

THE ARSON CASE.

Louis Hammel, the Young Man Charged With Arson, Before Judge Hutchins.

Mr. Selzer, the first witness called in the case of Louis Hammel, charged with arson, testified that a fire occurred at his store some time last January, and that since then he had been a little suspicious of Mr. Hammel, who worked for him. He said that another fire had occurred in the yard back of the store, a lot of shavings being on fire. On last Tuesday night his store was on fire and when he got to the store he found Hammel there. Hammel had charge of putting out the gas, but he (Selzer) had forbid Hammel to go into the store after 6 o'clock. When Hammel was questioned about the fires and how it was that he was always at the store when the fires occurred, he said he did not know. Witness said he had a brother who drank and he had forbid him the store.

Officer Kreuzel testified that he arrested Hammel last Tuesday night after the fire at Selzer's plumbing store, and that he heard Hammel tell Selzer that he was walking along Hickox street and had seen the fire in the plumbing store through a window that had the shutter off.

Nightwatchman Kauffman testified that he met Hammel on the night of the fire; that they had a drink together; that Hammel had asked him to assist him in putting up the shutters; that he had done so, and that Hammel, who was inside the store, had called him inside and told him he smelled smoke; soon after a fire was discovered, and, after putting it out, they searched for some one who could have started it. Hammel then said he would telephone for Mr. Selzer, which was done.

Dr. Maynard testified that he had rooms over Selzer's store. Could hardly say he recognized Hammel. One night he heard a rumpus, and going down stairs found two young men trying to put out a fire which was burning in a hogshead. One of the young men said he was connected with Selzer's store, and when asked said that the way he knew the straw was burning was because he had seen the fire from Euclid avenue. It was impossible to see the fire from Euclid avenue, and it struck the witness as being very queer. He (Maynard) was anxious to have the fire put out, and he talked to the young man who remained to put out the fire. One of the young men went away as soon as he came up.

At this point court adjourned until Friday morning.