

CAUGHT AT LAST.

CAPTURE OF THE DENVER AND RIO GRANDE TRAIN ROBBERS.

After two months of hardship and wanderings in the Rocky mountains in the heart of winter, Pinkerton's detectives have succeeded in capturing the men who robbed the Denver and Rio Grande train at Grande Junction. Over mountain ranges and floods, through blinding snow storms, along the deep cañons and up the precipitous sides of the mountains, they have followed the trail, and their capture effected, and the prisoners brought to Denver yesterday and lodged in jail. It was one of the most difficult tasks ever attempted by Pinkerton's men. But they and Sheriff Shores have been indefatigable and finally bagged their game. The prisoners were taken before United States Commissioner Brazee yesterday, waived examination and in default of \$5,000 bail each they went to jail.

Yesterday morning Sheriff Shores and two Pinkerton men arrived in Denver with Ira, alias Bob Smith, his brother, J. K. Smith, and a man named Rhodes, the three men who held up the Denver and Rio Grande train four miles east of Grand Junction on the morning of Thursday, November 23, 1887.

These men were captured near Woodside, Utah, on Tuesday, January 10, and brought to Gunnison, where they waived examination, and under instructions of United States Marshal Hill they were brought to Denver for a hearing before the United States court.

Ira, alias Bob Smith, is the leader of the gang and seems to justly deserve that honor, as he is a tall, blue-looking man with the bearing of a perfect gentleman. His brother, J. K. Smith, is not quite as large, but seems to be very shrewd. Rhodes is very well known in the vicinity of Rock Creek. Each of the prisoners shows the marks of the exposure they have endured for the last two months, and it is safe to say that it would be almost impossible to find any other three men in this part of the country who could have traveled the distance these men have done, suffered the privation and endured the hardships, without being entirely worn out.

These men, however, seem to be possessed of iron constitutions, and beyond the slight trace of exposure and care that may be seen in their faces, they do not show what they have been through.

Sheriff C. W. Shores, who is an agent of the Pinkerton National Detective agency, and who is assisted by the men from the Denver agency, says that trail left by these men was harder to follow than any he has undertaken during his twenty years of experience in this kind of business.

The details of trailing these men through the worst part of the Rocky Mountain country in the dead of winter are very interesting, and would take a large volume to do it full justice. The main facts of the case are, that on the evening of the third of November, after the news of the hold-up and attempted robbery had been received in Denver, Supt. C. O. Eames, of the Pinkerton National Detective agency, took the train for Gunnison, where with Sheriff C. W. Shores, as agent, and Mr. Allison, he continued on the way to Grand Junction, where they arrived on the fourth of November, a day after the robbery. They immediately visited the scene of the robbery, and after making a minute and careful investigation, and taking particular note of the different tracks in the locality, went back to Grand Junction, where with Sheriff Bradish, of Mesa County, they consulted what was best to do in the matter. On the morning of the 11th, Sheriff C. W. Shores, and M. L. Allison and two other Pinkerton men went to the scene of the robbery, and there finished their investigation. Then they

trailed along the Gunnison river (the south side), but finding they had not gone that way, returned to Grand Junction about dark.

Sheriff Bradish and his posse trailed that part of the country that lies on the north side of the river, but found nothing resembling any trace of the robbers.

On the next day Sheriff Shores, who was now acting directly under the instructions of Supt. C. O. Eames, of the Pinkerton National Detective agency, who had the case fully in his charge, went up the river and found a place where some men had stopped to buy provisions and vegetables, who were in a boat upon the river, and obtained a description of them from a little girl at that place, and through her they at last struck the trail of the robbers, which led from the river and over large rocks and through box cañons. The next morning they were rewarded by finding a camp where the robbers had stopped during the night. At this camp they found pieces of an old almanac, and also upon the shrubby small particles of red wool, which appeared to be from blankets or the stuffing of a quilt.

