

Co42/979

Score of Latter, Previous Residents, to Be Released Today.

Ottawa, May 27.—Sundar Singh, a leader of one of the two factions among the Vancouver Hindus, is in the capital to place before the government the claims of those now detained in quarantine at Vancouver to land in Canada. He believes that his fellow citizens have the right to enter Canada, but gives no reason why the government's order-in-council prohibiting importation of labor into British Columbia should not be enforced in this case. As the government has no intention of permitting its order-in-council to be violated it is expected that the steamer, with its Hindu passengers, except about twenty entitled by previous residence to land, will return to Yokohama in a few days.

The Hindu question was up in the House again this morning when Hon. Frank Oliver asked for further information as to the disposition of the Hindus.

Premier Borden, in the absence of Hon. Dr. Roche, replied that he understood some twenty had been allowed to land owing to the fact that they were returning to Canada after an absence, and a number had been ordered deported, as they did not come up to the physical tests. As to the remainder, the law would be enforced.

Mr. Oliver said he presumed that there would be an appeal to the courts. Would the government permit such an appeal?

The Premier retorted that the government did not have control of the courts of the land.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier asked if there was an appeal by way of habeas corpus, would the government resist?

The Premier replied that the government would undoubtedly be represented. If they felt it was a case where habeas corpus should not be invoked, they would surely resist.

In order to precipitate events in connection with the arrival in mid-stream of the 376 Hindus on board the Japanese steamer Komagata Maru, whom the immigration officials have as yet refused permission to land, Mr. J. Edward Bird, counsel for Gurdit Singh and his 375 fellow-



GURDIT SINGH.

Chief of the Hindu extremists on the Komagata Maru in Burrard Inlet. Gurdit is a wealthy East Indian and is said to have paid the cost of the expedition himself.

passengers, yesterday telegraphed to Ottawa to his agents. A strong protest is to be made against the action of Immigration Inspector Malcolm J. R. Reid in not allowing Mr. Bird to visit the vessel to receive instructions from his clients, and a request is to be made for an order from Ottawa granting the desired permission.

"This tyranny is more like Russian tyranny than any I have yet come across," stated Mr. Bird today. "Here is Gurdit Singh, with almost \$100,000 at stake on this trip, kept out in the harbor along with his fellows, and I am not allowed to go out to see him to get instructions from him, to give him legal advice and assistance in his difficulty. He is even more a prisoner than if he were in the penitentiary."

The Hindus are not the only sufferers by the refusal of the immigration authorities to allow the Komagata Maru to land, according to Mr. Bird. Before the vessel left Japan, Gurdit Singh paid a sum of \$40,000 over to the owners of the vessel as part of the charter money. The terms of the charter provide that a further sum of \$15,000 becomes due on the arrival of the vessel and the delivery of her passengers at the port of Vancouver. The vessel has arrived here all right, but she has not been allowed to deliver her passengers, and Messrs. Gardner Johnson & Co., agents for the vessel, have so far been unable to collect the \$15,000. They are joining with the representations of Gurdit Singh's counsel in order that the vessel may be allowed to land her passengers at the detention shed and thus enable them to enter a claim for the \$15,000. In the meantime, however, Inspector Reid is taking no chances of allowing the vessel with her contingent of Hindus of berthing at the wharf.

The physical examination of the Hindus is still going on this afternoon. It is said that twenty-two who have been previously in British Columbia will be formally admitted this afternoon.

The Dominion Government is to be called upon by the Board of Trade here to use every means possible to prevent the Hindus from landing here.

up on a wider basis than that offered in the present incident. It is understood that the Board of Trade as a whole, at its next meeting, will have as one of its subjects for consideration the whole matter of exclusion of an absolute nature.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Trade council this morning, which

is to be sent to Ottawa is to the effect that the organization approves of the steps which have already been taken by the local immigration officials in retarding the proposed entry of the Hindus on the Japanese boat and urges the Dominion Government to take every possible means of preventing their landing.

Province

May 27 1914

Ottawa file 879343

Office file 2392



Malcolm J. R. Reid

Province May 27

FIGHTING STILL FOR ONE CONSTITUENCY

Mr. H. H. Stevens Does Not Wish Vancouver Divided into Two Ridings.

Ottawa, May 27.—It is said to be practically certain that Vancouver will be divided into two Dominion constituencies and will not under the terms of the Redistribution Bill elect two representatives at large as was first intended. The matter has not yet been definitely dealt with by the redistribution committee, but the consensus of opinion in that body is that there should be two constituencies. Mr. H. H. Stevens is still vigorously advocating one constituency and while not overly optimistic still has hopes that the committee may decide to adopt the original proposal. The matter will probably be settled within the next forty-eight hours.

FOUR KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Machine Runs Off the Ap- proach to Snohomish River Bridge.

Everett, Wash., May 27.—Four men were killed at noon today when an automobile bound from Silvana to Everett ran off the approach to the Everett avenue bridge on the Snohomish River in this city. J. M. Johnson of Silvana, owner of the car; Ole Preston, a farmer living near Silvana, and an unidentified man were instantly killed. A fourth man, name not yet learned, died at the hospital. The car plunged from the trestle of the eastern approach to the bridge forty feet to marshy ground below. Three other persons in the car were injured.

WILL RESIST MOVE IN COURTS (Continued from Page 1)

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The Dominion Government is to be called upon by the Board of Trade here to use every means possible to prevent the Hindus from landing here. The council of the board held a meeting this morning at which Immigration Superintendent Malcolm R. J. Reid spoke to the members, outlining the situation as it presents itself to his department at the present time.

Several of the council members in discussing the recent arrival of the Komagata Maru with a passenger list of 376 Hindus, suggested that the whole question of exclusion be taken

up on a wider basis than that offered in the present incident. It is understood that the Board of Trade as a whole, at its next meeting, will have as one of its subjects for consideration the whole matter of exclusion of an absolute nature.

The resolution adopted by the Board of Trade council this morning, which

is to be sent to Ottawa is to the effect that the organization support steps which have already been taken by the local immigration officials retarding the proposed entry of Hindus on the Japanese boat, and urges the Dominion Government take every possible means of preventing their landing.

"200 Opportunities"

In these days of money tightness (real or imaginary), a limited scope is offered for the exercise of false sales a means of unloading unsaleable merchandise. Thus in announcing this stupendous opportunity I desire firstly to put my position clearly before the ladies of Vancouver by stating that every yard of material is right and has the manufacturer's guarantee behind it.

Beginning Friday, the 29th inst., with a view to reducing my enormous stock of ladies' suitings, I am offering a selection of over 200 of these fine, rich, exclusive quality suitings, tailored in conformity with the high ideals of this house (in every instance satisfaction assured) at from \$37.50 upwards.

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The Field

"The greatest oil field in the world."

The Athabasca region of Alberta is, according to the leading geologists and petroleum authorities, the richest and most extensive oil field in the world. Here are some of the opinions:

"The largest petroleum area in Canada lies in the region of the Athabasca and Mackenzie rivers in the northwestern part of the Dominion."
SIR DOVERTON REDWOOD.