



Assault on an Ostler

County Petty Sessions

A man named James Hibberd was summoned for assaulting Frederick Leader, the ostler at the Green Dragon Inn, Barford St Martin.

The complainant stated that on the night of the 30th September the defendant was at the Green Dragon, and a little after half past ten o'clock the complainant told him it was shutting up time, upon which the defendant struck him in the face and knocked him over the table.

In reply to the Bench, Mr. Superintendent Matthews said the defendant (who did not appear) had upon two occasions been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for assaults, and he had also been imprisoned for poaching.

Lord Folkestone said that upon this occasion he must go for three months, but it was found that the Bench had only power to send him for two months, which his lordship remarked was a pity. The sentence was therefore reduced to two months; but Mr. Superintendent Matthews was instructed that for the future in cases of assault of this nature where the offender had previously been convicted, he would be better to be indicted at Quarter Sessions, when he could, if desirable, be sent to gaol for 12 months.

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