

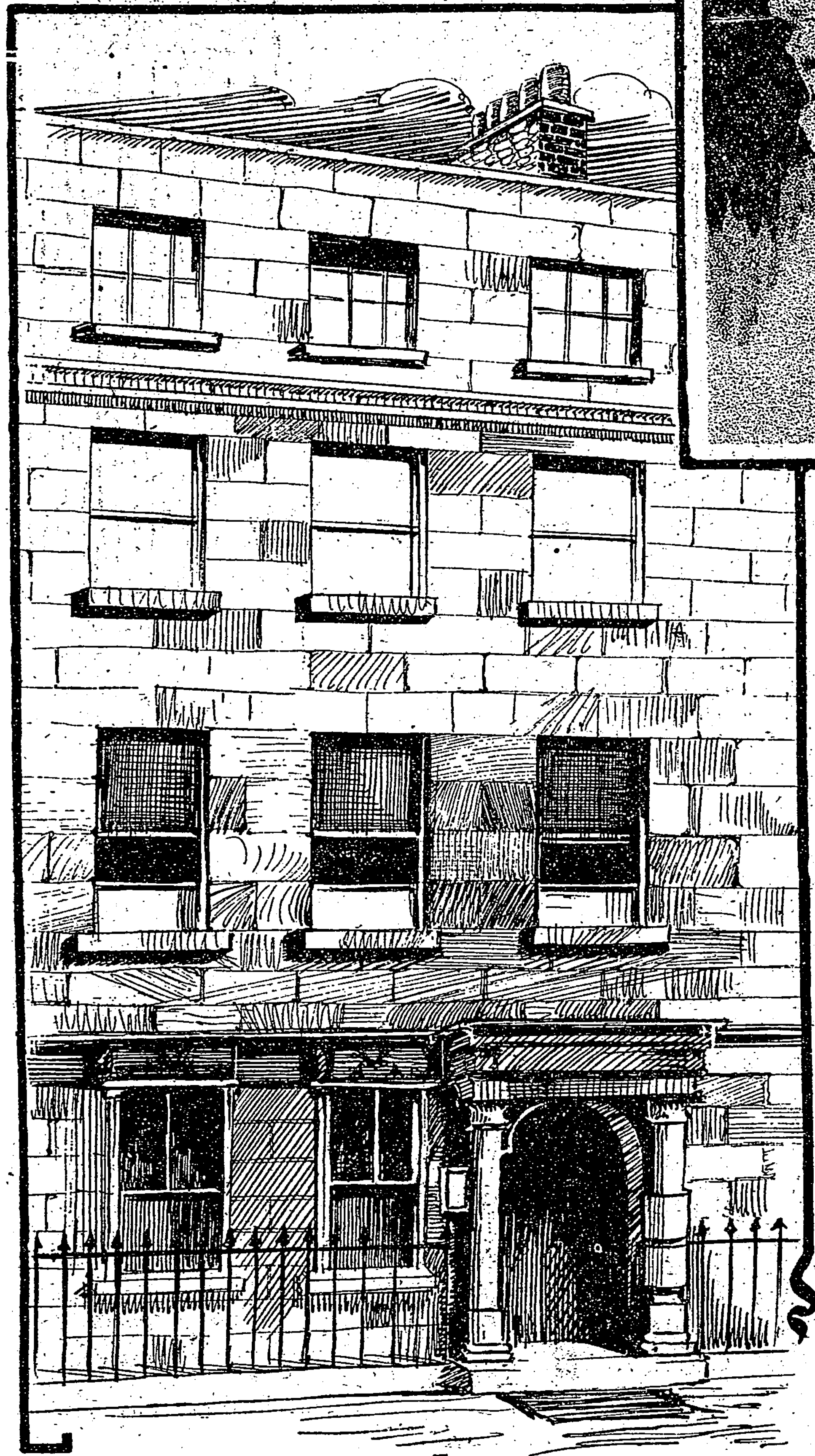
# SOLVING PROBLEM OF THE STOLEN \$750,000 NECKLACE

## Finding of 58 of the Pearls in London Probably Means Speedy Revelation of the Method of Robbery---Five Prisoners at Bow Street Expected to Disclose Full Details.