From this point the trail seemed to start off toward Unaweep cañon, but from the manner in which the men traveled, being very careful where they stepped, so as not to leave any tracks, Sheriff Shores became convinced that these were the men who had committed the robbery. The trails from this place seemed to separate, each one of the men taking a different direction.

The pursuing party took up the different trails as early as possible and followed them to a point about fifteen

miles from the first camp, through a country which is made up of

BOX CANYONS AND RIM ROCK,

in such a shape that horses of any kind could not be used and was almost impossible for a strong man to get through. Some places from which these trails led were up perpendicular rocks ten to fifteen feet high, where one man had to stand upon the back of his comrade to get to the top and then pull the others up.

After reaching the place where water was found, each one of the different trails came together, and they then found another camp where they had made a large fire. On the shrubbery around this camp they found little pieces of red wool, also pieces from an almanac, also a piece of canvas that they had used to clean their guns with. These articles compared with those found where the first camp was discovered. They also found a piece of tobacco on a rock and a knife that they had used to cut it with. Starting out from this camp the trail seemed more distinct, as all the parties were together and appeared to be going directly toward Unaweep cañon. Finding that it was almost impossible to do anything on foot, in the way of following these men, the officers returned to Grand Junction for the purpose of securing horses, while one man succeeded in securing a spring wagon and a party to go with him, who was used to hunting in that part of the country, as a guide, to follow up the trail until such time as the rest of the posse could secure horses. These men got off the track and their work did not amount to anything. Upon arriving at Grand Junction, Sheriff Shores heard that a boat had been left down the river below the Junction about two miles, and in company with Mr. M. L. Allison and Mr. Duckworth, who is a detective for the Denver and Rio Grande Express company, they went down to look at the boat. They found a rudely built

FLAT-BOTTOMED BOAT,

which apparently had been used but very little. This boat was up on the sand, so that it could not wash away, and evidence of several parties having camped under a ledge of rock near by was found, also tracks of the parties as coming from the same upon the rocks. At this place they found some of the pieces of almanac which matched identically with those found on the trail among the rocks. These, it seems, were used for shaving, as particles of hair were found upon them.

They also found several leaves of the almanac lying upon the sand by the rocks. They also discovered at this place that the parties had slept under a projecting rock; there were also pieces of wool from a blanket, and a piece of canvas, which had been used to clean their guns. These were exactly like the wool and canvas found on the trail, and showed conclusively that the parties who had used the boat were the ones who had committed the robbery, and the ones they had been trailing over the rocks through the Unaweep cañon.

At this point Shores also found a note-book, with considerable writing in it, but it was so

BURNED AND CHARRED UP

that no clue could be obtained from it. After finding the above, the officers were well satisfied that they were on the trail of the men who committed the robbery. They also knew that these men must be very well acquainted with the country, and the boat could not have been built very far from there; therefore one of the detectives was immediately sent along the river and in the course of a few days he arrived at Delta, and found that the boat had been built at that place by two men, who claimed to be brothers, and who called each other Bob and Jack. Upon making further investigation at Delta, it was learned that when they first came there they brought a pony, which they packed their truck on, and after a little further inquiry it was found that they had sold their pony.

Mr. Shores, who by this time had arrived at Delta, made a careful investigation, and finally succeeded in finding the man who had purchased the pony, and upon making inquiries into the matter, found that he had received a bill of sale signed J. K. Smith. This information satisfied Mr. Shores that at least two of the men who had committed the robbery were Ira alias Bob Smith and J. K. Smith, his brother. Mr. Shores found a man who had helped to build the boat, and said that the parties who were having the boat built claimed that they had built another boat and had gone down the river

