

TOUCHES HER HEART

WILLIAM RICHARDSON APPEALS NOT TO JUSTICE IN VAIN.

Cass Lake Man Pleads Guilty to Taking Liquor on Reservation, But Declares It Was Stolen From Him While Asleep and His Evident Sincerity Results in a Sentence in Form Only

William Richardson of Cass Lake, when arraigned before Judge Lochren in United States court yesterday for sentence, made a plea that touched even imperturbable justice. As a general thing, the explanations of men accused of taking liquor on reservations deserve or receive very little credence. It was because this was out of the beaten track, that Richardson was listened to, his case considered, and finally the red tape of the law was invoked to the end that the majesty of justice was satisfied in form only.

The May term of federal court opened promptly at 10 o'clock yesterday morning with Judge William Lochren on the bench. Officials in attendance are United States District Attorney R. G. Evans, Assistants M. D. Purdy and J. M. Dickey, Henry D. Lang, clerk of court, Court Crier James Conway, Maj. Sheehan and several others.

The grand jury was charged early and James Shoemaker, of Mankato, was appointed foreman. Just before 5 o'clock the jury came in court with a bunch of seven indictments for selling liquor to Indians or introducing it on the reservations. All seven prisoners were immediately arraigned, and all pleaded not guilty, except Richardson, who pleaded guilty. Richardson was asked whether he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed on him, and he answered:

"I am 50 years of age. I was born in the town of St. Anthony, and have lived here all my life. This is the first time I was ever locked up. I never did any man a wrong. I live on the reservation on a piece of leased land. I was on my way home and had liquor with me for my family. I am not a drinking man, and this liquor was for sickness. I never get drunk. I lay down for a rest and fell asleep. When I awoke my valise containing the liquor, my watch and \$1.25 in cash were gone. I do not know who took them. I have nothing else to say. I did take liquor on the reservation, but as God is my judge, I never did give it to an Indian, nor was it my intention to give this to Indians."

Judge Lochren studied some minutes over Richardson's case before he imposed sentence. He then said that he would give him the lightest sentence possible under the law, and imposed a sentence of 60 days in jail at Grand Rapids, Minn., the designation having been made at Grand Rapids at the request of Richardson, who desired to be near his family. The prisoner was taken from the room, but he was brought back before he had left the building, and again appeared before Judge Lochren. After some consultation on the part of the attorneys the prisoner was advised to change his plea to one of not guilty. On this advice he changed his plea, and was then permitted, by the prosecuting attorney, to go on his own recognizance. Richardson felt very grateful.

The other prisoners arraigned were Charles M. O'Neil, Paul Jones, William Howard, Thomas Beckerley, Andrew Johnson, and John Gilbertson, of Walker. Each pleaded not guilty.

The civil calendar took the attention of the court during the greater part of the day. The somewhat celebrated case of George Desmond against H. M. Peyton and L. R. Barber to recover damages to the amount of \$43,500 for cutting the timber from a claim patented to Desmond, before Desmond got his patent and while Peyton and Barber were working on the purchased receipt issued by the government to a man named Judd for a patent to the land, came to the attention of the court in its regular order on the calendar. On motion of W. W. Dillson, as attorney for the defendants, for a continuance pending the determination of the case of the United States government against George E. Desmond, now in the United States circuit court for the western district of Wisconsin, the case was continued to the next term of the United States court in Duluth.

The case of Marion Douglas vs. George T. Porter, was continued, by stipulation, to the next term.

The action of J. W. Schellenberger, as special administrator of the estate of Richard Gregory, deceased, vs. the Drake & Straton company was dismissed. There was no appearance on the part of the plaintiff.

In the action of Ole Nicholson vs. the Northern Pacific Railway company an order for continuance was made.

The case of Charles Peterson, an infant, against the Northern Lumber company was dismissed without prejudice, pursuant to a precept filed May 6.

The case of C. L. Ring, trustee for Merrill & Ring, against the Musser-Sauntry Land, Logging & Manufacturing company, was dismissed.

The action of John Grady against the Northern Pacific Railroad company is now on trial before a jury.

Several final discharges in bankruptcy were granted. They were as follows: Finley Morrison, Joseph Mannheim, Louis Cohen, Aaron Shoresman, Julius Shandling, Austin A. Mendenhall, Cora McGregor.

Several attorneys were admitted to practice in the United States courts. They were L. H. Corcoran, F. W. Hargreaves, R. S. Powell, C. W. Stilson and T. A. Call were admitted to practice in the United States district court.