

Anti-German Hysteria In Wisconsin

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Newspaper Article

"Farmer Charged with Pro-Kaiser Talk on Trial," Eau Claire Leader, 7/23/1918

FARMER CHARGED WITH PRO-KAISER TALK ON TRIAL

DEFENDANT IS NATIVE AMERICAN AND HAS SON IN THE SERVICE

Judge Evan A. Evans' branch of United States district court yesterday afternoon began the trial of Christian Yearous, a Grant county farmer, indicted on five counts for alleged statements in advocacy of Germany's cause in the war. Yearous is charged on all counts with having said on June 2 in the presence of two witnesses: "This is a rich man's war. It will never end till all the money is gone. The Tuscania had no business upon the water. They got what they deserved. Americans have done just as bad things as Germany did to Belgium."

B. R. Goggins is handling the case for the government and Ralph Jackman of Madison is defending Yearous. In his opening statement Mr. Goggins confined himself to explaining the indictment. Mr. Jackman, in prefacing his defense, said he would offer evidence to show that the principal witness against Yearous, John Sisler, long had borne Yearous a grudge as the result of a land deal in which the two were concerned when they lived in Iowa. A son of Yearous, he said, is fighting in France as a volunteer soldier.

The first and only witness of the day was Oscar Slaght, a young farmer, who, he testified, was present during a conversation in which the defendant made alleged disloyal utterances, addressed to himself and Sisler. Slaght testified that Yearous had made the statements described above. Sisler was sworn just before court adjourned and will go on the stand this morning. Yearous will take the stand in his own defense, Mr. Jackman announced. Yearous is 58 years old and a native of Iowa. He is the father of seven children.

"Charles Naffz, Madison, Admits Pro-Kaiser Talk," Eau Claire Leader, 7/24/1918

CHARLES NAFFZ, MADISON, ADMITS PRO-KAISER TALK

PLEADS GUILTY TO VIOLATION OF ESPIONAGE ACT; SENTENCE NOT PASSED.

Charles H. Naffz, a prominent Madison German-American, proprietor of a drug store in the capital city, pleaded guilty in Judge A. L. Sanborn's branch of United States district court yesterday to violation of the espionage act. Sentence was not passed.

The indictment against Naffz charged him with having said in the presence of a number of witnesses: "This is a mere capitalists' war. The morals taught by the kaiser and the government of Germany are superior to those taught by the United States. If the common people knew what was going on in Washington they would rebel."

A representative of the Tubbs Medical company of River Falls, charged with violation of the food and drug act, in having misbranded a product, pleaded guilty to a technical violation, and a fine of \$100 was imposed by the court.

"Jury Finds Grant County Farmer Guilty of Espionage Act Violation," Eau Claire Leader, 7/24/1918

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