

MELKSHAM

The Magistrate and the Gamekeeper



At the petty sessions, on Tuesday, before Messrs. H.G. Awdry, Wadham Locke, C.J.T. Conolly and W. Speke, a labourer, named George Hunt, was fined 5l. for killing and taking a hare without license. It transpired during the evidence that the gamekeeper saw the hare struggling in the trap, and watched by it for four hours, till Hunt came and took it out.

At the close of the case, Mr. Wadham Locke called the gamekeeper up, and severely censured him for his inhuman and cruel conduct in watching the tortures of the struggling hare, which was four hours in a trap with its legs broken, and not making the slightest attempt to put it out of its misery.

"I tell you what (said the worthy magistrate), if you come before the bench again with a similar statement of cruelty, I'll prosecute you myself for cruelty to animals, and will do my utmost to send you to gaol. " There was loud applause in court from a large body of farmers.

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