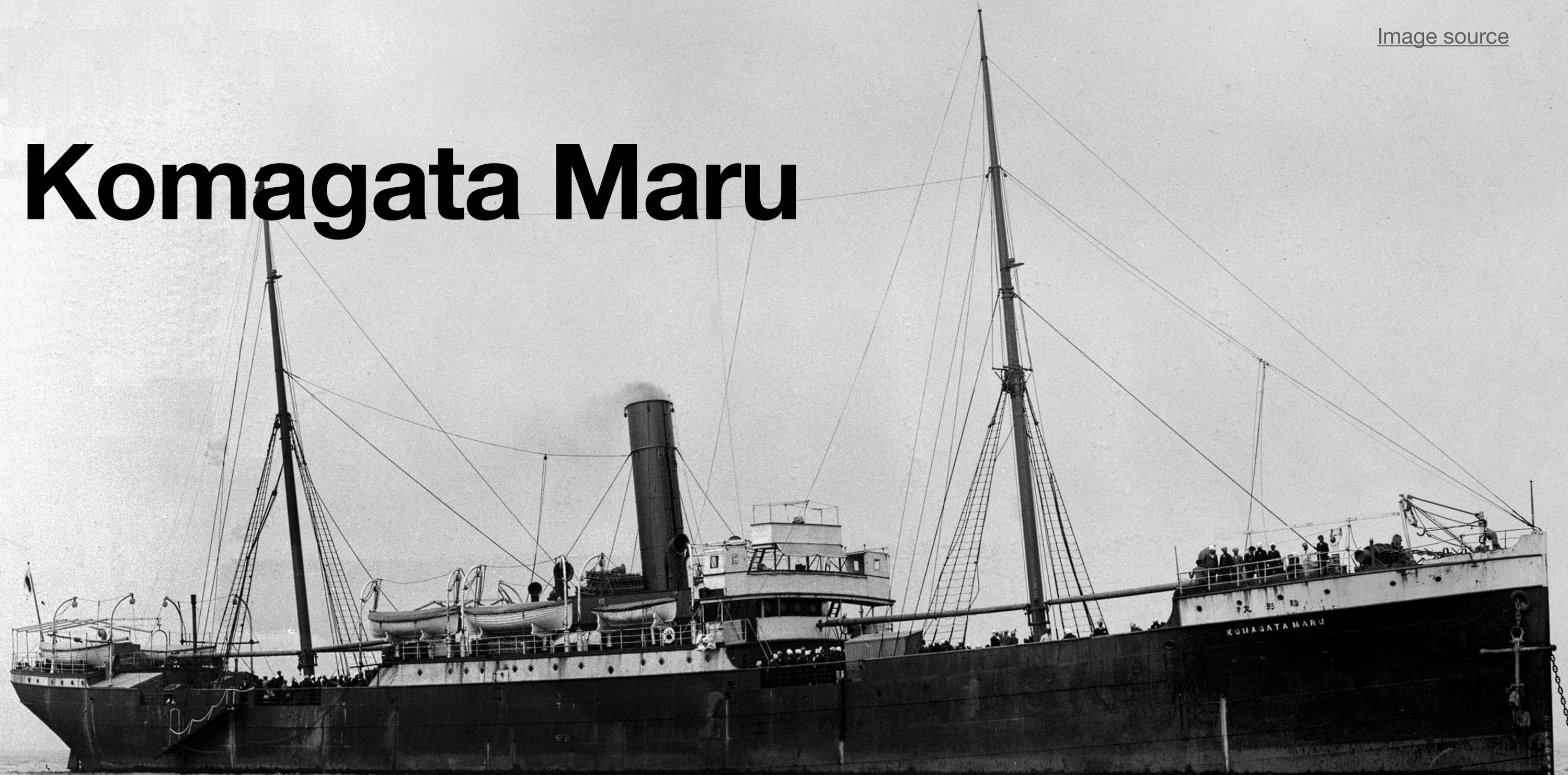
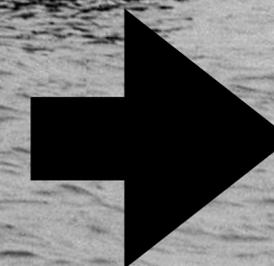


