



Geese Injured by Dog

Warminster, County Court, Monday

Before his Honour Judge Caillard. The only case that came before the judge was a claim by Daniel Pickford, farmer of Crockerton, against Harry Parker, of the same village, for £2, for injury to certain geese by defendant's dog. Plaintiff, and defendant's father-in-law Thomas Ranger, to whom he acts as manager, occupy fields adjoining each other, and Pickford's geese occasionally find their way into Ranger's field. On the 5th July about thirty geese flew into Ranger's field and Parker went for them with a carriage whip and a dog. In driving them out it was alleged by plaintiff that one goose got its wing broken, another had its leg torn by the dog, two were afterwards found dead, and one has since been missing.

Defendant went and saw the geese two days after, at plaintiff's request. At that time only one dead bird had been found, and for this defendant offered to pay, but not for those injured. Defendant's contention was that his dog only killed one bird for which he was willing to pay - in fact 5s. had been paid into court - and that the others were injured by being chased by plaintiff's own heifers; a witness named Hobbs said he had repeatedly seen the heifers chasing them. Mr. Jones of Bradford, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. Ames, of Frome, for defendant, and after hearing the evidence and the arguments of the pleaders, his Honour said he considered the injury had been caused by defendant's dog, and entered judgement for plaintiff for 35s. and costs. A counter-claim by defendant for damage to the grass by the geese, was disallowed, his Honour pointing out that as defendant was not the occupier of the land, but his father-in-law, he could not sue.

Salisbury Times, Friday, 26 October 1894