

Nanaimo, B.C. 24th May, 1907

M

Sir,

In accordance with your instructions received at 11-30 p.m., on the 20th instant, I made arrangements to hire an auto leaving Nanaimo at 1 a.m. on the 21st instant, arriving at Port Alberni 4.30 a.m. (58 miles from Nanaimo). I immediately hunted up Mr. Garrard; had a long conversation with him, and ascertained the following, which he gave to me as confidential information:-

"That a Vancouver lawyer, who is already known to you, engaged a launch from Mr. Stevens a day previous, which was to be placed at the disposal of two of his clients who arrived at Port Alberni on the evening of the 20th. They were two Hindus, apparently men of substance, who informed Mr. Stevens in confidence, that they wished to proceed to the mouth or entrance of Barclay Sound, there to intercept the "Komagata Maru", and to divert her from her course to Victoria to somewhere in the neighbourhood of Port Alberni, where they intended to disembark the Hindu passengers on board. With this object in view, they left Port Alberni at 4 p.m. on the 20th instant. Mr. Stevens instructed his boatman on no account to put on board or take off anybody from the ship. Deeming this information to be of importance, I called you on the long distance 'phone at 6 a.m. on the 21st. After consultation with you and acting on your instructions, I hired a launch to proceed towards the ocean. Previous to leaving, I requested Mr. Garrard while I was still in his office, to get in touch with all the telegraph and telephone stations on the West Coast, and ascertain whether the "Komagata Maru" had been seen, and if not, to keep a sharp look-out and immediately report any vessel passing down the Coast to you. From him I also obtained a list of the places where I would be able to get in touch with him by 'phone or telegraph on ^{my} ~~the~~ way to ^{the} sea. Hearing that the steamer "Princess Maquinna" was due to arrive in Alberni Canal on her regular run from Victoria, during the day, and later having ascertained that

she had proceeded up Uchuchlesit Inlet, I diverted my course and went after her. The vessel had just left ~~the~~ ^{before} I arrived. The Captain moved the vessel to, and allowed me to come on board. I informed him of ^{the reason for} my presence in the Inlet, and requested him to keep a sharp look-out as he proceeded up the Coast, and if he, at any time, saw the "Komagata Maru", to spare no expense or trouble to notify you by wireless, at the same time, requesting him, if possible, to notify me by wireless ~~via~~ Pachina Point, which he promised to do. I then proceeded on to Bamfield Creek cable station, arriving at 2 p.m. Reaching there, I immediately proceeded to the Government Telegraph Office and got in touch with Mr. Garrard at Port Alberni, and ascertained from him that you would be arriving in Nanaimo by the evening steamer, and that you were taking steps to procure the use of the life-saving launch for our purposes. I then personally communicated by telephone and telegraph with all the Government Stations on the West Coast as far South as San Juan, instructing all these offices confidentially of the information we expected from them, and also specially warning the Customs Officers at Port San Juan to be careful [&] not ~~to~~ allow the vessel to land at his port, and to strictly carry out the Customs Laws there. Within ten minutes of my arrival at Bamfield Creek, I ascertained from one of the linesmen who happened to be there, that a launch with two Hindus on board had arrived at Pachina Bay, 5 miles north of Pachina Point, the Government Wireless Station ^{at 8 AM that morning} ~~at 8 AM that morning~~, I constantly communicated with these two places by 'phone, especially warning the operator at the wireless station to immediately inform me should the men reach his post, and to use great discretion in forwarding any wireless messages to the ship from the men, should she be equipped with wireless apparatus. Shortly after this, the operator at Pachina Point informed me that the launch was at