THE finding of fifty-eight pearls worth more than half a million dollars by a workman in a London street last Tuesday morning may well result in a revelation which for more than a fortnight has been eagerly awaited by the public—just how the great pearl robbery of July 15-16 was perpetrated. Five prisoners are now held from day to day without bail at the Bow Street Police Station.

The box containing the gems was opened in the post while on its way between Paris and London. A beautiful pearl necklace was stolen, composed of sixty-one pearls, together with three loose pearls, all valued at about three-quarters of a million dollars. The finding of the fifty-eight pearls leaves four unaccounted for, as two pearls composing the necklace had already been recovered and used as evidence at Bow Street.

At Bow Street Court the cases for both prosecution and defense have been conducted with significant mystery. On the missing pearls rested the hopes of both prisoners and police—freedom or conviction. The removal



MR. MAYER'S OFFICE IN HATTON GARDEN



MR. MAX MAYER



MR. SALOMONS

of the building at 88 Hatton Garden, London, is occupied by Mayer. Here the package mailed the previous evening by Salomons was received at 8:30 by the caretaker, signed for by him, and taken to the third floor, where it was locked in a safe. This safe is shared as a repository for mail matter by the tenant of the third floor, a Mr. Keller, and by Mr. Mayer.

Mr. Mayer reached his office at about twenty minutes to 9, accompanied by his three clerks. On their arrival the head clerk went to the third floor and brought down the mail matter, which the caretaker had locked in the safe.

"Here are your letters," he said to Mr. Mayer, "and two registered parcels; one from Paris, from M. Salomons, the other from Birmingham."

Mr. Mayer opened his letters. First among them was one from M. Salomons saying that the necklace was on its way. Thereupon Mr. Mayer turned to his head clerk and told him to open the parcel, adding:

"It contains the necklace. We shall take it to the Bank of England and leave it there while I am on my holidays."

### The Seals Gave a Clue.

Suddenly the clerk exclaimed: "Look, Mr. Mayer, at the extraordinary way in which the parcel has been sealed. It is not the way in which M. Salomons usually seals his parcels."

As soon as the wrapping had been removed they noticed that the lid of the box was split. This was thrown aside and the jewelry case opened. It contained eleven pieces of French domino sugar and a fragment of a French newspaper.

Salomons had sealed the package with seven seals, all stamped with "M. M.". One end of the box had been opened and resealed with great splashes of sealing wax, upon which the impression of "M. M." appeared about twenty times.

Mayer immediately telephoned to Paris for Salomons to come to London. He also informed Lloyd's, where

his insurance was carried, of the loss. So skilfully had the work of the robbers been done that the parcel showed only four grammes difference in weight between the time of its sending from Paris and its receipt at 88 Hatton Garden.

One of the first questions asked M. Salomons when he reached London that night was how much had he paid in postage. He answered:

"Seven francs ten centimes." He was then shown the box, on which the stamps amounted to only 5 francs 60 centimes.

This puzzle was finally cleared up by the Paris postal clerk Louron, who stated that after M. Salomons had left the office he weighed the parcel again and found that he had made a mistake and had charged 1 franc 50 centimes too much, which sum in stamps he returned the next day at M. Salomons' house in the Rue de Provence.

