

[Robert L. Borden, Prime Minister, to J. D. Hazen]

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6049/100

Ottawa, July 19th, 1914.

Dear J. D. Hazen,
Honourable L.B.
for Halifax.

Passenger per Ocean Limited
(Please rack and report
delivery)

Confidential. Following telegram received this morning
by Department of Immigration. Reglas.

"Attempt made to night to board ~~Essex~~ ^{Essex} Bark on biggest
"ing in harbour. Chief of Police personally attended hundred
"and twenty five picked officers, Immigration Department
"and fifty five special officers and a number of regular staff
"with local, volunteer, police and L.B. Stevens R.C.M. This is written
"request Captain who unable get up steam leave harbour, or
"control ship. Official interpreter went on ship prior to
"any action being taken with a view to solve problem without
"drastic action. All offers refused and messages sent not
"come on board. They refused leave harbour without written
"order from King and Police. On arrival of vessel, extensive
"light raised, fireworks, pieces of machinery, hatchets, coal,
"cannon, etc., all being used which were showered down
"on the men all parts of ship smouldering smoke of fire, injur-
"ing Captain, also breaking some of his ribs. Chief of Police
"arrived, shots fired by Indians, but not fire returned. Twenty
"men are in hospital nearly police officers also injured now
"being attended by doctor. Failed to retire and return to shore
"at 10 a.m. Chief Police, L.B. Stevens R.C.M., and General
"Gardner of Police, as further attempt to gain and advise
"that Indians take charge of this ship. As was immediate
"action owing danger anti-aircraft at Vancouver when
"shots were fired. The men aboard undoubtedly in desperate
"and fatal condition. Utterly impossible to reason with
"them or handle in ordinary manner. The peculiar situation
"of this ship concerning on board a ship occurred in the
"course makes ordinary police methods utterly useless as police
"and guards do not wish too fire-arms to retaliate and can
"be not effective service without". - Gato.

Am not confident that Rainbow could be used effectively
as our desire is to secure departure of ship without unneces-
sary violence. Possibly Rainbow could be used more effectively
than tug in covering landing of force on Esquimaux Harb. As no
officer of naval service comes available today hope you will
forward immediately instructions to Naval Service Officers
at Vancouver and instruct him consult with Dominion Immigration
Agent held as to possible use of Rainbow for purposes men-
tioned and to co-operate with immigration officers for such purpose
as may be required.

R.L. Borden.

IDENTIFIER

2021_07_10381

ARTIST

Borden, Robert L., 1854-1937; Hazen, J. D.; H.M.C.S. Rainbow