



Gipsies and Their Children

On Saturday before Mr. W. E. King and Mr. F. W. Dunston, George Turner and Kesiah King were charged with exposing their five children, aged 13, 11, 9, ... years, and 4 months respectively.

Oliver Turner and Hester Norris were similarly charged in respect of four children, whose ages were eight, four, two years and eight months.

Mr. Prowning, of Salisbury, appeared for the N.S.P.C.C., the prisoners being undefended.

Evidence was given by Mr. Connell. P.C. Mead, Superintendent Fox, and Inspector Barnes, of the N.S.P.C.C., from which it appeared that the parties were gipsies and had lately been occupying two tents on Semley Common.

The tents were extremely small and badly made, being composed of boughs of trees, over which a covering was placed, which had a great many holes in it, and did not reach the ground. The rain was going through the roofs when the tents were visited by the witnesses, and some of the children were sleeping on a heap of rags and damp straw and there was very little protection from the wind.

The children, who were brought from the Workhouse where they had been temporarily lodged, were brought into court. They looked happy and contented, and there was no suggestion by the prosecution of cruelty.

After administering a caution as to there future treatment of the children, each of the four defendants were ordered to pay the sum of £1, which was done.

Western Gazette, 1 February 1901