On Friday, July 18, a "personal" appeared in the Times which read as follows:

### PERSONAL.

**£10,000 REWARD** will be paid to any person who shall give the FIRST INFORMATION which shall lead to the CONVICTION of the THIEVES of the ORIENTAL PEARL NECKLACE of 61 graduated pearls and weighing 1,250 grains, the centre pearl weighing 4 1/16 grains, and the thirty pearls on one side of the string, weighing in rotation as follows:—

Then followed the exact weight of every one of the sixty-one pearls. The "personal" continued:

The necklace was contained in a box wrapped in blue linen paper, sealed with several large red seals, and measuring 1 1/2 in. by 3/4 in. by 3/4 in. There was also in the same box 500 drop pearls weighing 9 1/2 grains, and one round pearl weighing 2 1/2 grains. The theft is believed to have been committed between the hours of 4 p. m. on Tuesday, July 15th, and 8:30 a. m. on Wednesday, July 16th, in transit by post between the Rue de Provence, Paris, and Hatton Garden, London. Information to be furnished either to Messrs. Price and Gibbs, as above, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, Solicitors, of 51, Place, Holborn, London, or any Police Office.

That same day the Mr. Price mentioned in the advertisement as Lloyd's agent went to Paris with Mr. Mayer. They carried with them the box with the eleven pieces of sugar. Later they



THE FIVE PRISONERS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) MCCARTHY, GUTWIRTH, SILVERMAN, GRIZZARD AND LOCKETT

were joined by Salomons and all three made statements to the police, represented by M. Nicolauss, and to the Judge d'Instruction Richard, in charge of the case.

Meanwhile the police, the judiciary, and the press on both sides of the Channel vied with one another in devising a hypothesis which should fit the case. Here are five of the tentative solutions thus offered:

That the box was robbed between the two weighings by the Paris postal clerk Louron; that the robbery was accomplished on shipboard; that the box was opened and resealed at the London Central Post Office; that the opening and resealing took place between the Post Office and 88 Hatton Garden; that it took place after the parcel had been received by the caretaker at the last address.

The police of both Paris and London investigated all the foregoing, but this one important link was always missing between the depositing of the box at the Rue de Provence Post Office by M. Salomons and the opening of it at 88 Hatton Garden by Mr. Mayer. Nobody had noticed any difference in the appearance or weight of the box.

Former thefts of jewels and gold in transit were retold in the papers of both capitals. "Harry the Valet," although safe in an English prison, was described as the leader of a gang of international thieves. Other accounts stated with equal truth that the leader was a former Polish banker who had absconded three years ago. Members of the underworld of Paris, with imagination and sufficient temerity to visit a newspaper office, were sure of having a ready ear and good money for their stories.

### The Detectives Co-operate.

Scotland Yard and the Prefecture of Police exchanged reports. The former was certain that the theft could not have been committed in London, and the presence in the parcel of the French sugar and the French newspaper was emphasized. The Prefecture was just as certain that Paris was innocent, and emphasized the supposition that the sugar and paper were merely a ruse to divert suspicion from London.

Interpellations were made in the House of Commons and in the Chamber of Deputies. In the Commons the British Postmaster General assured the members that a registered bag when once sealed in Paris was not opened until it reached the Central Office in London. In the French Chamber the Socialist Deputy, M. Bedouze, suggested with fine irony that the missing necklace would probably be found encircling the neck of the missing "Mona Lisa."

On July 21 it was announced that the necklace had been found in a Paris café. It was taken to a police station, where Salomons examined it and pronounced it genuine. Then came the news that this necklace was made of false pearls, exactly like those of the missing ornament in number, grading, and hue.

Here was a mystery with which the Paris police were loath to part. M. Salomons should be questioned further. If this necklace were false how did he account for its resemblance to the genuine one? At length this mystery was cleared up.

One day M. Hornbostel, a theatrical agent, called on Theodosius Zygomax, a manufacturer of artificial gems, and ordered a pearl necklace to be constructed according to the police description of the lost one. This was done, M. Hornbostel paying 480 francs for the job. He then telegraphed to an actress friend of his to meet him in the Bois at a certain place and he would show her the famous lost necklace. But the lady did not come; so M. Hornbostel sought consolation in a café, where his necklace was later found and still later blushing identified by him.

