



## **A Milk Prosecution 1905**

At the Pewsey Petty Sessions on Saturday, Mr. Percy Berry, farmer, of Cranbury Farm, Ludgershall, was summoned, at the instance of the Wilts County Council, for selling milk containing less than the legal percentage of fat.

Mr. W. J. Robinson, of the firm of Messrs. Wansbrough, Dickinson, Robinson & Taylor, of Bristol and Melksham, was for the prosecution, and Mr. H. Longman, of Andover, for the defence. Mr. A. G. Smith, solicitor, of Melksham, watched the case on behalf of the Wilts United Dairies Limited, from whose depot at Gillingham the milk was supplied, notice of a plea of warranty being given.

Mr. Beardsey, inspector under the Food and Drugs Act to the Wilts County Council, proved the purchase of a sample of milk from a man in defendant's employ. He produced the certificate from the county analyst, showing the milk to be 25 per cent deficient in fat. The Board of Agriculture had repeatedly laid down the minimum of fat in genuine milk at three per cent.

For the defence, Mr. Berry stated that he had been supplying the military camp at Ludgershall for the past two years and he obtained milk from the Wilts United Dairies. This usually came in churns, with a label "warranted pure new milk." The label from this particular churn, which came from the Gillingham branch, had not been preserved.

A man named Lawes, in defendant's employ, who received the milk upon its arrival at the station, swore emphatically that the label referred to was on the churn at the time of its arrival. The milk was left at the station, in a shed, for 10 or 11 hours before it was delivered to the customers, but witness stirred it up with a stick to mix the cream which had risen to the top.

The Bench, after hearing the addresses of the legal advocates, decided to convict. They acquitted defendant of any interference with the milk but considered that he did not take proper precautions in having the milk stirred after delivery.

They fined him 2s. 6d., but made no order as to costs.

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