

MRJR - FEN. Immigration Branch

Department of the Interior  
Canada

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Vancouver, B. C. 23rd. May, 1914.



In continuation of my letter of the 21st. instant, I beg to confirm my wire, subsequent to previous wires, as follows:- "May 21st. Your file 879545. Winamac has

"engine disconnected, not in commission until  
"Wednesday. Have I your authority hire another  
"boat or will you suggest Naval Department  
"place one our disposal to meet situation re  
"attempt to land Hindus surreptitiously on West  
"Coast Vancouver Island as already stated in  
"previous telegrams"

and to acknowledge receipt of your reply, which reached me at the Customs House, Nanaimo, B.C., which reads:-

"I will take up patrol question immediately  
"with Naval Department and urge them to place  
"boat at your disposal".

I wired Mr. Gwyther, of our staff, to proceed to Nanaimo, on 21st. inst., as follows:-

"Meet me Customs House Nanaimo this afternoon's  
"train"

Owing to the fact that the Winamac was disabled, having received orders from the Customs Department to proceed with the installation of the new engine, I proceeded with Inspector Hopkinson to Nanaimo, so as to be on the spot and be ready to go to Alberni or any point to which the Komagata Maru may proceed or was first sighted, and to see that a rigid patrol was kept. Under separate cover I am writing you fully in connection with the launch Winamac, and to point out that the dual control is unsatisfactory.

On arrival at Nanaimo I received the following wire from Dr. Milne, dated 21st. inst.:-

"Send launch at once. Maru with Hindus at  
"Quarantine station".

Mr. Howard, my assistant, notified Dr. Milne of my address.

I further wired you a night lettergram on the same

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evening, as follows:-

"Komagata Maru at Quarantine. Hopkinson, Gwyther and  
"self leaving by auto for quarantine station. Have  
"asked authorities to hold vessel until we arrive.  
"Gardner Johnson Vancouver state they are agents for  
"vessel and she is going direct to Vancouver".

and immediately wired Dr. Milne:-

"Hopkinson, Gwyther and self coming down by auto.  
"Launch Winamac out of commission. Gardner Johnson  
"states vessel coming direct from Quarantine to  
"Vancouver". "If she leaves before our arrival  
"wire Howard and advise him to secure assistance local  
"police to prohibit any person from Boarding or  
"landing on or from Komagata Maru until my arrival".

I further called up by long distance the  
Williams Head Quarantine Station, notifying them that we were  
proceeding and not to give the vessel pratique until we  
could make arrangements to place officers aboard on  
route from Williams Head to Vancouver.

Collector of Customs Smith, of Nanaimo, assisted  
us to his utmost power, and met the "Princess Patricia"  
on our arrival, and further showed me the following telegram  
received from E. B. Gerard, sub-Collector of Customs at Port  
Alberni:-

"May 20th."

"Launch with Hindus went down Canal to speak vessel with  
"Hindus on board at sea. Private information that  
"vessel may come up canal to try and land passengers.  
"Wire instructions".

Below is Mr. Smith's reply, dated 20th:-

"Order vessel to lie in stream and not to land any  
"passengers pending instructions from Immigration  
"Authorities. Mr. Reid, Immigration Agent in Vancouver  
"has been made acquainted with facts".

I further called up Mr. Gerrard at Port Alberni, asking him  
to get in touch with Mr. H.L. Good, of Nanaimo, and in view  
of the fact that the Komagata Maru was at Quarantine,  
requested the patrol be called off. I received word at a

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later date that Mr. Good had left for home.

On the 22nd. instant I sent you the following night lettergram, which I now beg to confirm as follows:-

"Komagata Maru with 376 Hindus including two women  
"arrived at Quarantine last night. Dr. Nelson, Quar-  
-antine Officer, has declined to issue pratique  
"on grounds that ship has not bill of health from  
"Moji, Japan. He is taking this up with the  
"Department at Ottawa. Will you take up  
"situation in consultation with his Department in  
"view of technical point raised. Imperative that  
"Government patrol boat be delegated to keep this  
"vessel under surveillance in view of attempt to  
"land surreptitiously en route or in harbour at  
"Vancouver where I intend if possible to keep  
"her in stream and conduct necessary examination  
"there. I am proceeding Vancouver, Please  
"advise there. Naval patrol boat has not yet  
"reported for orders."

We drove all night by auto, leaving Victoria at 3.20 a.m.

After three hours we reached the outer wharf, and Dr. Milne, several Immigration Officers, proceeded by launch to Quarantine at Williams Head, being met en route there by Dr. Nelson, on the "Gunhild". This Official, owing to a technical omission in the clearance papers from Muji, Japan, was anxious to obtain the Department of Public Health's opinion, from Ottawa. He returned, despatching a message, which, through his courtesy, I perused, hence my wire as above.

A large launch, loaded with Hindus, was circling the vessel all the time, the leader and spokesman of the party endeavouring to address the passengers of the Komagata Maru being Hernam Singh, once deported, but who returned to Canada (your No. 871863 Imm.).