This adventure, however, served to concentrate attention on M. Salomons, and his interrogations before MM. Nicolauss, and Richard were repeated with renewed energy and care. Besides he was being annoyed by a mysterious stranger. This stranger, with a big portfolio under his arm, constantly met him in the street and called almost daily at his home, always with the same message:

"I can save you if you will only confide in me."

He again encountered the stranger who said: "Look at this. Here is a power of attorney placed in my hands by Mr. Price, Lloyd's agent, whose signature you can read at the foot of the document. Mr. Price, as you see, sets at my disposition a sum of \$100,000 for the recovery of the necklace. Well, M. Salomons, now you see the way in which you can escape any other; five hundred thousand francs are yours if you like, and you can be assured of my perfect discretion. Further, you may be certain that Mr. Nicolauss, when you come before him, will not accuse you, for he will have learned that the necklace has been brought back in the meantime by a person who, for obvious reasons, prefers to be anonymous."

Seeing from Salomons' expression that he was entirely at sea, the man of mystery became brutally explicit: "Give me the necklace, M. Salomons, for it is in your possession, and I shall give you a check for the 500,000 francs, and my word of honor to keep the transaction secret."

Salomons let the stranger get no further. He expressed his indignation with such warmth that a crowd began to gather. His son, who was with him, then hailed a taxi, and together they proceeded to the Prefecture where M. Salomons informed M. Nicolauss of what had occurred. The latter was ignorant of the whole affair, so a letter was sent to Mr. Price. The Lloyd's agent admitted signing a power of attorney presented by a lawyer who bore excellent credentials, and paying him \$200 for expenses, but he had no idea that this lawyer was going thus to insult M. Salomons with the document. So much for the ineffable effrontery of the amateur detective!

In the middle of August Price was in Paris consulting with the police when there came to his hotel two men who gave the names of Brandstatter and Inadrainstein. One of them said to him:

"You are looking for the lost necklace. We know where it is. Give us the reward of £10,000 and you shall have it."

Mr. Price asked the men the usual questions as to whether they knew the necklace, had seen it, or knew where it was. They then told the following story:

"Some of our friends who live in London came to us and asked if we could negotiate the sale of the necklace of M. Max Mayer. It is true that we have sometimes done business of this kind with the gentlemen in question, but none of it ever amounted to a sum of such importance. We thought, therefore, that the best thing we could do to benefit by the secret confided to us was to ask if the reward of £10,000 still held good."

With that Price asked: "Are you in a position to make the purchase yourselves?"

"Alas! we are not, nor do we know any one of sufficient means to make the purchase."

"Well," said Price, "come back in three days and I shall have something to tell you."

In the meantime Price secured the services of a gem merchant little known to the London trade, whose name was Spanier. His instructions to Spanier were as follows:

**Spanier's Instructions.**

"You will go to London and get into touch with the gang through the two men who have called on me, and whom I shall direct to you. They will take you to the men who have the necklace in their possession, and you will do as I tell you."

"You must understand that I do not intend to repurchase that whole necklace, but I must, to comply with the English law, have material proof in my possession that the men with whom you have been dealing are really the unlawful possessors of the necklace and offer to sell it to you in whole or in part."

"In order to have this proof, you, who know the necklace well, will strike up a bargain with them, and you will purchase the big centre pearl and the third pearl on the left, starting from the middle. The centre pearl can be easily identified by its size. As for the third pearl on the left, you know as well as I do that it is everybody's opinion that it is, unique for its regularity and its Orient."

show they have been dishonestly acquired. With French notes it is different. You shall pay them in marked French notes, and if you succeed in purchasing the pearls and paying the men with the marked notes we shall have the irrefutable proof that the thieves are the identical men whom you met."

Spanier started for London and put up at a second class hotel, where he was presently joined by the two informers. For three evenings the three wandered over London, until the Paris Jeweler began to fear that it was all a hoax or that he would be assaulted in some place and robbed.

