

CO 42/979

Hindus Threw Up Their Hands Late Today Ready to Sail Back and Renew the Fight in India

Lord Hardinge Has Advised
Them that He Can Do
Nothing for Them.

Mr. Bird Withdraws from
Court of Inquiry, Which
He Considers Endless

Thinks No Chance of Getting
Gurdit Singh Case
for Several Years.

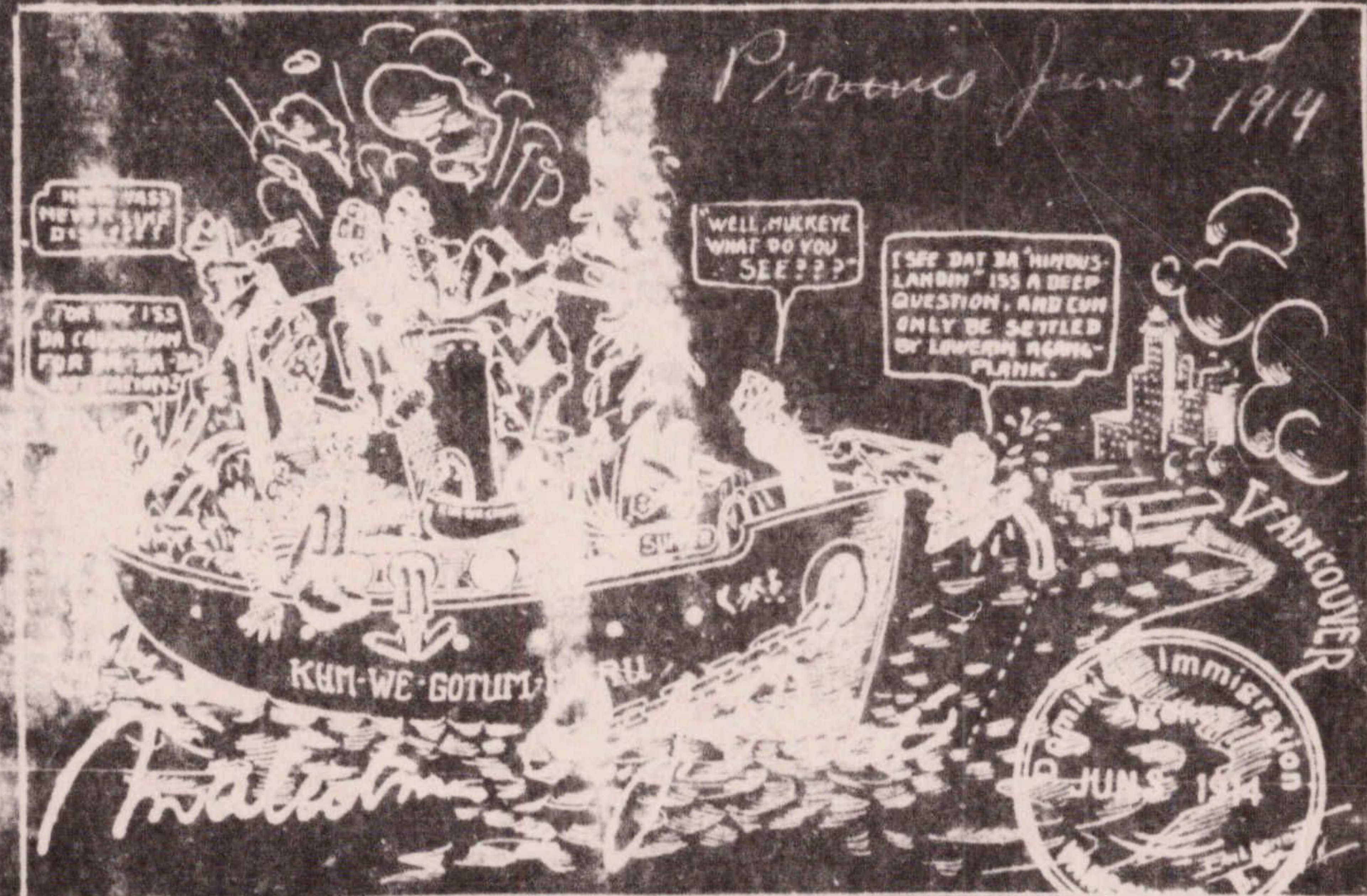
Hindus Now Propose to
Return to India to Start
Agitation.

