



# Crime and Punishment

## *Minety*

### Claims Court

Abram Young Brown v John Nells

At the County Court, on Tuesday, before Judge Ellicott, Abram Young Brown, of Skew Bridge, Minety, sued John Nells, farmer, of the village, for £6, hire of a hay presser from May 26 to November 15. Mr Pridham (Swindon) appeared for the defendant.

Plaintiff alleged that in May last defendant came to him and was in want of a hay press to carry out a Government contract and truss a rick of hay. Plaintiff showed him one, and offered to sell it to him. Defendant did not buy, and later (on 28<sup>th</sup> May), while plaintiff was away at market, defendant brought a horse and cart and without permission took the press away and used it to truss a rick of hay. He kept it until November 15, 1915, about six months, and brought it back, later rendering an account showing that the rick trussed was 8 tons 1¼ cwt, and enclosed 4s 9d for hire., being at 7d per ton.

Defendant contended that the machine was very defective and absolutely unsafe, and he had plaintiff's permission to take it away whenever he required it.

His Honour reviewed the evidence on both sides, and held that there had been unreasonable detention on the part of the defendant, and he gave judgement for £3 10s.

Defendant's application for leave to appeal was declined.

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