THE WINTER BEFORE,

but in which direction he did not know. He also found that they had been around that country for two years or more, and had been employed as cattle herders, but lately had taken a contract for making ties for the Midland Railroad company. Sheriff Shores also learned at Delta that these men before leaving, supplied themselves with six or seven six shooters. They also had with them two Winchester, one of which they had repaired at Delta, and also a double-barrel shotgun. After returning to Gunnison in possession of above facts, Shores started immediately for Whitewater, to follow the trail of these men on horseback. Along the road the officers found that several cabins had been robbed, not only of food but clothing. Among the clothing stolen was one coat with the man's name written on

the sleeve lining. Upon arriving at Unaweep cañon the officers found that the robbers had climbed over high rocks and reached the foot of the cañon where all traces of them seemed to be lost. After searching here for a considerable length of time, word was brought to the officers that some few cabins in the Smoland valley had been robbed in the same manner as those which had been found on the trail of the robbers. The officers therefore started for this place immediately, and upon arriving at

THE DOLORES RIVER,

met several people, among whom was D. C. Denny. Upon relating the circumstances Mr. Denny said that they had worked for him, and that he knew them well. That the year before they had built a boat and sailed down the Colorado river to a point in Arizona, not far from the White mountains, where they had camped the greater part of the winter, but returned north again in the spring. Mr. Denny being familiar with the country and knowing the Smith boys, joined the party of officers and helped them in their search. Shores, finding he was on the wrong trail, again returned to Unaweep cañon, and after very careful investigation found the robbers had left by the same way that they had entered it and retraced their steps, coming back to the river again near the same place that they had started from. Arriving at the place where they had left their boat and finding that it was gone, they went a short distance further down the river, where they secured boards and built a raft, and upon this they traveled down the river, and finally landed on the other side. At their place of landing the trail was finally picked up. They followed the railroad track for a short distance, and finally seemed to head for Grand Junction. But instead of doing this, they swung off toward the north, and making a large circle, got back within view of the railroad track again, and finally found their way to Green river.

Sheriff Shores, leaving two of the Pinkerton men upon the trail, returned to Gunnison, where he was taken ill, from the hardships and privations imposed upon him during the six weeks that he had been looking for the train robbers. These men who were left to follow the trail for the time being continued to do so. Following it up and down the Green river, also across the country to the Price river, and then down again, sometimes as it seemed almost in sight of the fugitives. At last they were discovered on

AN ISLAND IN THE PRICE RIVER,

and Mr. Allison was at once notified that Bob Smith was going up to the lower Price crossing for provisions, etc. The sheriff, who at this time was in the city consulting with Superintendent C. O. Eames, of the Pinkerton National Detective Association, immediately wired Mr. Allison to start without delay to assist the detectives in capturing the fugitives.

Sheriff Shores, with two Pinkerton men, immediately left Denver for Woodside, Utah, but before the train arrived at Green river on Tuesday night it was stopped by a flag from the train coming from Woodside station and Sheriff Shores, with his officers, was notified that Mr. Allison, with his assistants, had captured the two Smith boys and Rhodes, and had them on the train on the way to Gunnison. The story of the capture is that Mr. Allison did not receive word from the detectives who were upon the trail of the Smith boys until sometime Sunday. At 3 o'clock on that night he left Gunnison and went to Grand Junction, arriving there at 8 p. m. Here he hunted up the sheriff, and in company with him and Mr. Denny went to Green river. They arrived at Green river the next morning, and Mr. Allison instructed the sheriff and Mr. Denny to come by the next train. He arrived at the lower crossing of the Price river at about 12 o'clock, and slept in the bunk house the rest of the night. After having fully explained matters to the express agent at the lower Price crossing, he was informed by the agent that the two men of whom he had descriptions were there, but the agent said that he had not seen the third man. He said that one man was called

BOB AND THE OTHER JACK

and one went under the name of Ira B. Wood and the other he thought was called Wilson.

From the description given him, Mr. Allison knew that they were the men wanted, and that the information he had received from the detectives was correct. Mr. Allison then went into the back room, so that the people who came around the office about train time would not see him, and where he could get a full view of the office and see Bob Smith if he came in there. He was in the room until the train arrived at 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Just before the train arrived Bob Smith came in the office and remained there until after the train arrived. When the whistle blew, the agent passed Mr. Allison a note, which stated that Bob Smith was in the office and that he expected an express package on the train, and arrangements were made that when he signed the book for the package Mr. Allison was to step out and arrest him. However, after the train arrived, Denny and the sheriff stepped from the train, and going to the office, immediately recognized Smith. Their

WINCHESTERS WERE LEVELLED

at him, and he was ordered to throw

up his hands, at which he immediately surrendered.

