



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Claims Court

Frank King v William Tidmarsh

A point of interest to farmers arose in an action in which his Honour Judge Gwynne James heard the claim of Frank King (Messrs King and Sons), Crudwell, an unqualified veterinary surgeon, against William Tidmarsh, Mill Farm, Minety, farmer, for £7 15s for medicine supplied for two cows on five days in March 1925.

Plaintiff said he was an unregistered vet, and, therefore, the Judge told him, he could not claim for attendance. The bill rendered was for medicine. "And it is a stiff bill," his Honour went on, over £1 a day. These cows should have had champagne, shouldn't they?" The Judge next asked for the prescription, but plaintiff said he had not got it.

His Honour: I know what is done. You cannot charge as a vet, and you put it on the medicine. You must know what this medicine is. It must be valuable. I want to know the brand. Defendant then wrote on a slip of paper, and the Judge read: -- Camphor, quinine, chlorodyne. There is nothing very expensive in that.

Plaintiff: I was bound to deliver the medicine, and had to travel eight miles to deliver it. The journeys were about 15s each.

His Honour: You cannot charge that. Your account is not for journeys, but for medicine. The only thing you can recover is the price of the medicine. It now appears that £3 15s was for travelling expenses, which cannot be claimed. I cannot help thinking that the charge has been put on. There will be judgement for plaintiff for £3.

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