EXTORTION CHARGE BEFORE MAGISTRATE

Bullock, Chief Witness in Admiralty Case, is Defendant in Action Now Under Way in Local Court

Yesterday saw the conclusion of the evidence submitted by the prosecution in the case of John Andrew Bechtel against Frederick Bullock, the latter charged with attempting to extort money from Charles J. V. Spratt, of the Victoria Machinery company, in the cases arising out of the seizure of articles alleged to have been purchased by the company, articles which, it is alleged, were stolen from the Esquimalt navy yard. Bullock, the informer in the previous trials against Mr. Spratt and Mr. Houston is the defendant in the present case. Today the defence will bring its rebuttal evidence and it is expected that the case will be completed so far as the preliminary hearing is concerned.

Bullock was, after many delays, brought to trial under section 453 of the Criminal Code.

Mr. Pooley wanted a further adjournment. He produced a telegram from Mr. Peters at Prince Rupert stating that Mr. Peters could not come to Victoria. A letter was on the way and he was anxious to receive this letter. Magistrate Jay thought the case should go on.

By Means of Threats

Mr. McLean, K.C., for the prosecution, outlined the case against Bullock, a former storekeeper at the Machinery depot, who had stated in evidence that he had taken notes to get even with somebody connected with the business. When his services were dispensed with he was charged with stealing a roll of canvas and this charge, at his plea, was withdrawn, whereupon he made an effort to to collect damages, an effort which was not entertained. Afterward he began a series of efforts by means of threats to bring prosecutions involving the Machinery depot and Messrs. Spratt and Houston to force the payment to him of moneys. Modest at first he sought $150, and said he would inform the customs if that sum was not paid. He did not receive a cent, and later procured the customs to make a seizure, stating in his evidence that he was the informer. That did not produce the money he sought and he went on with his threats and demands, increasing the sum sougut to $750, threatening to bring proceedings which he said would not result now in fine, but in imprisonment. He interviewed Dr. Bechtel and in two or three interviews made threats in connection with efforts to extort money. He said Spratt was a fool not to pay and he would leave the country. He said Commander Vivian was pressing him and he could not put off things any longer as Vivian was wondering why he did not proceed. He proposed to Dr. Bechtel to shove the money under his door.

In dealing with individuals of this kind there has to be some third party to hear what is said and Mr. White will tell of hearing Bullock's demands for $750 and suggestions how the money should be paid. He continued to make threats. He told Mr. Price that Day was in peril and didn't seem to realize his position, and if the $750 was not forthcoming he would lay informations. To Mr. Hafer he made threats also, his price now advancing to $1,000. To Mr. Hafer he said: "I have those fellows where I want them."

A Dangerous Character

This man Bullock was up for sale, prepared to abandon those with whom he allied himself if paid what he was seeking. This was a species of robbery, but a robber was not such a scoundrel as a man who carried on these practices. His victim if he paid money once had to go on paying ad libitum. A robber possessed a certain kind of courage, but a blackmailer was a much more dangerous character—a man whose actions were in every way contemptible. As for the cases which had been heard their merits or demerits made no difference whatever in this charge.

Mr. C. J. V. Spratt was the first witness called. He, a life-long resident of Victoria, said he was engaged in business with the Victoria Machinery depot and other investments. Frederick Bullock had been employed for about a year by the Victoria Machinery depot, and his services were dispensed with, he having trouble at the works. He was charged with stealing canvas, but the charge was withdrawn on his plea. Bullock on April 18th came to witness's office and made some insinuations and was asked to put anything he had to say in writing. He sat down wrote once or twice, crumpled up the paper and placed it in his pocket, and then wrote a letter which witness took and put in his safe. The letter was not signed. In this letter Bullock wrote:

"For consideration of the sum of $150 I will agree to withdraw all charges on account of procuring and selling goods unlawfully against all parties concerned, viz John Day and the Victoria Machinery depot and undertake that hereafter no procedure shall be taken by me or others on my behalf. Settlement to be made by 11a.m. tomorrow, April 19th."

Bullock said he had to have money, and he was unable to get any from Day. Witness refused to pay him money then, or at any time, and arranged a meeting with Day, which took place at witness's office. Bullock afterwards telephoned a couple of times, saying: "It has cost you a thousand dollars. You had better come through, or it will cost you more." This was after the seizure.

