

Barney Bell

Barney Bell was a proprietor at the International Employment Office in Port Arthur. Well known and well liked in Port Arthur, his arrest for treason came as a surprise for the community. He had showed up to work one day to find a letter written by Fred Volkman, a clerk at the employment office also arrested for treason, that informed him to go to the police station. Upon arrival at the police station, Bell was placed under arrest and held for trial without the option of bail. After being arrested 13 July, 1915 the case was remanded numerous times until on 10 August, 1915, Judge O'Leary dropped all charges and set Bell, and co-conspirators free.

References

"Barney Bell and Two Others are Under Arrest On Treason Charge." *Port Arthur Daily News*, 14 July, 1915.

"Bell, Renshaw and Volkman Set Free by Judge O'Leary." *Port Arthur Daily News*, 10 August, 1915.

Henderson Directory

"Treason Prisoners Remanded to Jly. 23 Barney Bell Denies All The Charges Miniature Naval Battle At Capture." *Port Arthur Daily News*, 15 July, 1915.

Barney Bell and Two Others are Under Arrest on Treason charge

ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN CONSPIRACY TO TAKE ALIENS TO THE UNITED STATES.

Barney Bell, well known in Port Arthur as an employment agent, and two Germans named Fred Vulkan and Ben Ramshaw, were placed under arrest by Provincial Constable Symons and Sergeants Fenn and Burleigh of the city police.

It is understood that the charge against them is treason.

The arrests are the outcome of observations which have been under way by the provincial constable for the past couple of weeks.

It is expected that when the men come to trial evidence will be submitted showing that they were instrumental in getting Austrians and Germans across to the United States at five dollars each. It is alleged that a motor boat, with a capacity of eleven men owned by Remshaw, has been used for this traffic and that it has made at least two trips.

Constable Symons and Sergeant Burleigh made a trip on Thunder bay in a tug last night and after their return eleven Austrians were taken to the police station.

The extreme penalty for treason is death.

TREASON PRISONERS REMANDED TO JULY 23 BARNEY BELL DENIES ALL THE CHARGES MINIATURE NAVAL BATTLE AT CAPTURE

SHOT FIRED BEFORE LAUNCH SURRENDERED

Bail Refused and Three Must Remain in Jail Eight Days at Least—Austrians Also Held—How They Were Rounded Up.

When they appeared for a hearing before Magistrate Dobie in police court this morning, Barney Bell, Fred Volkman and Benjamin Ramshaw, charged with treason, in endeavoring to assist alien enemies out of the country, were remanded to July 23. No evidence was taken and bail was refused. The prisoners were later transferred to the district jail, and the eleven Austrians taken from the boat alleged to have been headed for the United States are also being held as material witnesses.

Bell Denies Complicity

Visibly trembling from the excitement of yesterday, Barney Bell, the well known Port Arthur employment agent with premises on Water street, who was, to the surprise of the populace, arrested yesterday on a charge of treason, appeared in the police court this morning before Magistrate Dobie for his preliminary hearing.

Entering the court by the public door, having been given quarters in the old station, the prisoner staggered somewhat upon seeing over one hundred and fifty pairs of eyes fixed on him. Once within the barrier that divides officials and spectators, Bell walked with ease, although the cheery smile, which seemed permanent, had vanished, and a careworn look had come over his weatherbeaten visage. Beads of sweat gathered on his forehead, which at intervals he removed by drawing his hand across his face. Dressed in tweeds, with white tie and tan boots, Barney presented a pitiful spectacle, but the weight tugging at his heart seemed relieved when his alleged partners in the serious business were led into the same box.

The Other Prisoners

Fred Volkman, who, it is alleged, was practically the prime mover in the enterprise, is a short set man and supposedly of German descent. He carries himself with a curious gait, owing to an accident which necessitated the amputation of his right arm. His agate eyes looked over the gathering unconcernedly, but it was easily seen that he was playing to the gal-

lery, for his hands twitched nervously as the magistrate and lawyers entered.

Benjamin Renshaw, whom some people say is German, and others Irish, seemed to feel his position most keenly of the three. Of heavy build, his features are partly covered by a long drooping moustache. His home is at Cloud Bay, where he conducts a small sawmill, but he is more often in Port Arthur than at the Bay. He is said to have owned the boat upon which the Austrians were found.

