



Lamb Stealing at Sutton Veny

Wilts Quarter Sessions at Salisbury

An inebriated prisoner, Charles Trowbridge, 40, shepherd, was indicted for stealing at Sutton Veny, in the month of March last, nine lambs, the property of George Pickford, farmer, Longbridge Deverill; and George Ashby, 40, innkeeper, and William Franklin, 65, sheep dipper, were charged with receiving, the former 6, and the latter 3, of the lambs, well knowing them to have been stolen. Mr Lopes prosecuted; and Mr Parr appeared in the interest of Ashby, who, together with the other two prisoners, denied the charge

Franklin, on taking his place in the dock, was observed to be under the influence of liquor, and it was deemed necessary to allow the case to stand over for a brief period that the man might have an opportunity of recovering. In requesting the Governor of the gaol to go with Franklin to the cells and give him something to make him sober, the noble Chairman remarked that half a glass of vinegar would be a good antidote. It appeared to him that the man had taken advantage of his liberty on bail to come into the court drunk.

On the hearing of the case being subsequently proceeded with evidence was given showing that whilst shepherd to Mr Pickford, Trowbridge took the lambs and sold them to the other prisoners.

In cross-examination by Mr Parr the prosecutor said a custom prevailed in his district for the shepherds to sell over-plus lambs, and to take the money thus obtained as part payment for their services. It was, however, specially agreed between Trowbridge and himself that in their case this custom should not apply, and that the man's wages should be inclusive.

In addressing the jury on behalf of Ashby, Mr Parr urged that this prisoner purchased the lambs from Trowbridge in the full belief that he had the power to sell them, and that he was acting honestly.

Neither of the other prisoners offered observations to the jury, who returned a verdict of guilty against Trowbridge, and one of not guilty against Ashby and Franklin.

In discharging the two latter the noble Chairman said his own opinion was that they were worse than Trowbridge, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

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