



Crime News

Bishopstone

1881

Charge of Stealing a Rein

John New, 15, labourer, of Ashbury, was charged with stealing check rein, the property of Mr. Thomas Hickman, of Bishopstone, on the 21st August. Mr Boodle defended.

Mr. Hickman said he missed a new rein from a set of harness at the farm, and he informed the police of the fact. The defendant was working about the farm for Mr. Wheeler, of Wantage, who was repairing the buildings. On the 1st September the defendant went to the residence of P.C. Read and asked him if he had not been enquiring about him in connection with the rein, adding that he had the rein in his pocket, and that he (the constable) might have it. He accounted for its possession by stating that three weeks previously he and Jesse Shearman were near the True Heart Inn when a tall man with a waggon and horses sold it him for 6s.

The man Shearman denied all knowledge of any such transaction.

Mr Boodle, for the defence, contended that there was no evidence at all of felony. If the Bench thought otherwise he asked them to inflict a small fine and not send the lad to prison.

Fined 5s. and £1 15s. 10d. costs.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 12 September 1881