

Transcripts from legal records

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[15 November 1890]

Regina versus Slumah [sic]

Witnesses required by prisoner present.

Seymour, Harrison River Indian: I knew Louis Bee. I saw him about nine weeks and six days ago at Lillooet Slough. I went up to see our lines. Louis Bee was half-breed from Katzie. I went with Louis Bee from Lillooet Slough in a canoe up Pitt River about two miles. Some distance from Railroad Bridge saw nothing going up. Found no bait on the sturgeon lines. We decided to go and look for bait. After paddling for a short time we met Swanitzen and his wife paddling down stream. We were going up stream. They [sic] came near each other and Louis Bee spoke to Swanitzen. After the other canoe passed we heard a shot and Louis Bee proposed to go and see who fired. When we got near to the place where we heard the shot I saw a person on the bank coming towards us. It was the prisoner. We went nearer to the shore and Louis asked the prisoner what he was firing at. Prisoner did not answer. Prisoner walked until he got to edge of the water and then he got his gun into position and fired at Louis.

I was in the stern of the canoe and Louis in the bow. The canoe was sideways to the shore. After the shot was fired, prisoner ran to his own canoe. I thought of jumping out of the canoe. Louis was holding on to the canoe. I jumped out and asked prisoner why he shot Louis. After I got ashore I saw blood on Louis' shoulder. Louis fell out into the river after I got ashore. I saw Louis sink in the water. Louis said nothing after he was shot. Water three feet deep. I had branches in my canoe, nothing else.

My canoe drifted off. Prisoner's canoe was there. Slumah told me he did not want anyone around there.

I then ran away because I was thought prisoner would shoot me as he was reloading. The gun was a single barrelled muzzle loader.

Narcisse Bellau Gauvreau C.E. (intervened)

I made this plan of portion of Pitt River on the ground. It is correct.

Seymour (resumed)

We were going up the river and prisoner was on the left bank. Prisoner was about the elbow of the slough and walked over from prairie. This happened about 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Court transcript surrendered to the Department of Justice, Canada by the Hon. Mr. Justice Drake, New Westminster, part of his report "on the case of Sumah [sic] an Indian under sentence of death in the goal at New Westminster B.C."

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I hid myself and sat down and watched prisoner. I remained about twenty minutes. The prisoner remained at his own canoe with his gun in his hand. Therefore came down to the bridge and got to my camp at Lillooet Slough.

I went to get my canoe and when I got it I came to New Westminster and told Mr. McTiernan, the Indian Agent, at night. I stayed at New Westminster that night. I went up the next day in company of two white men and I showed the place where the man was killed and did not find the body at first as the tide was up, but afterwards found it where it fell. I took the body and put it in the canoe and brought it to New Westminster.

Louis was sober the day he was shot and so was I.

Went to prisoner's camp in company with Mr. Moresby. I saw an axe there. I saw this axe before in Louis' possession. It belonged to him.

[Cross examination] I had lived in Lillooet Slough since end of fishing season this year. Have not seen prisoner often.

I don't know how far the prisoner lives from my camp.

Deceased lived with me. Also two women and one old man.

Louis' wife and mine. I and Louis were fishermen.

I left my camp after midday to go to the lines. Nothing in the canoe but cedar shakes and paddles. No axe that I saw and no butle [bottle?] to kill fish. I don't recollect telling coroner that we had a butle for killing sturgeon.

(Council reads statement in which witness states they had a butle.)

I crossed the river after we heard the shot. About a quarter of a mile away when we heard it. Only could see prisoner's head at first about 100 yards from canoe. He was on shore. Louis held side of canoe after he was shot and then fell overboard. He never attempted to get out of canoe. I jumped out of canoe after Louis was shot and hid myself in grass, Prisoner could not see me. Tide out. Bank has only a slight rise. None of the other Indians ever talked about prisoner. Saw no pole in canoe.

Michael E. Walker, physician and surgeon.

I made a post mortem on Louis Bee, 10 September. Mr. Morresby and Mr. Ellard present. Found the deceased had received a bullet wound on left shoulder. It had passed downwards and inward into chest through left lung, upper party heart, through right lung and found bullet in right pulmonary. I examined stomach partially filled with food digested—no indication of alcohol. The lungs were normal—no

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signs of death by drowning. The wound was inflicted during life and was cause of death. The body was half-breed, 25 or 30 years old. I think that the person had been dead 2 or 3 days.

Charley (sworn). Katsey Tribe.

I knew Louis Bee. I saw him where he was killed. He was in the water 20 feet from the shore. I put body in canoe and took it to Louis Bee camp and next morning brought it to New Westminster into a small outhouse opposite Harvey's. Capt'n. Pittendrigh was out home. Did not see prisoner when I found body and [when] I went with Moresby to look for prisoner I saw him at a distance and he walked away from me. I also went with another constable to look for prisoner. Prisoner ran away—he was about a mile off.

[Examination] The wife of deceased asked me to look for Louis' body. It took me an hour to find it. It was about 18 feet from shore. It was high tide. The water was about 5 feet and a little more in depth. Water was muddy—could not see body. I had a hook. When tide is out water is clear. The first time I saw prisoner he was not in speaking distance. Prisoner was at foot of mountain. Prisoner had a gun. He was never without a gun on that day. We were all armed. I have known prisoner a long time but had no conversation with him.

Swanitzen (sworn) Katsey

I knew Louis Bell and I saw him up at Pitt River, the last time I saw him alive, I think about noon. He had been looking at his lines—he was in a canoe with Seymour. They were going up stream. Louis says _____. I passed and after I had gone some distance I heard echo of a shot.

[Examination] I drink but don't get drunk. Have known prisoner many years. I live at Katsey and prisoner at Pitt River—don't know how many miles.

Robert Anderson (sworn) constable

I went up about a week after the report of the murder. I went with Moresby to try and arrest prisoner. I was there 8 days, 2 in a canoe with Indians. I saw prisoner on shore. Prisoner was presenting his gun at me and I fired at him and he jumped into a ravine. This was in the neighbourhood of camp. I saw him at a distance on another occasion.

[Examination] Charlie was with me when I saw prisoner. He raised his gun and had it to his shoulder. I fired a random shot to break his arm. I went up once with Moresby.

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Mr. Moresby (sworn)

I went up to arrest prisoner 11 September. I couldn't find him. I found one axe in his cabin belonging to Louis and took prisoner's canoe. Prisoner was delivered to goal about 2 weeks ago, 24 October. I attended the post mortem. I recognized the body as Louis Bee. I knew him well.

[Examination] I went up with several special constables. I went up 2 or 3 times. I went up the Lake on one occasion. I found his tracks but never found him. I burnt his cabin down to force him to surrender. Have known deceased for 15 or 20 years. I have known him drunk, but no other charges.

Case for crown closed.

Kitty (called and sworn)

I am married to Louis Bee 10 years—had another husband before.

The image consists of a solid white rectangular area enclosed within a thin, uniform red border. The white space is completely devoid of any markings, text, or illustrations. The red border is consistent in thickness and color throughout, creating a simple frame around the central white field.