

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE Passengers on
BOARD S.S. KOMOGATA MARU. WHO HAVE TAKEN THE MATTER OUT
OF GURDIT SINGH'S HANDS: -

Committee consists of: -

Sunder Singh, son of Biram Singh,
Amar Singh, son of Khajan Singh,
Vir Singh, son of Lehna Singh,
Harnam Singh, son of Roor Singh,
Harnam Singh, son of Bhag Singh.

Mr. Hopkinson acted as Interpreter.

Mr. Hopkinson:

They state if food and water are not on board by
nine o'clock the passengers will rush the boats,
taking the matter out of the hands of the Committee,
and go on shore. This has been told them - the
Committee - by the passengers.

Harnam Singh, son of Bhag Singh, states that here is
an opportunity for you, as the Agent of the Immigration
Department, to make a search of this vessel and find
out whether they have any provisions or water, and
satisfy yourself that this is the case.

Mr. Reid:

It is not necessary to search the ship. I have al-
ready interviewed the Mayor on their behalf. We
will try and adjust the matter as soon as possible.
If possible, tonight.

Mr. Hopkinson:

They want to know what the Mayor said.

(2)

Mr. Reid:

He said he would have to consult the Japanese Consul.

(One of the Committee) -

For three days this matter has been going on, and we are starving. If a continuation of consultations go on we are likely to be starving by the time action is taken.

Mr. Reid:

If we cannot adjust it tonight we will let them know and have it adjusted tomorrow morning, as Mr. Bird may have arranged it by now. We have not been on shore for some time, and Mr. Bird would have been on the ship but he is working on this.

Mr. Hopkinson:

They wish to draw your attention to the fact that they have two women and some children on this boat. Two women and five children. They are practically starving and we have no water or provisions. We can possibly do without provisions, but we cannot possibly do without water.

Mr. Reid:

It takes a little time to pump water in, but we will hurry and try and fix this matter up.

Mr. Hopkinson:

They want a time within which to say.

Mr. Reid:

We will do our best tonight but the hour is late

(3)

but if we can get the Manager of the water works it will be alright. We will do the best we can. How much water do they want until tomorrow; we can get that at once.

Amar Singh:

I would like you to be in the same position as we have been here for three days without water, and see how you feel about it individually, and what must be the case of men collectively as in this case. you are getting your food three times a day, and your water, we are getting nothing. If you were starving for three or four hours you would soon take action to get something for yourself, but we have had nothing for three days or so.

You have come on this boat possibly three times from the time she has been here. We have addressed you letters and complaints with regard to several matters. We have made enquiries for you from your officers that have come on this boat, but they have always said, "Mr. Reid is attending to the matter," or "I do not know." You have never put in an appearance on this boat except on the three occasions and now that you are here we would like to hold you until such time as your promise of the sending of provisions and water is fulfilled.

Mr. Hopkinson:

Matters are assuming a serious aspect and it is advisable that no demonstration of any kind on our part to resent the threat conveyed, be made.

(4)

(Mr. Hopkinson, Cont'd).

Leave the matter in my hands and get the lady
stenographers out of the room and into our bunch.

(At this stage stenographers left the saloon
and no farther notes were taken.)

Vancouver, B.C.,

July 9th 1914.