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element of fear had entered the realms of commonplace everyday life and gripped the public imagination.

The sub-editors of the halfpenny papers ran riot over the new mystery of the Brighton Road, and "featured" it with headlines suggestive of some of the organs of my native country: and no wild or fatuous rumour was considered too impossible or foolish to find a place. The reporters made high holiday all over the country, especially between London and Brighton, and Sussex was obsessed day and night by "specials" and spacemen in search of copy. Even the leader-writers, locked in their sanctums in Fleet Street, were busy evolving theories without availing anything.

But to revert to the point at which Wellingham's statement left off, all the searching of the police proved unavailing; and though they looked wise and hinted at clues in response to the importunities of the legion of pressmen, Chief Inspector Mutton and the cracks of the detective force from Scotland Yard had glumly to admit amongst themselves that they had found not a single thing to help them, and did not see a single ray of light through the utter darkness any more than in the case of the Bolsovers, who had retreated right into

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