

A YUKON DETECTIVE STORY

(Continued from Monday.)

Upon arriving at Spokane Detective Welsh and Mr. Rook took a layover for a day in order to ascertain if Marchand had accomplished anything. The latter stated when met at the station that he had learned that La Belle had been in Spokane but had left and he was positive he was not in the city at the time. He (La Belle) had gone to Roseland and Nelson, then had returned to Spokane and left for the east. Leaving Spokane the detectives stopped at Thompson's Falls, Missoula and a number of smaller towns but no trace of the fugitive could be found. At Butte Mr. Welsh called on the chief of police, to whom he had already sent a wire, and stated his business. Detective McGallick was detailed to assist and in his company all the many resorts of every kind in the city were visited. The acquaintance of one person was made who said that a man answering La Belle's description had been in Butte about a week before, and he understood that he had left with a gang of men to work on the Southern Pacific road. To this time the identification of La Belle had been made largely through his description and particularly by means of the pin he wore in the lapel of his coat, the gold pan bearing the crossed pick and shovel. Among the aliases that he assumed was Louis La More, Ed Long and Louis Letourneau. He seemed to be unable to get away from the fatal letter "L" which was the beginning of his real surname.

The tip about the railroad work was worth following and Mr. Welsh accordingly went to the St. Paul employment office where he learned that fourteen men had been shipped on the morning of the 26th to Ogden but there was no record of any names on the books beyond that of "T. Daly and 13 men." The railroad offices were next visited but the pass lists gave no information beyond the fact that T. Daly and 13 men had left on the morning of the 26th for Ogden. The name of the conductor who had taken out that particular train was secured and to see him a trip to Pocatello, Idaho, the end of the division and his home, was necessary. The man hunters left Butte at 4:50 on the afternoon of the 30th and at 1:30 the following morning they were at Pocatello.

Without waiting for morning, the home of the conductor was at once invaded. He remembered taking the gang of men down the road but could give no description of any of them. Such occurrences were too frequent for him to pay any attention to any particular individual. The stay in Pocatello lasted less than an hour and by taking a fast train Welsh and Rook arrived at Ogden at 8 o'clock the same morning. The former at once repaired to the Southern Pacific offices where he met Dan Fitzpatrick, a railroad detective whom he had known for the past twenty years, and who at once was employed to assist in the case. On the pass lists in the railroad offices it was found where the men had been shipped on construction work by Hansen's employment office, a branch of the employment agency at Butte which had shipped the 14 men to Ogden. At the employment office information was secured with difficulty as Mr. Welsh was taken for a railroad detective. There had recently been considerable trouble with the employment offices which the company said had been in the habit of shipping men through on passes as laborers, they collecting their usual fee, and many of them after arriving at their destination had kept on going without any idea of stopping and going to work, thus securing probably a \$25 ride upon the payment of but \$2 or \$3 to the employment office as a fee. The clerk at the office finally showed the detective the books where was entered that 14 men had arrived from Butte on the 17th and on the following day 56 had been shipped to various points along the Southern Pacific, some going to Wadsworth, Nevada, and some as far west as Los Angeles. With great volubility the clerk said that one of the party that left for Los Angeles appeared as though he might be a Klondiker. He wore a mustache, watch chain and spoke of having come from Dawson. The story did not look very good to Mr. Welsh though he had about concluded to follow it up when he incidentally mentioned the gold pan lapel pin with its crossed pick and shovel. Then the clerk remembered that one of the men who had gone to Wadsworth had had such a pin in his coat and that would certainly be the place where he would find his man. As it turned out later the "steer" that the clerk gave was a right one though it was a deliberate lie and told for a purpose. Before leaving Butte La Belle had pawned the lapel pin, a nugget and Constantine's watch and could not have worn any one of the articles while in Ogden.

Welsh at once changed his mind in regard to the Los Angeles trip and instead purchased tickets for Wadsworth, first arranging with Fitzpatrick that in the event of La Belle not being located in one of the five camps at Wadsworth, he (Fitzpatrick), upon the receipt of a wire, was to dispatch two men to the other end of the line in southern Utah to work north and meet Welsh and Rook who would be traveling toward the south.

