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208 R.O. Montgomery, Major, to Sir Richard McBride,
Premier of British Columbia

Confidential

P.O. Box 1302

606 Trounce Ave.,

Victoria B.C.,

Victoria, 27 July 27th, 1915.

Hon. Sir Richard McBride, K.C.M.G.,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir:

In accordance with request expressed in conversation had with you on 23rd instant, I now submit for your information and use, in so far as they may be deemed of value, the following remarks dealing with the activity of the Hindu revolutionary agitators in British Columbia particularly.

This agitation appears to be quite active, the present being regarded as a most opportune time to bring on a revolution in India that may prove successful.

Needless to enlarge on the fact that German influences and German money have sought and are now seeking to take advantage of the situation. Information is spread that is either grossly exaggerated or untrue. It is spread in two ways. First, through the medium of the two Hindu revolutionary papers published in California - one in San Francisco, the other in Sacramento. These papers still find ready entrance into Canada, sometimes coming in through the mails in plain envelopes, often addressed to parties other than Hindus. - It may be possible in this connection that Chinamen of the new school of thought and politics lend themselves readily as mediums of circulation, transferring the papers to their Hindu friends. Another means of entrance is one hard to overcome, that of the papers being carried on the person across the border.

The second means employed to spread sedition amongst the Hindus in British Columbia is that parties seize every available opportunity to tell the Hindus that Germany will win, that already she has Belgium, a part of France and also a portion of Russia. Also of what destruction has been wrought by the German submarines on British shipping; and on the other hand that the "Allies" are making no progress.

The effect of this on minds poorly informed as to general conditions and the trend of events and unable to understand clearly the news as conveyed through the daily papers, is altogether bad, both for their own good and the peace and well-being of India and the Empire.

A Hindu conveyed to me a few days ago the information that a Chinaman had told him of the progress of events along the lines that I have just indicated, adding that Great Britain and Japan might not be friends much longer, the latter being tired of the alliance, would seek an early opportunity to end it.

The drift of this being intended to stir up the idea of Oriental supremacy as something for which to strive and that India must bear her part. I have not been able to obtain the name of the Chinaman. I believe he is connected with

a Chinese.

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a Chinese publication here, named the "New Republic", recently established.

I have been informed that it is likely bombs are manufactured in Vancouver and also probably in Victoria. These are not intended so much for use here, but to be sent to India. The component parts being hidden in the baggage of the men returning from this Coast to the Orient. Sometimes hidden on their persons or in pillows, and in such a way as to escape notice except through rigid search. Men have been taught here on the Coast how to make bombs, and are capable of readily assembling the parts when same have been successfully smuggled across the Pacific.

There is a place in this city near the Smith's Mill Reservoir that has been mentioned to me as a meeting place for the seditious element of the Hindu community; also that on occasion it is carefully guarded so as to give warning in case of a surprise by anyone inimical to their purpose.

There is a section that is staunchly loyal to the British Crown. There are also those who are prepared to take either side. The section that is disloyal is strong and aggressive and those composing it will not hesitate to commit murder, if in so doing they think they can advance their cause. Part of their present plan is to frighten the loyal section into joining them. In this they have to a certain extent succeeded, in that a wavering doubt has been instilled as to the advisability of remaining true to the British power. Many of these are capable and reliable men, some of them old soldiers, who, if they have grievances, are still willing to trust to British justice to set them right.

On April 23rd last a letter was mailed here, addressed to "Bhagat Sungh" Constabulary B.N. Borneo, Sandakan Straits Settlements via Singhapur" (Singapore). This letter is postmarked "Victoria B.C., April 23rd, 5 P.M.," and Singapore June 7th, 11.30 A.M. Evidently it did not reach the hands of Bhagat Singh, as it was opened and found to contain a copy of the San Francisco seditious paper "Geddar". The letter, with its contents, has been sent here with a view to discover - if possible - who the sender is. The letter is now before me. Bhagat Singh's regimental number is 972, as same is on the envelope. By such means do the revolutionary papers reach Oriental destinations.

The feuds that exist between certain sections - chiefly in Vancouver - are really political in their origin and the crimes that have been committed serve to mark the determination of the disloyal East Indian to remove from his path anyone whom he regards as an obstacle. In the accomplishment of this, all means are lawful, - murder, perjury, intimidation and abuse, of which the East Indian is a master.

The translations of letters that appeared in the "Geddar", which I recently sent you, clearly indicate the attitude of the disloyal section towards their fellow countrymen who are loyal. The latter are deserving in the circumstances of all the support and recognition can be afforded them.

I know several who are charged with being spies and whose lives are not safe. I know others who have been advised not to be too friendly with me, fearing information might pass.

In so far as I have opportunity, I endeavour to put before the East Indian the folly of disloyalty to the British Crown. But once the seed of disloyalty have taken root in the Oriental mind it is hard to combat the results. Untrained in European ways (or Western) the mental attitude is different and failure to comprehend our methods of progress and means of settling difficulties leads only to the employment of unlawful agencies.

At the request of Mr. Bishop the Postmaster here, I have written him a letter drawing his attention to the "Bhagat Singh" letter with the intention of his forwarding my letter to the Postmaster-General, which I understand he has done.

I remain, Dear Sir, etc
Yours obediently,
R.O. Montgomery,
Major.