C. Dimmick Charged With Attempt to Bribe

Trenton Man Faced Trial Today at the Assize Court—Crown's Evidence Given Mainly by Chief Morden—Prisoner on the Stand Denying Charges.

(From Daily Ontario of March 5.)

The attempt at corruption which Clarence Dimmick of Trenton is charged with in having made in or about the month of July and on divers dates between that time and the 27th day of December, 1917, both inclusive, by offering to Chief W. A. Morden, a peace officer at Trenton, a bribe of a sum of money, namely five dollars and upwards with intent to interfere corruptly with the due administration of justice, came up for trial at the Supreme Court at the spring assize this morning. Dimmick pleaded not guilty when arraigned and was put on his trial. Mr. W. C. Mikel, K.C. conducted the defeence. At nine-thirty the grand jury had presented to Hon. Justice Rose a true bill in the case. This was the first trial of many coming before the assize.

Crown Prosecutor Thos. J. Agar, outlined the crown's case to the jury. Clarence Dimmick lived in rooms over a livery in Trenton. Chief Morden suspected the place as being a gambling house. In July he visited Dimmick's rooms, finding the prisoner and others playing cards. Mr. Morden paid a second visit. It is alleged he was told that it would be worth $25 per week if he did not interfere with the rooms. The accused sent later for Mr. Morden who with his son Ray Morden visited the place. Nothing of an incriminating nature was said. On a fourth visit as Mr. Morden is coming down the dark stairway something is shoved into Mr Morden's hand. Mr. Morden refused it and put it in the accused pocket. On the 13th of July the accused met Mr. Morden and offered money and asked if he got his mail at the post office He said yes. The next day the Chief Constable got a letter containing $15. Later Dimmick moved. In November a letter is received. On Dec. 22nd another letter is received by the chief. Both contained money but no word. On Dec. 26th or 27th it is alleged that the prisoner said it would be worth $50 per month to protect Dimmick who hinted at bringing in a barrel of whiskey and distributing it.

Chief Morden was the first witness. Dimmick lived in quarters over Leavitt's livery. The chief visited this on suspicion and found a game of cards in progress.

"Mr. Dimmick said it would be worth $25 per week not to interfere with the rooms," Chief Morden stated that Dimmick on a third visit Dimmick went down stairs ahead and slipped into his hands what he thought was a five dollar bill. This was refused by the Chief. On a fourth visit witness's son Ray Morden was with the Chief. Nothing of interest happened on this visit.

Again. "On the street, he asked me to accept some money. I refused. He asked me if I got my mail at the post office. I said yes." "The next day I received a leter containing $15, a ten and a five. I took it to the police magistrate's office the same day. No letter accompanied this."

"On Nov. 28th I received an envelope with five dollars in it"

Mr. Agar produced an envelope with the address. This was identified by Mr. Morden. The bill and envelope were placed in the drawer at the police station. The bill had disappeared

"On Dec. 22nd I received an envelope with $5." A bill an envelope were put in as exhibits.

On Dec. 26th or 27th "Mr. Dimmick said he wished to bring in whiskey by the barrel. He wished to do it up in small flasks and sell it. He said it would be worth $50 per month. He said no one would get drunk on a small bottle."

Mr. Mikel then took the witness.

"Between July and December, I did not look for Dimmick, but I notified Chief Nichol at the British Chemical plant that he was going there," he said. The one five dollar bill had disappeared from the police station

Some liquor which had been seized in Trenton had also disappeared from the police station, declared the chief in answer to Mr. Mikel's question.

The chief said that as far as he knew personally, Dimmick's quarters were not a gambling den.

Ray Morden, son of the Chief Constable, and C.N.O.R. constable at Trenton, was the second witness. told that he once went to Leavitt's at the request of his father.

Dimmick had never made an impromptu proposition to him, said Thomas Leavitt, the third witness. Once "Dimmick asked me if I ever had anything to do with liquor. I said no, asked me 'would you if you had protection.' I said 'No.'"

Mr. Ragsdale was next called to the stand. "He told me he had a place of business where he lived. He invited me up. I went there once." The first question that arose was about joining a club, but witness did not want to join. In the latter part of December he asked me if I would go in with him and have something to do with whiskey and town protection. I told him No.

