



Crime Reports

Castle Eaton

False Old Age Pension Claim

Borough Police Court, Swindon.

Frederick Haines of 57 Kingshill Road was summoned for making a false declaration for the purpose of obtaining an old age pension. Mr Fitzroy appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Crown, and Mr J W Pridham defended.

Mr N Butler the local pensions' officer, said the man put forward his claim in August last, filling in his age as 70 years. Upon this he was certified for a full pension. Subsequent inquiries however showed that his baptismal certificate referred to another son of the same parents. Also named Frederick, who was baptised on December 1th 1836. It was now proved that defendant was not born until March 2nd 1840 and was baptised on March 29th of the same year.

Defendant who was very deaf and somewhat infirm, said the error was unwitting, he did not know whether the certificate produced by him to the officer related to his own baptism or not, but he believed he was over 70 years of age.

The magistrates took some time to consider the case, and then announced that having regard to the age and infirmity of Haines they did not think he realised the effect of the representation he was putting forward. He appeared to have tried to put the responsibility of perfecting his claim upon the pensions officer. The case was a proper one for inquiry, but under the circumstances it would be dismissed.

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