

Hard Vrocht Grun Project

Objection & Exemption



BUNDLE 1



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Bundle 1

CONDITIONAL EXEMPTION GRANTED.

Mr J. J. Mackenzie appeared in connection with the application on behalf of Dominico D'Agostino, a confectioner with his father in Stonehaven.

Mr Mackenzie stated that being only 19 years of age and a minor the man applied for could not claim alien nationality, having been born in this country.

The recommendation of the military representative was that the application be refused, the man not to be called up until the 28th November.

Mr Mackenzie stated that had the man applied for been the son of an alien neutral, he would not have come under the Military Service Act, but being the son of a native of one of the Allied countries he was liable for service.

Continuing, Mr Mackenzie said that Mr D'Agostino had conducted his business in a respectable way among them for a good many years. He had three shops in the village and one at the beach—

Bailie Duncan—The County Town!

Mr Mackenzie—I beg your pardon.

Mr Mackenzie further stated that his older son had enlisted some time ago, and was now on his way to East Africa. Unless Mr D'Agostino was allowed to retain his youngest boy he would have to close some of his shops, which would be a loss to the town. The man had been passed only for garrison duty abroad, which made his claim all the stronger.

Provost Greig said he thought the recommendation of the Advisory Committee should stand.

Bailie Maitland said that it would be a distinct hardship to the man's family if he were to be called up. He moved that he get conditional exemption.

Councillor Wilkie seconded, and Provost Greig's motion failing to find a seconder, this became the finding of the meeting.

Major Allan intimated an appeal.

In the case of Wm. Shewan, saddler, the military representative recommended that he get temporary exemption until 28th May, 1917.

Stonehaven Journal
9 November 1916

DOUBLE NATIONALITY.

A complicated point as to nationality arose in the case of Dominico D'Agostino, confectioner, 35 Barclay Street, Stonehaven against whose conditional exemption the military representative appealed.

The Sheriff asked whether D'Agostino would be enrolled in the Italian Army.

Mr Duncan—No, he is naturalised.

Mr J. J. Mackenzie, solicitor, for D'Agostino, explained that that was not exactly the position. The man was an alien, born to Italian parents, though Stonehaven was his birthplace.

Mr Duncan—There is a nationality of birth as well as of parentage. There can hardly be much in that point because his brother is already in the Army.

Mr Mackenzie—Had Italy been a neutral country the British Government could not have dealt with this man. He has a double nationality, but, being a minor, has not the power of saying to which nationality he shall belong. He can be called upon by either of the countries for military service. His elder brother, who has also a double nationality, was discharged from the Italian Army, but nevertheless chose to serve in the British Army.

The appeal of the military representative was sustained, and D'Agostino will be summoned to the colours on February 1.

William I. Macle, 62 Hill Street, Stonehaven.

Stonehaven
Journal
14 December
1916

Stonehaven Military Tribunal.

LONG ROLL OF CASES.

Many Temporary Exemptions Granted.

ONLY FEW MEN FOR THE ARMY.

A further meeting of the Military Tribunal for the Burgh of Stonehaven was held on Friday evening—Provost Greig, chairman, presiding. The other members of the Tribunal were—Bailies Maitland and Duncan, and Councillors J. D. Wilkie and D. Milne. Major Allan, Stonehaven, was military representative, and Mr D. Cooper Booth, Town Clerk, acted as clerk to the Tribunal.

There were 21 cases in all on the roll, but a most of these the applicants, chiefly tradesmen, were satisfied with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and the Tribunal came to a formal decision accordingly. In the majority of cases, men with businesses dependent upon them were given temporary exemption until 28th May, 1916.

Mr Gordon F. Mowat, tobaccoconist, appealed for conditional exemption, and the Advisory Committee recommended that he be granted temporary exemption until 28th May, 1917.

The applicant intimated that he was satisfied with this recommendation.

James A. Milne, son of Mr Milne, fruiterer, was appealed for by his father. The applicant received temporary exemption at a later meeting of the Tribunal, owing to the illness of his father's health.

land seconded, and this was agreed to.

Major Allan intimated that he was to lodge an appeal.

Messrs Wm. Mowat and Sons, tanners and leather merchants, made application for exemption on behalf of three of their employees—John Caird, James Wood, and James F. Craig.

It was intimated that these men had been formerly badged by the Ministry of Munitions, but that the badges had been withdrawn. The firm were in communication with the Ministry of Munitions in regard to the matter, and hoped to have a reply in a short time. The military officer recommended that these men get temporary exemption for 14 days in order to allow of a reply being received from the Ministry, and this was agreed to.

In the application by Antonio D'Agostino, confectioner, Major Allan said that the applicant had been born in this country of Italian parents, but as he had neglected to do so before he was 21 years of age he could not now claim a certificate of alien nationality. He was therefore a British subject, and came under the Military Service Act.