Meanwhile Mr. Price had informed Scotland Yard of the expected "plant," and Chief Inspector Ward ordered five of his best men to shadow the Paris Jeweler and to arrest whomsoever might be in his company at a sign from him.

At this point Quadrainstein told Spanier that he believed he could identify one of the thieves. On the afternoon of Sept. 1 all were in a small hotel in Holborn when the two informers entered with four men. One of them drew an object from his pocket and handed it to the Jeweler. It was the missing necklace with all the sixty-one pearls, but the diamond clasp was gone.

"How much?" asked Spanier. "Fifty thousand pounds," said one of them. "Not a penny less."

The merchant laughed. "It's an absurd price. You know very well that you would not be able to sell the pearls. They are known and registered."

"All right, £40,000," said one. "But it is our best price."

Said the merchant: "In the first place I have not £40,000 on me, as you very well understand, and I know you insist on having the money in French notes. We will settle the affair to-morrow."

The hand looked disappointed, so the merchant continued: "I'll tell you what I'll do just to prove to you that I really mean business. Sell me a couple of the pearls, say the big one in the middle and the third to the left."

"You know what you are about. These are the finest in the necklace." "And hence the most difficult for you to dispose of."

"Possibly, but just for that reason so you will find them."

"But I take them merely to show that I mean to purchase them all."

**The Chief Detective's Story.**

Finally the gang withdrew, leaving the two pearls, and the richer by \$20,000 in French bank notes. An appointment was made for the next day at the same place, when the merchant was expected to hand over the balance and take the remainder of the necklace. But on the next day the arrests were made.

Here is the story of the arrest as told by Chief Detective Inspector Ward of Scotland Yard, after the arraignment of the five prisoners, Lockett, Grizzard, Silverman, Gutwirth, and McCarthy at Bow Street Court:

"On the afternoon of Sept. 1 I was in Holborn, and saw the prisoner Grizzard standing inside the Police Station there with two men, whom I shall name later and call as witnesses, Gutwirth and Lockett were outside the station, and afterward went up a turning near there."

"At about 10:30 on the following morning I saw Grizzard, Lockett, and Silverman, and the two men to whom I have referred, at the same place. These persons all entered the Tube Station and disappeared. At a given signal Detective Sergeants Cooper, Cornish, Goodwillie, Hazman, and other officers, followed them, and in about two minutes returned with Grizzard, Lockett, Silverman, and the two proposed witnesses. They were all taken to Bow Street Police Station, and the three defendants referred to were searched and detained. Gutwirth was later arrested. At 1:30 I visited the George Public House in Brook Street and there saw McCarthy, whom I invited to accompany me to Bow Street. I told him he was suspected of being concerned in the pearl necklace robbery. He replied:

"I know nothing about it. All I did was to take a bunch of flowers to a public house for Gutwirth, whom I have known only five weeks. He told me on the previous day that his child was ill, so I took her the flowers."

