



Fraud Charges In Wilts. Against Bath Man

At Pewsey Petty Sessions yesterday, Henry Williams, described as a wholesale and retail potato merchant, carrying on business at the Railway Hotel, Bath, was brought up on remand charged with incurring debt or liability to obtain a grey mare, value £20, from Fred Axford Pinchin, licensee of the Wheatsheaf Inn, Figheldean, on September 2, and obtaining by the same means on September 8 a horse valued at £16, also the property of Mr. Pinchin, with intent to cheat and defraud.

There were further charges against accused of obtaining by false pretences from Edward Gilbert, farmer of Great Cheverell, a black mare, valued at £11 15s., on September 21, 1922; and a horse belonging to Frederick Lewis, farmer, of Rushall, of the value of £17 10s., five tons of potatoes, valued at £20, from John Fennell, Wild's Farm, Bromham.

There were further charges against Williams of the theft of a mare valued at £11, the property of Cecil Sawyer, haulier, of Fittleton, Netheravon, and clothes to the value of £1 5s. 11d. from Alfred Green, clothier, of the Market Place, Melksham.

Mr. W. H. Taylor prosecuted, and accused was represented by Mr. M. Henderson, of Swindon.

In the cases of the horses, prisoner was said to have taken the animals on credit, and to have failed either to pay for or return them. It was alleged that he represented himself as being in a big way of business at Bath, and produced bill-heads to support his statements.

John Fennell, with whom prisoner made a deal in potatoes, stated that a ton was delivered at the yard at the back of the Beehive Inn, Walcot Street, Bath. Prisoner failed to pay, and on one occasion while talking to witness outside Lloyds Bank in Green Street, Bath, pointed to the bank and said "That's my bank".

John Tucker, County Court bailiff at Bath, said that during the last 18 months he had received numerous executions to be levied on accused's goods, but he had nothing on which to levy.

Priscilla Baumann said she was tenant of 7, Railway Street, Bath. Williams had lodged at her house, but there were no facilities for carrying on a potato business.

On all the charges Williams was committed for trial at the Wiltshire Quarter Session, and the magistrates agreed to accept substantial bail.

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