

## **HINDUS IN LAUNCH CHASED BACK TO DOCK AGAIN**

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**Immigration Inspectors and Police Too Prompt for  
East Indians.**  
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**Party Had Attempted to Get Out to Komagata Maru  
Today.**  
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**"I Wash My Hands of Such Tactics," Declares Mr. J.  
Edward Bird.**  
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**Gurdit Singh is Advertising for Agents to Supply  
Ships and Lumber.**  
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An attempt by fifteen shore Hindus to force their way to the Komagata Maru and gain communication with their countrymen confined there, was frustrated by the police and immigration officers at 12.15 o'clock today.

While Mr. J. Edward Bird, the Hindus' lawyer, was trying to effect a pacific entry upon the ship, the Hindus themselves took matters into their own hands chartered a launch and set out from Pier A, of the C. P. R. A few minutes later they were back on the dock, headed off by an immigration department boat. A squad of police arrived soon after, took the names of the ringleaders and forced them and their following from the waterfront. Those who were said to be at the head of the attempt were: H. Rahim, secretary of a Socialist organization, editor of the Hindustani and the man said to be responsible for introducing Socialism into the present trouble; Bhas Singh, president of the United India League and Balwant Singh, Hindu priest.

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Word of the pacific proposal to gain admission was conveyed to Malcolm R. J. Reid, immigration agent by J. E. Bird practically at the same time as the news came from the outside that the Hindus were on the wharf. Mr. Bird renewed his demands to be allowed on board the Komagata Maru to consult his client, Gurdit Singh, and Mr. Reid again refused, offering as before, to allow solicitor and client to speak from neighboring launches.

## **"Washed His Hands."**

Then Mr. Bird said that the Hindus were trying to force their way upon the ship and declared that he washed his hands of such tactics. The Hindus, he said, had asked him to go with them, but he had refused. Sooner than have bloodshed, he decided to have nothing to do with them in that manoeuvre.

Immigration Inspector Reid immediately telephoned the police, while his officers took steps to head off the Hindu boat. They were successful before it got far from shore and the fifteen occupants turned back to the wharf.

By this time, the police patrol had rushed through the city, picking up patrolmen as it went along, and it got to the dock just as the Hindus were returning to land. The police immediately chased them from the wharf and the others who had collected to give their moral support dispersed up town.

Another attempt to gain admission to the boat is to be made through Ottawa. Mr. Bird declared to Immigration Inspector Reid this morning that he intended to protest to Premier Borden against his exclusion from the Komagata Maru.

The application for mandamus made by Mr. J. E. Bird, counsel for the Hindus, to compel the issue of decisions by the Immigration enquiry board was again called in court this morning and again adjourned for one day because counsel in the case were not ready to proceed.

## **Other Trips Proposed.**

That Gurdit Singh is apparently by no means dismayed in his proposal to establish a line of steamers to bring Hindus to British Columbia and turn to

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carry Canadian freight to the other side of the Pacific is indicated by a letter which he sent today to The Province. The letter asks for the insertion of the following advertisement:

“Wanted—Agents to supply the four ships a year up to five years for India, with best class and every kind of lumber. Apply with price-list and specimens of lumber. (Signed) Gurdit

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Singh, charterer of steamer Komagata Maru. Vancouver, B. C., Harbor.”

Placing themselves on record as opposed to the wholesale importation of Hindus to British Columbia, the City Council of New Westminster last evening passed a resolution to be forwarded to Minister of the Interior and Premier Borden at Ottawa protesting against the admission of the 350 Hindus on board the Komagata Maru.

A suggestion by Ald. Dodd that a mass meeting be called by the mayor to protest against this Hindu invasion was turned down by the council, as they felt it might weaken the original resolution. However, a mass-meeting will be held in a few days as several public bodies have approached Mayor Gray on the question.

Mayor Gray said he was prepared to contribute liberally toward a movement to send the Hindus straight through to Ottawa if they are successful in landing from the Komagata Maru. He thought such a delegation in box cars would cause the East to realize what the people of British Columbia have to cope with.

**“Are the Charterers.”**

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"H. Rahim and Bhag Singh are the men who put up the charter money required by the boat's owners and therefore they are now in the position of charterers," contended Sohan Lal, a Hindu, today in discussing the attempt of a party of his fellow countrymen to reach the Komagata Maru. "that being so, they surely have every right to go on board the ship which they have thus chartered, to see how matters are going."

Sohan Lal does not like the account in The Province of the Sunday afternoon meeting of Hindus in regard to the story of the remarks of Hindu speakers. He denied that he had said that the English should be struck between the eyes as suggested in the account.

"I told my countrymen that the suffragettes, women of England, had been forced into a position where they announced that they had to strike the Englishmen between the eyes. That was all I said," he declared. He denied that it was desired by the Hindus to do away with the immigration officials.

"If we got rid of these men," he naively remarked, "we would only have others. What we want is simply equal rights with other British subjects, not the abolition of departments or services."

Sohan Lal denied any knowledge of bomb outrages, which knowledge he said had been attributed in the account to him. He believed in peace, he said.

Referring to the Komagata Maru passengers, he asserted that they were all farmers who would raise money to buy land and all they wanted to do was to go on the land, colonize and assist in reducing the cost of living in this portion of the British empire as well as obtain for themselves better living conditions than in crowded India.

Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., will be one of the chief speakers at the public mass-meeting tonight called by the mayor to discuss the problem of the Hindus now on board the Komagata Maru. This morning Mr. Stevens stated that there were no new Ottawa developments in regard to the Hindu ship. Tonight's meeting will be held in Dominion Hall.

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