Komagata Maru



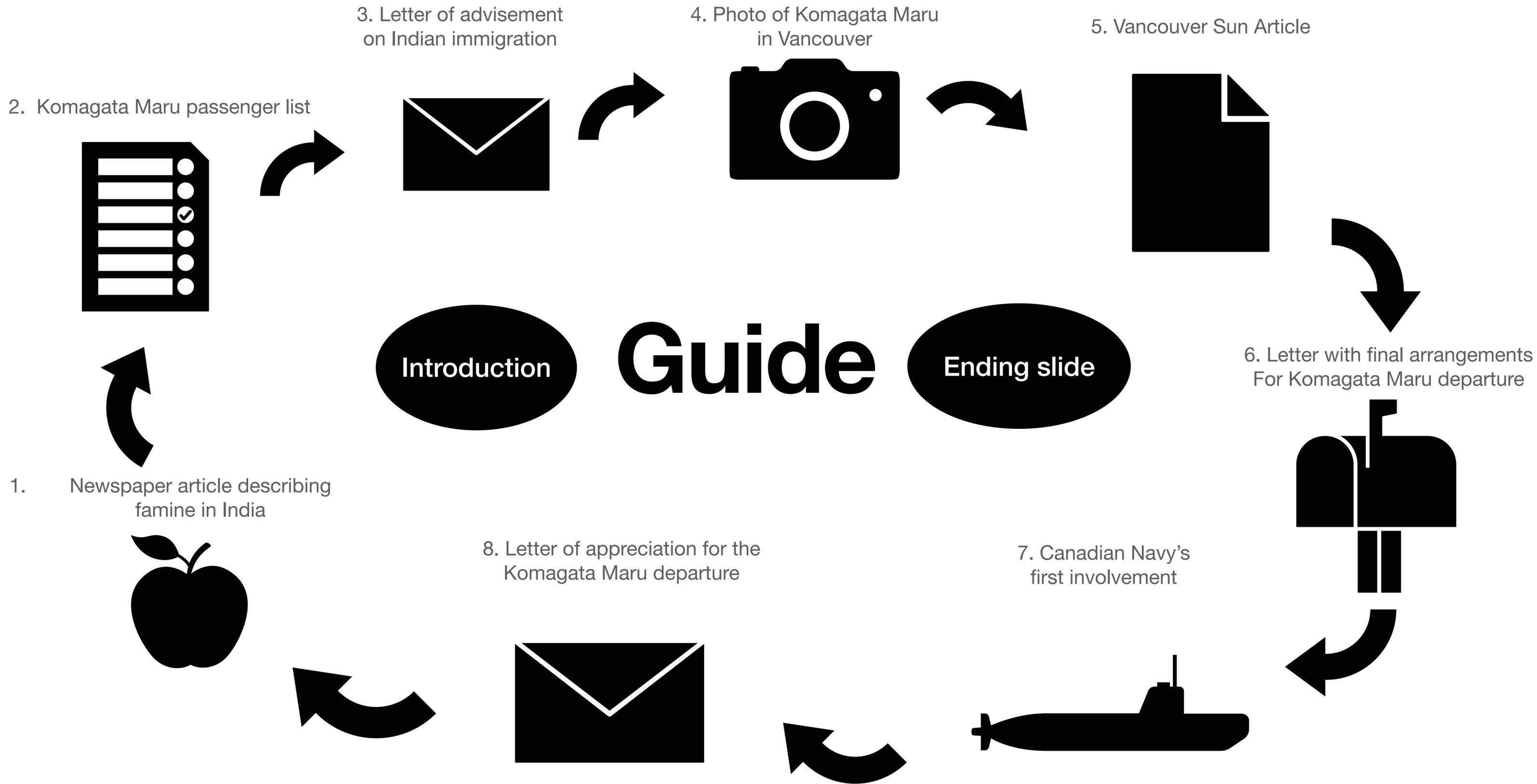
Claire Jaakkola, Julian Nobles, Sepaus Daniali



Introduction

This Keynote tells the story of the Komagata Maru, a deadly piece of British Columbia history, through historical documents and sources. To navigate through this presentation, first go to the [guide](#), then click on the icon to learn more about a primary source. To get back to the guide, click the bottom right hand button that says “back to beginning.” To enlarge an image, click the small plus button in the bottom left of an image.

