

Young Christie Papers

M. 630 E15 vol 2.

ENCLOSURE

Memorandum

These 375 and odd Hindus arriving on the steamer "Komagata Maru" in Vancouver BC last week, knew the provisions of the Immigration Act, but they did not know the Order in Council about the declaration of Citizens was in force, for they left Hong Kong before the 31st of March, 1914.

They are British subjects and their have the same status as other citizens of the Empire. Most of them have been soldiers in the British India Army. A great number of these men are merchants and business men making money of their own, while others are farmers; thus they do not come under the present Order in Council.

Pending the decision of the Courts these men desire to put their friends residing in this country and are quite agreeable to giving bail to any amount the Dominion Government might consider sufficient should the decision of the Courts be against them.

At present their position is precarious and uncertain and it is putting them to considerable expense, anxiety and delay. Further to settle the whole question and to put it on a permanent basis, I would be advisable to place all Orientals on regards immigration on the same basis.

At present we find we are discriminated against. For instance, some time ago Chief Justice Hurler held the view that the Hindus as British subjects had certain rights, whilst the Federal Department holds another view. It is to avoid the continuance of the unpleasant situation that we make an appeal.

Over two and a half years ago we drew the attention of the Dominion Government to the seriousness of the situation to look into the matter, but apparently nothing came of it.



We deem it essential that the whole question of Indian Immigration be re-opened and put on a proper basis, and to this end we would respectfully submit that a full and thorough enquiry into the matter be instituted.

Further we respectfully submit that the stigma of racial bias against our people, who are British subjects and soldiers, be removed and all discrimination be done away with, and that merchants, tourists, students and others be allowed to enter this country on such terms as your Government consider expedient.

It is with the hope of solving the present acute situation that we appeal, so that the unpleasantness of action may be settled to the greater advantage of all races composing the British Empire.