

[Extract from William C. Hopkinson, Immigration Inspector, to William W. Cory,
Deputy Minister of the Interior. Copy]

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CONFIDENTIAL
Immigration Branch
Department of the Interior
Ottawa
Vancouver, B.C. 27th May 1914.

Sir,

Referring to my letter of the 9th April last advising you that a rumour in this City and Victoria re an Hindu named Behari Lal Varma, whose intention was to bring a large number of Hindus to this Port, I now write to say that a freight steamer, the "Kamagata Maru", arrived in Vancouver on Saturday the 23rd instant, with 396 Hindus on board including two women and three children.

From information obtained by me on a visit to this boat, it would appear that she has been chartered by an Hindu named Gurdit Singh, late of Hong Kong, for a sum of \$75,000.00 for a period of four months. The charter is due to expire at this Port on the 11th June next. Of the 396 Hindus on board, about 80 claim to be returning men with Canadian domicile.

Prior to the arrival of this boat at Whillies Head Quarantine Station, it was learnt that two East Indians, Rahim and Rajah Singh, had proceeded to Port Alberni on Vancouver Island, and there chartered a launch with the purpose of intercepting this vessel en route to Victoria with a view to bringing her into Port Alberni, and thus overcome the regulations regarding P.O. 2640, re Asiatics and Labourers prohibited from landing at certain ports of entry in British Columbia. It was also thought that there was a large sum of money in their possession, which they intended to put at board for distribution among the Hindu passengers to make up the necessary amount of money, viz. / 6250.00 needed, to enable them to comply with P.O. 264. Fortunately they were unable to carry out their intentions, and the "Kamagata Maru" arrived at the Quarantine Station without having met the chartered launch. To frustrate the intentions of Rahim and Rajah Singh, Dominion Immigration Agent Dr. Reid, myself and

IDENTIFIER

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ARTIST

Cory, William W.; Hopkinson, William Charles, 1880-1914; Rahim, Husain; Singh, Gurdit, 1858-1954; Singh, Rajah; Varma, Behary Lal