

HANS MUCKLER

IS FOUND GUILTY

IN SUPREME COURT

German Charged With Sedition Before Chief Justice Harvey

In present times of war and stress, Germans and German sympathizers would be well advised to keep to themselves such sentiments as, "I am a German and proud of it. I am proud of what the German army is doing in France." It was statements like the foregoing, made in the presence of several witnesses in the Alberta hotel bar, that caused Hans Muckler to be charged before the Hon. the chief justice, with sedition, Tuesday afternoon.

A. Nicholson, bartender in the Alberta hotel, testified that he heard accused make seditious statements, and when he expostulated with Muckler, received the contents of a beer glass in the face. Sam Neelands gave evidence stating that accused started a disturbance when asked by Mr. Cox to "speak English, not German," and then gave utterance to the seditious sentiments quoted above. "We are all Germans here," retorted Muckler, when taken to task by Mr. Cox.

Detective Effenberger of the city police force testified that he had answered a call from the Alberta hotel, and arrested accused. Several times previously Muckler had been warned by witness that his talk was bordering on sedition. When accused was searched at the police station after his arrest, an iron ring, bearing an inscription in German, which, when translated, read "I give gold for iron," was found on his person. Detective Effenberger stated money from the sale of these rings were forwarded across seas for furtherance of the German cause.

Accused took the stand on his own behalf and stated his reason for talking German on the night in question was that he was endeavoring to sell a farm to a compatriot who understood little English. He maintained the trouble in the bar-room was not of his seeking, and that the beer was thrown after he had been called a "Dirty German." This statement was afterwards denied by Mr. Nicholson, who was recalled to the stand.

Muckler explained the presence of the ring in his possession by stating he had given a man named Baker twenty-five cents for the trinket, the latter requiring the money to purchase a meal. He also stated any previous complaints made about him to the police department were inspired by two Germans who wished him put away in safe keeping in order that they might secure a piece of his property.

His lordship, in summing up the case, stated that Muckler, who on his own admission, has been in Alberta for ten years, should be well aware that statements like his were certain to stir up hostility and therefore were seditious. He found the accused guilty and reserved sentence. E. H. Cogswell, K.C., appeared for the crown, and Mr. House for the accused.