



# Crime and Punishment

## *Minety*

### Claims Court

Edward Ernest Taylor v Great Western Railway Company

Edward Ernest Taylor, journalist, Minety, sued the Great Western Railway Company for £1 for breach of contract in failing to carry him to his destination after he had purchased his ticket, on April 10.

After inquiries of the ticket inspector at Reading, he alleged he was informed that he could book through to Minety, and on arrival at Swindon, he found the train had been cancelled. He asked the stationmaster to obtain authority to stop the express and set him down at Minety, and he refused, telling plaintiff to “walk home” or go to Malmesbury with the same ticket. Plaintiff thereupon hired a taxicab at the hotel at a cost of £1, and he now claimed this amount – already applied for – from the company.

Mr J R Bishop (solicitor, of Paddington), representing the company, called the ticket inspector at Reading, who denied being consulted by plaintiff as to booking through to Minety.

Inspector John Fido, of Swindon, proved that from 22<sup>nd</sup> March, certain trains had been cancelled, and among them, the train to Gloucester by which the plaintiff expected to travel. Of these alterations, notices in large type had been posted in all the stations in conspicuous places. Counsel for the company offered to tender to plaintiff the 1s 5d, being the difference he had paid between the fares to Swindon and Minety.

The hearing lasted a long time, and his Honour eventually gave judgement for plaintiff for 1s 5d with costs.

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