

## The Gibson Robberies

York Gleaner

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Attempts at Burglary

Mr. Gibson's Store Entered and an Unsuccessful Attempt made to Blow Open the Safe. Mr. R. A. Estey's Safe Tampered with.

We take the following from the Telegraph about the attempted burglary at Mr. Gibson's store, Marysville. It is about correct in every particular, and gives the facts just as our reporter gathered them yesterday:--

"Quite a sensation was created at Marysville, this morning, by the announcement, which travelled like wild-fire, that the vault and safe in Mr. Gibson's supply store there had been broken into by burglars since Saturday night. Various reports were current as to the amount of damage done, the loss being reported at different amounts as the rumor went from house to house. It appears, however, that the work of the burglars totally miscarried, so far as regards the accomplishment of their purpose. The store being closed on Sunday, the result of their operations was not discovered till this morning. When Mr. James Murray, came around at six o'clock to open the store for the day it was found that the burglars had succeeded in removing several bricks from the vault and had drilled two holes in the safe, presumably for blasting purposes, but as the safe was unopened it is presumed that when this was completed it was at an hour when if they went any further they could not escape detection. It was very fortunate that the burglars were baffled before they reached the interior of the safe, the contents of which concluded, besides the account books and other valuable documents of Mr. Gibson, an amount of specie and paper such as might be expected to be found in the safe of a store that did business on such a large scale, and whose proprietor is posses of such immense wealth. The burglars, it is believed, worked at the safe during Sunday, because on removing the bricks from the back of the vault to get inside, they very carefully deposited them where they would not likely to be seen by anybody casually entering the store on Sunday. A son of Mr. John Gibson opened the store yesterday, but his attention was not attracted by the work of the parties who, from their way the took out the bricks, are believe to be expert masons. The suspicion that their work was carried on on Sunday is confirmed by the fact that they made great havoc wit the provisions in the store, demolishing a large quantity of crackers and cheese, canned peaches and salmon and bottled lime-juice. There were about one hundred person sin the store on Saturday, when Mr. John Gibson was paying off the men. The criminals were probably among the number, and secreted themselves either in the store-room below or at that above the main store. This morning the back part of the store was found open.

Three or four [days] ago a pair of burglars entered the store by a door and carried away a large quantity of provisions, etc., but after some days of vigilant searching by the police they were finally detected by ex-Sergt. Woodward. They are now serving a term of six years in the penitentiary. The burglars in the present case had to dig their way through a vault for the kind of valuables they wanted.

A fuse was found next the door of the safe, this morning, and also a brace, which the operators had taken from the back store to use with the bit, and they drilled the two holes in the safe lock. Among the other articles used by them was a crow bar, and there is evidence that an attempt was made to pry open the safe door with some strong instrument. The safe is one of the Tilton and McFarlane's manufacture. It is so constructed that there is no chance to blow it open with powder even after a 24 hours' operation. This morning, at 4 o'clock, two Italian so suspicious countenance presented themselves so Mr. Roderick Haines, captain of the middle ferry, for a break-of-day trip across the river, but as he did not care to send his boat over so early, they walked up the St. Mary's side and crossed at the upper ferry. There whereabouts now,

like the whereabouts of one or two other parties on Sunday, is a matter of inquiry. The burglars so tampered with the lock of the safe that it could not be opened up to a late hours by Mr. Gibson, but it is quite certain that no booty was abstracted.”

It is quite evident that the burglars were not professions, although it would have been more than an ordinary job for a professional to have got into the safe. It is quite evident that they understood the masonry business pretty well. There has been no loss to speak of, but the inconvenience of not getting into the safe is felt very much. Mr. Kelly, of McFarlane, Thompson and Anderson’s has been engaged for a day or so in endeavoring to open it, but we fear his efforts will fail, and that Mr. Gibson will required to bring a man from the safe works before it can be opened.

On Monday evening last Mr. R. A. Estey’s office was entered by burglars through the rear window, and an attempt was made to blow open the safe, but the fuse had been smothered by the rug which was thrown over the safe to deafen the noise of the explosion. The efforts of the burglars proved unsuccessful. Had the looked in the drawer next the safe they could have found the key. It will be kept in another place after this however.

Gleaner

Oct 2, 1894

\$3,300 Gone

Thieves Blow Open Mr. Alex. Gibson's Safe

Excitement in Fredericton

Rumors as to the Identity of the Burglars

Col. Marsh Warned Police and Constable Barker

A Description of the Men Who are Suspected

The excitement on the street this morning was intense when the rumor reached the city that the safe in Mr. Gibson's store at Marysville had been blown open and a large amount of money taken. All kinds of theorizes were advanced as to who the robbers were and how they came to know that a large amount had been placed in the safe last night.

It seems that yesterday afternoon at a late hour, Mr. C. H. Hatt drew \$3,300 from a bank in this city and took it to Marysville, where it was placed in the safe in the store for safe keeping during the night. The money was to be used this morning partly for some special payments of wages, as well as for the cotton mill pay roll, which is paid tomorrow.

The store is always locked at six o'clock in the evening, and last night was no exception to the rule. Messrs. Fred Murray and B Lint, who work in the store, saw that the door was safely locked.