Charge of Theft

Mr. Pooley cross-examined regarding the circumstances under which Bullock wrote the letter offering to withdraw charges on payment of $150, and concerning the charge made against Bullock of stealing canvas. He asked about a letter sent to Mr. Spratt by Mr. Peters, solicitor, threatening action on behalf of Bullock for $500 damages for alleged malicious prosecution. Mr. Spratt said he had not discussed the matter on any lines of malicious prosecution, and Bullock never referred to things in this light when seeking to secure money. He had not communicated with the lawyers after receiving that letter and had paid no attention to it.

Mr. Pooley asked why Bullock had not signed the letter, and witness replied that this was because the money sought was not forthcoming. He had not given the letter back to Bullock because he saw what Bullock was up to and wanted to hold this letter. Asked regarding the arrangement whereby Mr. White overheard Bullock's conversation with Dr. Bechtel, witness said he had not arranged with Mr. White. He had wanted to get a stenographer to take Bullock's statements down. Bullock was engaged in a blackmailing proposition, and he did not propose to pay him anything. He had not heard of Bullock's meeting with Dr. Bechtel until after it was over. He was anxious to keep tab on what Bullock was doing and had engaged a detective, the man referred to as Dr. Howard.

Mr. Spratt gave absolute denial to the statement made by Bullock that he had walked for hours with him discussing the navy cases. He told of how Mr. Peters had telephoned to him when the navy searches were going on, and stated he intended to go ahead with the threatened suit on behalf of Bullock, and witness told him to go ahead.

To Magistrate Jay witness said Bullock had asked him for money with which to go to Los Angeles as a favor, after the withdrawal of the stealing charge.

Hush Money

Dr. A. E. Bechtel told of how Bullock came to his office and of conversations in which the informer sought money. Early in May, when Bullock made his first visit, Bullock said: Spratt's a fool to let this thing go on. All that was wanted was $750 and he would hush it up. Bullock said he wouldn't lay charges if paid money. On May 13th Bullock came again to seek professional advice and witness gave him two prescriptions. Then Bullock said: "Doctor, I've got them where I want them, and I'm going to make them come through." He went on to say things had got in a bad mess and it was their own fault and that he could have saved them a thousand dollar fine if they had paid what he wanted. Now he wanted more money. He said he'd leave on the afternoon boat if paid $750. If not paid he said he would lay charges involving the Machinery Depot and Messrs. Spratt and Houston. Witness said he did not think Mr. Spratt knew of any irregularities at the Machinery Depot, and Bullock said he didn't intend to accuse Spratt, but as Spratt had made him suffer he intended to make Spratt suffer. Bullock showed a number of blue papers which appeared to be informations and said that all he had to do was to have them sworn to. He read one in which accusation was made of receiving naval goods knowing them to have been stolen. He said witness had better see Spratt and get him to have the matter hushed up.

Bullock came back the same afternoon, and said that if the money he wanted was paid in part he would go to Seattle that afternoon and wait there for the balance, but would come back and make charges if the balance was not sent. Witness told him that Mr. Spratt laughed at the idea of paying money, and there was "nothing doing." Bullock said he had to do something quick, as the provincial police and Commander Vivian wanted to know why he did not start proceedings. He would have to do something or get out of town. He asked witness to see Mr. Spratt and let him know what was doing at his house that night. Witness saw Bullock that night and they talked on the porch of Bullock's house, when witness told him Mr. Spratt wouldn't pay him any money, and witness said it was a serious business to pay money that way. Bullock said the money could be put in an envelope and pushed under his door. He said he had a good excuse to go to Seattle, as he had told Commander Vivian there were parties in Seattle he had to see in connection with the case, and he must get the money by Sunday or he could not delay it longer.

Bullock afterward went to see witness's father and it was arranged that Mr. White, a local real estate man, should be placed where he could hear the conversation.

To Mr. Pooley the witness said he had not known about Mr. Peter's letter when he discussed the case with Bullock, and the first time he heard Bullock was seeking to get money was when this man came to his office. He had not told Bullock that Mr. Stuart Henderson said: "Now we've got you where we want you." The suggestion that the money be placed under the door was made by Bullock, not by witness.

Afternoon Session.