that moment passing his station; but had just then turned back ^{towards} to Bamfield Creek. From then on, I followed the men by 'phone message past Pachina Bay and Cape Beal, and back to Bamfield Creek where they arrived at 5 p.m. Upon their arrival, one of them came into the telegraph office, where I was sitting, and requested permission to use the Government telephone to Cape Beal, Pachina Point and Port San Juan. The operator informed him that it was necessary for him to write his messages which would be forwarded by telegraph. I might ^{state} ~~mention~~ just here, that I had already requested the operator to place every difficulty in the way of their using the telephone especially. The telephones being denied them, they did not in any way communicate with these places; but confined themselves to sending two telegrams. Being an old operator myself, I took advantage of this to listen and read the telegrams which were sent over the wires. One was to Hari Singh, Topaz Avenue, Victoria, and the other to Baugh Singh of Vancouver. They were of no importance, merely making enquiries as to whether any news had been received of the "Komagata Maru", and instructing them to immediately forward any news ~~received~~ to Rahim Rajah Singh at Bamfield Creek. I ascertained from the man running their launch, that they had intended proceeding on to Port San Juan, there to await the arrival of the "Komagat Maru" off that bay; but the sea being too rough, they turned back, and I further learned that their latest instructions to their launch man were, that they intended proceeding the next morning the 22nd instant, at daylight and laying off shore about 3 to 5 miles in the track of the expected steamer. I instructed my boatman to be ready at any moment during the night, to ~~proceed~~ follow them. Up to 8 p.m., the time of the closing of the Government telegraph lines, nothing further had happened, and I requested Mr. Garrard at Port Alberni, to keep in close touch with you and to come on the wire at any time during the evening, and call the office at Bamfield Creek, as I intended to remain myself at the instrument. At 10 p.m., he call

MRJR.

~~me~~ and informed me ~~that~~ he had heard from you that the "Komagata Maru" had arrived in Victoria, and therefore I was to return. I left Bamfield Creek at 3 a.m. next morning the 22nd, arriving at Port Alberni at 7-30 a.m.; but unfortunately found no means of transportation, and was compelled to remain there until the 23rd, when I returned to Nanaimo by train. The two Hindus arrived back at Port Alberni at noon on the 22nd instant, and from the hotel register where they put up, I ascertained ^{their} ~~the~~ names to be:- H. Rahim and Rajah Singh.

From careful enquiry after my arrival at Bamfield Creek, I was forced to the conclusion, that these two Hindus had every intention of diverting the vessel from her course, and were possessed of sufficient authority and power to do so. It was, therefore, my duty to prevent, by every possible means, their having communication with the vessel, thus allowing her to proceed without being spoken, to Victoria, thereby preventing ~~it being necessary to resort~~ ^{the necessity of resorting} to extreme measures, and I can assure you, sir, that they would never have had the opportunity of speaking or communicating with the vessel. Small accidents do frequently happen which disarrange the mechanism of motor boats, and on this occasion, such an accident had been provided for, for which I had promised the small additional sum of \$25.00. The case was so important and the consequences of any interruption to the vessel's progress to William's Head Quarantine Station, were so far reaching and would have such a bad moral effect, ~~that~~ I considered I was justified in resorting to any means possible under the circumstances to prevent these men communicating directly or indirectly with the ship.

I wish to particularly draw your attention to the possibilities of such a landing being successfully carried out, ^{on} ~~at~~ a future occasion, if carefully planned and secrecy maintained.

The information which reached us through Mr. Garrard, was due

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MRJR,

entirely to the Hindus allowing themselves to making a
confidant of their boatman. I also wish to draw to
your notice the very valuable and painstaking services
rendered by Mr. Garrard, the Customs Officer at Port Alberni,
who, though he has no connection with the Immigration
Department and from whom he receives no remuneration whatever,
~~for~~ promptly furnishing the information upon which you acted,
and whose untiring efforts thereon were of the greatest
assistance to us.

I wish particularly to thank Mr. Cuthbert, Superintendent
of the Cable Station, for his great kindness and assistance
in placing ^{his} ~~the~~ wire to Vancouver at my disposal, so that I
might communicate with you at any time. He also provided me
with a room, and requested me to consider myself as his guest.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Inspector.

Malcolm R.J. Reid Esq.,

Dominion Immigration Agent & Inspector,

Vancouver, B.C.