This morning, when Mr. B. H. Manzer, the barber, came down to open his shop, he noticed lights burning in the office, back of the store. He went to the front door and found that it was broken open. He gave the alarm and soon the clerks of the store were on hand.

On investigation it was found that the door had been broken open from the outside by sheer force. The catches on the top and bottom were both broken, thus allowing the door to fly open. Entering the door, the robbers went to the till in the shop and ransacked it, taking the loose change in silver and coppers that was there. A memorandum slip in the drawer was examined but left in the drawer.

The thieves then proceeded to the office. Before entering the store they had provided themselves with tools for drilling the safe. On their way to Marysville they had broken into W. A. Bradley's blacksmith shop at Gibson and taken a steel boring bit and other tools.

Entering the office, the lighted the lamps. The windows were closed with tight shutters on the outside. After the lamps were burning, the men proceeded to drill the door of the vault. This was a large steel doors, locked with a combination lock. They drilled through the steel in such a way that, when the inserted the powder, the combination would be blown off. The match was applied and the handle of the vault door was blown with force enough to make a dent int he door of the office, ten feet away. The explosion blew off the combination and the bolts were shot back.

Opening the door of the vault, the burglars met with another obstacle to the

success of their scheme. This was a safe door. Patience had again to be exercised and the drill brought into use. After some time spent in drilling, the door was ready to receive the powder. The inserted a generous supply, and the concussion caused by the explosion blew the door clear from its hinges and left it laying on the floor in the middle of the vault. About three o'clock Mr. Wm. Segee, who was lying awake, heard an explosion which, she attributed to steam being blown off at one of the mills. Mrs. Segee was spending her first night at Marysville, her son-in-law, Mr. Harris, having yesterday taken charge of the hotel there. It is thought that the explosion she heard was that made when the safe door was blown from its hinges.

The thieves now had all the contents of the safe at their command. They pocketed the \$3,300 in cash which had been placed in the safe last night and then proceeded to go through the papers. These they examined thoroughly and then threw on the floor of the vault. The books were also thrown on the floor. None of the papers were taken.

It is understood that Mr. Gibson had signed a check for a large amount last night and intended placing it in the safe. On second thought, however, he took it home with him. It was a lucky escape for the cheque.

Many different reports regarding the perpetrators of the robbery are being circulated. It is thought that they must have entered the store while the people were assembled in the town Hall, listening to a concert being given by the Heine Concert Company. It is said that a couple of boys saw lights through the chinks of the shutters of the office about ten o'clock, but thought that it was probably Mr. Rowley doing extra work.

One theory of the robbery is that it was carried out by four men who have been around the city for a few days past trying to sell wire coat-hangers. They were supposed to have belonged to the gang who were operating around Calais, Maine, a short time ago. They slept at Mr. William Boyce's farm night before last. Another theory is that it was the same men who robbed Messrs. Sargents' store at Nelson, Northumberland county, last Thursday night.

The robbers had tier work on the safe door for naught. It will be remembered that ten years ago, when the cotton mill was being built, an attempt was made to rob the safe in Mr. Gibson's store. The vault door was blown open, but the robbers failed to open the safe. The door of the vault was then replaced, but the combination of the safe was not repaired, and has never worked, it being closed simply by shooting the bolts into position. The robbers did not know this.

Early this morning Mr. C. H. Hatt telephoned Col. Marsh, informing him of the robbery, and he at once sent Sgt. Phillips and City Marshal Roberts to Marysville. They visited the scene of the robbery and are now working on the case.

It was about five years ago that the safe in the Canada Eastern Station at Gibson was blown open just before pay-day, and about the same amount taken. The money in that case was put up in envelopes, ready to pay to the men on the following day.

Mr. Gibson has not offered a reward as yet for the capture of the burglars. It is not known whether he will do so or not.

One peculiar feature about the burglary is that Col. Marsh notified the city police yesterday, and also Constable Barker of Marysville, to be on the lookout for two men who were wanted for drawing a revolver on an I. C. R. Conductor and who started across the country towards Fredericton. The circulars received by Col. Marsh from I. C. R. Detective Skeffington describes the men as tramps, thieves and burglars. One of the men is described as about five feet eleven inches tall; 27 years of age, clean shaven at present, may grow a small black moustache or black beard; sallow complexion; sunken cheeks; dark clothes; soft felt hat. The second man is five feet four inches high, dark red moustache, 45 years of age, puffy face; bald-headed; dark clothes, black cap; may be clean shaven.

This morning Col. Marsh received a letter from Detective Skeffington giving a further description of the men. They are probably the same two men who were terrorizing people along the I. C. R. And who were here six years ago. If they are, Detective Roberts should know them as soon as he sees them, as he was shot at by them near Morrison's Mills at that time when the Mr. Dow Vandine he was sent out to catch them if possible. These men crossed the country from Norton to Fredericton via

Chipman, Queens, and are due here.

A rather seedy individual of the tramp species, carrying a once white handkerchief around a bundle in his hand, a spade over his shoulder such as a gravedigger would use, on the spade suspended a well-worn jute bag, and his graying clothes much the worse for war, was seen on Queen street at three o'clock today. He was about five feet four and five inches high.