



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Court Case

Frederick Woodward

Frederick Woodward (19), a gipsy, was, at Malmesbury Police Court, sent to prison for six months for assaulting Police-Sergeant Mortimer, six months for unlawfully wounding Inspector H Edwards, and four months for fowl stealing at Minety.

The offences arose from Mr Herbert Clarke, farmer, Minety, seeing four gipsies coming from one of his fowl houses with their arms full of fowls, most of which had had their necks pulled out.

They dropped the fowls and ran away when the farmer fired a gun in the air. The farmer accompanied the police officers to a gipsy encampment at Oaksey crossroad, where he picked out the four men.

When the police attempted to arrest them, in the words of Inspector Edwards, "A general melee ensued in which the whole encampment appeared to take part, and the defendants absconded."

It was alleged Wood struck Sergeant Mortimer and threw a block of wood at the Inspector, which hit him in the face and caused his absence from duty for a fortnight.

At the close of the case Supt A W Sadler, on behalf of the Wiltshire police, publicly thanked PC Tripper and the Derbyshire police for arresting Woodward four months after the offence had been committed.

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