Wadsworth is but a little frontier town of several hundred inhabitants and was filled with 300 or 400 railroad laborers, half of whom were as tough characters as would be found almost anywhere in the world. Under the circumstances it was considered advisable in seeking his man in such a crowd to assume a disguise that would attract as little attention as possible, so when two men an hour or so later applied at the ticket office of the Sunset Limited, the swell train of the west, and asked for two tickets for Wadsworth, the ticket agent beheld a couple of individuals who looked more like hodcarriers accustomed to ride on an emigrant train than on vestibuled Pullmans. He did not care to mix in with his swell passengers a couple of such seedy looking creatures and when they replied to him that they did not have berths secured he said they could not ride on that train except they had quarters in the Pullman. To the Pullman ticket agent the two apparent laborers went and he also viewed with alarm the thought of his train being contaminated. But he was a wise Mike and he would fix them.

"Give me two lowers for Wadsworth," said the spokesman of the hobo.

"I have no lowers left, but there is another train passing in four hours and on it it is not required that you have a berth."

"I'll take two uppers then if you have no lowers."

"I have no uppers left either. Better take the other train; it's considerable cheaper."

"Have you a state room left?"

"No, I have no state room," and then a happy idea struck the agent. "I have a drawing room but it will cost you \$13.50," and he paused to see the effect of his announcement. Lest the agent might find some other excuse should the travelers appear too anxious, a few moments were spent in haggling over the price. Welsh remarking that \$13.50 was a right smart of money. Much to the disgust of the agent the drawing room was finally taken and when they came to board the cars Welsh and Rook had an experience somewhat similar with a couple of officious porters.

"This ain't your train," said one of them when they started to mount the steps of one of the sleepers. The tickets were dug out of an old-fashioned wallet and sure enough they read Sunset Limited. They were at the wrong car, however, and the son of Ham condescendingly pointed out to them the last car in the train. There the same performance was repeated with the porter of that car and when he was satisfied that they had a right to travel on his train he waived his hand with an imperious gesture and said all right, go on. A second later he showed the whites of his eyes and was meekness itself. Welsh slammed his grip down on the platform and with a voice like a mad bull said, "Carry that grip in my room and be lively about it, too." The porter did as he was bidden without a word and just as the trio entered the drawing room Welsh said to his companion, "I say, Bill, this looks as though it was a pretty good train to stick up," upon which the eyes of the now thoroughly frightened attendant stuck out like saucers.

The train had not been in motion five minutes until it was rumored all over the car that the two tough-looking characters in the drawing room were likely to prove to be train robbers. It was a huge joke which the perpetrators thoroughly enjoyed. They had any part of the car to themselves they wished and a monopoly of the observation apartments. An hour or so later a military looking young man with more courage than the balance of the passengers brushed up an acquaintance with the travelers and engaged Welsh in a conversation. Was he a resident of that section? Yes, and lived there for twenty years, knew everybody, was in the cattle business and was then on his way to Winnemucca to drive a herd overland. What was cattle worth now? That was a poser for Welsh as he had been in the Yukon since '97 but he made a stab at it and replied about six and a half cents. The stranger here presented his card to the cattle man and on it was inscribed "Captain Lewis, U.S. A." and he said he was en route to Manila to join his regiment. Welsh had observed a Masonic emblem on the lapel of his friend's coat and thinking the joke had gone far enough the changed gripe and passwords and the train robber presented his own card further surprising the captain by telling him that he knew his mother Mrs. General Lewis whom he had met in Dawson during the winter of '99 and also his cousin Mr. E. R. French at present with the Merchants' dock of this city. Both enjoyed the affair and soon after while putting away the contents of a bottle of Budweiser at the captain's expense he confessed that everyone in the car took Welsh and his partner for desperadoes and that he had formed his acquaintance merely for the sake of novelty. At that instant the captain's wife happened along and calling her to his side he said, "My dear, I wish to introduce you to Mr. Trainrobber," much to her

embarrassment and subsequent amusement.

