



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Claims Court

Taylor and Sons v Charles Clements

At Malmesbury County Court on Saturday Messrs Taylor and Sons, printers, Minety, sued Charles Clements, of Clarence-square, Cheltenham, for £19 1s 3d and costs for goods delivered.

Clements pleaded inability to pay, and in reply to the Judge said he was salesman for cattle cakes and food on commission, the income from which was not much.

The Judge said that depended on his ability, and the district covered by him was a very good one.

Debtor said he was previously a bookmaker on his own and also in partnership.

The Judge: Well, the flat season opens on Monday week and there will be thousands of "flats" to be caught. Do you agree with me?

Clements: Yes. Of the thousands who bet, none can beat the book, and I have had ten years' experience.

Edward Ernest Taylor told the Judge that Clements had been given every opportunity to pay the debt, but he would not. It was not that he could not pay, it was a matter of stubborn obstinacy. He lived in his own four-storied house situate in one of the best residential districts in Cheltenham, worth £80 a year, his earnings at least would be £5 weekly, and he let part of the house to paying guests; his youngest child was 12 years old.

Taylor asked for immediate payment. If bookmakers always won, how was it that Clements, with 10 years experience, was in his present position?

The Judge said there were orders against Clements in the Cheltenham Court, and the order would be for £1 a month; if the plaintiff could get more information he would vary the order.

The Judge added that he had never "backed" a horse in his life, and never would, unless he became mentally affected.

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