

THE PROVINCE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 1914

THE KOMAGATA MARU.

These are exciting days on board the good ship Komagata Maru. There were rumors abroad that the anchor would be weighted and the ship berthed opposite Heatley avenue wharf. There were rumors abroad that the Hindus would allow nothing of the kind, and that Captain Yamamoto was unable to move his ship. There were further rumors that the immigration officials would tow the Hindus to their new berth if she did not go of her own accord. But if the Hindus are shrewd so are the immigration officials. They have a very good view of the Komagata Maru, where she is now, and off Heatley avenue wharf they would not have quite such a good one, so it is probably within reason to suppose that they were not anxious for the ship to move. Having disposed of all these rumors by staying where she is the Komagata Maru now sends forth a fresh sheaf to be harvested by the gossip.

The Komagata Maru is a Japanese vessel, and today into the harbor will sail two Japanese cruisers. At once imagination weaves another web. The Hindus are recalcitrant, it is said. It is added they refuse to obey the captain of the ship, and that he will at once appeal for help to the admiral in command of the cruisers and that the admiral will send an armed guard on board and make the Hindus behave. But imagination forgets that the harbor of Vancouver is under jurisdiction of the Canadian Government, and hitherto the Canadian Government has not found itself unable to deal with the situation. There is also the city to be considered. The city has a very efficient body of police, and if there were really trouble no doubt the police would serve the purpose of keeping order. For the Japanese cruisers to put an armed guard aboard one of their ships while she was in Vancouver harbor would be assuming the civil power of Canada. That would be a thing no Japanese admiral would be likely to do. As long as the Komagata Maru remains within

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the three-mile limit she will obey Canadian laws. When she is outside it the captain can call on his countrymen for protection.