Mr. Ragsdale told Mr. Mikel he was born in Virginia and raised in Richmond, "way down south." He came to Trenton on Sept. 18th, 1917. "I am an acid man, making nitric of acid. I worked at it until it got so cold I could not stand it any longer." He had not worked since December.

"Can you make whiskey out of acid? asked Mr. Mikel.

"I do not know. I never tried."

Ragsdale spoke with the soft southern accent and naive wit and caused some merriment in the court by his answers.

Dr. Campbell, a Trenton dentist, testified that he had received a letter signed by Dimmick but he did not know the signature and the letter was not put in as evidence of handwriting, the judge refusing to accept it as the basis of comparison of handwriting.

The crown thereupon closed the case and Mr. Mikel called the accused to the stand in opening the defence.

Dimmick said that a number of men would visit his club rooms, play cards. He would serve sandwiches. But never were there any improper doings, such as dealing in liquor.

One day he met the Chief on the street and asked if it was necessary to get a license to run a boxing class He said no. "I don't remember ever pulling out any money. I am positive I never pulled out any as a bribe."

The prisoner declared he did not offer any sum of $25 per week. "I had no need for protection, I never had money to give away."

It was likely he went down the stairway to let the chief out one evening but witness never gave him any money in his hand.

The prisoner said "I did not send any money at any time through the post office or any other way. I never wrote the chief of police in my life." He denied that the writing on the envelope was his.

"I've never handled whiskey." He never made any proposition as to handling booze with the idea of doing business with them.

Dimmick said he was a mechanic.

Cross-examined, Dimmick admitted that he had written the letter from Belleville hospital to Dr. Campbell.

Dimmick gave evidence of a push-button and a bell at the entrance to the club rooms.

Witness denied making any proposals to Ragsdale regarding whiskey

Argument began at 12 noon.

Jury brought a verdict "not guilty." The prisoner was discharged.

Obituary

A. H. THORNTON

One of the most regretable accidents in the history of Deloro occurred on Saturday morning as a result of which Mr. A. H. Thornton passed away on Sunday morning. Deceased was employed in putting on a belt and in some way was caught in it and whirled around striking his head on the cement floor with such force that his skull was fractured. Medical aid was immediately summoned, but in spite of all that could be done he passed away without recovering consciousness. Mr. Thornton came from England a few years ago to accept a position at Deloro and he had been in the employ of the Company ever since. For a couple of years he held the responsible position of Master Mechanic and he was popular and tausted, both by his employers and those under him. His untimedy death came as a great shock to all at Deloro and to many in Marmora as well.

Deceased leaves a widow and one son for whom the deepest sympathy is felt in their great loss.

The late Mr. Thornton was Senior Warden of Marmora Lodge, No. 222 A. F. & A. M. and few officers of the lodge have ever been more popular. He passessed in an unusual degree the qualities which win and hold friendship of those he came in contact with. This was particularly evidenced by the sorrowing friends who followed his remains to their last resting place.

The funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon under the ausnices of the Masonic Lodge. Service was conducted in St. Paul's church by Rev. C. M. Harris and the remains were interred in Marmora cemetery.

Dennis Meehan

After an illness extending over about four months, Mr. Dennis Meehan passed away at his home in Marmora Township on Sunday morning. Deceased suffered from an attack of pleurisy about two years ago and he never fully recovered from its effects. He was of a quiet and retiring disposition, but he was highly esteemed and respected by those who knew him.

Mr. Meehan leaves a widow, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Bonter, and eight children, all of whom are at home. They have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.

Production And Consumption

Hon. Justice Rose Addresses Grand Jury on Food Problem Facing Allies.

(From Daily Ontario of March 5.)

The assize court yesterday afternoon did not sit very long as the crown cases could not go on yet and the lawyers in the civil cases had not their witnesses ready, expecting the Marmora murder case to go first before the jury.

Crown Attorney Carnew on behalf of the Hastings Bar Association, congratulated Mr. Justice Rose on his appointment to the bench on his first visit to Belleville. Mr. Carnew pointed out the happy relations existing between the bench and the bar and hoped that they would be preserved for many years and wished his lordship long life, much success and many visits to the county of Hastings.

