



Stanley Hector Jones

Damages of £2623 6s 8d were awarded to Mr Stanley Hector Jones, of Bath Road, Seend, Wilts, a motor cyclist, against Mr Thomas Beaver of St John's Lane, Bedminster, Bristol at Bristol Assize yesterday. Mr Commissioner Clark, KC, said the case arose out of an accident on the Melksham-Devizes road on May 20 1948, when Jones was riding a motorcycle and Beaver was driving a motorcar.

“According to the plaintiff,” said the Commissioner, “there was a lorry coming towards him on its proper side of the road. He took no particular notice of it, but as he was passing it he saw the defendant's car 20 or 30 yards behind drawing out apparently with the intention of overtaking the lorry. “The defendant's case is there was no lorry there at all. A collision took place in which the plaintiff's cycle was struck a glancing blow along its off-side, and the plaintiff was thrown off it and suffered injuries in respect of which he now claims damages”. The plaintiff's case, said the Commissioner, was that these injuries were caused by the defendant's negligence.

Beaver said that the swerve which his car took was due to a breakdown in the steering gear - “His case is that there was a crack in one end of what is known as the track bar. “I am unable to accept the defendant's version of the accident. I find that the accident occurred as described by the plaintiff, that is, by the defendant drawing out on to the plaintiff's side of the road in order to overtake, or with the intention of overtaking the motor lorry in front of him.”

Jones was described by his employer as having been a good and experienced workman. He now had a permanently stiff knee. It was not yet known if treatment to the right arm would be successful. If not, the arm would be almost useless, permanently.

Special damages, said the Commissioner, had been agreed at £623 6s 8d. General damages of V2000 would be granted.

Western Daily Press Saturday 26 November 1949