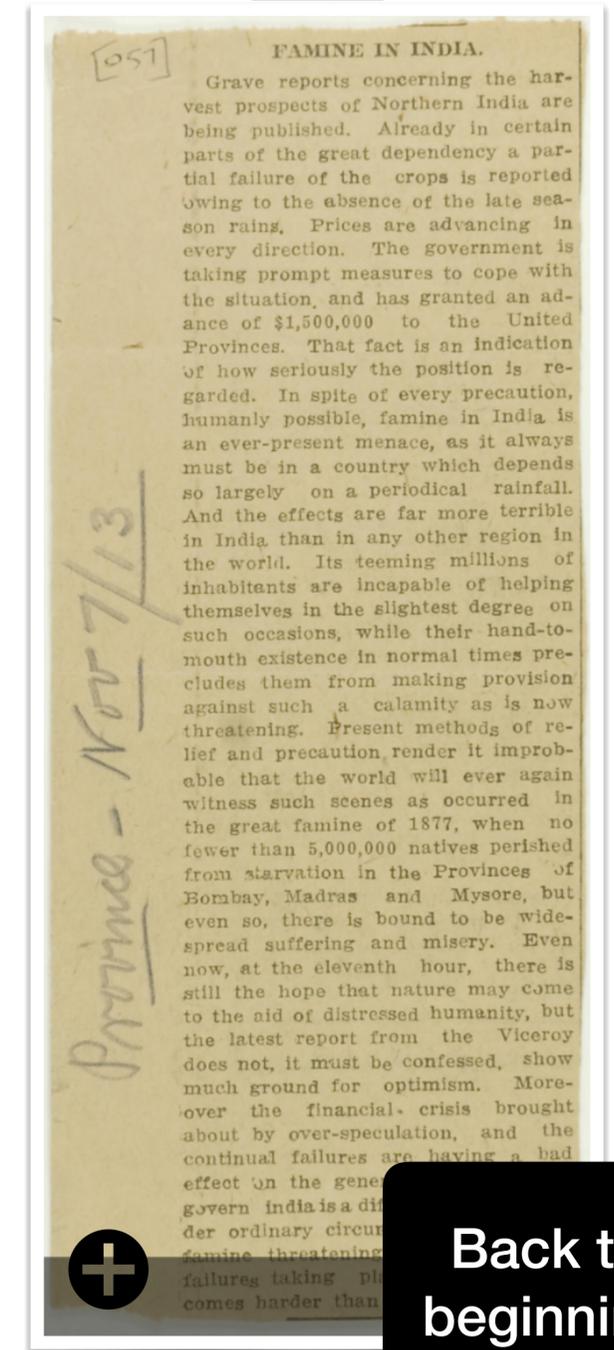
[Go to guide ->](#)



Newspaper article describing famine in India

Source

- Prior to the Komagata Maru, India was suffering from a deadly famine. Many Indians were motivated to move to BC to lead a better life and escape from poverty or famine. This source shows why Indians would want to immigrate to BC even with all the discrimination taking place there.
- This article was created by Henry Herbert Stevens and published in Vancouver
- It was created to inform people about the famine and sympathize with the people of India



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FAMINE IN INDIA.

Grave reports concerning the harvest prospects of Northern India are being published. Already in certain parts of the great dependency a partial failure of the crops is reported owing to the absence of the late season rains. Prices are advancing in every direction. The government is taking prompt measures to cope with the situation, and has granted an advance of \$1,500,000 to the United Provinces. That fact is an indication of how seriously the position is regarded. In spite of every precaution, humanly possible, famine in India is an ever-present menace, as it always must be in a country which depends so largely on a periodical rainfall. And the effects are far more terrible in India than in any other region in the world. Its teeming millions of inhabitants are incapable of helping

Provinces - Nov 7/11

the world. Its teeming millions of inhabitants are incapable of helping themselves in the slightest degree on such occasions, while their hand-to-mouth existence in normal times precludes them from making provision against such a calamity as is now threatening. Present methods of relief and precaution render it improbable that the world will ever again witness such scenes as occurred in the great famine of 1877, when no fewer than 5,000,000 natives perished from starvation in the Provinces of Bombay, Madras and Mysore, but even so, there is bound to be widespread suffering and misery. Even now, at the eleventh hour, there is still the hope that nature may come to the aid of distressed humanity, but the latest report from the Viceroy does not, it must be confessed, show much ground for optimism. Moreover the financial crisis brought about by over-speculation, and the continual failures are having a bad effect on the general position. To govern India is a difficult problem under ordinary circumstances, but with famine threatening, and financial failures taking place the work becomes harder than ever.

