

OWNER ARRESTED FOLLOWING FIRE

Formal Charge of Arson Entered Against Domenico Amodeo.

Fire Marshal Heaton: In view of the evidence given by this man (Domenico Amodeo), I think I should like a superior court to decide if he is guilty of setting fire to his store, and I ask you, Mr. Crown Attorney (Mr. McFadden) to have him placed under arrest. I ask you, Mr. McFadden, to take steps to detain the man at once.

Crown Attorney McFadden: Certainly, I will.

Mr. McFadden having secured a detective, Domenico Amodeo was duly taken into custody by Detective-Sergeant Elliott and marched off to police headquarters to have the formal charge of arson entered against him.

The above conversation took place yesterday afternoon on the termination of the fire inquest into the cause of a fire which occurred between 12 and 1 o'clock on Christmas night at the boot store of Domenico Amodeo, 204 East Queen street. Amodeo gave evidence on his own behalf, and so unsatisfactory did it appear to the fire marshal that he determined to have the matter completely thrashed out by a higher court than his, and consequently the bootmaker now has to face a case of arson.

The inquest opened last Friday, when fire captains, fire fighters and policemen testified that on entering Amodeo's premises, when the fire was raging, they smelt strongly the odor of gasoline, and one fireman declared he smelled it on the shelves when removing some of the boot boxes. An electrician who discovered the fire, and said he heard noises as if someone was fighting, or throwing boxes about in the store, and who broke into the premises and found a small fire burning in the centre of the store, and who on his return with a policeman, a few minutes later found a good-sized blaze going, described it as an "uncommonly fast fire." Evidence was also given respecting insurance policies. Amodeo had endeavored to get a \$15,000 policy from the Merchants' and the Royal, but succeeded in obtaining in September last a policy from the Royal for \$11,000.

Policy Too Large.

The first witness yesterday was Angelo Lobraico, an agent for the Royal Insurance Company, and the man who negotiated the policy. He said when the proposition for a \$15,000 policy was brought to him he considered the sum too large, and sent his clerk to Amodeo to tell him so. The clerk returned and said the Merchants' were prepared to issue a policy for more than \$11,000, so he put one thru with the Royal for that amount. The increased sum meant Amodeo was getting an additional \$4000 on stock.

Assistant Fire-Ranger Saville said, on examination, he found Amodeo owed to manufacturers at the time of the fire \$2336.17. He could find no trace of anyone pressing him for money.

Samuel Lamateno, a brother-in-law of Amodeo's, lived with his wife and family in the second flat (Amodeo and his family occupying the first), over the burned-out store. He said he went to Peterboro for Christmas on a hunting trip, and his wife and child stayed at his mother's house on East Queen street. He told Amodeo a week previous to Christmas of his proposed trip. On his return to Toronto, Amodeo told him of the fire, and when he asked him how it occurred he replied, "How can I know? I was up at mother-in-law's, and the police came and told me of the fire?" That, declared witness, was all the conversation he ever had with his brother-in-law concerning the fire. The witness said he did not think gasoline was stored on the premises and did not believe it was possible to get from the back yard to the lane in the rear.

Amodeo Takes Stand.

