



# Crime and Punishment

*Oaksey*

## **Court Case**

### **William Gardner**

Tuesday, (Before the County Magistrates, Colonel Perry Keene and Major Luce).

William Gardner, a labourer, of Oaksey, was charged with stealing a shovel the property of Albert Hiscock, at Minety, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

The prisoner was at work on the farm, harvesting a field of wheat, on the day in question, and a shovel was seen safe in the bulls' house about eight o'clock in the morning, shortly after which time it was missed. Search and inquiry were made for it, but it could not be found. The servant girl, named Lawford, happening to hear of the loss on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> inst., told her master that on Monday, about half-past two o'clock, she was standing on the garden wall picking plums, and saw the prisoner going down the road with a shovel in his right hand. She now gave this evidence before the bench, and Mr Hiscock stated that the prisoner never brought a shovel to the farm and had no occasion to use one in his work.

The bench considered this was scarcely sufficient evidence to convict. The police having intimated that there was a possibility of the shovel being found and traced to the prisoner, the bench ordered him to enter into recognizances to appear and further answer to the charge within 14 days, if called upon.

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