The Austrians

The three principal characters in the case were closely scrutinized but as the Austrians, who were to have been taken to the States, entered the court under a strong guard, the gaze of the spectators shifted. The majority of the Austrians are between the ages of twenty and twenty-five.

A few fellow countrymen caught the look of fear in the eyes of the prisoners, and they nodded encouragingly to their fellow countrymen.

Without hesitation, Magistrate Dobie handled three official-looking documents, and carefully selected one bearing the name of Fred Volkman.

On hearing his name pronounced, Volkman became alert, and listened attentively to the charge. It read: "Fred Volkman, this is the information of Provincial Constable C. W. Symons, who says that Fred Volkman of the city of Port Arthur did, on July 13, feloniously commit treason by assisting alien enemies, at war with His Majesty, to escape from Canada."

Without asking them to plead, Magistrate Dobie read the same charge to Bell and Renshaw.

Crown Asks Adjournment

Mr. W. F. Langworthy, appearing for the crown, asked for an enlargement of the case, as he was not prepared to go on with it until he received instructions. In reply to Magistrate Dobie, Mr. Langworthy stated that no bail would be accepted.

Mr. Cole, acting for Volkman and Renshaw: "I suppose the case can be called any time after the crown gets instructions as how to act?"

The magistrate replied in the affir-

PROGRESS, PURITY AND PROHIBITION FOR CON. SLOGAN

**NAME OF SIR JAMES AIKINS
MENTIONED IN CONNECTION
WITH LEADERSHIP OF MANI-
TOBA CONSERVATIVES**

Winnipeg, Man., July 15.—The representatives of the Conservative party in Manitoba who are in convention here, unanimously approved this morning of the incorporation in their platform of a pledge that if returned to power they shall immediately put into effect the Hugh John MacDonald liquor legislation of 1900, with no referendum and no provision for its repeal.

There was some objection on the ground that this made it impossible for the people of the province to procure any liquor from inside the province except from a druggist on a doctor's prescription, though they might bring it in from another province but when the vote was taken there was no objection from the voting delegates and only two other delegates opposed the adoption of this plank.

Considerable enthusiasm was aroused when the name of Sir James Aikins was coupled with the party leadership by one of the delegates. Sir James smiled but made no comment.

"Progress, purity and prohibition" was suggested as a party motto.

PREMIER BORDEN IN SESSION WITH BRITISH CABINET

**JOINS IN CONFERENCE OF MIN-
ISTERS ON WAR QUESTIONS—
ALSO HOLDS CONSULTATION
WITH ADMIRALTY**

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TREASON PRISONERS

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native.

Magistrate Dobie: "I suppose we will have to hold the Austrians also?"

Mr. Langworthy: "Yes."

The magistrate granted a remand until July 23.

Soon after the court had been closed by Chief McLellan, a number of Barney Bell's friends inquired as to

ball, but the reply was that such a thing could not be considered in so grave a case. They congregated outside the station doors for a considerable time, but realizing that they could not help, they gradually dwindled away.

An Interview With Barney

Barney's "court fright" had vanished when he again went down the stairs with his counsel, Mr. W. A. Dowler, and he chatted freely with everybody. To The Daily News Barney gave an emphatic denial that he had anything to do with the case. "I really have nothing to do with the case," he said, "and there is a big mistake somewhere. The first thing I knew of it was when I came into my office yesterday morning and found a letter asking me to go to the police station. It was written by Volkmann, who is clerk in my employment bureau."

Besides denying his connection with the affair, Barney's counsel would not allow him to say more, but when outside of the room Barney exclaimed humorously, "Well, at any rate, I have got a government job for eight days,"

after which he was removed to his cell, his red round face aglow with mirth. The two other prisoners were escorted to their cell by Mr. Cole who spoke for a long time with them.

Details Hard to Get

Owing to the police being reticent yesterday regarding the arrests, only meagre details could be given about the cruise on the lake by Provincial Constable Symons and Sergeant Burleigh. Today several facts leaked out concerning the trip.