At the afternoon session Dr. Bechtel told of a conversation with a man named Classen, who was alleged to have told Bullock, then under treatment by Dr. Bechtel, "not to take any of the doctor's medicine, but to look out for it." Witness said he asked Classen if such had been the case, but the latter denied it.

Mr. John Andrew Bechtel, who has just returned from the east, stated he has an interest in the business of the Victoria Machinery depot. He told of a conversation which he had had with the accused Bullock on Saturday night, May 13, at his home. Mr. White, a real estate dealer was present, standing at the doorway to the sitting room, where he could hear everything said. Bullock spoke in regards to getting away from the city and leaving the country in a hurry. He (Bullock) said Commander Vivian was waiting for him to institute proceedings against Messrs. Spratt and Houston for receiving goods which they knew were stolen from the navy yard. Commander Vivian had asked him why he was not going on with the charges. Bullock had informed witness if he could make arrangements to get away he would not want to get mixed up with the case and the matter could be cleaned up. He would go to Vancouver and take the steamer for Mexico whence there would be no chance to bring him back. Bullock had said "Spratt has had me arrested and when he gets through it will be his turn." Witness had asked Bullock if the latter were sure that Mr. Spratt knew the goods were stolen and Bullock had admitted he was not sure, but he was certain Mr. Spratt knew of one article at least, but when pressed by witness Bullock could not give any definite information. Bullock had on that occasion pulled out certain papers on which were the charges he stated he would lay. They were that the company had received stolen lead, rubber and candles. Bullock had stated that if witness could arrange to get him $750 he would get out. Witness had suggested Bullock going to Mr. Spratt, but Bullock would not do so. He suggested that the money he demanded be put under his door, or at least something to that effect was spoken of by him.

To Mr. Pooley witness stated that it was after he had heard of the customs seizure that he went to see Mr. Peters about an old claim in connection with a sealing case. It was after Mr. Day had been fined $1,000 by the customs authorities. At that time he did not know that Mr. Peters, on behalf of Bullock had written to the Victoria Machinery depot asking for compensation on behalf of Bullock. Mr. Peters had then stated that he thought Bullock was entitled to something for compensation. Mr. Peters, the witness believed, had mentioned no particular sum though he thought Bullock had said something about $150.

Had Agreed to no Sum.

Witness denied that at any time had he told Bullock that he (witness) had agreed with Mr. Peters that $750 should be the amount of compensation to Bullock for the action started and later dismissed.

Frederick N. J. White, real estate agent, told of the conversation which took place at the residence of Mr. Bechtel on May 13th last. Bullock stated he wanted $750, $500 to permit him to get away and the balance to be paid to Mr. Peters, his solicitor, this latter amount to be paid by Mr. Bechtel when the latter saw fit. Mr. Bechtel had questioned Bullock as the latter's ability to get away and Bullock had said he could do so as he had not then laid the charges. Bullock had stated that he had had a conversation with Dr. Bechtel when the proposition of placing the money beneath the former's door had been suggested. As far as witness remembered Bullock had suggested going to Seattle immediately. Witness had taken it for granted from the conversation that Bullock could get the money from John Day.

W. H. Price testified that he had been introduced to Bullock by a Mr. Fulton on May 20th last, at the office of the witness. Bullock told Mr. Price he was connected with the Victoria Machinery depot and was going to give evidence in the case against Messrs. Spratt and Houston.

Bullock had then pulled out some papers, which he said were informations he was about to lay, that he had intended laying these informations before but that others would be involved. Bullock had then stated that he (witness) would go to see Mr. Day who, he knew, had $1,000 ready. He would hold over the informations. Bullock stated he wanted the money and would take no promises. He also showed witness notes of statements appearing in the company's books for a period extending over ten years, facts which the members of the company did not know of. If he (Bullock) could get the money from Day he would go to Mexico. Witness and Bullock arranged to meet in the evening prior to which witness had seen Mr. Day who had declared he would have nothing to do with Bullock. Witness declared he had no interest in the matter and could not say why Fulton had brought Bullock to him. Witness emphatically denied that he had made any attempt at a settlement.

