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THE CASE OF MR. DE COBAIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, THURSDAY NIGHT.

A copy of the statutory declarations in the case of Mr. De Cobain was issued in printed form to-night to the members of the House of Commons. On June 9th Mr. A. J. Dudgeon having been instructed to act on behalf of Mr. De Cobain, wrote from the Diamond, Clones, Co. Monaghan, to the Under-Secretary, the Castle, Dublin, asking permission to inspect the original informations sworn against his client, or to get copies of the same on which the warrant was issued at the instance of Mr. Seddall, D.I., R.I.C., adding that his client was not at the time within her Majesty's dominions. On June 13th Mr. Dudgeon made the same request, though in briefer form, to Sir William Kaye, at the Chief Secretary's Office. Sir West Ridgeway replied the same day to this latter communication, saying it would be contrary to precedent to supply an accused person with the particulars of the evidence given against him, in order to enable him to decide whether or no he would render himself amenable and meet the charge. A copy of the warrant, which stated that the offences were misdemeanours, was enclosed.

On June 17th Mr. Dudgeon wrote respectfully asking their Excellencies the Lords Justices to reconsider their decision and to grant the application, on the assurance that it was made in the interest of justice and not with the object of frustrating or interfering in any way with the process of the law. His instructions were that the charges set out in the warrant were the result of a conspiracy. The giving of the documents could not result in his client leaving the Kingdom and evading arrest, as Mr. De Cobain was not at present within the British dominions, and the state of his health was such at present as to render a return journey impossible, "as I am informed." If his request could not be granted, then he requested that he might be furnished with the names of those who had made informations against Mr. De Cobain.

Sir West Ridgeway replied on June 23rd, again declining the request, and adding—"Mr. De Cobain can obtain in due and ordinary course the information which he requires by rendering himself amenable to justice. "The authorities will be compelled to act on the assumption that Mr. De Cobain does not intend to return and meet the charges brought against him unless they immediately receive an assurance to the contrary by Mr. De Cobain, or by you on his behalf."

Mr. Dudgeon replied on June 24—"I am unable personally to give the assurance their Excellencies require, but would respectfully ask that no further action be taken in the matter by the authorities until the decision of their Excellencies shall have been communicated to Mr. De Cobain, and time shall have elapsed for my receiving his instructions."

On June 26 Sir West Ridgeway replied that the Lord Lieutenant could not comply with the request.

The information sworn on June 18 by Edward Thomas Seddall, D.L., R.I.C., in charge of the detective department in Belfast, was as follows:— On the 2nd April, 1891, a warrant was issued by Richard J. Eaton, Esq., R.M., at Belfast, for the arrest of Edward Samuel Wesley de Cobain, M.P. This warrant was addressed to me, and by me endorsed to Head Constable Hussey for execution. The defendant, Mr. De Cobain, had not been for some time previously in Belfast. Three hours after the warrant was issued Acting-Sergeant Daniel Farrell left by my direction for Goole, in Yorkshire, Mr. De Cobain's last known place of residence, and at 7 a.m. next morning Head Constable Hussey left for Dublin for the purpose of getting the warrant endorsed by the Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary for execution in Yorkshire. At 4.45 p.m. on 4th April I received a telegram from Head Constable Hussey, saying that Mr. De Cobain had left Goole for London on the evening of 2nd April. I wired to the Head Constable to follow, and a duplicate warrant was sent at once for execution by the London police, who hold it. Another copy of the warrant was sent to the Dublin police, and Mr. De Cobain's description was inserted in the *Hue-and-Cry* of the 17th April, 1891, and subsequent issues. From inquiries I have made, and from information obtained, I have ascertained that a telegram was sent to Mr. De Cobain by a person in Belfast on 2nd April informing him that a warrant was issued, or was about to be issued, for his arrest, that thereupon Mr. De Cobain left for London, and escaped to the Continent to avoid arrest, and that he now remains in a place of concealment for that purpose.

Head Constable Hussey's information states—"I arrived at Goole about 3.30 p.m. on 4th April, where I met Acting-Sergeant Daniel Farrell, and ascertained that Mr. De Cobain had left Goole

by 8 p.m. train on 2nd April, 1891, having a first class ticket for King's Cross, London, via Doncaster. This information was obtained from the railway officials at Goole. That on going to Swinefleet Vicarage, some few miles distant from Goole, where Mr. De Cobain had been residing with his brother, I was informed by the Rev. Mr. De Cobain that his brother having received a telegram from Belfast that charges had been made against him, had left by 8 p.m. train from Goole on 2nd April, 1891, for Belfast, to face his accusers. That at Doncaster I ascertained that a man answering Mr. De Cobain's description had passed through Doncaster on the 2nd April, 1891. That on arriving in London I placed myself in communication with the authorities at New Scotland Yard, and a detective sergeant was detailed to assist me. I went to Mr. De Cobain's lodgings in Guildford street, Bedford square, on 6th April, 1891, and was informed by the proprietor that he expected Mr. De Cobain to arrive that evening. On 8th April, 1891, I received a fresh warrant from Dublin, and at once had same endorsed by a magistrate at Bow street for execution in London, which warrant was entrusted to Detective-Sergeant Nolan, the officer detailed to assist me. That we continued our inquiries until 10th April without success, when I left for Belfast, leaving the warrant with the New Scotland Yard authorities. That with reference to the telegram mentioned by the Rev. Mr. De Cobain I am informed and believe it was sent by a person in Belfast; that shortly after my return from London I taxed this person with having sent said telegram, which he did not deny; that I believe Mr. De Cobain is aware of the charge made against him, and that he is keeping out of the United Kingdom to avoid arrest."