



COUNTY PETTY SESSIONS

Monday

Thomas ALDER and Alfred ANDREWS both of Stratton St. Margaret, who were bailed out from the previous Monday, were charged, the former with sealing five sacks of barley meal and two-thirds of a rack of poultry meal, all the property of A. and E. Haynes, of Stratton Mills, during September. Charles JOHNSON was charged with receiving two sacks of barley meal with the knowledge that they were stolen. – Mr H. Bevir prosecuted.

The case against Adler was first taken, and Mr Albert Haynes was first called. Alder, he said, was in his service as a carter, and the stuff sent out from the mill was entrusted to defendant when put in the cart. On Sept 12th there was no record in the mill book of the purchase by a man named Andrews to two sacks of meal, In consequence of certain happenings, witness, with P.C. Bullock, went to Andrews' premises on Sept. 16th and found barley meal of his in a sack such as would have been sent out on Sept. 12th. In the book there was an entry for Sept. 14th for 15 sacks of meal for Mr Cox, of Badbury. On the invoice book for this particular order the figures "15" were altered to "12." Instead of being handed to the clerk, the receipt had been put straight on to the file and did not go through the office in the ordinary way.

James G. Day, a boy, of Stratton St. Margaret, said he remembered the evening of Sept. 12th, when he was at Stratton Cross Roads. He saw Alder there driving a waggon belonging to Mr Haynes. Defendant gave him a ride in the waggon which was being driven towards Stratton. Witness asked defendant if he was not going the wrong way, the defendant replied: "No I've got to call at Mr Andrews' and deliver some meal." Witness remained in the waggon until they arrived at Andrews', where two sacks of meal were taken out, one by Alder and one by Andrews.

Egbert Rickette, miller at Stratton Mill, said ne had no entry in the mill book for Sept. 12 for two sacks of meal for Andrews. He received the order for Mr Cox from the office and the 15 sacks were put aside, together with the tickets. When witness returned from dinner these sacks had been taken out. – Cross-examined: witness was sure there were 15 and not 12 sacks set aside.

William Cox, butcher, of Badbury, said he gave an order to Mr Haynes for 15 sacks. He was at home when the order was delivered by defendant. He altered the delivery ticket and the receipt for 15 to 12 sacks, and witness said there was not enough meal in the mill to bring the full amount.

This concluded the case against Alder, and defendant admitted taking the two sacks of meal but not 3 sacks.

Andrews and Johnson were then put in the box.

Mr Bevir said the position was that Mr Haynes was carrying on a large milling business, and Alder and Andrews, two employees, had barley meal in their possession and were dealing with it, especially as regarded the case against Johnson, at a very low price.

Mr Haynes said he kept 300 pigs, and it was Andrews' business to feed them, receiving the meal from the mill. On Sept. 10th witness went to Andrews' house and found a quantity of meal there. Andrews had no right at all for the meal to be there, neither had he any right to sell meal. Witness found at the house two racks of meal, some toppings and a quantity of poultry corn, all belonging to him. Witness went to Johnson's house and found a sack of

barley meal and some loose meal, also his property. There were also two empty sacks. Some conversation took place, and Johnson said he bought the meal from Andrews at 12s a sack, and that he had had seven sacks. He also admitted that he had sold several sacks to a man named Lewis at 12s a sack.

Johnson protested that he did not know but what the meal was obtained by fair means, and said Andrew, told him he was dealing with a man at Gorse Hill.

P.C. Bullock said that when they went to Andrews' premises, they found two sacks of barley meal, part of another, a quantity of toppings, a full sack of poultry corn, part of another, and some Indian corn. Andrews was not at home at the time. Johnson came to the house whilst witness was there, and witness said to him, "This is where you have been buying your barley meal." Johnson replied that he had bought a good bit, about seven or eight sacks, and he had one at his home at the time. Witness asked him the price, and he replied he had been paying 12s a sack. Mr Haynes then identified the meal, and witness took possession of it. At Johnsons' house witness found one full sack of meal, some loose meal in an old churn, and two empty sacks. Witness suggested that Johnson had been selling some of the meal to Lewis, and Johnson admitted that he had. Witness had actually seen Johnson taking sacks of meal to Lewis. Andrews was arrested at Gosport and witness had taken him into custody on Sunday Sept. 22nd. He charged him and he replied, "I never stole any." On the way to Swindon he said "I only had two sacks and a sack of corn last Wednesday or Thursday." On Sept. 26th witness arrested Johnson at Stratton, and he replied, "have you locked up uncle Jim yet? What did he tell you that tale for that I sold him anything? Andrew used to come and say uncle Jim wanted some, and I needed to take it down to him, but I never went shares with any of the money. I should not have had anything to do with him if I knowed it was going to be like this. I thought he was having it from Gorse Hill."

Re-called, Mr Haynes said that the wholesale market price for meal for the last two months had not been lower than 13s 9d. At present it was 14s.

James Lewis, asked if he was an uncle Johnson said, "I recon no sir, I couldn't say sir?" He had bought four sacks of meal from Andrews, and paid 10s a sack for it. Johnson delivered the meal; he did not know why. He paid 5s to Johnson on delivery and 5s to Andrews the following week.

Frederick Samson, baker, of South Marston, said he had known Johnson for the last two years as an employee of the brickyard. He was working for witness from Sept. 12th assisting in digging potatoes, and during the work witness remarked how dear barley meal was, stating he was paying 14s 6d a sack. Johnson told him he could get it cheaper than that and that the witness probably could by having it through him. As a result, witness purchased a sack for 10s and paid the money straight away.

Andrews pleaded guilty, but Johnson protested that he was not aware he was having stolen meal from Andrews. Johnson in a statement, repeated that Andrews told him he was dealing with a man at Gorse Hill, and that he knew no difference.

Andrews asked for leniency, as he had been in the service 22 years and had good discharge papers, with a little pension, which he was anxious not to lose. This was the first time he had been before the magistrate.

Supt. Robinson said nothing was known against either of the men.

The Chairman said the Bench were of the opinion Andrews was the most to blame because he was in a responsible position and abused it inducing the carter to deliver the meal to his house and Johnson to assist in disposing of it. The sentence of the court was that Andrews would be sent to hard labour for two months, and the other defendants for one month each.

Andrews and Johnson left the dock appealing to the magistrates to "put a fine on."

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