

they had so much money that they couldn't loan it out and because it wasn't earning money for them they shouldn't be taxed on it.

This was a different plea from the one they entered more than a year

ago when they claimed they didn't have any money; that the war in Europe was killing their profits and that all sorts of horrible things might happen if a heavy tax was "imposed."

## THERE'S A REASON FOR FIGHT ON FENDERS SAYS LAWYER IN SUIT ON MANDEL BROS.

The State street department stores are fighting the fender law. State street store managers in a body saw Mayor Thompson two weeks ago to ask his aid in killing the fender ordinance.

The department stores pay insurance which releases them from liability in personal injury suits. Fenders will not affect the cost of that insurance, but will add between \$50 and \$100 to the cost of the store auto trucks.

So State street is hot after the fender law. The question of safety is not considered.

Mandel Brothers is the second State street department store to be sued in the past week because a delivery auto maimed a young boy. Hillman's was hit by a suit because one of its autos crushed a youngster to death. Neither of the machines had fenders.

Now suit is filed against Mandel's, one of the stores in the Street Retail Merchants' ass'n which sent a bunch of department store managers to see the mayor about the fender ordinance which they are opposing.

Ten-year-old Amedia Bonneau of 3907 Harvard av. was hurrying home from the grocery store late in the afternoon on Feb. 10, 1914. As he darted across the street at Polk and Crawford av. an auto truck delivering parcels for Mandel Bros.' store bore down on him.

The boy afterward said he saw no lights on the auto and heard no bell. The heavy fenderless auto truck hit him. The auto bumper threw him up and as he fell one of the auto's lamps

struck him in the lower part of the abdomen.

For three months the youngster hovered between life and death in bed. His left elbow, shoulder and knee were hurt, his chest crushed and his abdominal organs had been bruised seriously. The doctors cut open his body and removed part of his intestines.

The boy recovered in a measure—just enough to get around and go to school part of the time. But some of the hurts which he suffered in his abdomen can never be remedied, the doctor says.

His father, Edward Bonneau, filed suit against Mandel Bros. and Att'y William A. Bither was retained.

"If the auto truck had been provided with a protecting fender," said Bithers, "the boy when struck would have been scooped up and carried along instead of being thrown up by the bumper.

"I have been active in the movement which finally got the council to pass the fender law without a dissenting vote and I know of the success of the fenders tested.

"It is a business proposition with the stores. They pay insurance to indemnity companies which hire shrewd lawyers to settle all personal injury claims. This takes the matter right out of the hands of the department stores.

"They have to pay insurance whether or not they buy fenders, so it is cheaper for them to try to kill the law than to get the safeguard. There are fenders passed by the inspecting engineers of the city which cost only \$40."