

SCHOOL BOY'S TALE OF SEA TRAGEDY

Young Campbell Testifies Against
Pedersen, Accused of Causing
Seamen's Death

Saw Sailor Leap off Ship—Declares
Captain Said "To Hell With
Man Overboard!" and Put Ves-
sel Back on Her Course

John W. Campbell, a high school student with a liking for the sea, was one of the crew of fifteen on the barkentine Pucko, whose captain and second mate, Adolph C. and Adolph E. Pedersen, father and son, are being tried in New York on an indictment charging them with having caused the death of Axel Hansen, an able seaman. The alleged crime occurred when the Pucko was six weeks out from Cape Town, South Africa, whither she was sailing with a load of lumber on a three months' trip from Victoria, B. C.

Campbell hails from Iowa. He testified for the government. He was rated as an apprentice seaman. Hansen and the steward, who also died on the trip, were the only men aboard who were members of the Seamen's Union. It is alleged that Hansen, driven desperate because of short rations and cruel treatment, leaped into the sea on Aug. 6, 1918. Campbell told the story of the tragedy. It was 4 o'clock in the morning. A high wind was blowing from the northwest and Hansen was sent aloft by the second mate to loose the royal sail. The deck was high with lumber, chained fast, and the hold was filled with it, which made the vessel lousy and slow to respond to her rudder.

"When Hansen came down," testified the witness, "I saw him and the mate talk together for a few minutes and then I heard a report and saw the mate slip Hansen in the face. Hansen ran down the deck toward the stern, with the mate in pursuit. Reaching the starboard side, near the stern, he slipped under the rail and jumped overboard. The mate was within eight feet of him when he jumped."

Then the witness said that Jack Joe, who was at the wheel, was ordered by young Pedersen to bring the vessel about, and Pedersen lent a hand at the wheel to hurry the movement. The witness, peering over the rail, saw that Hansen had clutched the log line and was clinging to it. Captain Pedersen was summoned, and he came on deck and took charge. According to the witness, the captain was not deeply concerned over the situation. He asked the stewardman who ordered him to bring the vessel about, and Joe replied:

"The mate. There's a man overboard."

"Then," testified the witness, the captain retorted, "To hell with the man overboard. Put the vessel back on her course."

Several of the seamen were standing about, and the captain, said the witness, sternly ordered them to go along and take care of their sails. The witness and a seaman named Riley didn't move quickly enough, Campbell testified, and the captain picked up a tiller pin and started for them, whereupon they quickened their movements.

"As I started forward," the witness continued, "I looked back in the sea and saw Hansen struggling at the end of the log line and I heard him cry three times for help. But the vessel continued on her course and Hansen was left to perish in the sea."

Campbell had signed a statement, exonerating the captain and his son from any responsibility for Hansen's death, and swore to it before R. A. Lee, a justice of the peace at Cape Town. When he was asked about this he explained that he signed and swore to it under duress. Soon after Hansen had been lost, he said, Captain Pedersen began to talk to him about the trouble on the vessel and to drill him into what he must say if he were questioned about it. This, he testified, continued clear to

Cape Town. During this period, he said, the captain wrote an account of what he wanted the land authorities to believe. It was prepared with care, and contained many details about how the crew was mutinous and unruly, from the time the vessel left Victoria, how Hansen once tried to push the captain overboard, and how the cook, who had committed suicide by jumping into the sea, had tried to poison the captain and the mates by putting ground glass in the cabin food.

Dudley Field Malone sought to show that Hansen and the cook being members of the Seamen's Union, used to sing and whistle I. W. W. songs, but the witness replied that the men were not permitted either to whistle or to sing.

Campbell, during a recital of alleged horrors on board the vessel during the voyage, when he said seamen were taken below and brutally beaten, was stopped by the court who ruled that testimony of events on board should be confined to Aug. 6, the date of the alleged murder.

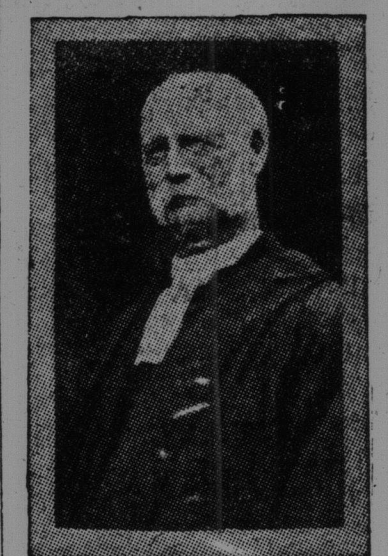
THE PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Pringle, Moderator, Con-
gratulated Upon Attaining
Sixty-seventh Birthday.