Justice Rose, who was elevated to the bench one year ago, declared that he found it difficult to express adequately his appreciation of the welcome. He had met the members of the local bar individually on various occasions and saw no reason why the pleasantest relations should not always be existing between bench and bar.

In his address to the Grand Jury, Mr. Justice Rose pointed out the main duties of that body to investigate the charges preferred by the crown officers. His lordship spoke on the charges of offering a bribe to a constable with the interest to interfere corruptly with the administration of justice and those of robbery against two men, robbery being theft accompanied by violence or threat of violence. Other duties are the visitation and inspection of public institutions.

"There is only one matter of real public moment today—that is winning the struggle in which our own country is engaged. The problems facing Canada have changed as the war progressed—arming, providing munitions and securing adequate reinforcements. The problem confronting is that of providing for the populations of Great Britain and her allies means of subsistence. None of us do realize the awful food problems in France, Belgium, Italy and to a lesser extent in England. Russia is cut off, a great source of supply. Other sources, like Australia are so far away as to make it impracticable to send ships. This makes it necessary that the great body of supplies must come from the North American continent. The amount available for export depends on two things—increase of production and lessening of consumption. The most valuable for export are wheat, beef and pork. It should be easy for us to change our habits of life, to use substitutes, as potatoes, corn and oat products.

"You have an excellent opportunity of making known to the people of the county and the authorities and suggestions that occur to you looking to increased production and lessened consumption. Anything, you meeting as a grand jury, can say, looking toward the good of the country, will reach the proper authorities and the public.

Three grand juriors did not report—A. A. Acton, P. Flynn and Walter Whytock. In their places were sworn in the following—A. Leslie, A. Collins and William Brown. Mr. James F. Hill was selected as foreman.

H. A. Cook, vs. Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company.

Bruce Powers and H. A. Cook vs. the British Colonial Fire Insurance Company.

Cook vs. Proudence Washington Insuarnce Co.

Powers and Cook vs. Northwest Insurance Co.

These actions were for recovery of insurance on the Trenton King George Hotel destroyed by fire in 1916 Messrs Fraleck and Abbott were plaintiff and solicitor and Messrs Faskin, Robertson, Chadwick and Selgewick were solicitors for the first two companies and Messrs Ryckman, Denison and Foster for the last two.

Rush vs. Beford— Postponed to the non-jury sittings by an order of the local judge and removed from the list. J. J. B. Flint and W. C. Mikel for plaintiff. Porter, Butler and Payne for defendant.

Butler vs. Rodbourne.—This has by consent been traversed until May non-jury cases, owing to the absence of a witness in New Brunswick. Mikel, Stewart and Baalim for plaintiff. G. G. Thrasher Carnew and Pococke for defendants.

Billings vs Hatton—A. Abbott for plaintiff, T. A. O'Rourke for defendant. Adjourned to non-jury sittings.

Aman vs. Aman—Mikel, Stewart and Baalim for plaintiff, Northrup and Ponton for defendant. Postponed by mutual consent until the May non-jury sittings. The action is to set aside the probate of the will of the late Thos. H. Aman of Prince Edward County and to declare that the marriage of said T. H. Aman and Mrs. Aman the defendant was invalid, the validity of a divorce obtained in the United States being in question. The action is brought against Mrs. Aman, residing in British Columbia and her son.

Presentation to Warden

County Councillors Pay Tribute to Thomas Montgomery,

(From Daily Ontario of March 5.)

On Thursday at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, a pleasant function took place, when Warden Thomas Montgomery of the County of Hastings was presented with a gold-mounted cane by the members of the county council as a tribute to their esteem. The presentation was made by Reeve Thomas Naylor of Deseronto and was accompanied by very happy and complimentary remarks from the reeves and deputies and the county officials. Warden Montgomery on his acceptance of the gift voiced his feelings and his appreciation of the presentation and the good will of the county. He referred to the Provincial Highway and matters of county importance. A welcome guest at the affair was ex-Warden W. R. Mather. Others present were, T. H. Thompson, M.P., R. P. Coulter, B. O. Lott, H. G. Bleecker, W. H. Nugent, W. E. Tumon, Ald. Chas. Whelan and Ald. Sam Curry.

