

# Crime and Punishment

*Hankerton*



## **Trial of Maurice Golding**

Maurice Golding, labourer, of Hankerton, was summoned by Charles West, gamekeeper to Mr William Rainger, charged with being on lands the property of Mr Rainger in search of rabbits. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

PC George Cook, stationed at Charlton, deposed that on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, about nine o'clock, he was on duty at Gossy Downs, when he saw a dog come through the hedge. He stopped there several minutes, and saw Maurice Golding cross the fields with the dog. He went into Mr Rainger's field with the dog, and then into a third field. Witness saw the dog following a rabbit for about 30 yards. Witness went up to defendant, who asked what he had been watching him for. After some questioning, witness threw him down and searched him, and in his coat pocket found a net and a wire.

Defendant said he didn't go two yards out of the path, and was going to get watercresses for his sister in London, but he thought it would be wrong if he crossed the fields, and he turned back and met the policeman.

Fined 1s and 12s 6d costs.

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