Desiring to secure the assistance of the conductor of the train Mr. Welsh disclosed his identity to him and as the Limited does not stop at any of the small towns or stations he had him throw off at every station a letter addressed to the constable of the village advising him to be on the lookout for La Belle, giving his description, calling particular attention to the lapel pin and offering \$100 reward for his arrest and detention. The constable at Wadsworth was wired to meet the train on its arrival and to him the conductor gave a letter advising him the hotel where the detectives would stop, the names under which they would register and requesting him to at once call at their rooms for further instructions.

The constable did as requested and was at once engaged to assist in the inspection of the railroad camps. While waiting for the train that was to take them to the camps, Welsh sought out the chief train despatcher to whom he presented the letters secured from the superintendent of the division before leaving Ogden. He in turn gave the detective letters to Stone & Co., the contractors on that portion of the work, and they gave him cards to each of their gang foremen instructing them to allow the bearer to see any man under them and to extend all other favors in their power. Armed with these Welsh returned to the hotel and in company with Rook and the constable started for a point five miles west of Wadsworth where there were four camps of men. It was arranged with the foreman of the gang that Rook was to be put on as the new timekeeper and those two went through each of the four camps, Welsh and the constable remaining under cover. La Belle was not to be found and the party returned to Wadsworth. Soon after arriving, H. B. Jeffries, foreman of the steam shovel and advance gang of graders, was met. Rook entered his buggy and went with him to his camp three miles east and across the Truckee river from Wadsworth. Welsh and the constable followed a half hour later and when they arrived at the camp and were trying up their team at the horse corral, Jeffries approached them and said he thought Rook had located his man. The three started toward the tents where the men were living and soon Rook appeared and gave them the hurry signal. On coming up to him he said that La Belle would be found in the fifth tent along with a number of other men. Later it was learned that La Belle had gone to work under the name of L. Stone and had given that name to Rook when he was making the rounds as the new timekeeper. He was employed on the steam shovel gang on the night shift and when arrested had just gotten up for his breakfast. The arrest took place at quarter before twelve and the manner in which it was accomplished is best told in Detective Welsh's own words.

"The tent which Rook pointed out to me was a bunk house tent where the men slept. I went at once to the entrance, pulled back the flap and walked in. The moment I got inside I recognized La Belle from his description and also that I had seen him in Dawson. He was sitting on the edge of a bunk, his elbows on his knees and holding his head with both hands. I walked quickly up to him and putting up my hand said 'hello.' He was taken by surprise and probably through force of habit put out his hand to grasp mine which I instantly grabbed with my left, putting the handcuffs on him with my right before he knew what I was doing. I commanded him to stick up his other hand and in less than half a minute after I entered the tent he was in irons. I told him his name was Ed La Belle and not Stone and that I had known him well in Dawson. He replied that my face was familiar but he could not place me. 'Turning to Rook I asked him if he did not know him and he replied, 'Oh, yes, you are the man I bought the gun from.' He then asked me to take off the irons so that he could fix up his suspenders which were thrown off his shoulders. I did the thing but left the handcuffs as they were and then asked him where his effects were telling him also that he had to go with me. He replied that he had no effects beyond a few clothes and these were gathered up and we rushed out to where our team was standing. It was then near dinner time and in a few moments 300 men would be in for their meal. I feared I might have some trouble in such a gang and was anxious to get away as soon as possible. Just as we climbed into the rig a teamster came up and said, 'Say, French, what they going to do with ye,' and La Belle replied, 'Well, I guess they have got me,' and with that we drove rapidly away to Wadsworth."

On arriving at Wadsworth La Belle was taken before a justice of the peace where the detective disclosed his identity, told him the charge under which he was arrested and that he was there for the purpose of taking him back to Dawson. It was fully explained to the prisoner in the presence of witnesses that his captor had no authority to take him outside the state of Nevada without extradition papers and that he had a right to employ an attorney to defend him if he so desired. Should he insist on extradition papers, however, a fugitive from justice warrant would be sworn out and he would be taken to the jail in Reno and there held until the papers arrived. He was also told that no misunderstanding was wanted with him, but that he must understand that eventually he would be landed in Dawson. If he would agree to return to Dawson without trouble the justice of the peace would draw up papers to that effect which he could sign and swear to. On the trip inside he would have to be ironed and regard himself as a prisoner.

