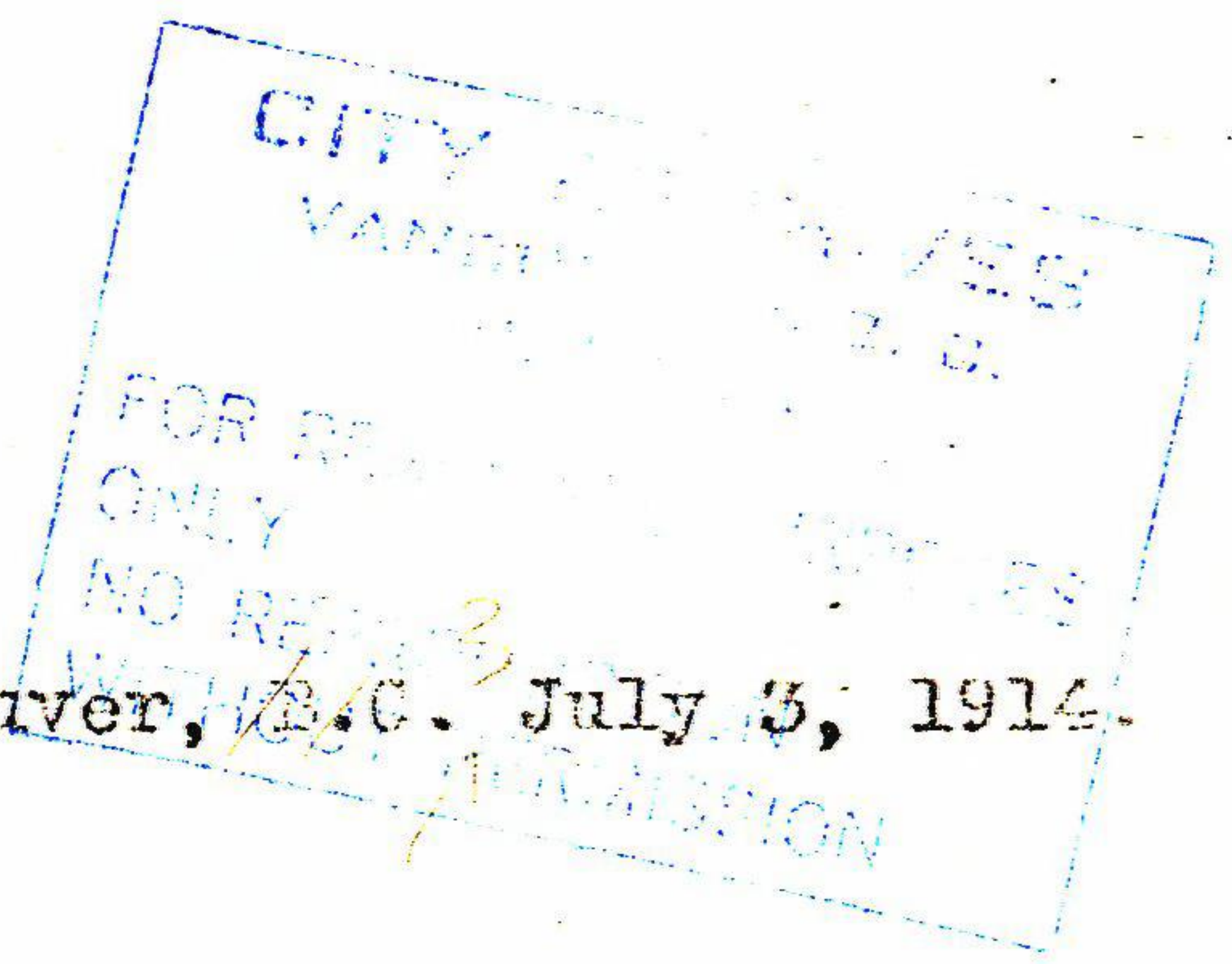


156. Extract, from W.C. Harrison's
Memorandum to the
Hon. Secy. of the
Immigration Dept.

Vancouver, B.C. July 3, 1914.



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Dear Sir:-

For some time past complaints have been received at this Office through Hindu residents here, that their friends on board the Komagata Maru were suffering ill-usage at the hands of Curdit Singh. Further, that sums of money, ranging from two pounds to twenty pounds or more had been deposited with Curdit Singh by their friends for safe custody, and that owing to the non-supply of sufficient rations to sustain life on board, these men were compelled to purchase provisions from shore with whatever little money they had on their persons. This little supply being exhausted, they have repeatedly made demands on Curdit Singh for a return if not of the whole of at least a part of their deposits. This demand has in every instance been met with a refusal and a statement to the effect that the money would be returned on their landing at Vancouver.

You are perfectly well aware of the fact that independent of the rations supplied by the Hindus on shore to the passengers on the Komagata Maru, the passengers themselves have taken every opportunity of securing provisions by means of handing over money to our officers who purchase the same for them in the city. Also that friends ashore of those on board have sent vast quantities individually to those on board and we have taken every opportunity to facilitate this arrangement by transmitting whatever they brought to this office in the shape of food.

You have been courteous enough to permit some

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Hindus from points outside of Vancouver to speak to their friends on board the Komagata Maru from our launch. This morning we had an application from four Hindus, three from Nanaimo, complaining that their friends had written to them stating that they were in dire circumstances and in need of food, and that Gurdit Singh, with whom they had moneys on deposit, refused to refund them the amounts to their credit and thus enable them to purchase food independent of the ship's supply. We have not conducted any policy of obstruction heretofore, and to facilitate and not cause any inconvenience to any individual on the boat an arrangement was made to permit these four men to board the Immigration launch and lie alongside the ship for a few minutes and permit of a conversation between interested parties. Assistant Interpreter Gwyther proceeded on board our launch, taking with him these four men. On arrival at the ship's side pretty near every soldier on board hung over the railings of the ship, which obstructed any conversation whatsoever, in view of the noise made by them in conversing with each other in loud tones. Five Hindus, friends of those on our launch, came down the gangway to talk with those on our boat. Shortly after these men had put foot on our boat Gurdit Singh and his Secretary instructed the passengers to pull up the gangway, thus leaving the five men on our boat. Mr. Gwyther remonstrated but his objections were of no avail. On his return to shore the matter was reported to me and I proceeded on board and talked over the situation with Gurdit Singh. Gurdit Singh informed me that these five men were in a conspiracy with the Immigration Department, and that the passengers had taken it on themselves to raise the gangway and would not permit the return of these men on board. From my own observation of the situation I understood that the whole affair is a plot on the part of Gurdit Singh and Daljit

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Singh, who have incited the passengers to this action more with a view of causing inconvenience to the Department and also to the passengers on our boat. I could not induce them to see the matter in its proper light and the situation remains as it was at the time Mr. Gwyther returned with the boat.

Start here →
I had not been on board since last Sunday when I did not make any particular inspection, but today had an opportunity of looking around and find that it is in a most filthy condition, and if the Charterers do not take measures to remove the debris and refuse there is a probability of some kind of epidemic breaking out on this ship. The men themselves are excited and brought to this pitch by Gurdit Singh and his Secretaries, who wish to offset their demands for the return of money by an agitation against this Department.

Yours truly,

(Signed) Wm. C. Hopkinson.

Malcolm R. J. Reid, Esq.,
Dominion Immigration Agent and Inspector,
Vancouver, B. C.