Bridge Tolls

Lt.-Col. Ponton, Secy. of Belleville Board of Trade has sent the following open letter to His Worship, Mayor Platt,—

Belleville, March, 1. 1918.

His Worship, Mayor Platt.
Mayor of Belleville.

Dear Mr. Mayor,—

We note a proposed application to parliament to allow the fares on the Bay of Quinte Bridge to be increased. Surely this is a retrograde movement and will still further divert Prince Edward trade from Belleville. Would not this be a good opportunity to urge a Government grant (aided by a municipal grant perhaps), so as to lower the fares or abolish them altogether, this bridge being part of the great public highway system of Canada.

Your truly,
(Sgd.) W. N. Ponton
Secretary Belleville Board of Trade.

Newspapers Have Quit The Field

Twenty more newspapers in Canada have died because they couldn't live. Twenty more people, who have struggled to make both ends meet, have thrown up the sponge. You can't buy paper at present prices and give it away. Most likely those editors all begged their subscribers, month after month, to pay up. Everybody who reads a country paper knows the sad cry, "Drop in and pay your subscriptions." Well, they're not asking any more. They just got tired and closed up. Every one of these towns will miss their newspaper, and miss it sorely—take it from us.—Exchange.

Social and Personal

(From Daily Ontario of March 2.)

Mrs. John Coon left this afternoon for a trip to New York.

Mr. E. D. O'Flynn, barrister, of Belleville, was in Bancroft on Tuesday.

Miss Harriet McIntosh, of Belleville, was the week-end guest of Miss Mary Watson, Madoc.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Sharpe Deseronto, spent the week-end with the former's brother in Belleville.

Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Cummins, of Bethel, visited Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Moore, Campbellford, over Sunday.

Miss Marjorie Bird, Belleville, who was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Stewart, Alfred Street, left on Monday for her home.

Mr. Armstrong Andrews, Mr. Max Herity and Mr. Allan Meagher returned to Belleville by the midnight on Saturday.—Kingston Standard.

Mr. Henry Rathbun and Mrs. Rathbun, of Carrying Place are spending the week-end in the city, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hinchey, Church St.

Miss Marion Rennie, of St. Agnes' School, Belleville, spent the week-end at her home, Napanee Road, returning to Belleville on Monday afternoon.—Deseronto Post.

Mrs. J. Nunn and family, of Belleville, who have been spending the past few months at the home of her [illegible] Chicago, are visiting at [illegible] Mrs. J. Nunn for a few [illegible] Enterprise.

[illegible] Wright, who has been visiting [illegible] parents in Tweed for the winter, [illegible] on Thursday to attend the millinery openings at Toronto, after which she will proceed to Belleville to resume her duties at the Ritchie Co.'s establishment.

(From Daily Ontario of March 4.)

Dr. T. S. Farncomb, of Trenton, was in town Monday attending the March assizes

Miss Wallbridge, Belleville, spent last week the guest of Mrs. Geo. D. Hawley, Napanee.

Mr. F. W. Bardon, I.M.B., who has been in Trenton for the past six months left for Ottawa today.

Mr. Richard Conlon and wife and son Albert from Vulcan, Alta., have been visiting friends in Belleville for the past week.

H. Romley-Williams, British Chemical Co., Trenton arrived in town Saturday for the purpose of attending the March assizes.

Rev. S. D. Vincent, of Kansas, who has been visiting friends in the vicinity the past two weeks left for home this morning.

Mr. A. J. Anderson left some money at the police station for some apples, the purchaser of which he could not find.

Mr. Lucius Allen and Mrs. Allen returned to the city on Saturday from Miami and Jacksonville, Fla., where they have been spending the winter

Miss Mildred Stewart, of Messina, N.Y., arrived in town the latter part of the week to visit the bedside of her mother, Mrs. B. L. Stewart, 298 Coleman St., who is very ill.

Mrs. Leo Goodrich, who was recently quite ill in Belleville, is now in town with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pake, for a visit. Mr. Goodrich was also here for over Sunday.—Brighton Ensign.