Louis Hafer knew Bullock. He met him in front of the Manitoba saloon on Yates street some days after the charges against members of the Victoria Machinery depot had been laid. Bullock had said: "I have those fellows where I want them," to which witness had replied, "I'm sorry this thing has happened. It won't do anybody any good." Bullock has responded, "Why did they not settle them," and witness said, "You're foolish talking like that. This thing has gone too far," and Bullock had said, "They can settle yet." The sum of $1,000 was mentioned and Bullock said he was the principal witness and if he were away that would settle it.

Cross-examined witness stated he had no idea that Bullock was seeking damages from the Victoria Machinery depot for the action brought against him.

At this point Mr. McLean stated that the case for the prosecution was closed and an adjournment was taken until this morning at 10 o'clock.

DIES SUDDENLY

Mr. G. W. Kipp, a Wealthy American, Succumbs at Hesquiot Bay.

Mr. George Washington Kipp, a wealthy capitalist of Towanda, Pennsylvania, died suddenly at Hesquiot Bay, on Monday night, while on an expedition seeking timber limits, in which he was interested in this part. Mr. Kipp was accompanied by a party of friends from the East, and was looking over propositions on the island coast. The steamer Tees, which passed there, was telegraphed by wireless, and the body arrived in the city last night.

Mr. Kipp was 64 years of age, and was a native of Pike county, Penn. He leaves relatives in Towanda. The remains have been embalmed at the Hanna chapel, and will be forwarded East today via Seattle.

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The final endorsement of the front-laced idea is found in the fact that leading surgeons throughout the country today advocate the front laced corset to build up the figure, ensure correct posture, where before they have condemned the corset as an injurious garment.

GOSSARD, regular $6.50 for $4.50

THIS MEDIUM LENGTH HIP MODEL is a line just slightly soiled, our reason for reducing from $6.50 to $4.50

MODEL "A" GOSSARD at $7.50

MODEL "A" seems to be the most popular with Victoria ladies: it is a corset for the average figure that requires a slight suppression of hip and thigh: extreme length of skirt portion imparts a sloping, slender appearance. It is moderately low in the bust. Gives more decided waist line than any other corset known. Price $7.50

MODEL "F" GOSSARD at $6.50

A MODEL FOR THE AVERAGE FIGURE—An ideal corset for its particular type. The length over the hips is average and grows gradually longer at the back. The bust is medium low and the construction obviates any tendency to a high abdomen. After this model is worn for a certain length of time it moulds the figure to the exactly fashionable proportions. Price $6.50

MODEL "L" GOSSARD at $6.50

FOR A PLUMP FIGURE WITH A NATURALLY SMALL WAIST—Every line of the good figure is enhanced by this model. It encases the form without undue suppression, yet prevents the hips from spreading. It is high in the back with bust gores widened sufficiently to prevent the bust from pushing up when seated. This corset moulds itself to the average figure. Price $6.50

MODEL "B" GOSSARD at $6.50

Designed for the heavy, short figure with an abnormal abdomen and large bust. The soft extension of the front skirt portion supports the weight of the abdomen in a healthful and comfortable manner, without any pressure of steels into the flesh. It is cut very low under the arm, insuring perfect comfort. The bust is rather low, which is almost invariably desired for figure requiring this model. Price is $6.50

OTHER MAKES QUALITY CORSETS

While today we give special mention to the GOSSARD "LACE IN FRONT" CORSETS, it must not be forgotten that we carry other world famous corsets, such as:

W. B. "NUFORM" in all the newest models at from $4.50 to $1.75

"AMERICAN LADY" CORSETS—We're carrying a splendid range of this very popular make from $5.50 to $1.50

NEMO "SELF-REDUCING" CORSETS, and also NEMOS for slender figures, starting at from.. $2.75

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H. & W. WAISTS for ladies and children, in various different styles.

1008 and 1010 Government Street

NEW SPUR LINE FOR KOOTENAY DISTRICT

C. P. R. to Build from Three Forks to Bear Lake Providing Transportation for Lucky Jim Property

Mr. G. Leaver Loper, managing director of the Lucky Jim Mining company, has just received a wire from Sir William Whyte, vice-president of the C. P. R., saying that the C. P. R. will construct a new spur line from Three Forks to Bear lake in the Kootenay district.

