

Detective Welsh began to suspect that something was amiss. He met Jack Fitzgerald from Montreal who also claimed to know Labelle, but who said he was definitely from Quebec and had never been in Chicago. However, both Fitzgerald and the other sources who claimed to know Labelle, linked his name with that of Peter or Victor Fournier. Welsh began to get the feeling he was being given the run-around.

At this particular time in Dawson, Fournier was still being shadowed, and as Police were now only after Labelle, it was decided that Welsh should be accompanied by someone who could positively identify Labelle on sight. They believed that the best man for the job would be one who had done business with Labelle, and so Paul Rook of Rook Brothers' store in Whitehorse was asked to join Welsh in Seattle. Rook told Police he first saw Fournier and Labelle in Whitehorse around June 10 when they were making inquiries about purchasing a boat as a result of a sign in front of his store. However, the particular type of boats Rook had were not what the two were looking for, but later, Labelle had purchased a .45-90 rifle from him for \$8.

Rook arrived in Seattle August 17 and for a few days, he and Welsh worked independently, covering most of the small towns in north-west Washington, logging camps, coal mines and other places where there were French Canadians employed. In addition, Welsh wired to Chicago, Missoula and Butte, Montana, advising police at these points to be on the lookout for Labelle.

One day Welsh met a man named Fred Desormier who said he had travelled with Pete Fournier and told of how Labelle had been mixed up in a robbery in Chicago. Hearing this, once again, Detective Welsh had the feeling something about this Labelle did not jibe, but he could not pin-point anything definite. Later, he stumbled onto Joseph Dalpe whom he had known in Dawson. Dalpe

said he had met Ed Labelle in Seattle around August 1 and had taken a drink or two with him. Labelle had told him he was heading East, but that he was broke and did not know how far he would be able to go. Dalpe described the clothing Labelle was wearing and one item imbedded itself in Welsh's mind. It was a lapel pin in the shape of a gold pan with attached crossed pick and shovel.

On August 26, Detective Welsh received a wire from the Yukon advising that Peter or Victor Fournier had been arrested there and that a warrant had been obtained for the arrest of Edward Labelle for murder. By this time, Welsh was sure the latter had left the Seattle area, so the following evening, he and Rook purchased railroad tickets to Chicago. They planned to stop-over at Spokane, Wash., Missoula and Butte en route. The detective also wired the Chief of Police in Chicago requesting a photo of Ed Labelle. Their stop at Spokane produced nothing definite except that a French Canadian (of whom various descriptions were given) had passed through there heading East. However, all said the man was wearing a gold pan lapel pin with pick and shovel attached.

Welsh and Rook pushed on to Missoula the same day and stopped over long enough to assure themselves that Labelle had never resided in the area or had even been there lately. They arrived in Butte August 30 and contacted Detective Barney McGillick who had been assigned to look for Labelle by the Chief of Police following receipt of Welsh's earlier wire. McGillick had information that Labelle had been in Butte for about ten days, but had left about a week ago, destination unknown. At Chapleau's Place, Welsh and Rook located a young French waiter who had served drinks to a man wearing a gold pan lapel pin and his woman companion. Welsh succeeded finally in locating the woman, who confirmed that her companion was Ed Labelle, but that she did not know where he had gone when he left Butte.