



Fowl Unfit for Sale 1939

A summons against a Wiltshire poultry farmer respecting unfit fowls being exposed for sale in Bath Cattle Market occupied the attention of Bath magistrates for about an hour and a half on Tuesday.

Defendant was Walter Wilfred Hughes, poultry dealer, Bremhill, Calne, and he was summoned for permitting to be exposed for sale on Oct 11th six fowls when owing to illness, it was likely to cause unnecessary suffering to the birds. The

offence was not admitted.

George Harold Howarth, Inspector of the RSPCA, said the fowls were seen in Bath Cattle Market with wings hanging, heads drooped, and looking in a thoroughly dejected condition. There was a discharge from the nostrils. The attention of PC Hughes was directed to them, and Mr Hardy, veterinary surgeon, at once ordered them to be destroyed they being totally unfit for exposure for sale owing to disease. They were suffering from coccidiosis. Defendant was seen by himself and Inspt. Earl on the following day at Devizes, where he made a statement.

Apart from the cruelty of exposing those fowls for sale, there was also the danger of spreading disease.

Witnesses for the prosecution included Inspt. Albert Earl, PC Hughes, Charles Edward Weeks (Superintendent of Bath Markets) and Mrs Lucy Elgie 3 Hill View, Charlcombe.

The last witness said she knew nothing about fowls, but thought that as fowls were exposed for sale in the market they would be all right. They were knocked down to her at 4s 9d each by defendant. She would not have had them in her possession if she knew there was anything wrong with them. She had not had her money back.

Defendant, on oath, said there was nothing visibly wrong with the fowls. Had he seen anything wrong he would never have put them in the market. Had anything been obviously wrong with the fowls it would have been pointed out by the inspector during the morning.

Hughes was fined £2 10s with costs amounting to £2 10s 6d.

He said he could pay 2s per week, but was sharply told by the chairman that that was only trifling with the matter.

He was ordered to pay 10s weekly.

Mr F D Wadle (in the chair), Mrs H C Tillard and Mr R H Green-Armytage were the magistrates.

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