Not being acquainted with the detectives who were on the river, the services of a ranchman named Thompson were engaged to lead out the whereabouts of Jack Smith and his companion, it having been learned that the boys had broken up their camp upon the island in the river, and had removed to another place. Thompson immediately started out and circled around the country, until he at last found tracks of the men leading toward the river. Upon arriving at these he discovered two men who answered the description of J. K. Smith and Rhodes in a dugout close by the banks of the river. Mr. Thompson immediately rode up to the dugout and asked them if they wanted to hire out as sheep herders. He tried to make some sort of an arrangement, but failing, he rode away. He immediately returned to the station and reported these facts to Mr. Allison, when taking Bob Smith they started for the dugout. When about 40 yards from the dugout, Bob Smith said that if the officers would allow him to ask his brother and companion to surrender, he would do so; therefore they permitted him to advance about twenty steps ahead. He stood upon a boulder and called to the boys in the dugout, who immediately answered him, and he asked them how many there were in the cañon and how they were armed and what they wanted. He also said that he did not give away

THEIR HIDING PLACE,

but that a ranchman had come there and given them away. After a little parley they surrendered. The boys were in a most deplorable condition, their clothing being nearly worn out, their boots almost gone and all the money they had between them was \$60. They had a few six-shooters with them and plenty of cartridges, but their other arms were missing, having evidently been disposed of for food. The officers returned to the station with the three men, where they boarded the next train for Gunnison.

At no time since the morning of November 5th, 1887, did the men who were working upon the case leave the trail of the robbers or seek rest for themselves, unless compelled to do so by sickness. Sheriff C. W. Shores, under the direction of the Pinkerton National Detective agency, had devoted his undivided time and exertions to this matter, and can congratulate himself that through his untiring efforts a case that at first was without trace or clue of any kind, was finally brought to a successful termination. Great credit is also due to the agents of the Denver and Rio Grande express, all of whom have been ready and willing to assist the officers in their search after the criminals, and no request by Mr. Shores or his men has been refused. The agents at Grand Junction, Green River and Woodside, especially have shown themselves heart and hand in the work.

THE FOURTH ROBBER CAUGHT.

The fourth and last of the D. & R. G. train robbers, Reht. W. Boyle, was captured Thursday afternoon, Jan. 20th, at Price Station, Utah, on the D. & R. G. Western R. R., by Sheriff C. W. Shores, of Gunnison County, Colorado, and the "Lone Fisherman," of Salt Lake City. Boyle was landed safely in the Gunnison jail, whence he will be taken to Denver for trial with his three companions in crime.—*Denver News.*

THE NEW SCHOOL BILL.

Plan to Supersede the Present School System.

Following is the bill introduced in the House yesterday by the committee on education, looking to some radical changes in our present district school system:

A Bill for an act to amend "An act providing for the establishment and support of the district schools and for other purposes," approved February 20th, 1880.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Utah: That each county of the Territory of Utah shall constitute in law one county school district, and that all provisions of the laws of the Territory now in force, applicable to school districts and to counties as school districts, shall, unless superseded by or inconsistent with this act, apply to the county school district.

Sec. 2. That power to consider, determine, and execute all matters pertaining to the interests of public school education in each county school district, and in the several sub-districts thereof, except such powers as are herein distinctly conferred upon the local trustees is vested in a board of education, to consist of five members, two of whom shall be appointed annually on or before the first Monday in August by the county court, and three who shall be elected at the time and in the manner and for the period prescribed by law for the election of selectmen, one of whom shall be designated county superintendent of district schools, and shall be so elected. *Provided,* That the county superintendent of district schools now in office shall continue until superseded by the annual election of 1889, and shall perform the duties of said office as contemplated by this act and that of which it is amendatory. At the general election for 1888, one member of the board shall be elected for two years and one for three years.

