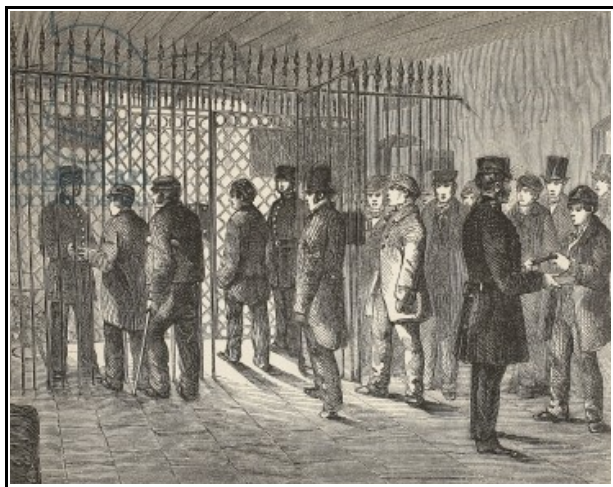


# Crime and Punishment

*Hankerton*



**Before Colonel Luce and Mr T L Hinwood, Monday 9 December 1901**

## **Trial of George Major**

George Major, alias Moore, a navy, native of Hankerton, was charged with stealing on Saturday evening last two pairs of men's nailed boots from the outside of the shop of Messrs Dodge Bros., Gloucester Street, Malmesbury. Accused was further charged with stealing a china jug, value 6d, from a wagon on the Corston Road the same afternoon, the property of Mr W Pitt, china dealer, of High Street, Malmesbury.

It appeared from the evidence that Miss Dodge, who manages the shop in Gloucester Street, had some boots hung up outside the shop. About five o'clock Mr E Waiting, tailor, was pulling down the blinds of an upstairs room opposite, when he saw a man take two pairs of boots from the outside of Miss Dodge's shop, put them in a bag, and make off with them. A man named Jones also saw the accused take the boots. One pair he let down in the dirt. He picked them up and placed them in his bag and made off. Both witnesses informed Miss Dodge of what had taken place, and she asked Jones to go and fetch PS Macay, who, after searching the town, found accused in the taproom of the Horse and Groom Inn, Charlton.

The Sergeant asked accused if he knew whose bag that was under the taproom seat, and he denied all knowledge of it. A man named Beale, who was present when the accused went in, said the man brought the bag in with him. The sergeant then examined the bag and found the two pairs of boots, one pair of which was muddy. The witness Jones, who was present, identified the man. The sergeant took accused into custody, and on the way to Malmesbury accused admitted taking the boots. PS Macay further stated that when searching the accused he found the jug and also a tin. He made inquiries and found that the jug belonged to Mr W Pitt, who deposed to passing the accused on the Corston Road staggering about. The jug was on witness's wagon when he was at Corston, half a mile back on the road.

A lad, named Bailey, deposed to seeing a man, like the accused on the road between Corston and Malmesbury. The man asked witness the road to the town. Mr Pitt and his wagon passed the man, who was in front of witness, and he saw the accused put his hand on the wagon, pull out the jug produced, put it behind his back, and afterwards put it in his pocket.

Accused, who elected to be dealt with summarily, admitted taking the boots, for which he was very sorry. It was all through too much beer. He picked the jug up.

The bench found the accused guilty on both charges. In the first case he would be sentenced to one month's hard labour, and in the second, to two weeks.

Western Daily Press Wednesday 11 December 1901