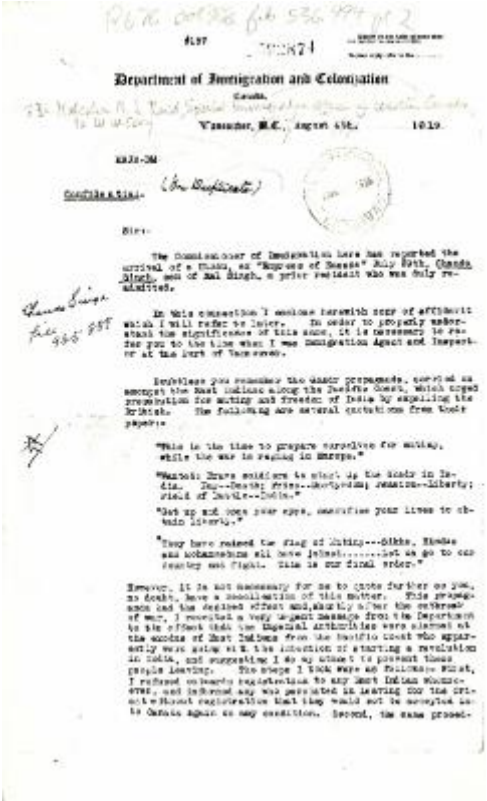
SOUTH ASIAN
CANADIAN
DIGITAL ARCHIVE

[Malcolm R. J. Reid, Special Immigration Officer for Western Canada, to William W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Interior. Original]



Department of Immigration and Colonization

Canada.

Vancouver, B.C., August 4th, 1919.

(In Duplicate)

Sir:-

The Commissioner of Immigration here has reported the arrival of a Punjabi, ex "Empress of Russia" July 29th, Chanda Singh, son of Lal Singh, a prior resident who was duly readmitted.

In this connection I enclose herewith copy of affidavit which I will refer to later. In order to properly understand the significance of this case, it is necessary to refer you to the time when I was Immigration Agent and Inspector at the port of Vancouver.

Doubtless you remember the Ghadr propaganda, carried on amongst the East Indians along the Pacific Coast, which urged preparation for mutiny and freedom of India by expelling the British. The following are several extractions from Ghadr papers:-

"This is the time to prepare ourselves for mutiny, while the war is raging in Europe."

"Warrior! Brave soldiers to start up the Ghadr in India. Day--Death; Prize--Martyrdom; Jewelry--Liberty; Field of Battle--India."

"Get up and open your eyes, sacrifice your lives to obtain liberty."

"They have raised the flag of Mutiny---Sikhs, Hindus and Mohammedans all have joined.....Let us go to our Country and fight. This is our final order."

However, it is not necessary for me to quote further on you, no doubt, have a recollection of this matter. This propaganda had the desired effect and, shortly after the outbreak of war, I received a very urgent message from the Department to the effect that the Imperial authorities were alarmed at the exodus of East Indians from the Pacific Coast who apparently were going with the intention of starting a revolution in India, and requesting I do my utmost to prevent these people leaving. The steps I took were as follows:- First, I refused outbound registration to any East Indian whomsoever, and informed any who persisted in leaving for the orient without registration that they would not be accepted back to Canada again on any condition. Second, the same proced-

IDENTIFIER
2021_07_4879

ARTIST
Cory, William W.; Guddre (Mutiny) (newspaper); Reid, Malcolm R. J.