

PRÉCIS

Baba Gurdit Singh, an old man of good appearance, was a bankrupt contractor in Singapore. He sent notices to Zaildārs in the Punjab that he had a ship ready to convey Indians from Calcutta to Canada. In response to this apparantly, Indians from the Punjab went to Calcutta. Gurdit Singh seems to have made no attempt to carry out his project. Instead, he tried by circulars to start a company in Hong Kong, to charter a ship for Canada, but no one responded. (A penniless young man named Bahāri Lāl----(?) had already failed in this attempt). Gurdit Singh suddenly arrived in Hong Kong saying he had left his ship behind him. By various artifices he began to sell tickets. After that he chartered a ship. He was arrested for selling bogus tickets but got off, as he had succeeded in chartering a vessel..

On board he preached sedition. Bundles of the newspaper Ghadr were brought on board. He assumed the powers of a magistrate. He used to punish men by telling them off to act as cooks, and carry coal, and so saved his own pocket. By various pretexts, he got the passengers to deposit all their money and valuables with him. The food was of the worst description etc., etc.

Some Japanese gentlemen, nptables, gave him an entertainment at an hotel in Shamūnūsākī, specially selected for certain historical associations. Speeches

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were made and the Japanese stated they hoped India would make up and become free; that the Japanese would help them; that Japan, India and China would form a powerful combination sufficient to "down" the countries of Europe.

Japanese newspaper reporters were informed that a test case was being made as to whether it was the Indian or Canadian Government that tyrannically prevented Indians from going to Canada. Gurdit Singh declared himself to be the leader in India of a rebellious party of ten thousand. All this was published in a Japanese newspaper. Gurdit Singh and his two Secretaries etc., were twice photographed and the addresses are given where the photographs can be obtained. The names of his two secretaries are Bir Singh and Rangit Singh, both seditionists.

It seems generally that Gurdit Singh is a trickster, and that there is no one special behind his attempt to land in Canada. He seems to have made a good deal of money by the voyage.

(SD) D.C. PHILLOTT

LIEUTENANT COLONEL

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