Domenico Amodeo, the proprietor of the shoe store at 204 East Queen, described himself as a shoemaker, and said he had been in business for seven years in Toronto. He declared he closed his store on Christmas Eve at 11 o'clock, and prepared to open it again the day after Christmas. On Christmas Day he left the store with his wife and family about 2:30 p.m. to proceed to his father-in-law's for dinner. Before leaving he made up the furnace and put in sufficient coal to last all the afternoon and night, but on being questioned he would not say in what condition it should have been about ten o'clock that night. In answer to Mr. McFadden, he said he would be surprised to know the furnace was nearly cold at one o'clock in the morning. "But I did not know sir," he added as if in explanation. The witness in reply to further questions said he thought there might have been about a dozen boxes about the store after the Christmas Eve trade. In answer to pressing questions by the crown-attorney, Amodeo declared that he did not leave his father-in-law's house on Christmas Day from the time he entered it until the police came and told him about the fire. The Christmas party was a family one with the exception of one near friend of his. The key to his store he always carried with him, he declared, and on Christmas Day he locked the store and no one could get into it without bursting the doors open or by the use of the key which he had with him all day. Amodeo said it was possible to get to the back-lane via the stable at the rear of 204 street, the said stable belonging to his brother. He declared he only had quarter of a gallon of gasoline on the premises at a time, but the tin in which he kept it would hold a gallon. He had a man working for him in the store named "Mike," and said he was in the employ of Amodeo for four or five months the witness could not remember "Mike's" other name or address. He had it in a book but lost it. On December 25 last, he said, his banking account amounted to \$351. He owed at the same time a little over \$2,000, but, of course, he had his stock. He kept no books and only knew what money he had in the bank and what he owed. Amodeo declared he only asked for the sever asked for \$15,000, and anyone who said he did was a liar.

Employed Few Men.

Amodeo used to employ three men, mending boots, and when it was suggested to him that now he only employed one, business must have fallen off, he countered the idea by explaining much work as three at \$15 each.

Mr. McFadden, in taking Amodeo thru his banking account, showed the two succeeding weeks he deposited \$500 each week, but in the ten days between December 17 and 27, he only deposited \$200. Amodeo explained this by saying he took \$100 from the pile and put in pocket. On one occasion last February his bank account was down to \$2, owing to the fact, according to Amodeo, that he drew out \$2,000 to repay a loan he had received from his father-in-law.

PURCHASE PATRONAGE BARRED

The Ontario government has decided, in view of recent criticism and discussion of contracts for supplies, to henceforth all purchases must be preceded by public notice. The government incidentally declares that public calls for tenders is part and parcel of its policy of patronage abolition, and must be adopted pending the appointment of a purchasing agent.

Claims by Fraud

as charged in before Magistrate, having obtained Patriotic Association official of the federal grants in need, to be out of to keep. He came back to argued that he one week when use was post- further earnings.

N ARMORIES.

ing a gaming Seaton street, by the military department, been running rd in the arm- he had two n him.



Waiting to go—Where?

Lonely and destitute old age! How pitiful, how tragic that such a thing should be in a rich and prosperous city like Toronto!

Yet such cases happen all around us and we never know it. The increased cost of living within the past few years has made it harder and harder for hundreds of old people to eke out the scanty savings of years so as to keep a roof over their heads and a crust on the table.

Sometimes the strain gets too great—the slender hoard melts—hunger presses—the last cent goes—nothing remains but the street. Too proud to ask for alms; too sensitive even to tell their need to their neighbors, they wait in bitter silence for the help they hope may come. And it does come—make no mistake about that!

The money you give to the Federation for

Community Service is humanized money that does helpful things. It provides service to those who, by reason of old age, illness or helplessness, or some tragic handicap, are in desperate need.

You may never know how close it may come to you personally—it's quite possible that your contribution may help some friend of other days, whose need you do not know. But always and all the time, in a thousand ways and in many guises, the Federation Fund is a practical help to those whose need is great.

That old couple whom you once knew—DESTITUTE!—Why that may happen any day!

You are in on this—Every citizen of Toronto who has an income or a job is in on it. If you postpone giving you merely make the work of building the Fund harder; if you do not give as liberally as you can (which may mean as liberally as you think you can), you merely do not understand that *this is a privilege*, and are looking upon it as something to which you can afford to be indifferent.

Give now—and give liberally—remembering that when the Fund is closed, you won't be asked to contribute again for a year.

Give once—but give enough!

**To-day and To-morrow
Half-a-Million In Three Days!**

Community Service Campaign

Campaign Headquarters:

36 King Street West. Telephone Adelaide 6440

Since there will be no house-to-house canvass, will you kindly bring or send your subscription to Headquarters? All cheques should be made payable to Sir Edmund Walker.

(This space is contributed by a generous supporter of the Federation.)

