

QUEER CASE OF JAMES STEWART

Arrested For Forgery and Strong Testimony Both For and Against Him.

The case of James Stewart, accused on two warrants of forgery, which was yesterday continued in municipal court by Judge Parker until May 19 and the accused released on cash bail of \$200, is proving a puzzle to Assistant District Attorney McKay as well as the court because of its many apparently contradictory features.

Four reputable witnesses swore at the examination that the accused is the same man who secured considerable money on a forged check as change from purchases in three different stores, and positive testimony is introduced to the effect that the accused at the time was several hundred miles away at a logging camp, where he had been employed for six months, and that he had borne an excellent reputation as a worker. A telephone message to the camp apparently bore out the testimony that he was in camp at the time the checks were said to have been passed, April 4.

In view of all the facts in the case, Mr. McKay asked that the case be put over until the time stated in order that he might make a full investigation, as he had no desire to do the accused the injustice of having him bound over despite the strong evidence against him, if he is innocent.

The witnesses against Stewart were clerks or proprietors in the stores of Roy Edelstein, H. Lurye and S. Barkowich, who asserted positively that it was Stewart who had bought small bills of household goods from them and then given them forged checks, supposedly issued by T. H. Fairfax, receiving back in money more than half the amount of the checks. When they went to deliver the goods the next day to the addresses given they found no one of the name of J. M. Clark, which the purchaser said was himself, to whom the checks were payable.

George Gordon, who was time-keeper in the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber company camp, where Stewart was a foreman, stated positively that to his knowledge Stewart was in camp at the time the checks were said to have been passed. Stewart, when on the stand, admitted that he had been in the city since he went to the camps, being located first at Kinmount and then at a camp near Virginia, but denied that he had been in Superior since February until the night of April 9, five days later than that on which the checks were passed.