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MAUGERVILLE

Jan. 10.—Mr. and Mrs. Erney Ketch were the host and hostess at a pleasant surprise party Tuesday evening. Miss Margaret E. Cox, sister of Professor Cox of the University, who is attending Business College at Fredericton, spent the Christmas holidays at home.

Miss Sadie Waycott was the guest of Miss Kate Miles.

Mr. Frank Sadler, of Fredericton, spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Ketch.

Mrs. Hoyt of Kingsclear, has been

UNCURLED PLUMAGE

Ostrich feathers are more gorgeous and beautiful than ever, and are in great favor. The uncurled variety is, of course, in the lead, and the plumes themselves, manipulated by skilled makers, have taken on more wonderful proportions than ever to accommodate themselves to the new craze for height. They are wired to stand almost upright, clustered in graceful and charming fashion generally one plume surrounded by lesser ones.

visiting her former home.

THE GUNTER INVESTIGATION DRAWING TO A CLOSE

The Taking of Evidence Finished Last Evening And Adjournment Made Until Monday for Argument of Counsel—Ald. Hooper Tells Why He Preferred the Charges—More Scrapping by Counsel—Two Men who Disturbed Proceedings Transferred to the Lock up.

The Police Commission at eleven o'clock last night finished taking evidence in the case of Special Policeman A. D. Gunter, who is charged by Ald. W. S. Hooper with being disloyal to the city and untruthful. As at previous sessions the council chamber was crowded with spectators and the only ones to leave before adjournment were two young men who had the bad taste to interrupt the proceedings, and they were transferred to the police station for safe keeping.

The Commission refused to allow the prosecutor to amend his charges, and it also refused to consider an application of Mr. Hanson for a postponement to permit the whole matter being referred back to the city council so that the charges might be amended by that body.

Those who testified last night were Mrs. Rosina Wheway and Ald. Hooper the complainant. The first named swore that she had purchased from a Toronto mail order house through Mrs. Gunter some furs. She had not previously known Mr. Gunter but had been recommended to place the order with her by Mrs. Henry Forsay.

Ald. Hooper swore that he had formulated the charges at the request of a number of citizens who were continually pestering him about the matter. He had heard Policeman Hartt make the statement in Mack's drug store that he (Hartt) had been told by Gunter that he had received a silver tea service from a Toronto mail order house as a present. He had no other evidence that that was so other than Hartt's statement. He denied that the liquor interests were behind him in the investigation.

As usual there were some sharp passages at arms between the Council as well as a lot of good natured banding. The spectators appeared to greatly enjoy the proceedings.

Mr. Hanson in answer to the chairman said that under the Summary Convictions Act amendments to a complaint were allowed in cases of this kind. He cited as a precedent a Scott Act case recently before the Fredericton Police Court, wherein the police magistrate had allowed the city clerk to amend the information.

Mr. Phinney said that the Canada Temperance Act specially provided for an amendment to an information or summons. The regulations against the sale of liquor, he said, are the most stringent on the statute book. In a case of this kind no amendment would be allowed in the police court.

APPLICATION REFUSED

Chairman Clark, in giving his decision on Mr. Hanson's application, said he did not think that the point he had raised would apply to this case. In the application it was admitted that the charge had not been approved, but Mr. Hanson did not point out that there was another charge. The chairman went on to say that the commission did not feel that they would be justified in allowing the amendment without first obtaining authority from the city council, under whose orders they were acting.

Mr. Hanson asked that the commission adjourn and report back to the city council.

Chairman Clark decided against Mr. Hanson's motion, and announced that the investigation would go on.

Mr. Hanson—Then you refuse my motion to refer the matter back to the council.

Chairman Clark replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Hanson said he had witnesses present who were prepared to prove that Mr. Gunter made untruthful statements to the commission. He merely wanted to let the commission know this.