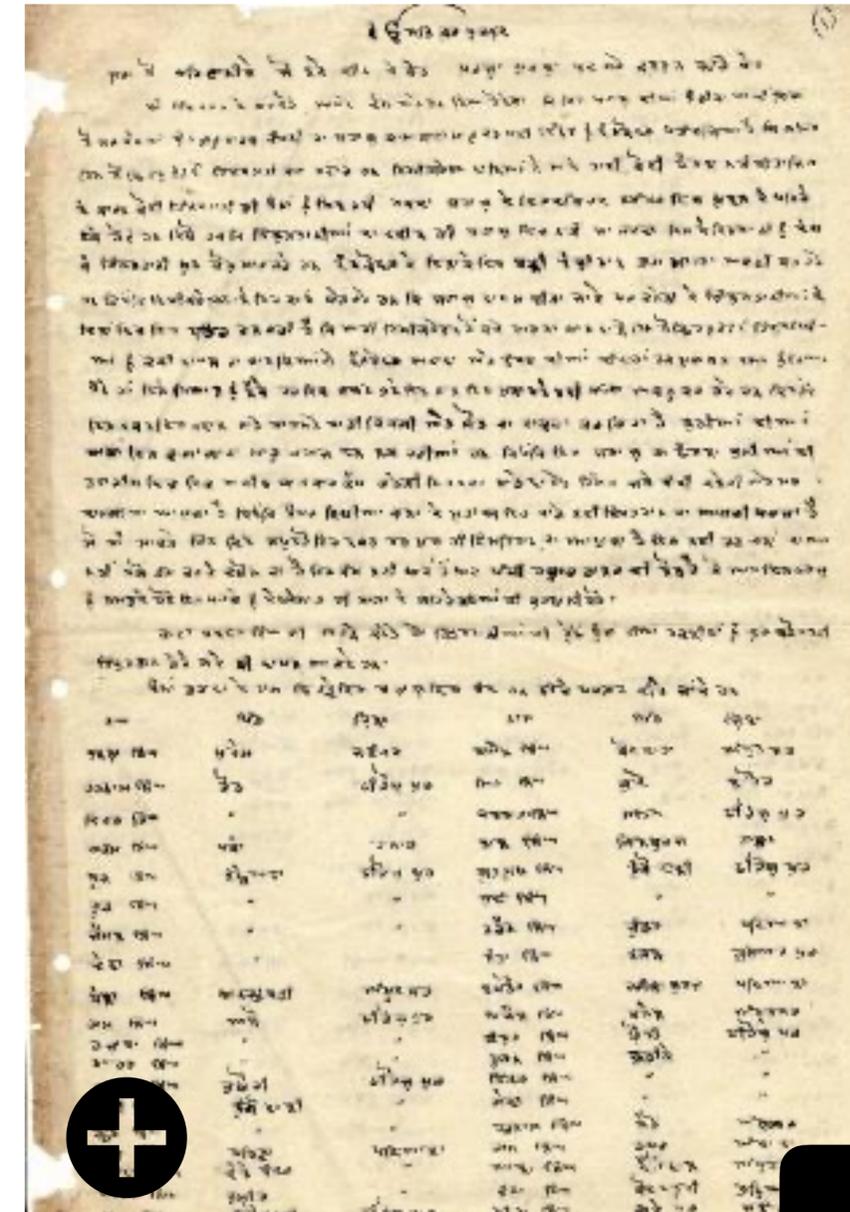
Newspaper report on famine in India

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Komagata Maru Passenger list

- The Komagata Maru passenger list was compiled by Arjan Singh Chand. It is a list of all the passengers names, villages, and districts. When it was created, the Komagata Maru was preparing to make the voyage across to BC. It was very important who and who wasn't on the ship so they know who's supposed to have a ticket and who isn't.

