



Alleged Poaching Charges Dismissed

Tisbury Petty Sessions

Thursday

Before Colonel F. S. Kennedy Shaw, C.B.E. (in the chair), Captain H. C. R. Brocklebank, R.N., Colonel J. Benett-Stanford, Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. Powell, D.S.O., and Mr. Tom Doggrell.

The Wrong Date

Henry V. Jay, of Ansty, and four lads whose ages ranged from nine years to seventeen years, were summoned at Tisbury Petty Sessions for poaching on land in the occupation of Mr. Robert Fisher Crouch, at Horwood Farm, Ansty, on October 15th. Three of the lads appeared and pleaded not guilty. Mr. W. P. Farnfield prosecuted and said that at 6.40 p.m. on October 15th, Mr. Goddard, who was in the employ of Mr. Crouch, saw the three defendants present, with a man and a boy, poaching on Mr. Crouch's land. Mr. Crouch had had a great deal of trouble with poachers and had brought these proceedings with a view to stopping it.

Edward Goddard said he was concealed in a clump of trees when he saw the man and the lads working a hedge. He got up to them and found they had seven rabbits and a ferret. The hedge was a wide one and part belonged to Mr. Crouch and part to Mr. Jeffrey. Defendants said they had permission to be there from Mr. Jeffrey.

Mr. Crouch said the hedge where defendants were found was his property and he had the sporting rights over it.

The three lads who appeared said they were not on Mr. Crouch's land on the night in question; they were at home playing darts.

Mr. Goddard re-called, said it was October 3rd when he saw accused on the land, and not on October 15th.

The lads pleaded guilty to an offence on October 3rd and it was pointed out that sunset at that date was 5.40 p.m. and night poaching did not commence until an hour later.

The Bench dismissed the summonses.

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