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Newspapers Suspended

There were 800 country weekly newspapers suspended publication in the United States in 1916, owing to the advance in price of news print. Canadian weeklies are experiencing hardships, as the advances have struck hard here. If country weeklies cannot make things go in the U. S., where times are good and money plentiful, what will happen to the average Canadian weekly publisher? The weeklies in this country saw the trouble coming and advanced to \$1.50, but already the paper makers have gobled up the extra profit.

Sent up for Sedition

Guelph Daily Herald
For the first time in the history of the city of Guelph, or in fact, the county of Wellington, the serious charge of sedition was heard at the police court to-day. The defendant in the case is Mr. A. Stewart, a farmer who resides about a mile from Harriston, a man who was always looked upon by community in which he lived as a respectable and law abiding citizen, but who in an unguarded moment is accused of using expressions regarding His Majesty's soldiers which have got him into serious trouble, and as a result of which he will have to stand trial at the coming spring sitting of the Supreme Court of Ontario for Wellington County. The preliminary trial was held before Magistrate Watt.

The alleged offence occurred at the town of Harriston on the first day of February, there being but three persons present at the time. Mr. John Rowland of Walkerton, a cattle buyer, Mr. Pridham, a young farmer, residing near Harriston, and the defendant, Alex. Stewart. It was through overtures made to the proper authorities by Mr. Rowland that the charge was laid, and he was the chief witness for the prosecution. The case was in charge of Col. Macdonald the County Crown Attorney, while Mr. Nicol Jeffrey defended the accused.

The charge against Mr. Stewart read as follows, to which he pleaded not guilty:

That on February 1st, at Harriston, he spoke seditious words, with intent to cause dissatisfaction and discontent among His Majesty's subjects, and promote public disorder, to wit: when referring to a certain lot of old rags then present, "no doubt they'll make them up for clothes for the soldiers (meaning thereby the soldiers of the crown) and it's too dam good for them at that," and then, referring to the said soldiers, "they are only a lot of bums and loafers, and I have to help keep them." And further, in reply to a question as to what he had done, "I would not send any of my sons to fight for England," and further, in answer to the question to him whether he did not know that England had protected him given him all the liberties and freedom he had and that he ought to be ashamed to talk so, he said, referring to the said soldiers, "I can fight my own battles and get along without the old country or any of the soldiers helping me, because they are no good."

The magistrate announced that he had not the power to try the case, but that this would be but a preliminary investigation.

Mr. John Rowland, of Walkerton, was the first witness called. He stated that he was a cattle dealer and that he was in Harriston on February 1st, where he first saw the defendant at the public weigh scales at the market place. He then proceeded to state that while in company with Mr. Pridham, a load of rags and paper came along to be weighed. He asked Mr. Pridham what they were going to do with that stuff, and at this juncture Mr. Stewart is alleged to have come into the conversation, and the argument started.

"No doubt they will make that stuff up into clothes for the soldiers, and it would be too good for them at that," is what Mr. Stewart is alleged to have said.

"What do you mean by that?" asked the witness of Mr. Stewart, whose reply is said to have been that he meant just what he said.

The witness then stated that he told Mr. Stewart he should be ashamed of himself, that England had given him protection for his property and himself for all these years, and he should not say such things.

Mr. Stewart then replied, and according to the story told by Mr. Rowland, said that he could get along without the protection of England, that he could fight his own battles, and that the soldiers were a lot of bums and loafers anyway.

At this Mr. Rowland said he told the defendant he had two boys fighting at the front and asked him what he had done to help to win the war. The reply was that he had given money and the witness said he also had given money. "I felt like knocking his head off right then, if I had been able," said Mr. Rowland.

Mr. Nelson Pridham, a young farmer who resides near Harriston, and who was with Mr. Rowland, was the other witness for the prosecution. He stated that he had known Mr. Stewart ever since he was a boy, and considered him a good citizen. His evidence was corroborative in every way of that given by Mr. Rowland.

Defendant, Mr. Stewart, then went into the witness box. He declared he resided about a mile Harriston, and was 52 years of age. He was born in Canada of Scotch parentage.

He explained that he had no reference to the two sons of Mr. Rowland, but that he meant some of those who had not been much of a credit to Harriston or to the militia. He admitted he said he could live if he never saw England, and that he could fight his own battles in answer to Mr. Rowland's taunt that he should be ashamed of himself. He had given freely to help to win the war, and that he only said these things in a

WAR LOAN

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10 per cent on application;
30 " 16th April, 1917;
30 " 15th May, 1917;
26 " 15th June, 1917.

The total allotment of bonds of this issue will be limited to one hundred and fifty million dollars, exclusive of the amount (if any) paid for by the surrender of bonds as the equivalent of cash under the terms of the War Loan prospectus of 22nd November, 1915.

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This loan is authorized under Act of the Parliament of Canada, and both principal and interest will be a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Forms of application may be obtained from any branch in Canada of any chartered bank and at the office of any Assistant Receiver General in Canada.

Subscriptions must be for even hundreds of dollars.

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SUBSCRIPTION LISTS WILL CLOSE ON OR BEFORE THE 23rd OF MARCH, 1917.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA, March 12th, 1917.

joke. He would have apologized to Mr. Rowland afterwards if he had got the chance. He had three sons, none of whom had enlisted.

The magistrate then committed the accused for trial at the next assizes, and bail will be allowed.

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA
OCTOBER 7th, 1916.

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