

Similarly, a Mrs. Edwards has made statements (one to the police and one to an Inspector of Society for the Protection of Women and Children) which are not only self-contradictory, but are also contradicted by Dodds, her employee.

MRS. EDWARDS TO MRS. MOLESWORTH, INSPECTOR, SOCIETY PREVENTION CRUELTY TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN. 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1929.

On Saturday, September 22nd, 1928, I advertised for help on the farm. On Sunday William Bayly applied and was given the position. *He was engaged to commence work on Saturday, September 29.*

On Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th, and Wednesday 26th following, William Bayly had lunch at my home.

I felt very annoyed with him for not commencing work as arranged on the previous *Saturday, September 29.* He knew perfectly well it would put me in an awkward position to be without a man for even one day. *I got another man, Alf Dodds, to take his place.*

I have often a feeling that something is going to happen . . . called second sight, and I *unconsciously* connected W. Bayly with the Elsie Walker mystery. . . . I *felt* he knew a great deal about it.

W. Bayly left a kerosene-box in my kitchen. I felt so worried about the whole affair that when I saw some letters in this box I read two of them:—

(One) "I hope to be with you soon: it will be all right down here. I am sorry for poor Cinderella, but I will fix things all right and we will soon be together again."

(Two) "I am so glad you married me, dear, instead of poor little Cinderella, but I am really sorry for her." I burned those letters.

Nine months after her first statement to the police this woman gives details which she either suppressed at the time of making her first statement or has since invented, but which in any case have no evidential value.

She now speaks of often having a feeling that something is going to happen—that is probably called second sight; that she *unconsciously connected W. Bayly with the Elsie Walker mystery*; that she felt that he knew a great deal about it; and that she felt so worried about the whole affair that when she saw some letters in his box she read two of them, which she burnt.

The evidence of Mrs. Thomason and her sister, Mrs. Langdon, must be regarded as entirely untrustworthy because of their having made diametrically conflicting statements on the really only important point contained in those statements—that is, to seeing William Bayly on the train on the day of Elsie Walker's disappearance. After the closest inquiry from all available sources not a tittle of evidence can be obtained by the police to support the belated story of these women or that William Bayly was anywhere other than he says he was—viz., in Auckland—of which supporting evidence was given before the Coroner.

Mrs. Thomason and her sister now say that their attention was drawn to Bayly by some commotion in the passage-way of their carriage; that Bayly and a stout Maori woman occupied this passage-way; that the guard of the train could not pass owing to their presence; that he ordered the man to leave the lavatory, who refused to do so. The guard of the train when seen by the police says he has no recollection whatever of such an incident.

Although the Thomason-Langdon family are of Maori descent and know most of the Native race in the district, they have not been able to produce the Maori woman, or give any information by which she may be found. The closest inquiry by the police has failed to discover such a woman. Their mother, Mrs. Brady, a lady of full Maori blood and of some standing in the district, of which she has been a resident for many years, cannot assist the police in discovering the Maori woman referred to.

A Mrs. Teague, who knows William Bayly well, travelled on the same train with Mrs. Thomason and Mrs. Langdon, but saw nothing of Bayly.

A careful departmental check has been made, and there is no record of the issue of a ticket to Papamoa on that day which cannot be accounted for. If Bayly had got on the train surreptitiously and without a ticket and had been seen by the guard as now stated by these women, it would have been the guard's duty to report the fact or issue a ticket to Bayly from his book. There is no record of the issue of any such ticket. The train in question was a small one of three carriages, and in October it travelled in full daylight to beyond Papamoa.

The following day, 2nd October, Mr. Bayly, sen., saw Mrs. Thomason at her house and told her of the disappearance the previous night of Elsie Walker and his motor-car, but strangely Mrs. Thomason said nothing to Mr. Bayly of having seen his son on the train the previous afternoon.

Furthermore, Mrs. Bayly, the young man's mother, visited and conversed with Mrs. Thomason, with whom she was on friendly terms, almost daily after the disappearance of Elsie Walker, but Mrs. Thomason did not mention the train incident, and this although at that time no tragedy was anticipated, or any sinister aspect attached to the girl's disappearance. If it were true that

MRS. EDWARDS TO POLICE, JANUARY, 1929.

On 22nd September one of the men left the farm (Childs). I engaged Alf Dodds, who started work on 22nd September. Bayly called. I told him to come back in a few days and I would see which applicant I would take. On Wednesday, 3rd October, 1928, Carr told me Bayly had been out to see me. *As a matter of fact I had not engaged Bayly although he went out to the farm to work. I have a recollection of mentioning to Bayly that I had not engaged him, and he said "Let me stay on."*

On 22nd September Childs left. . . . I advertised for a man when this man left . . . One of the applicants was William Bayly. I told Bayly to come back in a few days. Bayly told me he was going away for a week.

I engaged Alf Dodds, who started work on 22nd September, 1928. Bayly told me he was going away for a week. On Wednesday my assistant John Carr told me Bayly had been out to see me. *As a matter of fact I had not engaged Bayly, although he went out to the farm to work.*

Questioned by Detective-Sergeant Kelly and Detective Knight she said she had burned letters but had not read the letters and did not know what they contained.

Dodds says: "When Bayly left the farm he did not leave any letters about."