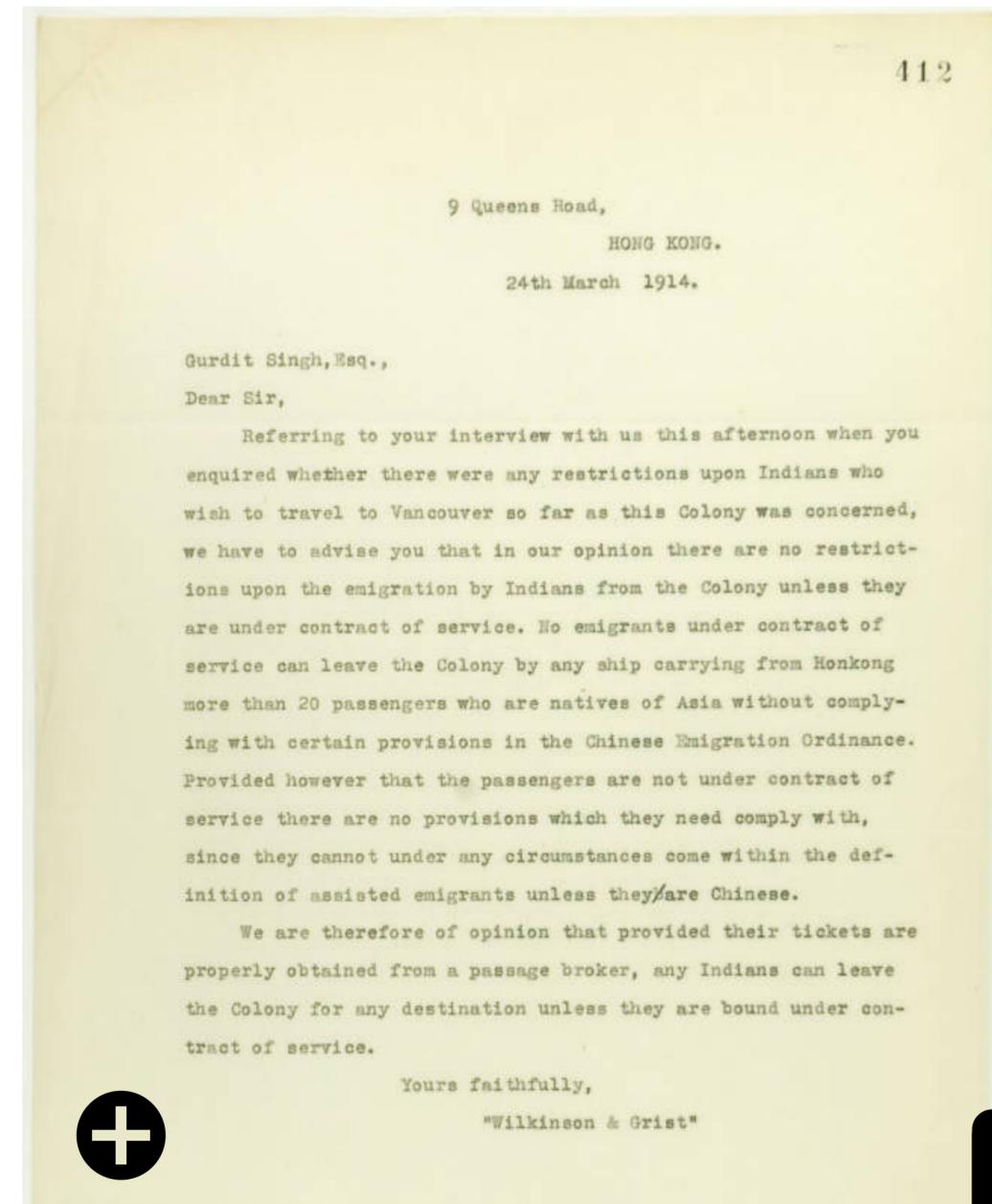


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Letter of advisement on Indian immigration

- This letter, created by the British Columbian government, was written in response to an inquiry on whether it's ok for Indians to immigrate to BC. This was prior to the Komagata Maru setting sail from Hong Kong. In the letter, they say it's fine for Indians to immigrate to BC if it's a lawfully obtained boat ticket. This is an important part of the story, as Indian immigrants were told they could come to BC and it wouldn't be a problem, when really, they were sent back.



[Source](#)

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9 Queens Road,

HONG KONG.

24th March 1914.

Gurdit Singh, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

Referring to your interview with us this afternoon when you enquired whether there were any restrictions upon Indians who wish to travel to Vancouver so far as this Colony was concerned, we have to advise you that in our opinion there are no restrictions upon the emigration by Indians from the Colony unless they are under contract of service. No emigrants under contract of service can leave the Colony by any ship carrying from Honkong more than 20 passengers who are natives of Asia without complying with certain provisions in the Chinese Emigration Ordinance. Provided however that the passengers are not under contract of service there are no provisions which they need comply with, since they cannot under any circumstances come within the definition of assisted emigrants unless they are Chinese.

We are therefore of opinion that provided their tickets are properly obtained from a passage broker, any Indians can leave the Colony for any destination unless they are bound under contract of service.

Yours faithfully,

"Wilkinson & Grist"

Letter of advisement on Indian immigration

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Komagata Maru in Vancouver

- This next part of the story is the Komagata Maru actually arriving in Vancouver. You can see a side view of the boat in Burrard Inlet. When they arrived, they expected to be allowed to immigrate, considering the letter they had earlier. This was not the case. Many of them didn't have Visa's and didn't have the money to obtain one. The Vancouver residents at the time were invested in the idea of a "white Canada" and did not welcome the passengers of the Komagata Maru.



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Komagata Maru in Vancouver

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Memorandum Pad

For the news of the day, provincial, Dominion and the world, The Sun admittedly takes premier position in Vancouver.

The Sun

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 711

VANCOUVER, B. C., SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 23, 1914—SIXTEEN

HINDU INVADERS NOW IN THE CITY HARBOR ON KOMAGATA MARU

Vessel Arrived Here This Morning Before Daybreak—Excited Crowd of Hindus Assemble on Waterfront—New-comers Seem Assured of Being Admitted—Gunget Singh Issues Statement Containing Veiled Threat.

The interest that is attached to the arrival of the Japanese steamer Komagata Maru on this coast with several hundred Hindus on board has lifted from William Head to Vancouver. The immigrant ship was granted pratique yesterday afternoon, and steamed immediately for this port. She entered Burrard inlet some time after midnight, and anchored in the stream.

She is consigned to C. Gardner Johnson & Company, Vancouver, by her owners, Y. Saty & Company, of Kobe. She has a part cargo of Japanese coal which she will discharge here.

Mr. Malcolm J. Reid, superintendent of immigration, arrived in Vancouver from Victoria last night, the forerunner of the shifting interest in the game which opened at the William Head quarantine station and is now to be played to a conclusion in Vancouver.

As soon as the Komagata Maru had been given pratique by Dr. Nelson, the quarantine officer, the steamer started for Burrard inlet. It is understood that three immigration officers are on the steamer. A patrol launch with immigration officers on board left the

boat landing stage at Pier A, a little after midnight, and did picket duty around the anchored steamer until daylight, when it was relieved by another patrol vessel. The Komagata

(Continued on Page 4.)

