

TREASON TRIALS

SNYDER FOUND GUILTY—NICOLOFF GIVEN A YEAR.

WELLAND, April 8.—Guilty of an attempt to commit treason, but not realizing the seriousness of his act, was the verdict of the jury in the High Court here yesterday in the trial of Joseph Snyder, a farmer, living near Chippawa. In this case, as in that of Nicoloff, tried on a like charge, the crown asked only for a conviction on attempted treason. Not only was the charge the same, but the evidence against Snyder was practically the same as that against Nicoloff.

Both men fell into a trap laid by the military authorities to catch those engaged in smuggling Austria reservists across the Niagara river into the United States, that they might report to their consul.

The offence with which Snyder was charged was committed on Nov. 14 last, when it was alleged that for a payment of \$10 per head he agreed to assist four Austrian reservists out of the country. The reservists in question were employed by the military authorities as a bait to catch Snyder, and after he had committed himself by accepting the money and locking the four men in a deserted house, the militia swooped down on him. The whole party were taken into custody.

No defence was offered except as to preserve the good reputation of the prisoner. A. C. Kingstone of St. Catharines, counsel for the prisoner, contended that his acceptance of \$40 and locking the men up did not constitute treason, under which term the prisoner was indicted.

George Lynch-Staunton, K. C., the crown prosecutor, claimed the crown had established a clear case. "A man with a fine farm and in good circumstances became a traitor to his country for the sum of \$40," he concluded.

Chancellor Sir John A. Boyd, in addressing the jury, seemed inclined to take the view that Snyder's interest was not treasonable. Many looked for acquittal after hearing his lordship's address. After the verdict was given Mr. Kingstone asked for and was granted a reserved case, that an appeal might be carried to the Court of Appeals on the question of law.

Snyder was released under \$20,000 bail, \$10,000 in his own security and \$5,000 by each of two sureties, to appear at next term of court for sentence.

Nicoloff, found guilty of attempted treason, was sentenced to serve one year in prison. He appeared a physical wreck and had to be practically carried from the court room. Had it not been for the prisoner's condition his lordship said the sentence would have been more severe.