



Drunk in Charge of a Horse and Cart

Police Court

At the Swindon Police Court on Monday Edgar Ellison of Pigeon House Farm, Stratton, was summoned for being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and cart in Corporation Street, Swindon, on April 4th. Defendant did not admit the offence.

P.C. Fort, who proved, said the defendant at the time was driving at the rate of 14 miles an hour. There were two other persons in the vehicle with him, and a female took the whip away from him. Observing the man's condition, and that he was not fit to be in charge of the horse, witness requested him to stop. The man did so, and got out, but staggered and could not walk properly without support. Defendant was drunk, and dangerous to himself and the public.

Inspector Giddings gave corroborative evidence as to the man's condition.

Defendant gave an absolute denial to the charge. The constable, he alleged, pushed him away from the horse after he had got out of the vehicle, and he complained that he was taken to the Police Station and kept there for four hours when, he said, he was quite capable of driving home. When he was allowed to go he found that he had to pay four shillings for having his horse and trap put up at an hotel (laughter). He denied that he had had more than three or four drops of whiskey that afternoon.

Henry Webber, insurance agent, of Stratton, was called by the defendant as a witness. Webber gave it as his opinion that if the defendant had been let alone he would have taken the horse home alright.

The Bench found the defendant guilty, and imposed a fine of 10s. and 4s. costs.

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