



Prosecution of a Dairyman - Case Dismissed

At the Petty Sessions on Tuesday, before Lord Radnor and other magistrates, Frederick Musselwhite, dairyman, of East Harnham, was summoned for selling milk, which contained less than half the quantity of fat appointed, on the 17th of March, under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, on the information of Frank Beardsley, inspector. Arthur Latty, of Warminster, stated that on March 17 he went into defendant's dairy at East Harnham and asked for a pint of milk. The woman in charge said she had not any of that afternoon's milk, but she had some of that morning's and she asked if that would do. He said it would, and she supplied him with it, saying the price was 1½d., which he paid. He took it out to Mr. Beardsley, who went in and saw Mr. Musselwhite. Mr. Beardsley told the defendant that he (witness) had bought the milk for the purpose of analysing it and divided it into three parts. Whilst he was dividing it, defendant said it was skim milk. Mr. Beardsley made the remark that he was charged 1½d. for it, and defendant said there must be some mistake. The woman who had served him was called, and without saying anything, offered to pay him back 1d.

Frank Beardsley, inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, stated that on the day in question, about 4 o'clock, he received 1 pint of milk from the last witness. He corroborated Latty's evidence as to what took place in the dairy. He had received a report of the analysis of the milk from the County Analyst, which stated that the milk did not contain half the quantity of fat which was required.

This was the case for the prosecution.

Defendant called Emma Eldridge, who said that on the 17th of March, about 4 o'clock, Latty came in and asked for a pint of new milk. She said she only had that morning's milk, and he said that would do. The witness was rather nervous, and nothing could be got out of her by the defendant or by Mr. Beardsley. Lord Radnor said the Bench thought there was not sufficient evidence to convict the defendant, but he should recommend that the dairy maid in future should be some more responsible person.

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