Mr Mackenzie, the applicant's agent from Banchoy, had seen him, (Major Allan), and asked that a short time should be allowed for making the necessary business arrangements. He suggested the man should not be called up until November 22, and this was agreed to.

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Close Up of article to left
(Stonehaven Journal 28 September 1916)

Stonehaven Journal 28 September 1916

Bundle 1

Stonehaven Conscientious Objector.

EXEMPTION REFUSED AT ABERDEEN.

At a sitting of the Appeal Tribunal for Aberdeen, Kincardine, and Banff, the case of Wm. Main, gardener, Stonehaven, came up for consideration. The local Tribunal had refused exemption on the ground that the objections did not justify exemption.

The Sheriff—Conscientious objections to what? Combatant service?

Main—To every service, my lord. I want absolute exemption.

The Sheriff—What is your conscientious objection to? To taking life?

Main—I object to taking life.

The Sheriff—Nothing more?

Main—I base my appeal on conscientious objections. All my life I have been opposed to war. From my earliest recollections I have been a Socialist. All the years I have been in Stonehaven I have been a member of the Independent Labour Party.

The Sheriff—Members of that party are not all Socialists.

Main—Members of the I.L.P. are all Socialists.

The Sheriff—I don't think so.

Main—As I was saying, I have all my life advocated anti-militarism. I base my appeal against militarism, because I think it is detrimental to the people as a body.

Main also read a paragraph from a newspaper which stated that he was a genuine conscientious objector. He also read two letters from residents in Stonehaven pointing out that he was a genuine conscientious objector.

The Sheriff—The letters bear out that he is a Socialist, and publicly and privately denounced war. We give you exemption from combatant service.

Main—Wait until I state my case, my lord. I came here to state my case. I am not here to cringe or to ask any favour from you. I have a legal right as a conscientious objector on moral grounds to exemption. There is a clause in the Act which allows me absolute exemption. All my life I have never done or said anything inconsistent with what I am saying here. I ask you to consider my case, not in the sense that the local Tribunal did. That Tribunal should have a poster up above the doorway of their Court—Abandon hope all ye conscientious objectors who enter here. I think that would be appropriate at least to the Stonehaven Tribunal. You, gentlemen, are more intelligent men, with a better knowledge of affairs, and much more knowledge of the law than they, and I do not think you can do otherwise than grant me exemption.

The Sheriff—The Act says non-combatant service for you.

Main—I think there is a clause also which says on religious and moral grounds.

The Sheriff—I don't think it says that.

Main—I think there is a clause which says on religious and moral grounds a man may get exemption, conditional or absolute.

The Sheriff—Conditional or absolute, but not on conscientious grounds.

Mr Palmer—That is a perfectly legitimate interpretation of the Act by the Government authorities.

Main—That is the interpretation I put upon it.

UPPER 10.

PREPARED FOR ANYTHING.

Mr Fraser—I presume you would, rather than serve in the army, be prepared to go to prison or even to suffer death?

Main—I am quite prepared for anything. I don't care what it is. I have certain convictions, and I will stick to them. (Loud applause in court, especially by three ladies).

The Sheriff—Would you be prepared to help in hospital, to help wounded men to get back to health again?

Main—I am prepared to help under the conditions that I do not go under the military.

The Sheriff The authorities do not say anything against you helping. They say—“We want you to help to restore property; not to help on the war.” You would not be asked to help to make munitions or to fight, but to help to restore against the ravages of war. That is not against your conscience.

Main—I think I am doing that well enough at the present time in the work I am in.

The Sheriff—Is it against your conscience?

Main—It is not against my conscience.

The Sheriff—To help to restore poor people who have been maimed in the war or those whose property has been destroyed.

Surely that is not against your conscience?

Main—In a civil capacity I am doing all that at the present time.

The Sheriff—That will be in a civil capacity.

Main—I cannot accept anything under the military.

The Sheriff—That is not a matter of conscience?

Main—Oh, yes.

The Sheriff—It is not a matter, is it, between you and God?

Main—I have been brought up to consider that militarism is one of the greatest evils.

The Sheriff—But this is not fighting.

Main—It is part of the military machine.

Sheriff—No, it is not. It may be carried on by military people.

Main—That is the whole thing.

The Sheriff—You will be granted exemption from combatant service.

Mr Fraser, in moving absolute exemption, was interrupted by noise in Court caused by the women.

Mr Palmer—I quite respect the man's views, but under the present circumstances I consider them extremely foolish. I think it is right that an able-bodied man like this should do something in the interests of the nation.

The Sheriff—We give you exemption from combatant service on conscientious grounds.

Agreed.

Henry S. Taylor, cashier to the county treasurer, 8 Arbutinott Street, Stonehaven, was refused exemption, but he cannot be called up until the 22nd June.