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Humewood House.
Industrial Refuge.
Infants' Home, St. Mary Street.
King's Daughters' Rest and Lunch Room.
Moorelands Summer Home.
Municipal Research Bureau.
Neighborhood Workers' Association.
North Toronto Women's Patriotic League.
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Toronto Vacant Lots Cultivation Ass'n.
University Settlement.
Victorian Order of Nurses.
Women's Patriotic League (Central Br'ch).

MORATORIUM MAKES PERPLEXING PROBLEM

Legal Brains Cudgeled to Know
How to End It.

A question affecting real estate conditions thruout the province will present itself at the coming session of the legislature upon the expiry of the moratorium act, better known as the mortgage act. Just now it is exciting a good deal of discussion in the legal profession, as well as among the loan companies.

If it is not thought desirable to allow the act to expire without some provision being made which will have the effect of preventing the congestion of the loan market, as well as

occasioning great hardship to mortgagors and purchasers. Numerous suggestions have been made as to how the matter should be dealt with. One is that all mortgages and purchase contracts should be extended for the term unexpired at the outbreak of the war.

Would Continue Period.

Another proposal is that the present act should be continued for another two or three years, or that it should remain applicable to instalments of principal or purchase money now in arrears. The government realizes that it will be necessary to proceed with caution in order to prevent, on one side, undue disturbance to financial institutions, and on the other, hardship to the class of persons for whose protection the act was originally designed. The government is prepared to receive and consider further suggestions for the solution of the problem. This announcement was issued by the attorney-general's department.

BATTALIONS LIKELY TO KEEP IDENTITY

Gen. Sir Arthur Currie Apparently Favors Fighters' Demands.

Military headquarters in Toronto are of the opinion that in a day or so some definite decision will be come to and made public in regard to the reorganization of the local infantry battalions. General Sir Arthur Currie, whilst in the city on Monday, held two conferences with the local military heads, and some important results, it is said, were arrived at. "At the conference," stated Col. Brooks this morning, "General Currie seemed to be thoroly in sympathy with the perpetuation of the Canadian corps battalions, the 3rd and 75th, of this city. It is expected that

these battalions will not lose their identity, but will be retained, in name at least, as militia units.

Waiting Instructions.

It is possible that they will be worked in by some scheme with the other militia units. We cannot begin any plans for active drill and so forth until the reorganization of these units has been completed.

Col. Bart Rogers of the 3rd Battalion said: "I was with General Currie yesterday, and I am confident that he intends to make every effort to have our battalion recognized as a militia unit. I believe that it rests with his decision as to what steps will be taken as to retaining it, and he undoubtedly wants its perpetuation. I am also under the impression that the 55th, as well as the 3rd and 75th, will be retained."

CHARGED WITH FORGERY

David R. Booth of Goodwood, Ont., was arrested last night by Detective

Sergeant Archibald and Detective James of the Dominion police on a charge of forgery. Booth was employed as a clerk with the soldiers' re-establishment department, and the specific charge against him is forging a cheque for \$40. The police stated that Booth used a cheque made out to a woman who had been entitled to an allowance, but who had not received her cheque for some time. The defalcations, it was stated, would run into several hundred dollars.

LITTLE BOY BADLY BURNED

Harry Ornstein, aged eight years, of 3 Trefan place, was badly burned about the legs and body last night, when his clothing caught fire while Ornstein was lighting the gas in an upstairs room. The child was removed in the police ambulance to the Hospital for Sick Children.

Seven new cases of influenza were admitted to the General Hospital last

night. There are now 32 patients suffering from the complaint in the General Hospital.

VISITORS TO ALGONQUIN PARK

Latest arrivals at the Highland Inn, Algonquin Park, include Mr. and Mrs. W. G. A. Lambe, Toronto; Miss M. T. Herbert, Gravenhurst; Canon Daw, Hamilton; and Mr. C. C. Ray, Ottawa. Weather is bright and the clear sunshine of Algonquin makes all winter sports very enjoyable.

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