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# Court of Appeals, 

Our Sovercign Lord the KING,
(Intervening party in the Court below,)
APPELLANT,
ROBERT FROSTE,
(Plaintiff below,)
RESPONDENT,

## WILLIAM LINDSAY,

(Defendant below.)

## Case on the part of the Appellant.

THIS was an action of revendicalioa brought in the Court of King's lenel, at Montreal, in April Term, 1815, to recover twelve bales or packages of Flannels and one bale of superfine Cloth from the defendant William Liudsay.

To this action the defendant pleaded three pleas, which in substance, were as follows:

1st. The general issuc.
2dly. That on 171 l Decemher, 1814, His Majesty being at war with the United States of America, the Flannels and Cloth in the declaration mentioned, at the Parish of St. Luke, in the District of Montreal, were seized as lawful prize to Llis Majesty, by the said defendant, (being then and still Collector of LIs Majesty's (ustoms at the Port of St. Johm,) for that the said Flamels and Cloth at the time of seizing them were the property and in possession of certain persons unknown, subjects of His Majesty, who, contrary to their allegiance, were adhering to and trading with the King's enemics, and were employed in conveying the said Flamels and Cloth from the said Province of lower-Canada into the said United States, for the purpose of trade with the King's enemics and of affording them assistance and suppot; whereby the said Flannels and Cloth became forfeited to the King as lawful prize, and as such remained in the possession of the said defendant.

Sdly. That the goods were seized by Minard Harris, land-waiter at the Port of St. John, together with a party of soldiers in His Majesty's service, for the same cause as was allodged in the second plea.

The plaintiff, by his replication, joined issue upon the three pleas.

An intervention was afterwards filed on the part of the Crown, by David Ross, Esquire, His Majesty's Counsel at Montreal. The reason alleged for this intervention was, in substance, "That His Majesty being at open war with the United States, no sulject of the King, an inhabitant of this Province, had a right to export any articles, whercby His Majesty's enemies could be assisted or receive succour. That flannels, and every kind of woollen cloths were prohibited to be exported from this Provinge into the United States. That the Plaintiff, in defiance of the common Law of the land, and contrary to his allegiance to His Majesty, did on or about the 20th day of December, 1814, illegally, by circuitous roads and paths convey, and cause to be conveyed, to the Southward and beyond the port of St. John, and towards the lines between this Province and the said United States, twelve bales or packages of fiannels marked D R E E and numbered respectively from 1 to 12 ; and one bale of superfine cloths marked D R E 49 : divided into two trusses manked D R L، and numbered icspectively 1 and 2 : with intent to trade, expoit, or convey the same into the United States, and thereby to aid and succour the Government and people of the saia States, then being the open eramies of His Majesty, contrary to the Laws, Statutes and regulations in this behalf made and provided. That by reason of the premises the said Lales, and packages were liable to be seized and forfeited. That on tic siaid 20 h of December, 1814, at St. John is the District of Montrcal, the said bates and packages were by the said William Lindsay, (then and stith being Collector of His Majesty's Customs at the Port of St. Jolin,) seized as good and lawful prize." The intervention then stated the fround of scizare as in the defendant's pleas of justification; and conchuded by prayiag "that th:e said bales and packages might, for the reasons aforesaid, be adjadged grood and lawful prize, and forfeited; and might be oxderal to be delivered to His Majesty; or that the value thercof might be adjutged to be paid by ule plaintiff to His Majesty, and that the plaintiff might be condemued to pay all the costs and expences of the suit and intervention."

The Plaintiff pleaded the general issue to this intervention.
There was no doubt as to the goods being the property of the plaintiff, the only question was, whether they were abont to be cmployed in that specie of illegal traffic, which subjected them to forfeiture.

The foilowing is the substance of the evit!ence on the part of the Plaintiff.

Alexander Robertson, the Plaintiff's Clerk, stateci that the Plaintiff received the Goods in question from Enghand, in Novemiser 181.4; that on the 19 th of December following, the Plampind directed the wifues; to convey them to Laprairie, and to deliver them Ureic to one Daniel W. Eager ; that on his ar:ival at Laprairie he heard that Eager was at Missisqui Bay, towards which place he proceeded, without entering the goods at St. John's; that on the 20th of December the grods were seized about half a mile beyond St. John's, by a Serjeant and a party of Soldiers and delivered over to the Custom House at St. John ; that le had no intention to carry the goods to the United States, nor was he aware that he was infringing the Law in passing St. John's without entering the goods there, and that he had receiverl no orders from the Ilaintifl to that effect.

John Partlow stated that he was hired by Roberison, the last witness, to take a load, consisting of bales of goods, from Laprairie to Missisqui Bay, about the 20th of December, 1814; that he accordingly left Laprairie about noon, in company with one David Nutt, who had been hired for
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the same purpose, and several others; that they proceeded in the common road leading from Laprairie to St. John's, 'till they arrived at Savanne, where Robertson directed them to turn off into the road leading through L'Acadie, which they accordingly did, and reached the road on the bank of the River Richelieu, about two miles and a half above St. John's, and one mile and a half below the Red House, where they arrived at eleven o'clock at night, and found a guard of soldiers, who obliged them to return to St. John's ; that the road through L'Acadie was better than that by St. John's, and that he did not believe that Robertson had any intention of conveying the goods over the Lines.

