

but the attention of those who stayed was at once attracted by four or five policemen who came up the steps leading from the cells, bringing along with them no fewer than seven men, who were handcuffed together. These they pushed into the dock, thereby making that receptacle of accused persons look rather crowded.

As these sullen prisoners faced the magistrate, it was seen that the erstwhile witness, Dave Helbrod, was among them, also John Kesterton, who had refused to speak. There also gleamed the beady eyes of the chairman at the meetings at the Wolf Inn, and the man who had kept the door. These and three others were the seven who were the real conspirators to burn down the Vaughn residence.

Halleck, the detective, bit his nails with a still fiercer vexation.

"What is the charge against these men?" said the magistrate.

"I appear for the prosecution in this case, your Worship," said Mr. Larrap, rising, and, after submitting to you the evidence of Fritz Kingstone, I shall ask that the prisoners be remanded for one week in order that further evidence may be secured. I charge these men with conspiring together to burn down the Vaughn residence, and I charge Dave Helbrod, one of them, with perjury also. Mr. Kingstone, oblige me by stepping into the witness-box."