



# Crime News - Theft

*Bishopstone  
1877*

## *Fowl stealing by John Cue and Henry Pepall*

FARINGDON, BERKS  
Tuesday

At the Court House, before T. Goodlake and W.J. , Esqs., two lads of Bishopstone, Wilts, named **John Cue**, 17, and **Henry Pepall**, 16, were brought up in custody today, charged with stealing seven live fowls, the property of **Mr. John Lawrence**, farmer, of Idstone, in the county of Berks.

It appeared from the evidence of a labourer named **George Saunders**, in the employ of the prosecutor, that his master is in the habit of keeping a number of fowls at a place known as the Parsonage Hill Barn, a loan place. He was at this place on the 11th inst., when the prisoners came to him there, and, pointing to the fowl house, asked what it was? He told the. The fowls were running about the yard. Prisoners remained about a quarter of an hour and then went off towards Ashdown.

The next morning the fowl house door was found to have been broken open, the chain with which it was fastened having been broken, and eight fowls were missing. He next saw the fowls at Mr. Westall's . at Ashbury. He believed they were the same. **Susan Stanbrook**, housekeeper to Mr. Westall, proved that the prisoners on the morning of the 12th inst. brought the fowls to her master's and left the. **Mr. William Westall** said the prisoner Cue told him he brought the fowls at Wanborough. He (witness) did not purchase them, not having seen them, but, hearing Mr. Lawrence had lost fowls, he gave them up to the police. He had often had dealings with Cue. **P.C. Harris** said when he apprehended Cue, who was with his donkey cart with which he carried parcels between Bishopstone and Shrivenham, he at first denied having sold any fowls, but on witness telling him about those at Mr. Westall's he said he bought them at Lower Wanborough. **P.C. Dant**, said on the 16th he apprehended Pepall at the Tetbury Road Hotel, where he was lodging with his father, who rents some water cress beds there.

Mr Goodlake: had you a warrant for his apprehension ? - Witness: No, sir, - Mr Goodlake: Supposing he had knocked you down? - Witness made no answer. - Mr. Goodlake: Supposing the man had knocked you down , I say, and killed you? - Witness did not answer, and Mr Goodlake said he had cautioned constables until he was tired of this practice. Dant had no more right to take the man into custody than he had him (Mr, Goodlake) , and had he or his father have knocked him down it would have served him right – he would have had no remedy against the. For himself he might say that if he had been in Pepall's place, and was as big as he was, he should have knocked the constable down in a minute. He (Mr Goodlake) hoped he should not have to give this caution again. [We need hardly add that these remarks

from the chairman of the bench gave great satisfaction to the gods in the court]. He denied all knowledge of the fowls. On taking him to Faringdon and putting him in the next cell to the other prisoner, he called out "Jack, you haven't split?. Cue answered "I think they know it" Pepall said "For God's sake, Jack, get me out of it. You know what my father is, and he'll turn me out of doors. Will you, Jack?" Cue again replied "They know it" Pepall then said, "You stick to one tale, and I will stick to it oo".

On the following day Cue was in the guard room cleaning up, when he said, quite voluntarily, "We both stole the fowls; we went into the fowl house together. I shall do nothing else but plead guilty. We took the fowls from Westall's in a sack on Monday morning, and Pepall went with me".

The Chairman said he was afraid this was not the first time the prisoners had committed this offence – although they were young in years, they were old in crime, and the sentence of the court was that they remain in Reading goal for three months. We might add that the Berks police received great assistance from **P.C. Read** of Bishopstone, of Bishopstone, in bringing the prisoners to justice.

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