Hamilton, June 7.—Most of this morning's session of the Presbyterian general assembly was devoted to devotional exercises, presided over by Rev. G. O. McIntosh, of Stellarton, and A. M. Nair, of Montreal. It was nearly noon when the assembly got down to business.



Rev. (Capt.) John Pringle, D. D., of Sydney, N. S., who was elected moderator of the Presbyterian church.



Rev. Colin Fletcher, D. D., the retiring moderator of the Presbyterian church.

Leave of absence from the assembly was granted Rev. Stewart A. Woods, of the Montreal presbytery.

James Rogers, Montreal, submitted the interim report on the matter of the appointment of a treasurer and joint clerk to succeed the late Dr. Somerville.

The matter has been found to be a very difficult one. Various suggestions have been received, looking to the co-ordination of the different boards of the church. Before bringing any names suggested for the appointment before the assembly, Mr. Rogers stated that counsel and advice was needed from the assembly.

After considerable discussion it was decided to remit the entire question to the committee so that more explicit information may be secured.

Before the vote on the eldership motion opened, the commissioners paid the moderator, Rev. Dr. Pringle, the tribute of a standing vote of congratulation, on attaining his 67th birthday today.

Dr. Pringle, in acknowledging, said he was a surprise to himself. He had been in the ministry forty years and hoped to give many more years of service.

Then Rev. J. H. Wallace moved a vote for lifting from the table the overture of eldership and the motion was seconded by Rev. Dr. Scott, the moder-

ator inviting those in the gallery who wished to vote to "hit the trail for the floor of the house."

Dr. Scott, of Montreal, and Dr. Fraser, of Owen Sound, moved and seconded that the overture be remitted to the various presbyteries for consideration.

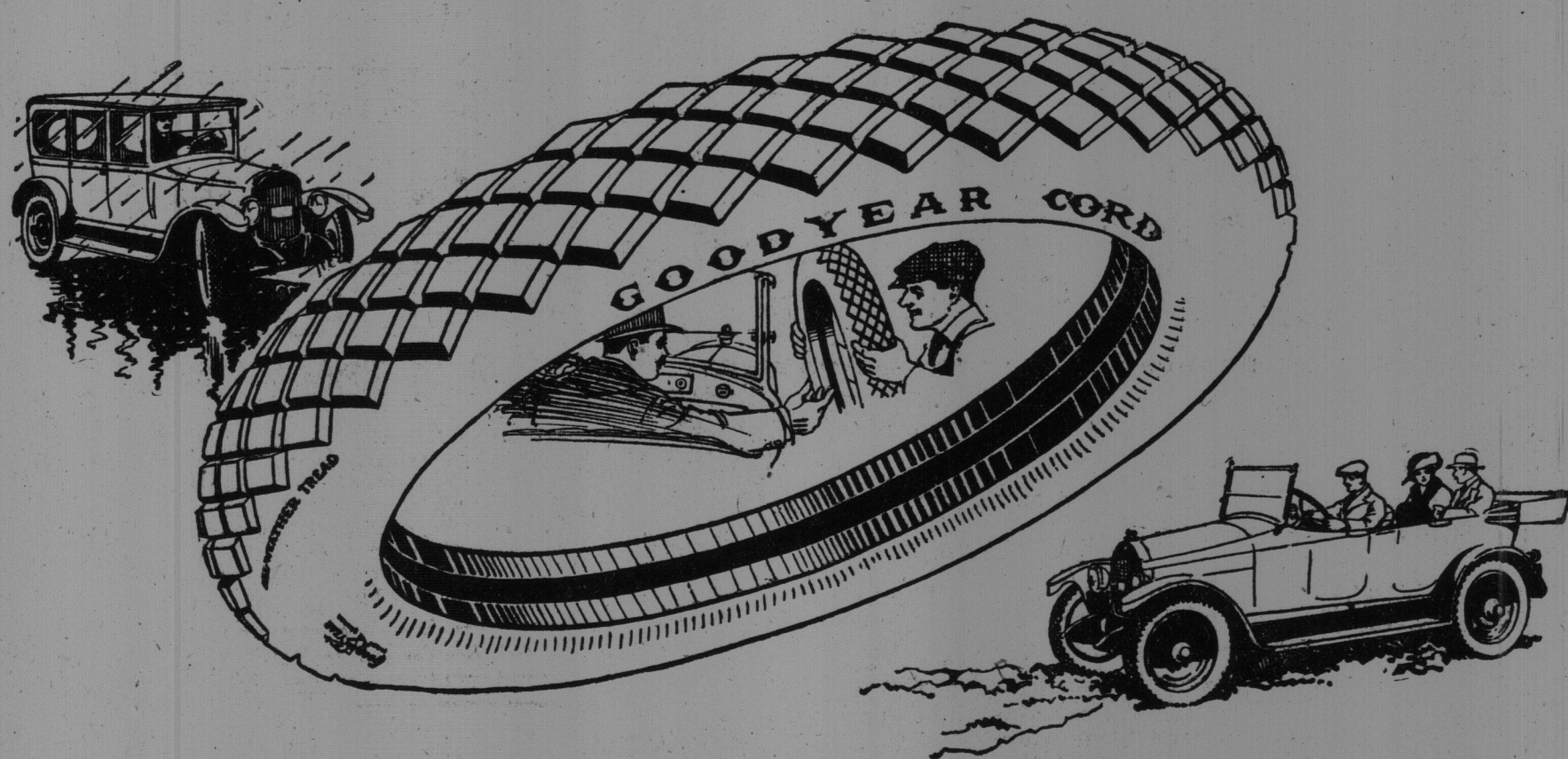
Another amendment asked that the overture be discussed forthwith and this carried.