MRS. ROSINA WHEWAY

was called by Ald. Hooper as the first witness and duly sworn. She said that she was employed at the home of Mr. C. A. Burchill and had lived in Fredericton a year and a half. She did not know Mrs. Gunter, but had seen her. On one occasion she gave her an order to send to Toronto for some furs. Mrs. Gunter did not solicit the order. She saw a catalogue at Mrs. Henry Forsay's and afterwards called at Mrs. Gunter's home and gave the order. This was in the month of October. Mr. Gunter telephoned to witness shortly after she had called on Mrs. Gunter. He heard that she wanted to send for some goods. That is all that was said.

Witness afterwards received the goods ordered—a fur collar and

muff. They were not of a very expensive type.

Mr. Hanson wanted to know from the witness if she had any further conversation with Mr. Gunter over the telephone.

Here a discussion took place in which the chairman, Mr. Hanson and Mr. Phinney joined.

Mr. Hanson assured the chairman that he had no personal interest in the enquiry, but merely wanted to ascertain the truth. He had been told that the witness had had a more extended conversation with Mr. Gunter.

The witness in reply to a further question said that she had no conversation with Mr. Gunter other than what she had stated.

Mr. Phinney here took the witness in hand and interrogated her in regard to her transaction with Mrs. Gunter. She said that she was recommended to order from the Toronto house through Mrs. Gunter by Mrs. Forsay. She did not pay Mrs. Gunter for her services. She never saw a mail order catalogue at Mr. Burchill's.

To Mr. Hanson the witness said she did not know that Mrs. Gunter had made a rake-off on the transaction. Witness paid the price set forth in the catalogue. The collar witness bought from Toronto did not suit and witness had since got another.

Chairman Clark in reply to Mr. Hanson said that he did not believe that Eatons gave any discount on their catalogue prices.

Mr. Hanson said that he knew nothing about Eaton's prices. He was in their store once and got soaked on a transaction.

Chairman Clark said that he had bought goods this winter and had resold them at a profit, and the parties who bought them from him had been able to compete with Eaton's prices. He wanted this statement given publicly.

ALD. W. S. HOOPER

was next sworn at his own request. He said he was a resident of Fredericton and an alderman for Wellington Ward. He had been secretary of the Fredericton Agricultural Society for ten years. He had given a fair share of his time to the public service. He had made the charge against Mr. Gunter on the strength of frequent complaints that he (Gunter) was inducing people to buy goods outside of the city. He had become sick and tired of hearing such complaints and he made the charges in his capacity of an alderman with the hope of putting a stop to it.

Mr. Hanson wanted to know if the witness had heard any other complaints against Mr. Gunter.

The question was objected to and Mr. Hanson explained that it was similar to a question asked Policeman Boulter by Chairman Clark upon consulting the record however he found that Chairman Clark's question was not exactly the same so Mr. Hanson did not press his question.

The witness resuming said that he personally saw and examined the large dry goods case which had arrived here consigned to Mrs. A. D. Gunter a few days before Christmas. Witness climbed on the wagon and examined the box. Several citizens had called his attention to the box. He had called Mr. H. S. Campbell's attention to it.

Mr. Hanson—It would interfere with his business as a shoe merchant. You and me, Mr. Phinney are immune from that sort of competition in our profession.

Mr. Phinney—Oh, no, we are not. They sometimes bring lawyers out from St. John to try cases in the Fredericton Police court. We have lawyers of our own who could do the work as well if not better.

Ald. Hooper resuming said that many people had telephoned him in regard to the box, and had complained to him about Mr. Gunter.

Mr. Hanson began to interrogate Ald. Hooper in regard to certain conversations he had had in regard to the case, when Mr. Phinney raised an objection.

Mr. Phinney said that he had no desire to impugn the motives of Ald. Hooper in this matter. No doubt he felt that he was doing his duty as an alderman. However, the line must be drawn somewhere or the enquiry would last all winter.