Wm. Main, 2 The Cross, Stonehaven, was also refused exemption.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1916.

Stonehaven Burgh Tribunal.
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR'S STRICTURES.

"BIASED AND PREJUDICED."
 A sitting of the Stonehaven Burgh Tribunal was held in the Town Hall, Stonehaven, on Tuesday evening. Provost Greig presided, and the other members present were Bailies Maitland and Duncan, and Councillors Wilkie and Milne. Major James Allan, Stonehaven, was the military representative. Mr D. Cooper Booth, town clerk, acted as clerk. Lieut. A. C. Morrison, military representative on the Appeal Tribunal for the area, was also present. Of the 12 applications for exemption considered, two were refused and five granted, and five of the applicants were given temporary exemption for various periods. An application by a conscientious objector, which was refused, caused a lively discussion.

The first application was by a Stonehaven hairdresser for exemption for his son, who carries on the business. In the application the father stated that he was in ill-health and unable to work. If the son was taken the shop would have to be closed. The military representative agreed to give a certificate until 1st May.

Applicant's wife, who appeared in support of the application, said her husband was confined to bed. The shop would have to be closed if the son was taken, and there would be nothing to support her and her husband. Another son had enlisted.

Answering the Chairman, the son said he would like to serve his country, but if he was taken it would not pay to take in a man. There would be nothing left after paying a man's wages.

It was decided to give exemption for six months.

George Gray, cashier, Stonehaven Savings Bank, was granted exemption for three months on condition that he continued to perform certain public duties in connection with the bank, Stonehaven Harbour Trust, etc.

A baker and a journeyman carrier were granted conditional exemption on condition that they continued in their present work.

George Milne, gardener, sought exemption for his son, James, who helped him with his crops, and was a grave-digger. Applicant could not get another man.

Applicant agreed to temporary exemption until 28th May, and this was approved of.

COUNTY CLERK GRANTED EXEMPTION.

The County Council of Kincardine submitted an application for exemption for Mr John Falconer, solicitor, county clerk, on the ground that the occupation was a certified one. Mr Falconer's partner and principal assistant had been serving since the outbreak of war. The Advisory Committee recommended that the application be refused and a certificate of temporary exemption for three months given, as it was not clear that Mr Falconer was on the administrative staff of the Local Government authority.

Mr Falconer said it was a rather extraordinary statement to make that he was not on the administrative staff. There must be some mistake in the meaning of the word administrative. He might say that he was the only administrative official of the County Council. Apart from County Council work he had several other public duties. The other officials of the County Council were technical, and not administrative. Any good dictionary would show that.

Absolute exemption was granted, the opinion of the Tribunal being that Mr Falconer was in a certified occupation.

Mr Falconer submitted an application for exemption for Henry Taylor, his cashier. The application was also signed by Sir Thos. Burnett, Bt. of Leys and Crathes, as convenor of the County Council. The Advisory Committee refused the application on the ground that the man was not indispensable, but recommended that a temporary certificate for one month be granted.

Mr Falconer appeared in support of the application. He said it would be absolutely impossible in the meantime to get a substitute. There was also income tax work to be done, and there would be a great deal of extra work to do in connection with that. It was not possible to get a man qualified to perform Local Government work, and also income tax work. This man handled £16,000 of public money each year. Mr Taylor was his only capable assistant.

It was agreed to give temporary exemption for one month.

Notice of appeal was given.

OPPOSED TO THE WAR.
 William Main (32), gardener, applied for exemption on the ground that he was a conscientious objector. He had always been opposed to taking any part in war on the ground that human life was absolutely sac-

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will find it. I don't think that has anything to do with it at all.

Bailie Duncan—Is it on that ground you are basing your claim?

Applicant—No; I base my claim on moral grounds. If you read my claim you will see it.

Mr Wilkie—Are no Socialists fighting just now?

Applicant—Oh, yes. Situations alter cases. You are a subject of this country, and you know that this war has been invited by Germany. The Germans would have invaded this country, and burned, destroyed, and killed everybody. In these circumstances, don't you think that it is every man's duty to take up arms in support of his country?

Applicant—As an internationalist, I can only tell you that the people working internationally will yet get the victory.

The Chairman—That has nothing to do with the question. Don't you think it is your duty to go to fight for your country, and take your place in the ranks beside your fellow-countrymen?

Applicant—You said "your country." I never took it from that side at all. I am an internationalist, and look at it from an internationalist standpoint.

Bailie Maitland—I think we are wandering a little bit away from the point. Do you believe that this man is really a conscientious objector? The Act says it has not to be taken in a narrow sense. We must not either believe what he says, or we must not.

Major Allan—In August, 1914, we were threatened with invasion by Germany. Is it your opinion that we ought not to have opposed Germany, and allowed her to go through Belgium and France to come to our shores?

Applicant—I don't believe the point of view you put forward.

