

ON TRIAL FOR OPIUM SMUGGLING.

AUBURN, N. Y., Nov. 27.—The first of the famous opium smuggling cases was moved at the opening of the United States court this morning. The defendant is Erwin A. Gardner, who has been indicted for smuggling an aggregate of 3,500 pounds of opium, upon which the customs duty, at \$10 per pound, amounts to \$35,000. Gardner was once a Special Agent of the Government, when he acquired a full knowledge of the methods of the Customs Collectors. He was arrested in February while attempting to remove a sleighload of smuggled opium from Jefferson County for shipment West. The hidden storehouse of the smugglers was also found and 780 pounds of opium recovered. It was put up in half-pound cans. Gardner claimed to be a Government official working up a case. Officers searched his hiding place and unearthed an old tool chest, which must have been used in conveying opium across the St. Lawrence. It had compartments fitted to hold half-pound packages of opium in cans. Gardner was brought into court at 10 o'clock this morning. His eyes are weak, and he wore a bandage over them. Ex-Congressman Richard Crowley of Lockport appeared as his counsel. United States District Attorney Lockwood and Assistant District Attorney Hoyt represented the Government. A jury was obtained in an hour, and Assistant District Attorney Hoyt opened the case, relating the story of the smuggling as previously given. The first witness called for the Government was J. Chandler Houghton, a Special Agent of the Treasury Department. He testified to arresting Gardner and his cousin, Ephriam, at Redwood, and confiscating their trunks. He searched Ephriam's barn and found 780 pounds of opium concealed among bales of hay.

Four trunks of opium were brought into court and identified as the confiscated goods. Albert Rowland, Deputy Collector at Morristown, was with Houghton when he made the arrests, and corroborated his testimony.

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