

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4

WOULD NOT ALLOW HINDUS BACK ON THE VESSEL

**When Five Komagata Maru Passengers Got Off,
They Could Not Get on Again.**

**Were Having a Palaver With Nanaimo Trio on
Immigration Launch.**

**Then the Wily Gurdit Singh Had the Gangplank
Pulled Up.**

**Delegation Led by Dr. Sundar Singh Has Gone to
See King George.**

Five Hindus, members of the Komagata Maru colony, landed in Vancouver at 11:45 a. m. yesterday as the result of a neat plot which "put one over" and which has further complicated the situation. The Province "sat on" the story for twenty-four hours awaiting a statement from the immigration authorities, but Superintendent Malcolm R. J. Reid this morning stated that he knew nothing of the incident.

The Province man saw the incident from the end of Pier A. and the affair has introduced a totally new phase into the tangle in which the Komagata Maru, her passengers, the Japanese owners, the agents and the immigration people are writhing.

Five Hindus on the Komagata Maru wrote to friend ashore(Sic) com-Maruk wrote to friends ashore com ting(entire sentence Sic). They stated that

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4

they had asked Gurdit Singh for a return of some of the money they entrusted to his care in those now far-off days when they embarked at Hongkong. If this "dough" was forthcoming they would buy the provender they needed.

Gurdit Singh sang low. Not for worlds would he part with any of the passengers' hard earned money,...(illegible word/s?)

"Wait till we get ashore and then I will talk business," said he.

The five men referred to wrote to relatives at Nanaimo asking them to come over and hold a palaver and yesterday morning the three Hindus from Nanaimo arrived.

They interviewed the immigration people and got permission to go out on the government launch and talk to the quintette(Sic), in whom they were interested.

Jabbered at the Rail.

When the launch get up to the gangway it was evident that there were things preparing. From Pier A. the Hindus could be clearly seen with the aid of binoculars and they flocked to the rail and commenced to howl and jabber and generally indulge in a fair imitation of a South Vancouver ratepayer's meeting.

The result was that the three Nanaimo Hindus in the launch could not get any of their conversation across to the five friends on board. It looked like a deadlock and then a very modest request was put.

It was to permit the five on board to get into the launch and talk over the food question with their Nanaimo friends in comfort. The permission was granted and the five descended the gangway and climbed into the patrol boat.

Then came the swift denouement. No sooner were the five in the boat than the Hindus on deck clapped on to the tackle of the gangway and in a trice had the ladder hauled up far out of reach of those in the launch.

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4

Then the circus commenced. The officers on the launch pleaded and threatened but without any result. The Hindus on board were in charge, they had the gangway hauled up and would not allow the Japanese crew to lower it or even heave a line to the launch. The Hinds lined the rail on the bridge deck and jeered and cursed and cheered and emitted wild yells of victory and after a most undignified period the launch representing the immigration department of the Dominion Government came in to the boat landing at Pier A and the officers marched the five Hindus into the office.

There is quite a chance that the city police may be asked to take a hand in the affair. Captain Yamamoto is now conferring with Gurdit Singh and it all depends what the result of that conference is. If it is unsatisfactory

(Continued on Page 4.)

WOULD NOT ALLOW HINDUS BACK ON THE VESSEL

(Continued From Page 1.)

The captain is quite likely to ask the police to go out to his steamer and hold the Hindus off while he gets the gang plank down for the five condoned East Indians to get on board the Komagata Maru again.

It appears quite evident that the captain and his crew are losing control of the situation on the boat. Several times yesterday Yamamoto ordered the gangplank down, but his sailor were pushed away from it by the Hindus, who threatened anyone and everyone with death if any attempt was made to get the "solid five" back on again. It is feared that possibly the next move to be made by Gurdit Singh and his followers will be that of disembarking the boats and putting for the shore. If they are so well in control of the vessel as appearances would indicate there is little to stop them leaving it when they please, insofar as the Japanese captain and his crew are concerned at any rate.

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4

The immigration department, while of course temporarily the victim of Gurdit Singh's little trick yesterday is in the fortunate position that it can "pass the buck" to Captain Yamamoto. It can say, "The charter of your boat has been transferred from Gurdit Singh to shore Hindus, therefore he has no authority over the gangplank. Why are you allowing him to have control of it?" And the poor captain perforce has to accept the gentle implication that he should get busy and get the five back on again. Several attempts were made this morning, as well as yesterday afternoon, to have the five board the Komagata Maru, but the Hindus on the ship refused to allow them on and they are still in the detention shed on shore.

What Will Be Done?

What is to be done with them? The Hindus aboard the ship are closely watching the gangway and the Japanese captain and chief engineer and steward, who were ashore, had great difficulty yesterday in getting back on board their own vessel.

It is suggested that if the Hindus on the Komagata Maru still refuse to allow the five now on the beach to be returned to the ship, the venturesome quintette(Sic) may be deported on the Empress of Asia, which will leave here on Thursday for the Orient. They are now being held in the detention sheds.

The immigration department says nothing but there is absolutely no doubt as to the incident. It was seen by more than one pair of eyes and no doubt will lead to free comment.

Public feeling, as gathered by the men on the street, is beginning to express decided opinions as to the delay in handling the Gurdit Singh pilgrims. The average man feels that the government should have grasped the nettle and ordered the ship away early in the game. The news that another shipload is on the way does not serve to temper the growing feeling of indignation. In the meanwhile, the Komagata Maru passengers have invented a new game. They fish for driftwood which floats by on the tide and from the timber secured they are shaping very workmanlike clubs.

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4

Vancouver Hindus Indignant.

The Province office was invaded by a deputation of Vancouver Hindus this morning, who wished to have their views put before the public. Briefly summarized, this case was:

The immigration people have refused to allow Vancouver Hindus to get near the Komagata Maru in order to talk to their friends, yet they not only took out three Nanaimo Hindus in the government launch, but allowed the "solid five" to come aboard the launch and talk with their friends. The Vancouver Hindus consider this a case of unjust discrimination. If Nanaimo Hindus, they say, can get the use of the government launch, surely Vancouver Hindus should be accorded a similar privilege and be allowed to talk with their countrymen on the steamer.

The attitude of the Gurdit Singh crowd is claimed by several Hindus here to be caused by the action of the Temple Hindus, who are inciting them to take a more militant stand.

Deputation Goes East.

Toronto, July 4.—A deputation of Hindu residents of British Columbia arrived in Toronto last night from Vancouver en route for England to protest to King George against exclusion of Hindus from Canada. The party arrived in the city on the Vancouver express, and was in charge of Dr. Sundar Singh, who has recently been touring Eastern Canada, endeavouring to win supporters for his cause. Their turbans attracted great attention. The party was met by local sympathizers, who quickly rushed them away.

"There is no doubt," said Dr. Sundar, "but the attitude of Canada has greatly prejudiced the Dominion in the eyes of Hindus. Canada is in need of experienced farmers, and no better settlers could be secured than Sikhs." Dr. Singh refused to give any opinion upon the refusal of the immigration authorities to permit the Hindus held in Vancouver harbor to enter Canada. He said that question would be considered by the King. The delegation will leave next week for London.

THE DAILY PROVINCE
JULY 4, 1914

p.1&4