



The Strand, Calne - Scene of the crime

Dangerous Motoring - A Race Horse Trainer Fined

Petty Sessions - Friday

Before Major Money-Kyrle (in the chair), Messrs. W. B. Treacher, T. E. Redman, and F. Smith.

Sam H. Darling, race horse trainer, of Yatesbury, was summoned for driving a motor car on the Strand, Calne, at a dangerous speed on May 28th.

P.C. Pinnell stated that about 1.30 on the day in question he was on the Strand, and he saw a red motor car driven by the defendant, who was accompanied by a lady, passenger. The number of the car was U419, and witness estimated the speed at which it was travelling at 30 miles an hour. He received a complaint from Mr. Wood, who asked him if he had taken the number of the car. Witness saw the car turn the corner of Curzon Street, but the speed had been slackened down then.

The Mayor of Calne, (Mr. J. E. Wood) said about 1.40 on the date named he noticed the car travelling across the Strand very rapidly and witness took the number. In his opinion the car was travelling at a dangerous speed, especially at that hour of the day when there were a number of children going to school. He did not notice if there were many people about, but as the car turned the corner of Curzon Street he noticed that it slowed down.

In reply to defendant the Mayor said he did not see anyone nearly knocked down, but it was just about the time the children were returning to school.

Henry Butler, of Calne, said the car was going at a terrific speed and it was the speed at which it was going, which attracted his attention.

Samuel Edward Ford, of the Square, butcher, estimated the speed of the car at about 20 miles an hour.

Edward George Kent, of the King's Arms, Calne, put the speed at 16 miles an hour, and considered it was dangerous.

Nicholas Brewer, of the Square, Calne, expressed the opinion that the car came up the High Street at a dangerous rate and added that he had never seen a car go round the corner into Curzon Street so fast.

Inspector Hill stated that the following day he saw defendant at Calne, and told him that he had received complaints of his fast driving the previous day. Defendant admitted that he was the driver of the car but said that he did not know that he was going fast.

In reply to the charge, defendant said he was going from 10 to 15 miles an hour. On crossing the Strand he went at a fair pace in order to get the impetus to go up the hill. He always shut off the engine opposite to the butcher's shop in the hill, and the engine had a happy knack of shutting off when turning to the left, which it did in going into Curzon Street.

The Chairman pointed out that it was not so much a question of the speed the car was going, as the safety of the public, and the Bench had come to the conclusion that the car was being driven to the danger of the public. There would be a fine of £3 with costs.

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