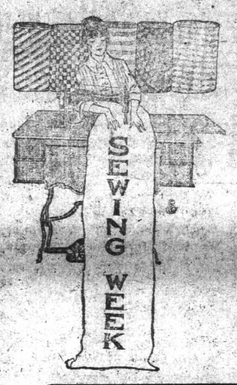
Master Joseph Babcock, son of Mr. Barton Babcock, Charlotte St., is suffering from a severe attack of pneumonia.

An Echo Of The South African War

Sergeant R. C. Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Richardson who reside in Prince Edward County, suddenly dropped out of their life about nine years ago. He had served honourably in South Africa and was entitled to his land grant or commutation. After the lapse of six years the Dominion Government paid the commutation, one-half to the parents and one-half into the Merchants Bank here. It being secured by a bond of the Canadian Surety Company. Application was being made last week by Colonel W. N. Ponton, K. C., for letters of administration of the presumedly deceased soldier on behalf of the aged father, when, by a singular coincidence, he returned home invalided after serving nearly three years in France with the 16th Scottish B. C. Battalion, having been in all the principal engagements. Colonel Ponton and the Canadian Surety company today paid him over the balance to which he was entitled for his service in South Africa and he proposes to take up land under the Soldiers' Settlement Act for his service in France. His letter from British Columbia to his parents written some years ago, had gone astray and an investigation regarding them is pending. He is now at home with his father and mother in Sophiasburg, and is encouraging all, "fit to fight" to go and do it. The adventures of this soldier of two wars would fill a ream of romance.

RITCHIE'S

Beautiful New
WASH FABRICS
That Tell of Spring



Now's the time to plan your spring and summer sewing and here as usual you will find a wealth of new and original patterns, colors and fabrics that have just come to hand from the most authentic sources — the showing embraces White Voiles in plain, stripe and cross-bar effect, Fancy Silk Stripe Voiles in the newest coloring, Fancy Cross-Bar Voiles, Striped Gabardines, American Fibre Silks for sport skirts, Linen Suiting Ginghams, Galateas, Prints, etc. Each piece priced quite moderate. May we show you?

—Main Floor Right

THIS WEEK
a preliminary showing of spring's new styles in Ladies'
SUITS COATS BLOUSES
DRESSES MILLINERY

A New Shipment of
CREPE KIMONAS

We know you'll be pleased with these new light weight Summer Kimonos. They are in the latest shades of Pink, Rose, Copenhagen, Saxe, Sky, Purple, Mauve, Black, Cardinal, etc. Full Length $1.25 to $4.00, Short Kimonos $1.25 to $1.50; Long Silk Kimonos $5.00 to $6.50; Short Silk Kimonos $3 to $3.75 — Mantle Dept.

Ladies' Silk Hose
"Holeproof" and Radium Silk Hose in all the season's newest shades of Grey, Navy, pongee, Dark Brown, also Black, Pink, White, etc. priced 75c to $1.50 —Main Floor

WOOL YARN
For Knitting Sweaters
Exceptional quality "Marlarch" Knitting Floss in the wanted shades of Black, Mahogany, Purple, Nile Green, priced 35c bunch. Amber Knitting Needles 25c, and 50c.

RITCHIE'S MENS STORE

MEN'S NEGLIGEE SHIRTS

The latest Colored and Fibre Silk Stripes in Mens' Negligee Shirts now showing French Cuffs, $1.00, $1.50, $1.75, $2.25, $3.00

Men's Silk Hose, "Holeproof" quality, all the new shades at 75c and 85c pr, 3 in box, guaranteed 3 months.

New Spring Hats, the latest blocks, $2.00 to $3.00

The RITCHIE Co., Ltd.

Store Closes at 5.30

Belleville Boys Meet In Hospital

Lieut. Harry H. Ponton (eldest son of Colonel Ponton), Lieut. Joe Wallbridge (youngest son of Mr. George Wallbridge) and Lieut. Hugo Rathbun, (son of Mrs. Dr. Gibson) all met by a strange coincidence in the corridors of one of the front hospitals in France last month. They are all in the thick of it, and, like the other Belleville boys whom they see every week, are doing good service. Lieut. Rathbun has recently received a responsible appointment Lieut. Ponton's description of the great battle of Passchendaele in November—December last, is borne out by the illustrations now being published. Canadian artillery and infantry played a very important part in this fierce struggle, which lasted many days and nights, under most trying conditions.