

# JUDGE PUTS LAD ON HONOR AND LIBERATES HIM

**Young Austrian Admitted Theft  
But Said He Returned Money  
Shortly After Taking It**

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Harry James Havrelcoff, a sixteen year old Austrian, was placed on his honor and liberated by Judge Cumberland. The lad had pleaded guilty to stealing \$120 from a fellow worker at Elgin at Saturday, July 22nd, and was up for speedy trial. The judge questioned him at great length and according to his story he was working in Winnipeg when the war broke out and enlisted as a bugler last January. After a few weeks when it was found he was an Austrian he was discharged and told to go to Colony street. There he was given a card and told to report each day. He went for several days and then, in the intense cold did not go and others told him he was too young to report. He was later sent to the internment camp here and liberated to go and work in a section gang a few weeks ago. The accused speaks excellent English, having attended school in the province since he came here three and a half years ago. He is bright, but the Crown Prosecutor caught him telling untruths several times during the preliminary hearing.

Today the judge told him he did not like sending boys to prison, but he would not let many more out on suspended sentence. It was because his father was dead, and his sister

living in Winnipeg, that he would be allowed out on suspended sentence. The judge said he thought there should be some age limit for internment, and the only reason they could intern a boy like that would be probably because at that time he might have been of some assistance to alien enemies in a large city like Winnipeg.

Answering the judge Mr. Matheson said he was puzzled to know what to suggest be done with the boy. If the lad had been truthful he would have had no hesitation in asking for suspended sentence, because on the face of it the case did savor of the ridiculous.

The accused said the money had been returned almost as soon as it was stolen for he had become very sorry. He asked the judge to give him a chance so that he might make good and he promised never to do anything which would bring him into court again.