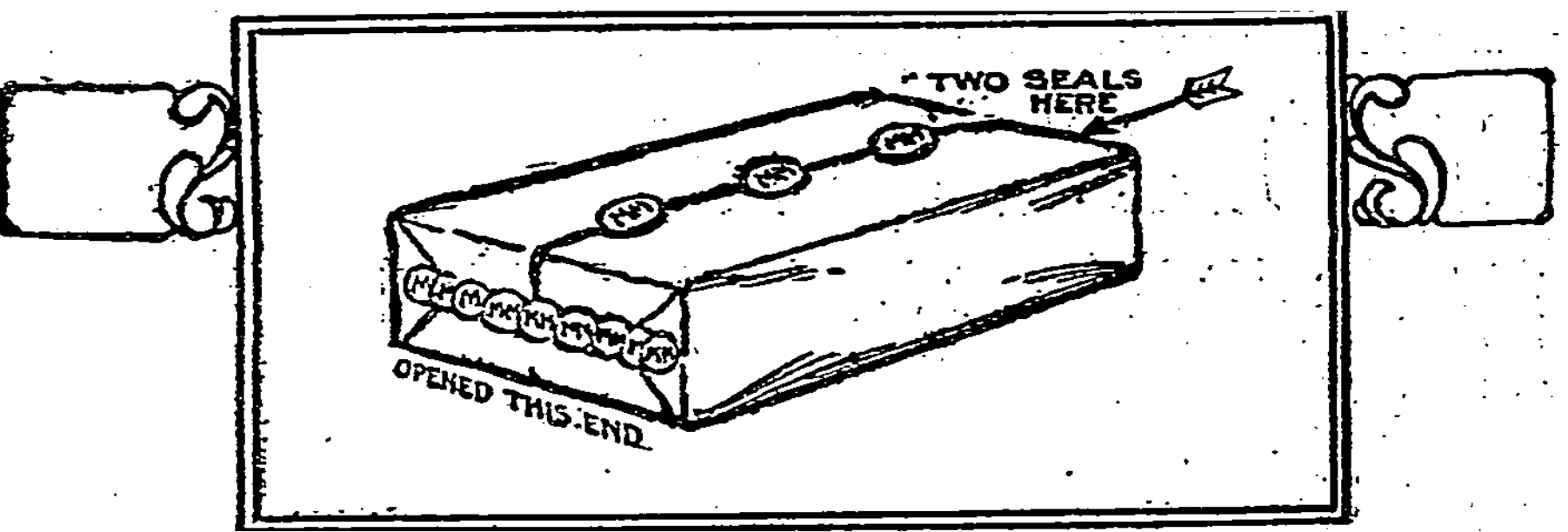
This statement, and the little additional evidence that the police doled out from day to day, together with the suspicious contents of the prisoners' pockets, denoted at the beginning of this article, have been sufficient for them to be periodically remanded without bail. Meanwhile detectives have been scouring London to find the missing pearls and the prisoners have contained themselves in studied silence against such a contingency. Now the pearls have been found.

Brandstatter, who turns out to be a kinsman of the defendant Gutwirth, declares that he has been informed that the robbery was perpetrated at a cost of \$12,000 part of which went to the postal authorities. But whether these postal authorities are French or English he has not yet been allowed publicly to impart.



CHIEF INSPECTOR WARD

THE \$750,000 NECKLACE. THE POSTAGE STAMP BELOW SHOWS RELATIVE SIZE OF PEARLS



PACKAGE IN WHICH THE PEARLS WERE SENT

of the missing pearls beyond recovery might have occurred had the prisoners related how the robbery was committed, or had the police stated the details of the circumstances which led up to the arrests. The air has now been cleared, and both parties are likely to become confidential.

Meanwhile, there is sufficient data at hand to "reconstruct," as the French say, the crime and the manner of its detection. Incidentally it may be borne in mind that the police have so far succeeded in holding their prisoners "on information and belief" satisfactory to the Magistrate, and on the contents of the prisoners' pockets, consisting of several thousands in Bank of England notes and French bank notes of large denomination, a set of jeweler's scales, weights, a gauge, a stick of sealing wax, and three small portions of pearls in a leather case.

### Didn't Look Suspicious.

"Without contributory details of "information and belief," doubtless known to the Magistrate but unknown to the public, there was nothing suspicious in the foregoing articles being found on such men. Quite the contrary, for one, James Lockett, is a jeweler; another, Joseph Grizzard, is a diamond merchant; another, Simon Silverman, is a diamond broker; another, Leisir Gutwirth, is also a diamond broker; while the fifth, Daniel McCarthy, 52 years of age, is said to be a man of independent means. While all the prisoners have business places in London, Silverman and Gutwirth are Austrian subjects. Let us now go back to the time the

The ground floor and the first story