
REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

Appointed to enquire into the claims of John Wilson and B. F. English, in reference to the reward offered by the Government for the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrator or perpetrators of the stage robbery in July, 1890.

MR. SPEAKER :

Your Select Committee appointed to investigate the claims of John Wilson and B. F. English to the reward offered by the Government for the apprehension and conviction of the party or parties who robbed the stage near Bridge Creek on the 14th day of July, 1890, beg to report as follows, viz.:—That we have held four meetings and heard all the evidence procurable, and came to the conclusion, after careful consideration of such evidence, that the information upon which Rowland was arrested was given to Mr. Tingley by John Wilson and B. F. English, and that the conviction of Rowland for having stolen property in his possession followed from such information and arrest.

A. W. SMITH,
Chairman.

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MINUTES AND EVIDENCE.

Acting under instructions the Committee met in the Legislative Library at 11 a.m.

Present :—Messrs. Martin, Rogers, Smith, Semlin, and Stoddart.

F. HUSSEY (being sworn), Superintendent of Provincial Police, appeared and gave evidence: That S. Tingley wired me that he suspected the man Rowland as being the robber; acting upon this information I had the man arrested at Ashcroft. Rowland was convicted of being in possession of the gold dust taken from the stage. The conviction was arrived at from the character of the gold dust in Rowland's possession.

A. WELLS (being sworn), a claimant of the reward, gave evidence: Rowland came to my camp on the last Saturday in June, 1890; told us he was prospecting for placer or quartz and asked our advice as to where he had better go to prospect; I told him to go to Moffat Creek, seven miles from Horsefly; he went, saying he would be back in about two weeks; he came back in three weeks—late in July; I noticed his horse was thin and had sore back; shortly after he came a party of Indians passed and told us the stage had been robbed. Rowland said he also had heard of the robbery. He said he had been on Moffat Creek and found a little gold; said he had been lost, and thought he had been as far away as a short distance from the 150-Mile House; said he would work his way up country and get work from the farmers; he wanted to sell his rifle for \$12; I did not buy; I soon suspected him of being the robber and sent word to the 150 and Soda Creek; Johnny Wilson heard of our suspicions; I told Rowland in October that I believed Rowland was the robber; when I reached Ashcroft I made enquiries and heard that Rowland was mining on Scotty Creek; I came to the coast intending to have the man arrested when he came down; I saw Mr. McKay, Victoria; he told me that he had information from Soda Creek that caused suspicions of Rowland; that when he heard the kind of gold dust he had it at once occurred to him what I had said, "that if they arrested the man working on Scotty Creek they would have the man who robbed the stage." Mr. Tingley told me that English had written him to have Rowland arrested if he attempted to leave the neighbourhood; English came to Ashcroft that night and said to

Tingley, there is the man with the evidence on him, if you want him arrest him; he said he would not have arrested Rowland without more evidence than English gave; he told me he thought I was better entitled to the reward than English, and he would rather that I should get it.

A number of papers from the Attorney-General's office and marked Exhibit A.

MARCH 16TH.

Second meeting at 11 a.m.

Present: Smith, Semlin, Martin, Stoddart, and Rogers.

Mr. S. TINGLEY was present, and being sworn, gave evidence:—Our stage was robbed in July, 1890; I swore out the information for the arrest of Rowland; I received information that led me to suspect Rowland from B. F. English; he said he suspected Rowland from his claiming to have taken a large lot of gold out of Scotty Creek—a most improbable story; Rowland was held in gaol for some time at Ashcroft, and then sent to the Kamloops Gaol and kept there until the next June, when he was convicted before the Supreme Court at Clinton. In reference to the arrest of Rowland, he would not have been arrested when he was if it had not been for English; I had suspicion before I received word from English by information sent from Dan McCallum of Horsefly—by telegraph from Soda Creek.

17TH MARCH, 1893.

Committee met in library. Present: Messrs. Smith, Semlin, Rogers, Stoddart, and Martin.

Considered certain papers from F. Soues, Esq., marked Exhibit "B."

EXHIBIT "A."

VICTORIA, B.C., July 15th, 1890.

To Fred. Hussey, Kamloops:

Publish Government offer reward two thousand dollars for apprehension and conviction offenders stage robbery last night.

THEODORE DAVIE,
Attorney-General.

NOTICE.

Public notice is hereby given that a reward of \$2,000 will be given by the Provincial Government for such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the persons concerned in the robbery of the British Columbia Express Company's Stage on the Cariboo Road on Monday, the 14th day of July, instant.

By Command.

FREDERICK HUSSEY,
Government Agent.

Kamloops, 16th July, 1890.

KAMLOOPS, July 14th, 1892.

SIR,—I have the honour to enclose the telegram received from the Attorney-General in connection with the Cariboo stage robbery; also one of the hand-bills offering a reward of \$2,000 for such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offenders.

No hand-bills could be found in this office, but one was obtained from the Sentinel office, which was pasted on the wall.

I have, &c..

G. C. TUNSTALL,
Government Agent.

F. S. Hussey, Esq.,
*Superintendent of Provincial Police,
Victoria.*

EXHIBIT "B."

CANADA
 PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
 COUNTY OF CARIBOO,
 TO WIT :

The Jurors for Our Lady the Queen upon their oath present that Martin Van Buren Rowland on the fourteenth day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety, at and near Bridge Creek, in the County of Cariboo, being then armed with a certain offensive weapon and instrument, to wit a rifle, in and upon one William Parker feloniously did make an assault, and him, the said William Parker, in bodily fear and danger of his life then feloniously did put, and two packages of gold dust of the value of nine hundred and sixty dollars of the goods and chattels of the said William Parker from the person and against the will of the said William Parker then feloniously and violently did steal, take, and carry away against the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen, Her Crown and Dignity.

And the Jurors aforesaid, upon their oath aforesaid, do further present that the said Martin Van Buren Rowland afterwards, to wit, on the day and year aforesaid, the goods and chattels aforesaid before then feloniously stolen, taken, and carried away, feloniously did receive and have, he the said Martin Van Buren Rowland at the time when he so received the said goods and chattels as aforesaid, then well knowing the same to have been feloniously stolen, taken, and carried away against the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace of Our Lady the Queen, Her Crown and Dignity.

True Bill.

(Signed) JOHN SAUL,
Foreman.

Indictment read. Prisoner pleads "not guilty." Petit Jury called and sworn, and after hearing the case brought in a verdict of guilty on the second count, and the prisoner was then sentenced by the presiding Judge (Mr. Justice Walkem) to five years' imprisonment in the British Columbia Penitentiary.

Court of Oyer and Terminer and General
 Gaol Delivery holden at Clinton, Monday, 8th
 June, 1891.

Certified correct.

F. SOUES,

Deputy Registrar of the Clinton Judicial District.

Clinton, 20th March, 1893.

VICTORIA, B. C.:

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