which was supplied on the 21st April. In the meantime the advance charter money of 22,000 Yen had become due and on being pressed for payment, 17,000 Yen were paid in Kobe by Gurdit's agents (no information can be obtained here as to who the agents of Gurdit in Kobe are)

His Excellency

The Right Honourable

Sir W. Conyngham Greene K.C.B.

etc., etc., etc..

Tokyo

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The balance of 5000 Yen was promised for the 27th April to be paid at Moji. An arrangement was also made by the Sansei Shokwai agents here for the owners of the Komagata that on payment of this 5000 Yen 2500 Yen would be loaned back to the charterer to pay for more coal. The balance of coal required was 1500 tons and Messrs Furukawa of Moji, from whom the previous 1000 tons had been taken, were offering it at 10,500 Yen, a high price for the present state of the coal market here. On the 28th April Gurdit was able to pay 2500 Yen in cash for coal and the Sansei Shokai guaranteed the balance of 3000 Yen but I am unable to discover on what terms. On the same day Gurdit also paid 4000 Yen as part payment of the balance of 5000 Yen still owing as advance charter money. The vessel was originally to leave direct for Vancouver but I am informed that it was agreed that she should call at Yokohama where the balances of 3000 Yen for coal and 1000 Yen for advance charter money must be paid before the owners will permit the vessel to depart for Vancouver. The number of Indians now on board is I understand three hundred all supposed to be of the farming class.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

humble servant,

(signed) H. Paske Smith.