"Well," said La Belle, "I suppose I will have to go back anyhow so I will sign your paper."

The agreement was accordingly drawn up which La Belle signed and swore to waiving all his rights to extradition and acknowledging that he was a British subject. He was afterward taken to Detective Welsh's room at the hotel and asked if he had anything to say about the case and he replied that he had not.

Welsh still feared that the balance of the railroad laborers might give him some trouble and leaving his prisoner in charge of Mr. Rook and the constable, arrangements were made for a special engine to be secured at a moment's notice should he be desired, there being no train due until 10 o'clock that night. The authorities at Dawson were wired of the arrest having been made and the same information was also sent to all the police departments in the cities where assistance had been received.

Returning to his room at the hotel, some conversation was had with La Belle and he finally consented to talk. He said that the murders had been committed at 8 o'clock in the morning but that he had forgotten the date. The job was done on an island about ten miles below the mouth of the Stewart river and three men were killed, which was the first intimation had that Constantine had been one of the victims. His body not having been recovered, he said that Fournier had done the killing, that at the time he was out hunting but that he had heard the shots and knew what was going on and that he had received his share in the spoils.

During the day the party kept closely under cover but no trouble was had and at 10 o'clock that evening Welsh, Rook and La Belle left for Sacramento. The news of the arrest preceded the train and the next day at almost every station there was a crowd of the morbidly curious at the depot to get a glimpse of the prisoner. At such times La Belle was kept out of sight and Rook was seated at a window where he could easily be seen. He was taken for the murderer and was the recipient of many compliments as to his tough-looking and murderous appearance. Four hours were spent at Sacramento and three at Portland, the party arriving at Seattle on the morning of September 4. On the 7th, the steamer Dolphin was taken for Skagway which was reached on the 11th Whitehorse the following day, and Dawson via the steamer Canadian shortly after midnight on the morning of the 14th. During the trip La Belle talked a great deal about the murders and on the way down on the Canadian he pointed out the island where the crime had been committed. He also did a great deal of writing, among his communications being a complete history of the case written in the French language. The following is an itinerary of the trip of the murderers and their victims from Whitehorse to Dawson as given by La Belle:

La Belle, Fournier, Bouthilliet, Beaudoin and Constantine left Whitehorse in boat 3744 at 6 p.m. on June 16 camping that night in a tent at the head of Lake Lebarge within 200 yards of the police post. The following day there was no wind on the lake and they pulled their boat to within 15 miles of the foot of the lake where they camped for the night. On the 18th they had their dinner at the foot of the lake and camped at the lower end of Thirty-mile river. Passed Hootalinqua at 9 o'clock in the morning of the 19th and landed at noon 13 miles below camping for the night 10 miles below Big Salmon. On the 20th Little Salmon was passed at noon and lunch was had four miles below at an Indian camp on the left limit of the river, camping that night near Tantalus. Five fingers was reached at 11 a.m. on the 21st but no stop was made; camped nine miles above Selkirk. Arrived at Selkirk at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 22nd where some provisions were purchased from a Mrs. Nelson, knew it was Sunday because the curtains over the bar-room windows were drawn. Camped that night near the Big Four roadhouse. Reached Stewart at 4 p.m. on the 23rd and bought some bread. Continued 10 miles below to the island where the murders were committed where camp was made for the night. Bouthilliet, Beaudoin and Constantine were killed at 8 o'clock in the morning of the 24th and at 9:30 the bodies had been disposed of, all traces of the crime removed and the murderers were on their way to Dawson where they arrived between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day.