OBJECTION TAKEN TO SOME PROVISIONS OF NATURALIZATION BILL

Dominion Lands Act Will Have to Be Amended to Confer with New Measure.

MUST SPEAK ENGLISH OR FRENCH TO QUALIFY

Member Insists that This Will Bear Heavily on New-comers in the West.

(Sun's Leased W. A. P. Wire.) OTTAWA, May 22.—Third readings were given to the act to amend the dry docks' act, the act relating to the Quebec battlefields and the act to incorporate the Boy Scouts, in the commons today, after which Hon. C. J. Doherty's bill, to provide for uniform naturalization was given a second reading and discussed at length in committee. The bill to amend the dry docks' act will make possible the construction of a dry dock at Van-

DINGMAN WELL WILL BE SHOT IN FEW DAYS

(Sun's Leased W. A. P. Wire.) CALGARY, May 22.—Iredell Hovis, of the Dingman well, stated today that the well would be shot in the course of a few days. One hundred quarts of nitro-glycerine will be used. As a result the strata at the bottom of the well will be broken up, and it is confidently expected that when this happens there will be a large increase in the flow of oil. At the present time the drill has penetrated only a distance of about two feet into the oil formation of a stock exchange will bearing sands.

Preliminary arrangements for the well to be completed tomorrow, and in the course of a few days the sale of stocks will be carried on under strict regulations.

BANDITS MURDER AND ROB PAYMASTER OF ALBERTA CEMENT CO.

COMES TO THIS CITY SEEKING MATERIAL FOR FIGHT 'FIGHTING'

Wealthy Drygoods Manufacturer of East St. Pancras, Will Oppose B. C. Liberal.

CALLS FIGHTING JOHN INSINCERE

Intends to Make Much of that Martin Does Not Notice as He Preaches

All the way from merrie on a political mission as well as of business on the way "Fighting" John Martin, British Columbia's fighting liberal, who is at East St. Pancras in the British Empire, Mr. J. W. Biggs, a wealthy goods manufacturer of London, the Hotel Vancouver. He is here for several days, and tonight that he is digging up figures with relation to Mr. Martin's history in this city, and putting it against him in the forthcoming elections in East St. Pancras.

Vancouver Sun Article

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Vancouver Sun Article

- This article from the Vancouver Sun, shows the general public opinion of the Komagata Maru being in Vancouver. To the white Canadians living in BC at the time, they were invaders, and they had to leave, despite being told they were allowed to immigrate here.