Mr. Loper states that all the contracts for building the line from Three Forks to Bear lake, on the Lucky Jim property, had originally been signed between the C. P. R. and the mining company. When, however, Sir William made his first announcement at Nelson to the effect that the line would be constructed those who had purchased the Kaslo and Slocan railway strongly protested on the grounds that in the interests of Kaslo the C. P. R. should not construct the other line but instead to buy the Kaslo and Slican railway from the syndicate This the C. P. R. refused to do. Representatives of the syndicate then visited Winnipeg and interviewed Sir William Whyte, without result, and then proceeded to Montreal to wait on Sir Thomas Shaughnessy.

In the meantime one of the most bitter fights between mining companies was being waged between the Lucky Jim and Kaslo syndicates. People living in the surrounding neighborhoods of the rival factions threw in their lot and innumerable meetings were held.

Prior to the signing of the contracts between the Lucky Jim and C. P. R. The property was carefully examined, under instructions given by the C. P. R. The result was so favorable that the contracts were signed.

Shortly afterwards, however, statements to the effect that there was no ore in the Lucky Jim were sent to the C. P. R. officials at Montreal. Upon receiving this the C. P. R. immediately ordered a re-examination by other of its engineers. This took two weeks and when the final report came in, it was even more favorable than the one made previously

The line between Three Forks and Bear lake will now be constructed and work will commence shortly.

Destroy Meat Shipment—A consignment of meat comprising some 18,000 pounds shipped from Vancouver to a local firm of butchers, was refused by the latter on account of the fact that it was three days in transit, and yesterday it was taken out to sea and dumped in the waters. The transportation authorities responsible for the delay undertook to destroy the shipment, and compensate the consignees. Prior to the time the meat was taken from the city Inspectors Lansaster and Howes in the discharge of their duty came upon the meat, and enlisted the services of Dr. G. A. B. Hall to make an examination. The meat was condemned by him, but as it had been already refused by the local butchers' arrangements had been made for its removal from the city.

Provincial Appointments—The resignations of Mr. E. M. Yarwood, as police magistrate of the city of Nanaimo, and of Mr. George J. Walker, as government agent at Barkerville, have been tendered to and accepted by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, as also has been the resignation by Mr. W. H. G. Thomson of his commission as one of his majesty's justices of the peace. The appointment is announced of Mr. H. L. Morley as acting district registrar of titles for the Yale registration district, during the absence from duty of Mr. W. H. Edmonds; of Mr. James Stuart Birnie of Greenwood, as acting government agent at Greenwood, during the absence for one month upon leave of Government Agent W. G. McMinn; of Captain John E. Bland of Arrowhead as a justice of the peace; of Mr. C. H. Grant, as acting government agent at Cumberland, during the absence on one month's leave of Government Agent John Baird; and of Mr. R. T. Evans as acting registrar of the supreme and county courts at Rossland, during the absence of District Registrar H. R. Townsend.

The B. C. E. R. Co. has re-opened negotiations with the Vancouver city council for a consolidation of all street railway franchises in Greater Vancouver.

Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne

The ORIGINAL and ONLY GENUINE

Acts like a charm in DIARRHŒA and is the only Specific in CHOLERA and DYSENTERY.

Checks and arrests FEVER, CROUP, AGUE. The Best Remedy known for COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS. The only Palliative in NEURALGIA, GOUT, RHEUMATISM.

Convincing Medical Testimony accompanies each Bottle.

Sold in Bottles by all Chemists. Prices in England, 1/1½, 2/9, 4/6.

Sole Manufacturers, J. T. DAVENPORT, Ltd., London, S.E.

Six months' imprisonment was the very moderate sentence imposed in the case of Archie Morrison, who recently burglarized the Coldwater hotel at Merritt.

Mara is to have a pretty and commodious public hall.

Mission City is experiencing a building boom.

The building of coke ovens continues at Passmore.

Vancouver is at last awakening to a realization of the value of parks, plazas and similar breathing spaces in the heart of the city.

J. W. Peacock lost an eye through the recent explosion in the Surprise Mine, near Sandon.

At a cost of $500 a new dancing floor has been put in the Miners' Union hall at Rossland.

Interference with the police at Vancouver is classed a crime punishable by imprisonment without option of fine.

Reginald Tait has been appointed manager of Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's estate at Summerland.

Efforts are being made to secure an extension of the government telephone line from Fairview to Rock Creek.