



3 Charged With Assault

Thomas Fryer, alias Clark, Henry Lee and W. Chandler, were indicted for unlawfully conspiring and agreeing not to work for certain wages and for unlawfully assaulting William Barnes and George Abrahams, for the purpose of hindering them from pursuing their lawful occupations, at Warminster, to which the prisoners pleaded not guilty.

William Barnes stated that he had been working on the railway between Warminster and Salisbury and that on the 6th of February the prisoners, who had also been working on the line, went away on a "spree," and left the horses which they had been driving. He took one of the horses and during the day in question about 25 persons came on the works and commenced making a disturbance. Lee came up and knocked him down and some other person struck him after he was on the ground.

He went to the George Inn, at Codford in the evening and was just on the point of going to bed, when Lee and Clark came into the room and assaulted him in such a manner that he was unable to work for several days.

Charles Hayward deposed that he was engaged as time-keeper on the Salisbury and Warminster line and he recollected the 6th of February last. He was on the line at Stockton, when there was a disagreement between the men. He saw the prisoners there; saw Lee knock Barnes down and heard Chandler urging him to proceed with the beating he was giving him. He was afterwards at the George Inn, at Codford and believed Lee knocked Barnes down from the club-room. The other prisoners were also taking a prominent part in the proceedings. When the disturbance took place on the works Clark said of he caught the man who was driving his horse he would beat his brains out.

George Abrahams stated that he was at work on the railway on the 6th of February and that he saw the prisoner son the line on that day, in company with many other persons. He believed they had struck for wages. Lee came up and struck him and several of the other men incited him to further violence. Clark then rushed up and knocked him down and afterwards jumped on him. Chandler stood by and said, "Give it to him."

Clark also took hold of his hair and beat his head violently on the ground. They left him senseless and when he recovered the prisoners were about 80 yards from him and he heard Clark say if he caught him driving the horse to the stable he would kill him.

The Jury found the prisoners guilty of conspiracy, and the learned Judge sentenced Lee and Fryer to 6, and Chandler to 4 calendar months' imprisonment.

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