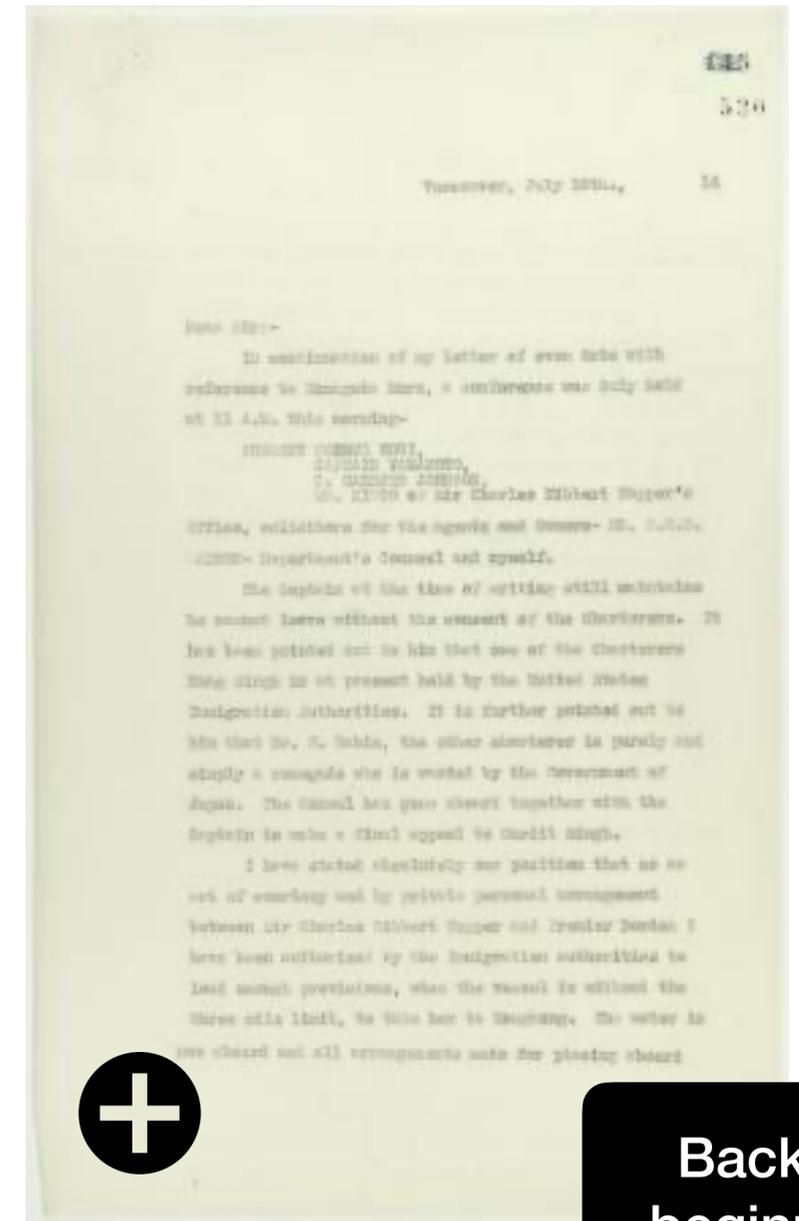


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Letter with arrangements for Komagata Maru final departure

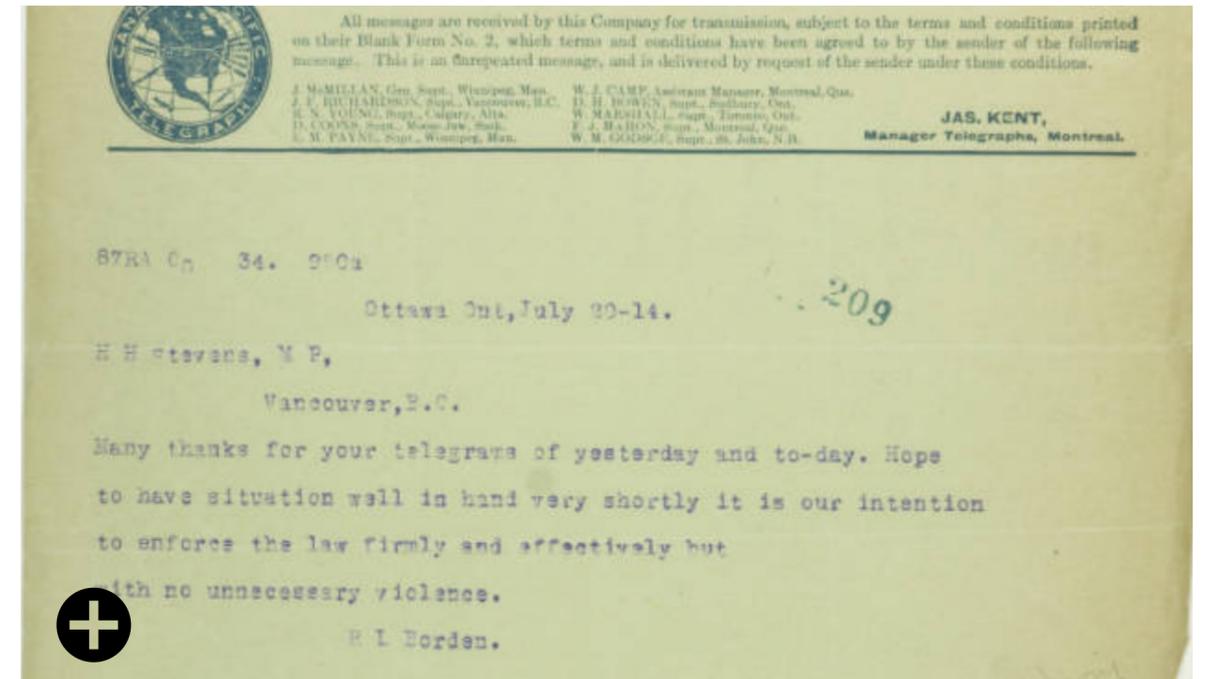
- This is a letter written by Henry Herbert Stevens with arrangements for the Komagata Maru's final departure. Having planned for several weeks, the Komagata Maru was given enough resources to go to Calcutta. During the time of the letter being written, they were preparing for the Komagata Maru to leave Vancouver. Their point of view was that they wanted the Komagata Maru and all the people on it to leave.



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Canadian Navy's First Involvement

- The Komagata Maru had been stranded in the inlet, with no way of getting to land and moving to BC. The government, after denying them immigration, had to make a plan for the boat to leave. The Komagata Maru went through several police attacks, being shot at and many passengers were injured. The passengers were not given food, water, or other survival resources. Finally, the Canadian Navy got involved and tugged the boat out of the inlet to the cheering of white Canadians from the shores. Pictured is an authorization for the Navy to escort them out of the inlet created by the BC government.



Source

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All messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeated message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

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D. COOPER, Supt., Moose Jaw, Sask. F. J. BATHON, Supt., Montreal, Que.
L. M. PAYNE, Supt., Winnipeg, Man. W. M. GODDARD, Supt., St. John, N.B.