Each member of the board shall be qualified and conditioned in like manner as now prescribed for county superintendents of district schools.

Sec. 3. The board of education, within thirty days after their election, and appointment as herein provided for, shall meet and organize, by electing from their number a president, a vice-president and a secretary, and shall prescribe their duties; they shall also appoint an auditor, not of their own number. The assessor and collector and treasurer of the county shall be *ex-officio* the like officers of the board.

Sec. 4. The board shall have power to district the county for the purposes of education and to revise the boundaries and proportions of the districts, and when it may deem necessary, to establish, organize and grade schools and in every way regulate and control the same; to employ teachers to determine the text books that shall be used; to collect or provide for the collection of tuition fees; and to make such regulations as it may deem necessary for the support, conduct and convenience of the district schools of the county and their interests, and shall have and may exercise all the powers, privileges and trusts, which are now by the laws of the Territory, conferred upon any board of school district trustees, and shall perform the like duties so far as applicable and consistent with this act in reference to each sub-district and the county district.

Sec. 5. The board shall meet regularly on the first Monday in January, April, July and October of each year and at such other times as may be determined by a majority of the members; and shall keep full and complete records of all its proceedings, including the notices, and minutes properly signed, of all its regular, special, and sub-district meetings, which shall be subject to inspection by any citizen taxpayer.

Sec. 6. The duties of the county superintendents of district schools shall be as defined in the act of which this act is amendatory, and he, with the president and secretary of the board, shall perform the duties of the board of examination therein defined, and further, he shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the board of education, who shall also fix his salary and change the same when in their judgment circumstances may require it; *Provided,* such change shall not reduce the salary of any then present incumbent of the office.

Sec. 7. Any vacancy in the board of education shall be filled by appointment of the county court.

Sec. 8. That each school district that is now organized or that may hereafter be organized within each county school district, shall constitute a sub-district, and shall have all the privileges and benefits which would otherwise accrue to such district by virtue of the provisions of any law of the Territory, the same, as if this act did not take effect; *Provided,* that all powers and trusts vested in the district board of trustees shall accrue to and be exercised for the benefit of the district by the board of education hereinafter provided.

Sec. 9. In each sub-district there shall be one local trustee who shall be elected at the next general election after the passage of this act and annually thereafter, who shall qualify by subscribing to an oath of office and giving a bond to the county in which he resides in such sum and with such surety as the probate judge of the county may approve conditioned for the faithful performance of the duties of his office. He shall visit officially each school in his sub-district at least once during each term, and on or before the second Monday in July of each year, take a census of the children between the ages of 6 and 18 residing therein, and on or before the tenth day of August next ensuing shall make a report to the board of education in such form as may be prescribed, together with such other statistics and information as the board of education may require.

Sec. 10. No person shall be eligible to employment as a teacher in the district schools of the Territory without first receiving a suitable certificate signed by the board of examination, valid for the current school year in which he is employed. The employment of a teacher in violation of this provision shall forfeit to the sub-district in which he is employed the apportionment of school money for such school year.

Sec. 11. That whenever more than the amount of Territorial school money apportioned to any school district shall be necessary to keep school houses and grounds in repair; to employ teachers; furnish fuel, maps, charts and other suitable articles to school purposes; to pay a salary to county superintendents, and for other school purposes, an estimate of the probable amount so required shall be made by the board of education, and for such purposes the board shall make a formal requisition upon the county court, for the assessment and collection of the amount so estimated on or before the first of December each year.

Sec. 12. Whenever it shall seem necessary to erect and furnish a school building in any sub-district of the county, or to purchase ground upon which to erect such buildings, the board of education shall make an estimate of the approximate cost thereof and present the same at a meeting of the property taxpayers resident in the district, as a proposition to levy a tax on the taxable property of the sub-district for the purpose