Are Convinced Their At-
tempt to Enter Canada
at Present Useless.

Gurdit Singh, king of the Hindus, with his third of a thousand men, having ascended the hill across the broad, blue, deep and briny Pacific, is going to sail right back again. The Komagata Maru and the whole Hindu excursion party is going with him. In other words, the Hindus have given up the fight. Not only in this quarter. They have met a stone wall in this part of Canada, and now they are going back to India to fight there. Just what they will do in fighting their case when they get back to India they do not say, but they make no secret of the intention they have to stir up as much trouble as they can because they have been refused the right which they think they have as British subjects of travelling anywhere they like through the length and breadth of the British Empire.

Lord Hardinge Turned Them Down.

Official confirmation of the determination of the Hindus to change front in their fight came this afternoon from Mr. J. Edward Bird, chief counsel for the Hindus in Vancouver. "Yes it is true," said Mr. Bird, "that I have just been instructed by the local committee of the Hindus to withdraw from representing the new arrivals at the court of enquiry now being held by the immigration officials. The Hindus have just received word from Lord Hardinge that he can do nothing for them. So far as Ottawa is concerned, the Hindus realize now that the cards are stacked against them, that no matter what evidence is submitted at these courts of enquiry they will not be allowed



SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR.

FOUND HINDUS VERY ACTIVE IN LONDON

Ald. Woodside Says They Are
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rades Here.

Ald. Woodside, on his first appearance at last night's council meeting since the beginning of April before his departure for London on Second Narrows bridge affairs, was called upon for an account of his trip when the business of the evening was over. In recounting a few of the incidents of the trip, he said that the people in the old country were conscious of the seriousness of the Asiatic problem in this country and one and all believed that Canada should protect its own immigrants. One reason for that was that the old country had immigrants to send and expected that they in turn would be protected. In this connection he said that Hindus and their wives were lobbying at the House of Commons and House of Lords, with a view of having their demands in this country dealt with at once. They were constantly on hand, said the alderman, many of them with their wives. He added that extensive preparations were being made in several of the centres of population for fitting people for life in this country and that the class of immigrant of today was superior to that of the past.

than the humblest Canadian ever made in the interior affairs of India. Personally I have nothing against the East Indians. I have a great admiration for the Sikhs and Chinese and appreciate highly the service they rendered in the great mutiny and the frontier wars, but I have an intense love for Canada and especially British Columbia. I have resided here over twenty-one years and have raised my family here and am jealous of the interests of our country, and as the disposal of the surplus Indian population and the rewarding of those who have served their country is largely a matter of business and not sentiment, I know of no better plan than that outlined in the editorial above referred to, viz, assisting them to emigrate to those parts of eastern and central Africa, which have been brought under British control, and where the climate and social conditions, the natural products of the soil and the methods of cultivating them would be more in accordance with their ancient traditions and modern usages.

FRANK L. VOSPER.

South Vancouver, May 30, 1914.

TROUBLE OCCURS ON HINDU LINER

Guards Are Used Roughly by
East Indians, Who Are
Mutinous.

Looked as If Hindus Were
Preparing to Make Break
for Liberty.

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"The board of enquiry now going on is simply a joke," said Mr. Bird this afternoon. "We started yesterday morning and spent the forenoon in the hospital, and the rest of the day in the hospital. The circumstances have taken about 5 minutes. At the present rate of business it will take till Doomsday to get down to the end. I asked the time registration officials to let us have Gurtej Singh, the leader, as early as possible, but they will not take him out of his turn, which I am told is No. 172, out of a total on board of 375."

mony is, so the committee has instructed me to withdraw. I shall not appear this afternoon or again at any time before the board of enquiry. In any event, no matter whether we are represented or not, that would have no effect on our status in court when we come to appeal."