Major Allan—Do you say that we ought not to have done anything, and allowed the Germans to do as they liked?

Applicant—The fact of the matter is—Major Allan—Answer the question. It is a simple question.

Applicant—If I gave you my candid opinion on that point I might be up against the Defence of the Realm Act.

Major Allan—Go on. That is just the thing you should do.

Bailie Maitland—I believe the man says what he thinks. I would suggest that he be sent to a non-combatant corps.

APPLICANT WRATHFUL.
 The application was refused.

The Chairman—The Tribunal in this matter have agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and your application is refused.

Applicant—On what ground?

The Chairman—On the ground that the Tribunal think you should go and fight for your country.

Applicant—That is no reason. On what ground? It is quite legal—it is in the Act. I am a conscientious objector.

The Chairman—I have intimidated the decision of the Tribunal. If you are dissatisfied, you can appeal to the higher Tribunal.

Applicant—That is all right; but, all the same, it shows you are biased and prejudiced.

The Clerk—Steady, steady!

Applicant—There is no "steady" about it. No man can dispute it that I am a true conscientious objector. I am quite well known in the town here. Where can I get a form of appeal?

The Clerk—You will get one from me.

Applicant—I will be there to-morrow.

An application by William Main, tailor and clothier, for exemption on domestic grounds, was refused, and an appeal was intimated.

Andrew Masson, fisherman or engineer on board the Skylark, and James Masson, line fisherman, were granted certificates of conditional exemption.

F. J. Walker, shepherd, was given a week's exemption, which means until the end of May.

These were all the cases discussed.

County Mart Meetings.

LAURENCEKIRK.
 The annual general meeting of the Kincardineshire Auction Mart, Ltd., was held in Laurencekirk on Monday. Mr James Fraser, factor, Fasque, chairman of directors, presiding.

The report and balance sheet (previously published), showing a total sum of £1356 3s 4d credit of profit and loss account, were adopted on the motion of the chairman, seconded by Councillor A. M. Scott.

Messrs Charles McGill, James Fraser, and James Milne were re-elected directors, and Mr J. B. Greig, bank agent, Laurencekirk, was re-appointed auditor.

On the motion of Mr James Alexander, The Bent, the remuneration of the directors

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scientific objector. He had always been opposed to taking any part in war on the ground that human life was absolutely sacred under all circumstances.

The military recommended that the application be refused as no sufficient excuse had been given.

Applicant said he had been a Socialist for many years, and he always upheld the idea that war was detrimental to the people, and that the people should keep clear of it. He believed that he himself should also keep clear of it. His whole upbringing had been in or support anything of a military nature. In these circumstances he had a legal right to absolute exemption. Whether the Tribunal considered that right or not remained to be seen, but he could bring a good many people to speak in support of his claim. If they considered his claim with unbiased and unprejudiced minds they would grant him what he was asking.

Bailie Duncan—I don't know exactly about your claim for absolute exemption. You have made a statement, but I cannot make very much of it.

Bailie Duncan—If everybody in the country took the same view of the situation, where would our country be?

Applicant—If everybody had the same views as I have there would be no war. The war would be finished directly.

Bailie Duncan—We have got a war. Everybody has not the same view as you, seeing so many of our fellow-countrymen have made the final sacrifice. Don't you think it is your duty as a man to go and fight for your country?

Applicant—I think it is my duty as a man to try as hard as I can to have peace.

Bailie Duncan—Is it not better to go and fight for it?

Applicant—All the peoples up against at present have put their consent or consideration on another without their consent or consideration.

Mr Wilkie—What do you mean when you say people have been forced to fight against their will when millions of free men have gone to fight? It has nothing to do with Scripture.

Applicant—No. It is on moral grounds that I based my claim.

WHAT IS SOCIALISM?
 Mr Wilkie—You must know that our Lord Himself was not against fighting.

Bailie Duncan—What is Socialism?

Applicant—Look at a dictionary and you

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was re-appointed auditor.

On the motion of Mr James Alexander, The Bent, the remuneration of the directors was raised from 40 to 50 guineas.

Satisfaction was expressed with the capable management of Mr J. M. Howie, the manager of the Mart. It was largely due to his energy and tact that the affairs of the Mart were in such a healthy and prosperous condition.

BRECHIN.
 The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Brechin Auction Mart, Ltd., was held in the Court Room, Brechin, on Tuesday last. Mr James Scott, solicitor, presided, and, in moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, which showed a debit balance of £280 17s 1d, said while they could not claim great satisfaction from it, they had no cause to be discouraged. In July last a trial balance had been made, which showed a substantial profit, and in January, when the final loss and profit account was made up, the credit balance, while it was not so good in proportion, showed their dividend and a substantial sum to be carried forward. Unfortunately, in addition to this, they had something else, and the directors, after giving very careful consideration to the whole position, came to the decision to write off every bad and doubtful debt, with the result that they now knew exactly where they stood.