I left Interpreter Gwyther, with instructions, to stay on the boat and proceed with her to Vancouver, trusting at the same time that you had been successful at Ottawa in

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having the Naval Departmental boat placed at our disposal.

Returning to Vancouver, I received your wire of  
22nd. inst. as follows:-

"Naval Service are wiring their Agent Victoria  
"to see Milne and if possible place a boat at  
"Department's disposal to guard Komagata Maru.  
"Have suggested to Milne possibility of placing  
"two or three Immigration Officers on board  
"Komagata Maru in route to Vancouver, Quarantine  
"officers being instructed vaccinated en route  
"Vancouver".

Further, immediately prior to leaving Victoria, received a  
wire from Assistant Howard as follows, dated 22nd.:-

"Pilot for Komagata Maru left 10k boat. Gardner  
"Johnson Co. directed him see you and act under  
"your instructions. If you are returning leave  
"instructions."

as also another message from Dr. Milne:-

"Komagata Maru given pratique left 6.45 pm. Ship  
"doctor will vaccinate passengers on way. Pilot  
"and Gwyther also two of my officers on board.  
"Cannot procure launch to accompany"

together with the following wire of same date, 22nd. inst.,  
from my own Officer, Gwyther:-

"Komagata Maru will clear today, p.m.. Coming on her  
"with Bern and Regrave".

The necessity of a patrol is evident, as I find  
that Nakajima Hirosuke, 29 years of age, Japanese, member of  
the crew, jumped overboard while the vessel was passing a  
lighthouse on one of the American islands. The supposition  
is that he is drowned. Officer Bittancourt and son and  
three of my officers, went on night duty, and met the ship  
before she berthed, giving the following sealed letter  
addressed to the Captain and Pilot :-

"May 22nd. 1914. Dear Sirs, I understand from  
Messrs. C. Gardner Johnson & Co. that

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"that you have received instructions to take orders  
"from myself in all matters connected with the berthing  
"of your vessel. It is requested, therefore, that  
"you anchor in the stream at any convenient place  
"in the fair way, as far away from the dock as  
"possible. No one is permitted to board the vessel  
"unless in possession of an Immigration badge  
"or in uniform, or until such time as the medical  
examination and other formalities are completed."

This morning at 8 o'clock, a patrol boat engaged by  
Gardner Johnson and self, took Dr. Monro, other officers and  
myself, out to the ship. Permission was granted to enter  
the ship at the Customs. The feeling here is now very strong,  
and I have now, with the consent of Harbour-master Reid,  
anchored the ship within three-quarters of a mile of the  
Immigration Wharf and within the police jurisdiction.

There is no doubt that unless a very careful watch  
be kept and all due vigilance exercised, some attempt will be  
made to carry these men ashore by their friends here.

The following letter from Messrs. McNeill, Bird,  
McDonald and Darling, Barristers, etc., of this city, was  
to-day received:-

"Please take notice that we are acting for the  
"376 Hindus on board ship and require and claim  
"the privilege and right of being present on all  
"examinations and boards of inquiry in regard to  
"their right to enter Canada"

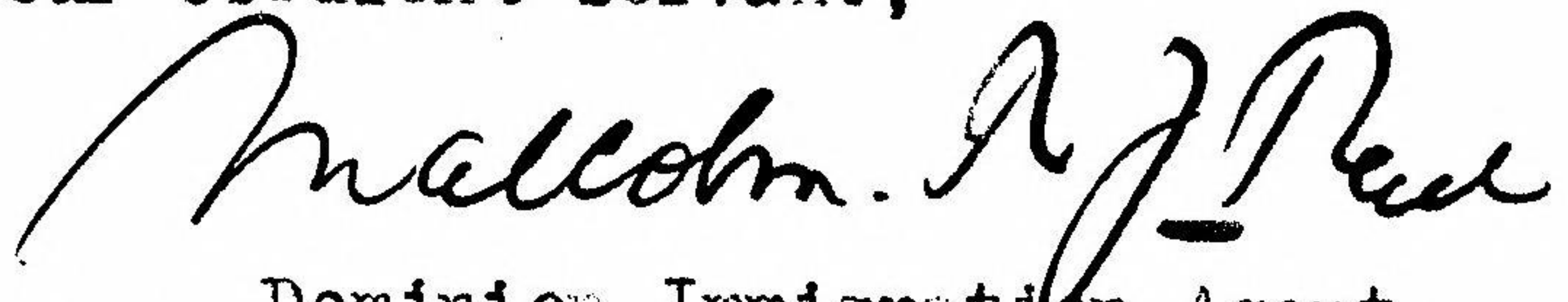
My reply:-

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication  
"of even date. When Boards of Inquiry are being held  
"you will be notified."

I will notify you of future developments.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Dominion Immigration Agent.  
DOMINION IMMIGRATION AGENT AND INSPECTOR.

W.D. Scott, Esq.,  
Superintendent of Immigration,  
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