

COOK'S FRONT DOOR

JUDGE GEARHART WRESTLES
WITH ITS PURPOSE ON SUNDAY.

Merchant Gets Up in Reply to Clerks' Association Prosecution That His Front Door Was Open to Adult Entrance to His Living Rooms in the Rear—Clerks' Witnesses Swear to Purchases.

Moses Cook was tried in municipal court yesterday on the charge of selling goods on Sunday. Cook conducts a men's furnishing store at 40 West Superior street, and lives in the back of his store with his family. This case was on all day yesterday in municipal court. It created a great deal of interest. Judge Gearhart fined Cook \$5 and costs.

The case was prosecuted by the Retail Clerks' association, and the complainant was Archie Kenney, a member of the association. One of the objects of the association is to protect the storekeepers as well as the members of the association, and the association asks that as short working hours be granted to its members as possible. The proprietors of the stores, it is said, accede to this request of the clerks as far as possible, but of late several complaints have been made that some stores not members of the association sell goods at all hours of the day and on Sunday.

The clerks' association, it is said, determined to take an advantage of the law regarding selling goods on Sunday and Mr. Cook happened to be the man selected. It seems that two men, one named Nelson, were hired by the clerks' association last Sunday to make a purchase at Mr. Cook's store. According to their story in court yesterday, they went into Mr. Cook's store last Sunday morning and purchased a necktie and a pair of socks. The reason that the young men gave for going in Mr. Cook's store was that the front door of the store was open.

Mr. Cook, going on the stand, denied that the purchase in question was made at his store on the day mentioned. He said that he lived with his family in the back of the store, and that the store entrance was the only door that led into the building and it was commonly open all day.

Mr. Cook's wife and brother-in-law were in the store at the time the alleged purchase was made, but both denied having seen the young men in the store or the selling of the goods. The policeman on the beat by Mr. Cook's store testified that Mr. Cook's front door was always open as it is the only entrance to the building, but that he had never seen

Mr. Cook doing any business in the store on Sunday.

Judge Gearhart thought that the law regarding selling on Sunday had slightly been infringed, however, and fined Mr. Cook \$5 and costs, which was paid.