Dealing with the different items in the account, the chairman pointed out that commissions stood pretty much where they did last year, although the commissions and fees on outside sales were about £120 down. This, however, was only to be expected owing to the changes that had taken place and the directors were quite satisfied that would come all right yet. Mr W. L. Spalding, seconded, and a number of questions having been answered, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr J. B. McNab, of Keithock, and Mr W. L. Spalding of Balconnel were unanimously re-elected directors, and Mr F. A. Ferguson, solicitor, auditor.

DURRIS.
SCHOLASTIC APPOINTMENT.—The Durriss School Board held a special meeting at Mr Marr's, Kirkton, for the purpose of selecting an assistant teacher for Woodlands School. From a number of applicants, the Board selected Miss Ledingham from Sutherland, a native of Echt, for the situation. Rev. R. Sharp presided in the chairman's absence.

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These images are from one large newspaper article, they are to be read as indicated, column 1 then column 2

Mearns Leader 24 March 1916

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Bundle 1

— BE SURE TO VISIT —
Francesco D'Agostino,
TOBACCONIST & CONFECTIONER,
**35 BARCLAY STREET,
30 & 92 ALLARDICE STREET,
STONEHAVEN.**

DAINTY CHOCOLATE BOXES.
Great Variety. They make Seasonable Presents.
Mearns Leader 10 December 1915

IN MEMORIAM.

D'AGOSTINO. — At Barclay Street, Stonehaven, on 30th October, 1915, Filomena, wife of Francesco D'Agostino, aged 48 years.

Dearest mother, how we've missed you,
In the year that's just rolled by;
Since you left us sad and lonely,
For a home up in the sky.

Ever remembered.

—Inserted by her Husband and Family.

Mearns Leader 3 November 1916

F. D'AGOSTINO'S

FOR
CONFECTIONS AND ICES,
FRUIT WINES, CIGARS AND
CIGARETTES.

AMERICAN SODA FOUNTAIN.

Shops at

35 Barclay Street,
30 and 92 Allardice Street,
and Promenade.

Mearns Leader 25 July 1919

AN ITALIAN'S CLAIM.

Mr M'Kenzie, advocate, Aberdeen, represented a claim for conditional exemption on behalf of Dominic D'Agostino, who was 19 years of age, and single. It was explained that the lad's father had three shops open at the present time and should the lad be exempted he would do his best to keep a fourth one open at the beach in the summer time. It was a good many years since the lad's father had come to Stonehaven, and he had been accounted a respectable man, who had conducted his business in a respectable manner. He had three shops, and a fourth outside the village.

A Member—The village? (Laughter).

Mr M'Kenzie — I beg your pardon, the town. (Renewed laughter). Continuing, he said that the rental of applicant's shops amounted to no less a sum than £66. It was impossible for him to carry on all his shops unless he got this lad exempted. That would mean a loss to the town. The lad was not strong, and had only passed for garrison duty abroad.

Baillie Maitland—I move that he get conditional exemption.

Councillor Wilkie—I second that.

The Provost moved that the decision of the Advisory Committee, that the application

Mearns Leader 10 November 1916

any statements upon the subject are usually made more or less at random, and are therefore unreliable and rather apt to mislead the general public. The saying of the Apostle James that "faith without works is dead" is full of significance in these times.

—I am, yours faithfully,

HECTOR WALLACE SMITH.

51 Ann Street,
Edinburgh, 25th March, 1916.

STONEHAVEN CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MEARNS LEADER."]

Sir,—In your Round the County Town notes last week you publish a few rather disparaging remarks regarding the conscientious objector who appeared before the local Tribunal. You state that he made anything but a noble figure as he stood before the Tribunal, pleading not to be sent out to fight the enemies of his country. Such a remark is, in my opinion, highly unfair. The young man in question did not cut a more ignoble figure than the rest of the men of military age who were present. His plea was, of course, on a different basis, but I don't see that that put him on a different footing from the others. All those who appeared before the Tribunal were in the same category. All were wanting an exemption, and it is no alteration of any of their positions to say that this one's claim

Mearns Leader 31 March 1916

ITALIAN LADY'S DEATH.—The death occurred at her residence in Barclay Street, Stonehaven, on Sunday morning last of an Italian lady who is well known in the burgh—the wife of Francesco D'Agostino, confectioner and tobacconist. The deceased lady, who was of a quiet and genial disposition, took rather ill some three months ago, and, despite the fact that everything possible was done for her, she passed away at the age of 48 years. Her husband, who is well known locally, first became connected with the burgh fully 20 years ago, and has since then built up a flourishing business connection, having no fewer than four shops in all within the burgh. Deceased was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, and was buried in Cowie Churchyard on Tuesday, when Father Thomson conducted the obsequies.

