



Crime & Punishment

Compton Chamberlayne



ALLEGED THEFT AT COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE

James Sansome and Daniel Cole, two respectable looking men, were charged with stealing a bushel and a half of oats, the property of Mr C. Penruddocke, of Compton-park. Mr E. F. Kelsey appeared for the defendants. Sidney Carter, a policeman, deposed that on the evening of the 30th of October, he saw the two prisoners bring a sack half full of oats out of Mr Penruddocke's stable and put it in a van. He immediately charged them with the theft and on examining the bag, found that it contained a bushel and a half of oats, worth about 7s. – John Cole, the under-bailiff of Mr Penruddocke, said that about five o'clock on the evening of October 30th, he put two bushels of oats in a bin in Mr Dodd's stable. He went away and left the oats in the bin. – In cross-examination by Mr Kelsey, the witness said that on Tuesday, the 26th of October, he had no oats for the horses in his master's stable. He told this to Sansome, who let him have a bushel and a half of oats and they were brought by Cole. These oats were used for Mr Penruddocke's horses. Witness say Sansome on the following Saturday and he asked him whether he had put up those oats. Witness replied that he had not, but added that he would put some in the bin, and he (Sansome) could take them. Sansome had worked for Mr Penruddocke about nineteen years and was now head sawyer. Cole was a servant of Sansome. Witness never told Mr Dodds, the head bailiff, that he had borrowed the oats of Sansome. – Mr Dodds, head bailiff to Mr Penruddocke, said that he never have Cole any authority to borrow or to lend oats. Cole had given out oats for the horses for many years. Cole was uncle to the defendant, Daniel Cole. – The Earl of Radnor said that as there was no denying that authority had been given to the defendants to take the oats, the case must be dismissed. At the same time the police were quite right in bringing the case forward for investigation.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 13th November, 1869)