

HOW TO GET RID OF HINDUS IS A PUZZLE

**Owners Order Ship Home, but There Will Have to
Be Help Aboard.**

**Hindus Promise Trouble If Any Effort Is Made to
Haul Up the Anchor.**

**Japanese Warships May Be Asked to Lend Armed
Guard for Trip.**

**Proposal to Change Berth of Komagata Maru Has
Been Dropped.**

The climax of the fight by the Hindus who came on the Komagata Maru to enter Canada is promised for Friday. It may be delayed a day or two after that, but that was the date set for the departure of the vessel when Mr. C. Gardner Johnson, agent for the vessel, went aboard Tuesday afternoon and conferred with Gurdit Singh. He found that Oriental leader in very bad spirits. The Komagata Maru is seething with an insurrection, for the Hindus are not only full of fight against the immigration officials, but they are making Gurdit Singh's life on grand procession of trouble.

Early Tuesday the first serious outbreak occurred when Captain Yamamoto sought to comply with an order of the harbor master to move

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JUNE 17, 1914

p.1

eastward to a point off the Heatley avenue wharf. The port officials wished to give the berth now occupied by the Komagata Maru to the two Japanese warships which are expected here at the end of the week. The ship could not move without steam and the Hindus would not allow the Japanese stokers to get into action to get steam up. The Hindus feared that the ship would be sent away on her return journey to Japan.

Against the crew of thirty the Hinds easily won the day. Captain Yamamoto came ashore very much upset by the episode and spent the noon hour conferring with Major Johnson.

In the afternoon the latter went aboard and found things in great turmoil. It was proposed that tugs be allowed to tow the vessel to her new mooring place, but the Hinds declared through their interpreters that they would allow no one to move their vessel, acting from inside or out. They insisted that they would fight before being moved and interspersed their statements with a good deal of criticism of Gurdit Singh and the Hindu physician aboard the ship, whom they do not regard in a friendly manner. When Mr. Johnson's party came ashore it was decided that it was hardly worth while forcing an issue that might result in a fight and the Hindu ship will be left where she is. Other berths will accordingly be found for the Japanese war vessels.

How to force the departure of the Hindus is a question that is causing tremendous worry to the officials, as well as to Captain Yamamoto. The latter is awaiting the arrival of the Japanese cruisers, in the hope that on Friday night or Saturday they will lend him a hundred armed men to keep the Hindus in subjection while going across the Pacific, but some unpleasant international complications may attend a move of this kind. There is said to be reason to fear that, rather than leave, the Hindus will set fire to the ship and leap overboard, to be rescued by their shore compatriots, who are quite often cruising in launches in the vicinity of the Komagata Maru.

It is now proposed to provision this ship immediately for the return trip. The owners have sent several peremptory cables that the vessel must go.

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JUNE 17, 1914

p.1

Undoubtedly Ottawa is urging the same course, but how to start her in the face of the determined opposition on board is a question. The little vessel is terribly overcrowded as it is. To guard the party day and night would take a hundred men, and there is no possible chance of putting half that number of white guards aboard. The Japanese marines might possibly handle the situation. To place them aboard, or indeed to put white guards aboard, may mean trouble. A fight between Hindus and Japanese in a Canadian port might cause some diplomatic difficulties.

In the meantime, not much progress is being made with the official inquiry before the immigration officials. The men examined have all declared that they have money, but they can not(Sic) produce any. They have receipts for varying amounts from Gurdit Singh, but the Hindu leader can not(Sic) or will not turn these into cash. One or two new cases were partially dealt with this morning.

AT 2 o'clock this afternoon Mr. C. Gardner Johnson, agent for the Komagata Maru, announced that there would be no developments until a reply was received from Japan to the two cables sent yesterday. Mr. Johnson and Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, who is representing the owners, were in conference during the luncheon hour.