

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JUNE 22, 1914

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MR. STEVENS FEARS A RIOT IF HINDUS ARE LANDED

**Ottawa is Apprized of Serious Condition of Outlook
in Telegram.**

**Hindus Have Paid Up Immediate Demands of
Komagata Maru's Charter.**

**Scene of Conflict With Immigration Authorities
Changed Today.**

**Argument on Specific Case Tomorrow—Mass
Meeting of Citizens.**

The Hindus arrived in Vancouver harbor just a month ago today.

They have spent that month knocking at the door of the immigration department. This morning they commenced knocking at the front door of the big courthouse on Georgia street.

Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., is trying to get the government to head off any appeal the Hindus can get before the courts. He wants the Hindu steamer towed out beyond Canadian jurisdiction where the Japanese can take charge of her and work her back to Hongkong.

"I am trying to get the government to strengthen Malcolm Reid's band in getting them out before the courts have time to deal with them," said Mr. Stevens at noon today. "It appears, however, that it is not possible to invoke the section of the act which provides for action independently of the courts. I

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have heard today, however, that the Hindus have paid up their charter, and the owners can not(Sic) therefore go away voluntarily until a new bunch of charter money comes due."

Proceedings in Court.

The battleground of the Komagata Maru Hindus was transferred to the courts this morning, when motion was made for a mandamus to compel the immigration authorities to bring down their ruling in the case of Wazir Singh. Rex(?) M. MacDonald appeared on behalf of Wazir Singh, and W. H. B. Laurier(?) of the immigration department, as Inspector Reid had not yet been served with papers in connection with the case, and as sufficient time has not been given to counsel to prepare affidavits it was agreed that the motion should stand over until tomorrow for argument. In the meantime efforts will be made to serve notice on Inspector Reid and to prepare the affidavits. The section of the Immigration Act under which the applicants are...(illegible word) their claim for the order of mandamus, reads:

"At the conclusion of the court of enquiry the board shall immediately give their decision."

In the case of Wazir Singh, the board heard the evidence ten days ago, but has not yet given its decision and do not intend to give any until all the cases in the Komagata Maru had been heard. The argument tomorrow will be conducted by Mr. J. Edward Bird for the Hindus and Mr. W. B. A. Ritchie, K. C., for the immigration department. The proceedings today were before Mr. Justice Murphy, who is the judge in chambers for this month.

Public Meeting Today.

Mayor Baxter has been asked to call a meeting of the citizens to discuss the Komagata Maru situation. It is probable that the meeting will be held on Tuesday night, following the departure of the Japanese cruisers, which are expected to leave on Tuesday morning. It has been thought better not to have any such meeting until after the warships have gone.

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"I have been told that a proposal to get up a subscription for the purpose of chartering tugs to tow the Komagata Maru out of the harbor will be made at the meeting," declared Mr. James Carnahan this morning. Mr. Carnahan is one of the citizens responsible for the proposed public meeting.

The mayor this afternoon issued an official notice that the meeting would be held in Dominion Hall tomorrow night.

Ottawa Hears of It.

Ottawa, June 22.—The government is in receipt of a long telegram from Mr. H. H. Stevens, member for Vancouver, in which fear is expressed of a serious riot in the city in the event of the Hindus on board the Komagata Maru being allowed to land as the result of an unfavorable finding being given by the court against Malcolm Reid's action as immigration officer.

Mr. Stevens fears that the citizens of Vancouver will resist the landing of the Hindus in such an event to the extent of bloodshed.

Mr. Stevens is very anxious to get rid of the Hindus to the extent of having them towed out of the harbor and turned over to a Japanese guard beyond the three-mile limit. Mr. Stevens asks that the department give complete backing to Malcolm Reid in his efforts to get the Hindus out, in view of the possibility of at least a long delay if the matter gets into the courts.

Mr. Stevens also asks that section 28 of the act be invoked to give the officials power to over-ride any order the court may make. It is stated that the last proposal is not possible from a legal standpoint.

In the absence of Hon. Dr. Roche, minister of the interior, in Manitoba, Hon. C. J. Doherty has been(Sic) acting minister. He also left for Quebec today and the Prime Minister has to take charge, there not being sufficient ministers at Ottawa to form a cabinet.

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