The debate was going on with spirit at the time of adjournment.

This afternoon the committee is to take a sail on Lake Ontario.

George Armour Acquitted.

Dorchester, N. B., June 9.—The case of the King vs. George Armour, of Moncton, charged with perjury in connection with a prohibition case at Moncton, was concluded Saturday afternoon, before Judge Bennett in the Westmorland County Court, the accused being acquitted.



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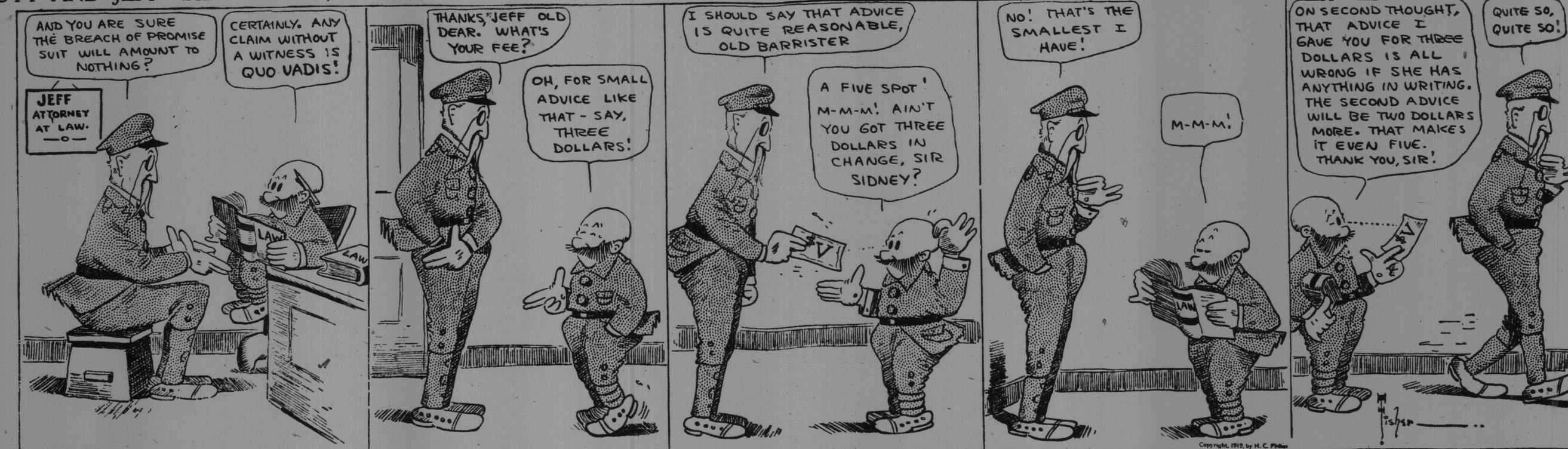
GOOD YEAR

MADE IN CANADA

CORD TIRES

Keep Cool
Don't Cook
says
Bobby
What's the use
when you can
have
POST
TOASTIES

MUTT AND JEFF—SID'S LUCKY; A TWENTY SPOT WAS NOT HIS SMALLEST



By "BUD" FISHER