It seems that the motor boat in the first place left from the Kam river. Constable Symons had heard of the trip being organized, and after conferring with Chief of Police McLellan Sergeant Burleigh was assigned to help with the case. With the usual precautions the pair found that a boat load was leaving that night, and chartering a tug, the name of which the police will not give, but call "Queen Elizabeth" the motor boat being classed as a destroyer, they left the city in time to wait for the "destroyer." A special gun had been mounted on the "destroyer" and with all lights

on the tug steamed to the mouth of the Kam'nistiquia river and waited. About one o'clock the party on the tug heard the chugging of the motor boat, which kept forging ahead at a good pace, sending up a shower of spray. The driver of the motor boat had evidently seen the tug waiting and, trying to avoid it, he changed his course towards the south.

Miniature Naval Battle

The captain of the tug, however, noticed the movement and bore down upon it. When close to it, a shot was fired over the motor boat's bow, but as this failed to stop Volkmann, who was driving the "destroyer," a miniature naval battle took place. Several shots were fired at the motor boat, and, seeing the hopelessness of trying to escape, Volkmann allowed himself to be towed into Port Arthur, along with his foreign passengers. On arrival they were taken to the police station.

How did Barney Bell become connected with the alleged crime is a question that puzzles many and few can find a solution which seems plau-

sible. It is, however, an established fact that Bell was given away by one of his alleged accomplices. Volkmann was a clerk in Bell's office, and how he committed treason is a puzzle for all concerned in the case except the police, who seem to be confident that he had more than one finger in the game. The police will not give their grounds for charging him with treason, and it is likely to remain a secret until the trial.

It was some time after the arrest of the other two that Sergeant Fenn was instructed to carry out Bell's arrest, which he did yesterday afternoon at his employment bureau.

A search was made of Bell's rooms and, although nothing definite has been stated in regard to this, it is hinted in certain circles that incriminating documents were found.

The motor boat which made the trip is lying at the C. P. R. dock today. It is of a large type and capable of holding ten men comfortably. A canvas frame covers the engine room, and the whole boat is painted white.

The Austrians will be charged with attempting to leave Canada while under parole as alien enemies.

BELL, RENSHAW AND VOLKMAN SET FREE BY JUDGE O'LEARY

WAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT
AUSTRIANS THEY WERE
TRANSPORTING HAD INTEND-
ED TO JOIN ENEMY ARMIES.

CASE AGAINST BELL WAS NOT
PROCEEDED WITH — JUDGE
TELLS RENSHAW HE HAD NAR-
ROW ESCAPE.

Barney Bell, Ben Renshaw and Fred Volkman, who were tried on the charge of assisting enemies of the King to escape from the country, were all discharged by His Honor Judge O'Leary this morning.

The Judge gave a short address before informing the prisoners that they were to go free. He said that he had given the case serious consideration

and after weighing the evidence, he found that there was a "reasonable doubt" existing as to whether the prisoners intended that the alien enemies should be taken to the other side of the border for the purpose of assisting the enemy forces, and this doubt was given to the benefit of the prisoners.

He said that the men, especially Renshaw, had a narrow squeeze and that he was not perfectly sure that he was doing the right thing in letting them go. He lectured them severely, telling them that they had better not try the same thing again.

Barney Bell Case

The case of Barney Bell, which was to have taken place this morning, was withdrawn, the Crown Attorney agreeing to allow the evidence in the case of Renshaw to apply to that of Bell and that he should be discharged. The Judge then called in Volkman, who had previously pleaded guilty. The Crown Attorney said that the prisoner, Volkman, pleaded guilty without the advice of counsel and that he only pleaded to the charge of assisting the men to leave, and in consideration of the "rider" attached to the indictment of "assisting the enemies," which says "that a man shall be guilty of an indictable offense who assists aliens to escape," etc. "Unless the accused can prove that assistance to the enemy was not intended." To this latter Volkman did not plead guilty and, therefore, the opinion of the Judge was that he should be discharged the same as the other men.

His Honor, after discharging the men, added that they had been punished sufficiently, Volkman and Bell

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BELL, RENSHAW AND VOLKMAN SET FREE

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had been in jail for some time and Renshaw had also served a short period, but in regard to the latter His Honor said that he deserved all that he got.

Will Intern Austrians

There was quite a large crowd in the court room, but there was no sounds either of approval or disapproval in the Judge's decision. Volkman was slightly nervous when called to the box, but when told that he could go he smiled and thanked the Judge.

The Austrians, who were on the boat with the prisoners, will be interned and the money which was collected from them for their fare by Volkman will be returned to them.