

[E. Blake Robertson, Assistant Superintendent of Immigration, Memorandum to William W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior, re advisability of holding test case of Komagata Maru passengers' qualifications for immigration]

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*This memo
was read by
Pam. Min. for
Cory to Mr.
Cory 1/14*

1-13-1914. 13th Jan, 1914.

TO: THE DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR.

FROM: E. BLAKE ROBERTSON, Assistant Superintendent of Immigration.

I am now in receipt of a telegram from the Dominion Deportation Agent at Vancouver, reading as follows:-

"Special assistance arrives today from Japan. Several persons with us in opening this. We want all of them to come at all it would add to our inspection and that the Immigration authorities here should see every man and woman. Please advise us this night. Also receive directly proposed and give immediate answer. Japanese having knowledge of our laws and great ability to talk and give us all the information. This is best method of difficulty. We have to give the entire matter long notice of notice. The matter is still unsettled. We have not received any reply from the Japanese. This leaves the possibility of not and therefore should please answer immediately and arrange hold approval for the same."

I agree with this that no steps should be taken by this Department to bring the matter before the courts. If, however, especially in view of the fact that a trouble is likely to arise, the matter has determined to send the matter of the matter in Council and the constitutionality of the act, I see no great object in attempting to share provisions to prevent them going before the courts. I think decision should immediately be given in all cases where the matter has been decided, and the matter where the matter has not been decided to hold. Immediate deportation should be decided as to persons whose names have been rejected in the past, of course. Their full right under the act to appeal to the Minister against the court's decision. I really recommend that the following remedy be sent to hold: Minister should give immediate decision on all cases of appeal now pending, and if required to decision order immediate deportation of persons whose names have been rejected pending their full right of appeal to Minister against Minister's decision."

E. Blake Robertson
Asst. Superintendent of Immigration.

IDENTIFIER
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ARTIST
Cory, William W.; Robertson, E. Blake