Mearns Leader 15 November 1915

SIGNOR F. D'AGOSTINO, CONFECTIONER, Etc.

For variety and quality in boxes of chocolate none of us could be better advised than to visit the shops of Signor F. D'Agostino, confectioner, Barclay Street. They are dainty, picturesque, and at a very reasonable price. Then in his premises we are also sure of getting good cigarettes, tobaccos, cigars, etc., etc. His shops both in Allardice Street and in Barclay Street have a prosperous and inviting appearance and deserve patronage. As a maker of delicious ice-creams, too, Signor D'Agostino is deservedly famous.

Mearns Leader 24 December 1915

THE MEARNS LEADER, FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1916.

Stonehaven Military Tribunal.

The County Clerk and his Cashier.

Application Again Refused.

Solicitor Given Temporary Exemption.

Practically two hours and a half were taken up by the Stonehaven Military Tribunal on Tuesday evening last, when a large number of important claims came up for decision. The case around which most of the discussion centred was that in respect of Henry Smart Taylor, cashier, employed by Mr John Falconer, county clerk, and claimed by his employer as indispensable.

Provost Greig presided over the Tribunal, the members of which were Bailies Macland and Duncan, and Councillors Milne and Wilkie. Major James Allan, Stonehaven, was present as military representative, while Mr D. C. Dooch acted as clerk of the Tribunal.

In support of his application in respect of his cashier, Mr Falconer read letters from men whom he claimed had certain knowledge regarding the work transacted in a county clerk's office, stating that Taylor was, in their opinion, indispensable.

The military representative recommended that the second application be refused, but that the man be not called up until the 31st August.

Mr Falconer then went on to explain that the work which Taylor had to do was of a very technical character, and, therefore, very difficult to explain. At the Appeal Tribunal at Aberdeen it had been suggested that he (Mr Falconer) might have advertised and thus obtained a substitute. In fact one suggestion was that at the beginning of the war had he taken in someone of non-military age he would now have had a competent cashier; but he did not think that he could be blamed if he did not understand that the war was to last for two years.

Councillor Wilkie—Kitchener told you it was to last three years.

Mr Falconer—Yes, but the majority did not believe him.

A "SILLY" SUGGESTION.

Continuing, Mr Falconer said that to any one who really understood the nature of the work that suggestion about advertising for another man was simply silly, but to demonstrate the fact he had advertised in every important paper in Scotland. He did not want to frighten men away, and had, therefore, merely asked in his advertisement for a man to do County Council work, but he did not get a single application with any qualification at all. One of the applicants had been a cement tester in a cement works, and seemed to consider that a sufficient qualification for a County Council office. (Laughter.)

There had been another suggestion, proposed by Mr Falconer, which had been made at the Appeal Tribunal, and that was that none of the man's brothers were serving. But he (Mr Falconer) did not consider that objection relevant, as the application was not made by Taylor at all, but by the County Council and himself as his employer. He held also that Taylor was in a certified employment.

The Chairman—You did not mention in your application what was the nature of the certificate you wish.

Mr Falconer said he had left that an open question. He did not want absolute exemption. He agreed with the military representative that no one should get absolute exemption.

Major Allan—He is not an accountant, I suppose?

Mr Falconer—He is not a chartered accountant.

Some discussion ensued as to the position of such men on the certified list.

Mr Falconer—He is appointed and paid by me.

on any remarks which would influence anyone's judgment.

The Chairman asked the Tribunal to allow Mr Falconer to deliver his statement.

Continuing, Mr Falconer stated that Taylor had been medically examined recently, and had been passed for sedentary work abroad.

The Chairman—We have nothing to do with that.

Mr Falconer—I think it is worthy of consideration, and I submit it.

Major Allan—Is it sedentary work abroad?

Mr Falconer—Yes.

Major Allan—That is pretty high, then. It is better than sedentary work at home.

EVERY FIT MAN GONE.

Mr Falconer—Every fit man in my office has myself has gone. My office, I think, has done as well, if not probably better, than any in the town, notwithstanding the fact that it has the largest amount of public work, which is a certified occupation.

Major Allan—How do you make that out if he is not employed by the County Council?

Mr Falconer—I am employing him. He is at a certified occupation as my clerk.

Major Allan—You admitted that he did not come under the County Council at all.

Bailie Duncann—Is it the case, Mr Falconer, that you have got two girls quite capable of undertaking this work of Mr Taylor's?

Mr Falconer said he had got one girl who could no doubt undertake it with a year's training. She, however, had important work in her own department to do. She would be working in his office until 10 o'clock that night.

Bailie Duncann—You cannot possibly do without Mr Taylor?

Mr Falconer said that the local administration of the county would be rather seriously handicapped if Mr Taylor had to go.

Councillor Milne asked if Mr Falconer had ever tried to train someone.