"This phase has apparently not been decided by the Hindus yet," replied Mr. BIRD. "I am firmly convinced, after having spent a great deal of time looking up the law, that every one of these orders-in-council can be beaten in the courts. There is no question but that they are ultra vires or unconstitutional. The present temper of the Hindus is to drop everything here and go back, but I would not care to say, until I have taken it up with them later, that they may not try to get an appeal into the courts."

Mr. Bird said that the time of the charter of the Komagata Maru would run out on June 11, and that on that date or any time thereafter the Japanese captain could haul up his anchor and start back for home whether he landed either his passengers and cargo or took it away with him again. At the Sunday meeting a large amount was subscribed to pay the \$15,000 still due on the charter, but the local Hindus, while friendly enough to the men aboard the ship, feared that under all the circumstances that they would be taking too many chances with their money to put up this amount to pay off the charter. Even if this were done the entire party might have to go back anyway and the Vancouver men would be the losers. They believe that they could arrange to safely put up the money if the immigration officials would only allow them to go out and negotiate with Gurdit Singh to get an extension of his coal cargo or some other security from him. But since they are not allowed to go on land and the Hindu leader is not allowed to come on shore they have so far failed to see how they can safely put up this remaining charter money.

As the matter stands, it looks today very much as if the present fight in Vancouver is about over. Mr. Brödeur does not know just how the Hindus intend to renew their fight in India when they get over there, but he declares that they are very bitter in deed.

London, June 2.—There is no question about the nature of the Imperial Government's reply to the resolution of the British Indians in Vancouver as about to send through the Viceroy of India. That reply will be a restatement of the words of Lord Curzon when viceroy of India that "the common rights of British citizenship cannot be held to override the rights of self-protection conferred on the governing colonies." The most remarkable of the British journals have repeatedly attacked this attitude since the Curzon-Morley incident arose. The Times, Morning Post and other leading journals write in unison in support of the Dominion Government's attitude with the Dominion press. The Canadian press, however, is divided. The Toronto Globe, which is fully entitled to assume the supreme law of self-determination to keep their hands off the British Empire, is in the vanguard of the attack on the British India Government's attitude.

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He added that extensive preparations were being made in several of the centres of population for fitting people for life in this country and that the class of immigrant of today was superior to that of the past.

Editor Press, I have carefully read your excellent editorial in your issue of Wednesday, May 12. I immediately sent the paper to England with the request that it be passed around, and only wish it could be published in every paper in England. There are many phases of this great question which the average citizen overlooks but which can not be too fully or too persistently kept before the public.

standing entrance to a self-governing Dominion against the will of the majority of the people and contesting the power and authority of the government of that country, elected by the people and invested with power by the crown to keep them from landing in a humiliating position for the people it sets.

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FRANK L. VOSPER
South Vancouver, May 30, 1914

**Guards Are Used Roughly by
East Indians, Who Are
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Looked as If Hindus Were
Preparing to Make Break
for Liberty.

The Japanese steamer Komagata Maru is still anchored in the centre of the harbor and all of her 376 Hindus are still aboard. For a short time just before midnight last evening it looked very much as if there would be serious trouble and probably a section of the excursion party aboard planned to make a dash for shore in the night.

Two guard marks have been placed in day time and at eight o'clock in the evening these day guards are replaced by four men at night and these act in conjunction with an armed party aboard a launch which all night encircles the Japanese ship to make sure that none of her passengers develop the habit of leaping overboard and swimming to the shore of Sausalito Park half a mile away.

Early yesterday one of the Hind leaders aboard sent a letter to Immigration Superintendent Reid threatening reprisals if the guards were taken on the ship. Half an hour before the change of guards was scheduled last evening two Hind grabbed Watchman Deneb by the arms and roughly shaking him walked him towards the gateway telling him at the same time that if he saw other guards again appear they would be thrown into the water. The second guard tried to attack Deneb, but he too was compelled to climb down the gateway to the launch. Actually the men were hurt at all, but they were forced to retreat and warned never to return. They did not attempt to draw the guns for the big Hindus were humiliated about them.

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