

THE PROVINCE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1914

LIVE AND LET LIVE.

Mr. Gurdit Singh has given up the fight and is going home. It will probably be agreed that he is a good sportsman and has played his game to the limit. He made a magnificent fight and under the circumstances may be condoled with on losing. He had set his heart on entering Canada and those who have succeeded in that object and have become enamored of the country will realize what it must mean to Mr. Gurdit Singh to be deprived of his desire. With the sigh of relief with which the departure of the Komagata Maru will be hailed there will also perhaps be mingled a sigh of regret. The ship has provided much in the way of interest for the last two months or so and at times a good deal of excitement. Undoubtedly the immigration officials(Sic) will be unequivocally pleased when they see the last of the ship, but the waterfront will assume a less romantic appearance and the atmosphere of the Orient will to a great extent disappear therefrom.

When a man is defeated and meets his defeat without making a fuss it is only sportsmanlike to make him realize that his conquerors bear him no ill will. Canada has won a battle on which a very great deal depended. Mr. Gurdit Singh put up a very hard fight and it may be admitted was a worthy foe. The subtlety and patience of the Oriental were fully displayed by the leader of the Komagata Maru excursion. It is hardly likely that he was in the least misled by the letter of the Hongkong lawyers which he now displays. All that the lawyers stated was that in their opinion the Hongkong authorities could not prevent the sailing of the Komagata Maru for Canada with the Hindus on board. The lawyers carefully use the word emigrants not immigrant. It is just as well to emphasize this because it is no good pretending that Mr. Gurdit Singh was not playing a far deeper game than appears on the surface. The

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 8, 1914

p.6

undercurrents of political intrigue which are always at work in India know all about the Komagata Maru, and whatever opinion had been given by any lawyers it is certain the expedition would have taken place.

Canada bears Mr. Gurdit Singh no grudge for having done his best. Canada is grateful to him for at least one thing. He has really awakened her to the undoubted seriousness of the whole Oriental problem. For a very long time to come Canada will not forget Mr. Gurdit Singh and the Komagata Maru. Canada will do all she can to show India that it is not a question of prejudice or pride which prompts the laws barring Oriental immigration in various ways, but merely a question of live and let live.