

# RAILWAY IS SUED FOR FALSE ARREST BY THREE GERMANS

## Former E.D. & B.C. Detective Gives Evidence Against Meredit Trio

The consolidated action for damages brought by the three Germans, Ludwig, August and Paul Meredit, against the E.D. & B.C. railway for trespass and illegal arrest was continued before the Hon. Mr. Justice Hyndman and a jury today.

On Thursday afternoon evidence was given by two of the brothers, by Annie Meredit, a sister, and by the mother of the plaintiffs, who all deposed to the forcible searching of their house and premises by a detective named Stafford, whom they claim was in the employ of the company, and to the three boys born Meredit, a sister, and by the mother of Edmonton, charged before Col. Belcher with stealing goods from a freight car belonging to the E.D. & B.C. railway, and discharged.

Mr. Woods had asked for a non-suit, which his lordship refused, saying that there were certain questions of fact to go to the jury.

The first witness for the defense was Capt. Stafford, the detective mentioned in the case who is now an officer of the 63rd Battalion. When the war broke out he joined his regiment in the Old Country as a reservist, his hearing was impaired by the gun-fire, he was discharged as medically unfit in the following December and returned to Edmonton and entered the service of the E.D. & B.C. company until shortly before he joined the 63rd Battalion. He narrated the facts of the search and arrest of the three accused, but denied the evidence of the plaintiffs as to the search being forcible. They gave him, he affirmed, permission to do so. He thought he was warranted in arresting the three young men, owing to the varying stories told by the oldest as to where he obtained certain goods from. While the only check he received for salary was signed by the J. D. McArthur company, it was in his mind that he was working for the E.D. & B.C. company.

T. H. Refuse, conductor on the line, also gave evidence as to the willingness of the Meredites to have their place searched. W. R. Smith followed and stating that he was the general manager and chief engineer of the McArthur interests which included the Great Waterways railway, the E.D. & B.C. railway and the Central Canada railway. At the time of the occurrence, the line was being run as a construction line by the J. D. McArthur Construction company and was not taken over by the E.D. & B.C. until March by order of the railway commissioners. After further argument by counsel, the case was adjourned.

A. U. G. Bury and M. M. Charlson appeared for the plaintiffs, and S. B. Woods, K.C. and V. R. Baldwin for the defendant company.