



Tearing a Horse's Tongue

At the County petty Sessions, Salisbury, on Tuesday, before Mr. H. J. F. Swayne (in the chair), Colonel Everett, and Mr. J. A. Tyndale Powell.

Frank Foyle and William Jacob, both in the employ of Mr. Josiah Read, farmer, of Charlton, were summoned at the instance of Inspector Smuin, R.S.P.C.A., for cruelly ill-treating a gelding, the property of Mr. Reed, at Nunton, on the 9th of December.

Henry Weeks said that Foyle had a horse attached to a dung cart, and as he could not get the animal to back he took hold of it by the tongue, whilst Jacob hit it with the handle of a whip. Weeks afterwards noticed that there was something wrong with the horse as it could not eat the hay he offered it, and he also noticed a quantity of blood about its mouth.

John Blake, a carter, deposed to feeding the horse before it went out in the morning, and it was then all right. He afterwards spoke to Foyle, who admitted putting his hand into the horse's mouth, but said he did not know he had hurt it so severely.

Mr. C. V. Read, son of Josiah Read, said on the 19th December he went to see the horse at Nunton, in accordance with his father's request. He found its tongue was very much swollen, and that it was unable to eat. It was taken to Charlton, but could not be worked for eight days. The tongue was nearly torn from the bottom of the mouth, the wound being about three inches long.

Inspector Smuin said when he examined the animal he found its tongue nearly twice its natural size. The membrane attaching the tongue to the bottom of the mouth was torn to the extent of from three to four inches, the hole under the tongue being large enough to enable him to place three fingers. The animal was unable to eat.

Jacob denied all knowledge of the injury, and the case against him was dismissed, but Foyle was fined 10s and the costs, the Chairman stating that, although the case was a cruel one, the magistrates did not consider that the man's conduct had been so deliberate as was the case with some other of the charges which had come before them.

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