Mr Falconer said there were only 32 County Council offices in Scotland, and they were all working short handed at present.

Councillor Milne—Have you tried in your own office to train anybody that might be a substitute?

Mr Falconer said his office was not like a commercial office. Some of the work in his office was done only once a year, and it took a long time, therefore, to train a man.

Councillor Milne—You know the job thoroughly yourself, don't you?

Mr Falconer—I am not a cashier. I dare say I could do Mr Taylor's work, but I would take three times as long to do it.

Councillor Milne—You must certainly know the job before you could carry it on.

Mr Falconer—I know it in that way, but I am no cashier.

Councillor Milne said that many a business man had to do the whole of his work himself since the war began.

Mr Falconer—I am already doing two men's work. Continuing, he said he could not do all his own work. There were a great many things that were not done that ought to be done.

NOBODY INDISPENSABLE.

Councillor Wilkie—I hold that nobody is indispensable.

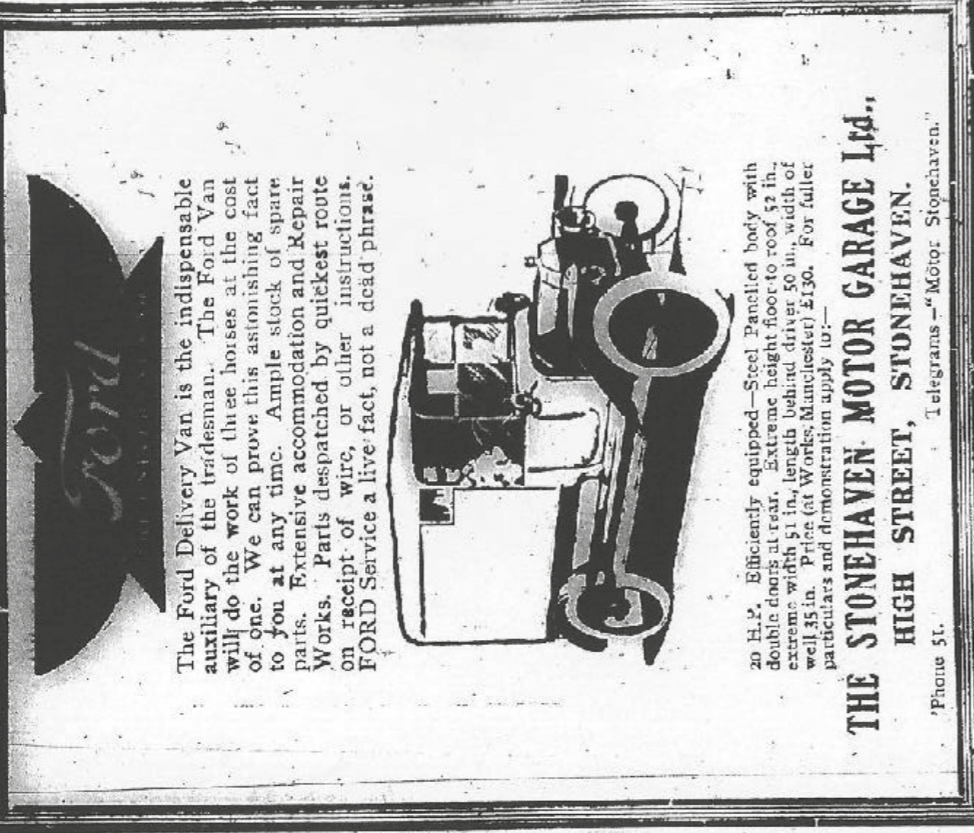
Further, Mr Wilkie said he had got a boy of the tender age of 15 who was doing most responsible work in his office.

Major Allan—You submit that there is no hardship to Mr Taylor.

Mr Falconer said Taylor would have stood at once, but he advised him not to. He had always been a strong advocate (Mr Falconer was) of military service.

In answer to Major Allan, Mr Falconer said he had at present two boys and four girls in his office.

Major Allan—At the time war was de-



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was sufficient to justify conditional exemption being granted in his case. Mr Gardner in answer to Major Allan, Mr Gardner said he had to do the duties of cashier and auditor for the firm.

The Provost—I am inclined to give Mr Gardner a little latitude.

Bailie Macland—I thought the military representative's recommendation should be upheld.

Councillor Wilkie thought it was a most difficult matter. Here was Mr Falconer with his brother away, and Mr Taylor refused exemption. There were three heads of Mr Gardner's firm.

It was agreed to give temporary exemption for six months.

Mr Wm. Gardner, solicitor, Stonehaven, appeared on behalf of Mr Mulleh, old iron dealer, Old Town, Stonehaven, who applied for exemption for William J. Maillen (18), who carried on the business for his father (the applicant). Mr Gardner submitted that the business was of national importance at the present time, when iron was so much wanted for shell making.