Ald. Hooper said that he would not say that Policeman Hartt had sworn to an untruth. He had made a statement about Mr. Gunter in Mr. R. T. Mack's drug store, but

when put on his oath did not feel himself justified in repeating it. Mr. G. W. Hodge and Mr. Bayard Simmon were present in the drug store and heard Policeman Hartt's statement. Witness told of a conversation he had had with Policeman Hartt in Mack's drug store. He (Hartt) had criticized Mr. Gunter's evidence and called it preposterous. He added that Mr. Gunter had told him (Hartt) that he had received a present of silverware from Eatons last Christmas. Witness told Hartt that he would make a good witness in the case.

To Chairman Clark witness said that he had taken no steps to corroborate Policeman Hartt's statement, or did he inform the Police Christmas season and witness had his own business to look after. He had expressed his own views quite fully at the last meeting of the council. The witness stated that he had attended the first two meetings of the Commission without counsel.

Mr. Hanson—It has been intimated that the liquor element is behind this investigation. Is that true or false.

Ald. Hooper—It is absolutely false. The witness asked permission to reiterate a statement that he had made at the last meeting of the city council, but an objection was raised by Mr. Phinney.

After some cross-firing the witness was permitted to explain. He said that he had stated in the city council that Mr. Gunter would abandon the practice of buying goods from mail order houses and buy the goods at home he (Hooper) would withdraw the charges.

Chairman Clark said at that time there was no evidence before the Commission that Mr. Gunter was buying goods from mail order houses. The charges were made and it was deemed advisable to investigate them.

Ald. Hooper—You voted against it, Chairman Clark—That is correct. I deplore the fact that so much free advertising has been given to a Toronto house.

Mr. Hanson—Did you ever buy goods from Eatons?

Witness—Never.

THE CROSS-EXAMINATION

Mr. Phinney subjected the witness to a sharp cross-examination and proceedings were made a little more lively than usual. The witness admitted that his charge that Mr. Gunter received a present from a Toronto house was based largely on the conversation he had with Officer Hartt in the drug store. It was also based on the fact that he was pestered by people who considered Mr. Gunter a disloyal citizen and wanted action taken against him.

Mr. Phinney—And you made this charge against Mr. Gunter without a little of evidence to support it?

Mr. Hanson objected on the ground that the question introduced a matter for argument.

Mr. Phinney repeated the question while Mr. Hanson continued to interrupt him with the remark that he was trying to run the court.

Mr. Phinney—The learned counsel has been talking a long time about slapping somebody's face, but he has not done it yet. He is too big a coward.

Mr. Hanson—Be careful; I might invite you outside.

Mr. Phinney—And I might not go. Mr. Hanson—You are too big a coward.

The chairman urged the counsel to stop scrapping and proceed with the enquiry.

Mr. Hanson told the chairman that he had one complaint to lodge against him, and that was he did not assert his authority sufficiently.

Mr. Phinney (to the witness)—I want to know if you still adhere to the correctness of that charge.

Witness—Undoubtedly so.

Mr. Phinney—Have you any further evidence to offer.

Mr. Hanson—That's fishing.

Ald. Hooper—With the wrong kind of bait.

Mr. Phinney—Do you know of your own knowledge of any further evidence you can offer.

Ald. Hooper said that he did not feel himself to believe that Mr. Gunter would be working for a Toronto house for nothing. He had no further evidence to offer, but he had his opinion.

Mr. Phinney—I don't care a rap about your opinion.

The witness continuing, said he had heard many complaints from merchants about people patronizing mail-order houses and he felt it his duty to do what he could to stop the practice, so far as city officials were concerned. Individually he was free from the stigma of buying goods outside of the city. The same would apply to the members of his household. He was not aware that merchants and their families patronized mail-order houses.

Ald. Hooper—I am getting versed in the law.

Mr. Phinney—You might be a judge some day.

Mr. Hanson—You will be as soon as one occasion.

Mr. Phinney—But they were not respected.

The witness was next questioned in regard to the printing done for the last provincial exhibition. He said that the lithographing had been done in Ohio and the prize list printed in St. John. The witness knew that there were printing offices in the city, but the lithographs they

(Continued on page four)

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