

# DEFENSE STARTS IN COPPER CASE

**Witnesses Testify as to Character  
of Former Switchman, Im-  
plicated in Robbery.**

**FOREMAN OF SCRAP IRON  
COMPANY CONFESSES DEED**

**Tells Story of Theft, Alleging  
Two Railroad Men Were  
Paid for Assistance.**

After two motions interposed by John H. Norton attorney for George K. Robertson, on trial charged with first degree grand larceny had been argued before District Judge Fesler yesterday and denied, the defense began the introduction of its evidence. Two witnesses, John Murphy, yardmaster for the Northern Pacific Railway company at Duluth, and E. C. Chapman, testified to the good reputation of the defendant, a former switchman in the employ of the Northern Pacific. Murphy had previously been examined as a witness for the state with reference to the movement of a car loaded with copper anode plates, from which Zigmund Zalk and Joseph Regali with the aid of Robertson, are alleged to have stolen \$2,000 worth of the metal. Robertson, according to the state, "spotted" the car near the Duluth Iron & Metal company's warehouse Nov. 5, 1913 to facilitate removal of the 32 copper anodes.

## **Zalk Confesses.**

Zigmund Zalk, a foreman in the employment of the Duluth Iron & Metal company, yesterday took the witness stand and made a complete confession of the theft. He declared that after he and two other employees of the metal company had removed the anodes, Robertson was paid \$250 for his services and later \$50 was paid to the other switchman Joseph Regali.

Attorney Norton asked the court for a directed verdict, and when this was refused he moved for a dismissal. Judge Fesler also denied this motion after arguments from the defendant's attorney and County Attorney Green had been heard.

It was contended on behalf of the defense, that under the state law a defendant cannot be convicted on the uncorroborated testimony of an accomplice, and that the only incriminating evidence against Robertson was furnished by Zalk. In denying the motion, the court took into consideration other testimony of a circumstantial nature which the state had offered to connect Robertson with the crime charged. Trial of the case will be resumed Monday.