Too much can not be said of the assistance which was rendered Mr. Welsh in his successful chase after La Belle by the police in this city. Almost every member of the force from the officer commanding down to the youngest constable took an active interest in the case and while on the outside Mr. Welsh was kept thoroughly informed by Inspector Routledge of the progress of the investigation at this end of the line. Every little detail was wired out and much of the success may be attributed to the perfect harmony that existed and the system that was employed in running the criminals down. The murders were committed on June 24, the first body was recovered July 14, Fournier was placed under arrest August 23, and on September 1, 45 days after the first intimation was had that a crime had been committed, the second of the duo charged with the murders was in custody after a chase aggregating nearly 6,000 miles with no clue to start on with the exception of a keyring. The highest possible credit is due the efficiency of the N.W.M.P. and its excellent officers.

Of Mr. Welsh and the part he has played little need be said; his work speaks for itself and is his best recommendation. He has been engaged in secret service work for the past twenty years, has secured more confessions from criminals than any other detective living and has been employed in some of the most famous criminal cases in the police annals of the Pacific coast. He has been a resident of the Yukon since '97 but it is only within the past year that he has been engaged in his present occupation during which time he has achieved a reputation that is indeed enviable.

Sees Hope in Strikes.
New York, Sept. 11.—A London special to the Sun says:—The publication by the Foreign Office of the report of Mr. Bell, a British commercial agent, on the trade of the United States for the year ending June 30 is treated by England's business men as an event of the first magnitude.

The leading features recorded in the report are the great drop in exports and considerable increase in imports, concurrent with a phase of intense internal development, the demand for certain classes of goods, with which the supply was unable to cope, accompanied by stability of prices, the prudent moderation of the United States Steel Corporation, the highly elaborated organization planned to provide against the inevitable reaction from domestic prosperity and the general advance in wages, which, however, barely keeps pace with the increased cost of living.

Mr. Bell believes that the sole assistance British manufacturers will receive in the struggle with American competition, excepting from their own efforts, is the fact that strikes are increasing in the United States. He thinks that, if the voice of labor speaks the knell of trusts and tariffs, there is no saying what might happen to the tremendous manufacturing engine which has come into existence under their protection. The telegraph, which regards the report as the most important commercial document of the year, recognizes that England's recovery of the first place as an exporting nation in 1901-02 was through the drop in American exports of \$100,000,000 due to the internal prosperity of the United States, and the fact that the American attack upon European colonial markets has been weakened for the moment, though it says the attack will return with immensely augmented force.

Other papers deduce the following as the final moral of Mr. Bell's report:—The railways are either combining or forming communities of interest with the view to carrying goods as economically as possible, especially towards the seaboard. The shipping interests have the same thing in view so that by the time the supply greatly exceeds the demand in the United States everything will be in readiness to carry the surplus to Europe and other countries more economically than this has ever been done.

Position in Philippines.
Milwaukee, Sept. 17.—The council of the Milwaukee diocese of the Methodist Episcopal church, now holding its annual meeting here, unanimously adopted resolutions calling for a report of appeals to be elected at the regular yearly council meetings of dioceses of the country. The power that has been vested heretofore in the bishop will be given to the court. The resolutions also call for doing away with the national convention of the church, held every three years, saying they are too cumbersome and do no good.

It is proposed to have the country divided into provinces, and have each province hold an annual convention. Copies of the resolutions will be sent to every diocese in this country.

Russia in Manchuria
London, Sept. 11.—The Foreign Office has heard nothing officially of the instructions sent by Paul Lessar, the Russian Minister at Peking, to the Russian commander in Manchuria directing him to expel the British Imperial customs employees who may be sent to Manchuria to resume charge of the postal service.

Mexican labor is so scarce as to necessitate sending for negroes from Jamaica. The latter are guaranteed employment for a year.

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Bryan Like the Fish Peddler.

George Guthrie, the Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania, was asked the other day if he could suggest a single logical issue upon which William Jennings Bryan might again come before the people as a candidate for president. He replied that Bryan never had but one issue and that his position was exactly that of a negro fish peddler Mr. Guthrie once encountered in Pittsburgh. The peddler was urging his horse along, with cruel blows from a heavy stick, and at the same time crying at the top of his voice: "Herrin! Get yo' fresh herrin!" Mr. Guthrie, wishing to save the horse, stopped the peddler and asked, "Have you no mercy, fellow?" "Nope!" was the reply, "nothin' 'cept herrin!"

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