

EX-EMPLOYEE OF OIL BRANCH JAILED, FINED

Hamilton, Jan. 17 (Staff).—The stiffest penalty to be imposed locally under the oil control regulations was imposed in special court this afternoon on Gregory Leith, 32, of Main St. E., former employee of the Hamilton regional office of the Oil Controller.

Magistrate James McKay sentenced Leith to nine months in jail and a fine of \$3,500. He will serve an additional 12 months if the fine is not paid. Leith admitted a charge of obstructing the Oil Controller. On a second charge of possessing unauthorized gasoline coupons, the accused was granted suspended sentence.

Leith, according to R.C.M.P. evidence, benefitted to the extent of \$3,020 from the sale of loose gasoline coupons. His lawyer, Orville M. Walsh, K.C., requested a suspended sentence and a fine to the amount he obtained, but J. P. O'Reilly, K.C., special prosecutor, stressed the gravity of the offense and the serious view taken of it by both the Oil Controller and the Minister of Justice.

The Right House Store was fined \$200 and costs for a technical breach of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regulations in respect to advertising. The fine was paid. Adam Zimmerman, who appeared for the firm and pleaded guilty, explained the error was made due to a change of personnel in the advertising department.

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