The military representative recommended that the application be refused, but that the man be not called up until 1st August.

Major Allan—What class of shells are made out of old iron?

Mr Gardner further stated that applicant was an old soldier himself, but his state of health made it impossible for him to carry on the business alone.

Bailie Duncann—What would happen if the lad would leave his father and go somewhere else?

Mr Gardner—I could not say. He has never left his father.

The recommendation of the military representative was upheld.

FIVE BROTHERS SERVING.

Mr George Sinclair, tobacconist and hairdresser, applied for exemption for John Watson (18), who was his only practical hairdresser. He (applicant) was not a hairdresser himself, and would, therefore, have to close down this department of his business if Watson were taken away.

The military representative recommended that the application be refused, but that the man be not called up until 30th September.

Mr Wm. Gardner, who also appeared for applicant, stated that Watson had four brothers serving with the colours. They were

Wm. Horn, solicitor, of Messrs Conno and Horn, solicitors, was granted conditional exemption until Lieut. Cannon's return from military service.

An appeal from Mr Ingram grocer, with respect to Robert Spark, journeyman grocer, was refused, the man not to be called up until the 30th September.

Robert Johnston, apprentice mason in ginner, was given temporary exemption for 12 months.

The application with respect to George Gray, cashier in the Savings Bank, was postponed pending an inquiry as to the Bank's arrangements.

The harbourmaster (Mr Leiper) was given temporary exemption until 28th May 1917.

H. Dallas, butcher, refused, but not called up till 30th September.

Conditional exemption to F. D. Walker slater.

David Greig, baker, applied for exemption until 14th September for Hector Kvdi. Granted.

Similar applications were entered on behalf of A. Shepherd (36), and John Brew (46), bakers. Shepherd was granted three months and Brown till 28th November.

A. Porter (38), also a bread baker with Mr Greig, was granted temporary exemption until 28th November.

Moss Picking at Stonehaven NEEDLEWORK GUILD'S GOOD WORK.

The Stonehaven Needlework Guild has a great claim on the gratitude of the community for the excellent work they are doing in connection with the packing and preparation of sphagnum moss, which has been found so beneficial in connection with the treatment of war wounds. With an enthusiasm which is characteristic of ladies general and this organisation in particular they have taken up the work, and guarantee to supply 1000 bags per month for the authorities in Aberdeen.

HOW THE MOSS IS TREATED.

Now, 1000 bags per month is no light undertaking, and it is remembered, in all inquiries, before it is ready for use. First, all it has to be gathered in the mossy lands of the district, then laid out to dry on the moor or hillside. Next it is removed to the Drill Hall, Stonehaven, where it

Bundle 1

New County Analyst.

**DR TOCHER, ABERDEEN,
APPOINTED.**

At a meeting of the County Council of Kincardine held in the County Buildings, Stonehaven, on Thursday of last week — Sir Thomas Burnett, Bart. of Leys, in the chair—the chief business was the appointment of a public analyst for the county in room of the late Mr M'Dougall, Dundee.

Mr A. B. Nicolson of Glenbervie moved that Dr Tocher, Aberdeen, be appointed.

Provost M'Hardy, Banchory, seconded, and the Council agreed unanimously.

The question as to whether a retaining fee was to be paid, or whether the payment would be according to the actual experiments conducted, was remitted to the Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee recommended that for the year ending May 15, 1917, the contribution at the rate of 60 per cent. towards the salary of the tuberculosis officer be continued. So long as the officer was on military service, the payment by the Council would be only £30 per annum.

Approved.

The Chairman stated, with regard to the establishment of a local committee for the county under the Naval and Military War Pensions, etc., Act, that it was difficult to arrange a committee without getting it far too large and cumbersome to be at all workable. Those in charge of the matter, before calling together the special committee to which the arrangements had been entrusted, had written to the Statutory Committee of the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation, asking whether it was likely to approve of a committee as constituted by them, but no answer had been received. As soon as an answer came, the committee would meet, and formulate its idea. The committee, with the Council's approval, would continue its correspondence with the Statutory Committee.

Agreed.

The Scottish Office intimated a grant of £29 3s 9d in respect of the expenditure incurred by the Council under the National Registration Act.

THE CLERK AND HIS CASHIER.

Mr John Falconer, county clerk, pointed out that his cashier had been refused absolute exemption both by the local Tribunal and by the Appeal Tribunal. It was impossible to do without a competent cashier, and he had very little hope of getting another. There were only 32 other County Councils in the whole of Scotland. All the staffs were working short-handed, and it would be difficult to get a man to take the job temporarily. In any case, a man would not come from a big office to a small one, even if the job were permanent.

The Chairman said that was an important matter and he recommended that they should remit it to the Finance Committee, in order that the committee might consider what would be done.

This course was agreed upon.

Mearns Leader 12 May 1916