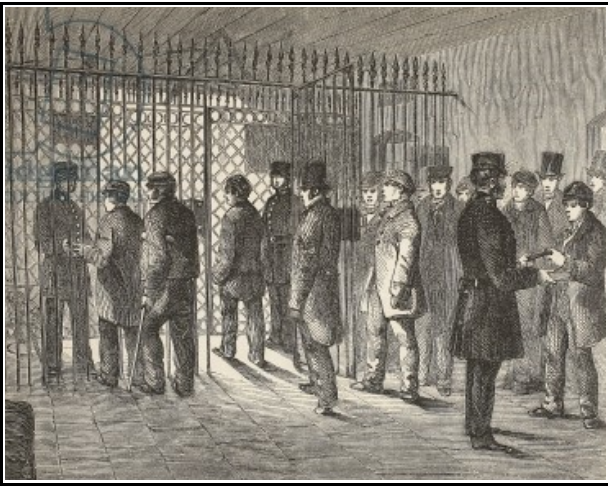


# Crime and Punishment

*Hankerton*



## **Trial of William Wilkins, John Wilkins and William Frayling**

William Wilkins, John Wilkins and William Frayling, labourers, of Malmesbury, were summoned by George Branstone, farmer, of Hankerton Field Farm, charged with committing a breach of contract, by which he claimed 15s.

The two Wilkins's did not appear, and Frayling pleaded not guilty. It appeared the three men were engaged, on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, to help with the threshing machine --- to carry away the straw. There was nothing said about wages and beer. W Wilkins came to him about nine o'clock and asked for a supply of cider. He told him the machine would stop at ten and then he would have some. The men struck work in the middle of the day and refused to go on. He told them if they did not go on, he should have to fetch his men in from the field, where he had seven horses ploughing. This he was obliged to do, and he claimed 5s from each defendant as damages for loss of time on the land through his men having to do their work. Frayling pleaded there was no contract, as plaintiff had no business to pay them 1s 3d each for half a day's work and then tell them he was independent of them.

The Chairman said they had been engaged for a day's work and had broken their engagement by only doing half a day, thereby putting the plaintiff to a great inconvenience. Frayling would be fined 10s 6d, including expenses, and the other two defendants 13s.

Western Daily Press Friday 9 November 1888