



SOUTH-EAST KOOTENAY,

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICE,

FORT STEELE, B. C.

Dec 16th 1900

Mr H. A. McLean

Deputy Attorney General

Victoria B.C. Chinese lunatics
escape

43600
ATTOYNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
D.F.C.

Dear Sir

On the 9th of December 1900 I left Fort Steele with a Chinaman named Wong Tong for the Insane Asylum. I arrived at Revelstoke on the 10th to find the train was twenty-four hours late. I left Revelstoke on the morning of the 11th. About seven o'clock the Chinaman was taken very sick. He was vomiting and had the Diarrhoea very bad. During the night of the 11th he was very bad and was at the closed very often. About 12 o'clock I asked the Conductor if the Westminster train would meet his train, he said he did not think so, as it would be so late when we would arrive there.

The Chinaman was very good and was much better than when I left Fort Steele. His only craze was that some Chinamen were going to kill him, and he was awfully afraid of them.

He would do anything I told him to do and was very good. I watched him very minute and not risk myself out of sight of him for fear something would happen.

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To him. He would not sleep but I thought that was because he was sick from riding in the car. The train stoped at the Westminster junction and a brakeman came in and said that the New Westminster train was there. So I picked up my things and went out with the Chinaman when we got to the Platform of the train, I said to the Chinaman "This way Wong" meaning to the left of the Platform, instead of turning to the left he jumped to the right and ran across to a hotel I dropped my valise and ran after him. The Westminster train was on the side track to the right and was just backing up, the Chinaman saw that I was after him and was going to catch him so he turned and ran under the Westminster train on his hands and feet.

It was raining and was very dark, all the light there was came from the two trains, I ran around thinking the Chinaman had been crushed by the train, but a man who was standing on the Platform saw him run around the corner of the Depot. He must have run under both trains. I sent word by both



trains for the Police to be on the look-out for him and thinking that after the trains would pull out, he would come back for it was raining very hard, I hid myself and watched for him this was between 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning of the 12th

I waited and watched for him until daylight then I looked for his tracks, it was very hard to find his tracks on account of the hard rain but at last I found that he had taken the wagon road from the Junction to New Westminster I returned to the Junction and telegraphed to the Police at Westminster

The first train I could catch for Westminster was the 12 o'clock train, when I arrived there I got a rig and drove out and found that the Chinaman had stopped at a milk-ranch about four miles from Westminster. I traced him to Westminster

This was about three in the afternoon and I

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had not had any sleep since the morning of the 9th. I saw Constable Lister and told him that I had to give up, I could not go any longer. He said for me to leave everything to him.

On the morning of the 13th I had a talk with Constable Lister and he said there would be no trouble in catching the Chinaman, so as I had to be in Moyie on the 15th for a meeting of the Licence Commissioners I started home leaving everything in Constable Lister's hands. I may say these are the facts of the case and I am very sorry for I think I used all the precaution that any Constable would have used, and I will say that I have handled all kinds of criminals and this is the first man who ever escaped me.

I remain Sir

Your obedient servant

H. W. Barnes