JAS. KENT,
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

87RA Cn 34. 9001

Ottawa Ont, July 29-14.

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H W Stevens, M P,

Vancouver, B.C.

Many thanks for your telegrams of yesterday and to-day. Hope to have situation well in hand very shortly it is our intention to enforce the law firmly and effectively but with no unnecessary violence.

R L Borden.

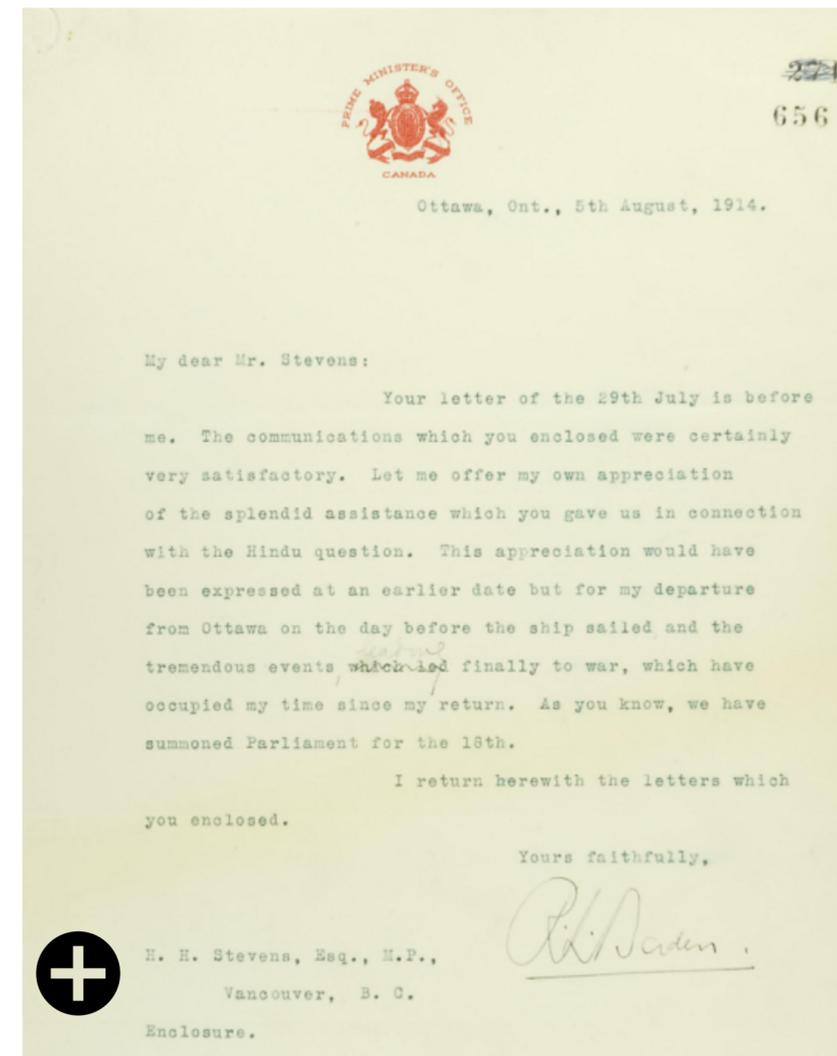
Authorization for Canadian Navy to get involved

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Letter of appreciation for Komagata Maru departure

- This letter, written by R.L. Borden to Henry Herbert Stevens, describes his appreciation for Stevens getting the Komagata Maru to leave Vancouver. This letter was created once the Komagata Maru had left for Calcutta.
- Once they arrived in Calcutta, they were shot at from the shore, where very few survived. The point of view at the time from many white Canadians was very anti-Asian, and against oriental immigration.



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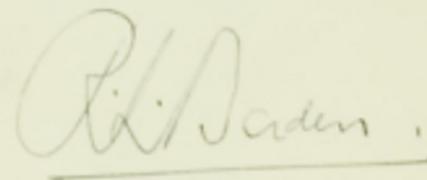
Ottawa, Ont., 5th August, 1914.

My dear Mr. Stevens:

Your letter of the 29th July is before me. The communications which you enclosed were certainly very satisfactory. Let me offer my own appreciation of the splendid assistance which you gave us in connection with the Hindu question. This appreciation would have been expressed at an earlier date but for my departure from Ottawa on the day before the ship sailed, and the tremendous events ^{which} ~~which~~ led finally to war, which have occupied my time since my return. As you know, we have summoned Parliament for the 18th.

I return herewith the letters which you enclosed.

Yours faithfully,



H. H. Stevens, Esq., M.P.,
Vancouver, B. C.

Enclosure.

Letter of appreciation for Komagata Maru departure

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The End

Claire Jaakkola

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