Being cross examined on the part of the Crown, he said that the distance from Laprairie to St. Jolin, was 18 miles; that it might take about five hours to go that distance with a loaded sleigh, and that it took them three hours to go from Laprairie to the half-way-house, where they turned off ; that lie was directed to leave the goods at Mr. Lester's Store, at Missisqui Bay ; that Mr. Lester's Store was about four miles from the lines, and that it was very easy to take goods from Missisqui Bay over the lines, when people dared go over.

Timothy Wheeler was also hired by Rohertson, and left Laprairie before Partlow, and waited for him at the half-way-house. The rest of his evidence in chief was, in substance, the same as Partlow's. On his cross examination, he said that it was not usual for those who employed him to cart goods, to explain their intentions respecting them, particularly if they had any evil intentions.
David Nutt deposed to the same effect, and added that they stopped twice between the half-way house and the Red house, but remained in the road, and did not go into any house; and that the American line joins Missisgui Bay.
Edward Cooper indentified the goods as being the plaintis s property, and proved their value, and stated that he was in the habit of carrying goods from Laprairie to his store at Missisqui Bay for retail sale, without any molestation or difficulty. On his cross-examination, however, he stated that he always took out his goods by going to Laprairie and from thence through the Port of St. John:, where he always got permits from the Custom-House Officer, (the defendant) to authorize him to take out his goods, part:cularly fannels and woollens; that he did not know a road which came out on the river Richelieu about three miies above St. Jolin's; that the common road led through St. John's.

On his re-examination, he said he knew Andrew Barns and David N. Ogden, who carried on trade at Missisqui Bay, and who he believed, obtained all or the chief part of their goods from the $p$ intiff.

It is to be observed that neither Eager, to whom the goods were stated to be consigned, nor Lester to whose store they were to be conveyed, nor Barms nor Ogden, were called on the part of the plaintiff.

In support of the intervention on the part of the Crown, the following evidence was adduced:

Christopher Aren, Serjeant in the De Meuron Reginent, stated that on the 20th of December, 1814, being quartered at St. John's, he was ordered to take a detachment of men to the Red house, about two leagues above the port of St. John's, information having been given that ten sleighs, laden with contraband pools were on their way from this Province to the United States, and to seize and bring them to St. John's ; that he went accordingly with a Corporal and six men ; that towards ten o'clock in the evening, he saw a number of sleighs approaching, laden with bales of flannel and cloth; that upon going out, he heard one of the drivers exclaim " God damn it, there is a guard here!" that on his stopping the sleighs, which were to the number of 23 with about 30 men, a gentleman in a light sleigh came up very quick, and aaid that he had a good pass; to which the witness re-
plied that the sleighs must stop, that the gentleman conld return with the witness to St. John's, and that if his pass were a good mue, he might proceed ; that five or six stont men (aparently Americans) then said to the gentleman "Damu it we "are not afraid of five or six men, they camnot stop us"; that the witness then ordered his men to loal and fix bayonets, and obligel the drivers, (some of whom had rum away, but afterwards returned) to take the sleighs back to St. John's, where the bales were deposited with the defendant Mr. Lindsay.

Theobold Schriever, coiporal in the Ite Menon, deposed to the same effect as the last winces, and stated turther, that the genteman allulel to in the last deposition, wished the soldiers to dirink with him, and was very significantly rattling money in his pockel while in conversation with the Serjeant.

Joseph Colbuth stated that he was a prisoner of war at Green Bush, in the State of New-York, in December, 1814; that he begged to be allowed a blanket, and heard the American solliers also asking for blankets; that he was not able to procure one, but that he afterwards heard sone American officers say that they has no bankets lor their own men, but that they expected some from the North, whech the witness understood to mean fron this Province; that he aiterwards made his escape and gave information of this conversation.

Samuel Gelston was called by the Pluintiff to speak to the value of the goods.

On his cross examination he said that he kept a wholesale and retail store at Missisqui Bay; that he had no knowicelye that the Mantial had a Store at that time, (December, 1814); that woollens to any anomit could have heen-ntd there if to He extent of 100 bates; hat they woun have been undoubtedy sold to go to the United States Unen at war mint UreatBritain; that in taking out goods for Mis-isqui Bay, he always pruce led by the direct road to the prort of St. Dohn's, and when neces-ary, firm the nature of the gools, obtaned a permit from the defendant; that there was a demand for woollens in the United States, and that woollens brought a greater profit there than here; that the distance from Misizqui Bay to the States is one mile and a half, and that woullens, once at Missinqui Bay, could in a short time and with great ease be taken into the states.

The Court of King's Bench, after hearing the parties, gave judgment on the 20th June, 1817, in favom of the fantif's action, but whout costs, there being probable gromed for seizure, and dismissed the imervention; to reverse which judgrent, the present appeal !as been brought on the part of the Crown.

Quebec, 11th November, 1818.
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