



Crime and Punishment

Minety

Court Case

Reginald Austin Clarke

At Cirencester Police Court on Wednesday (before Major F W B Cripps, and other justices) Reginald Austin Clarke, motor haulier, of Minety, was summoned for obstructing PC Carew whilst in the execution of his duty at Cirencester Cattle Market on April 22.

Mr F P Treasure appeared for defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Mr Wentworth Jones, surveyor to the Cirencester U D C, stated that in consequence of damage done at the cattle market on February 5 by a heavy motor lorry, the Streets Committee of the Urban Council decided that in future no heavy lorries should be allowed to enter the market. Defendant's firm, among others, was informed.

Frederick H Edwards, of Cirencester, who was at one of the gates at the market on April 22, let defendant's lorry in. Defendant then went to the next gate, where PC Carew tried to stop defendant from driving in, and had to jump out of the way or otherwise the lorry would have gone over him.

Among other witnesses was PC Carew, of Sapperton, who said that after being warned, defendant replied, "If you don't get out of the way we will knock you down." Defendant then started the lorry and drove straight at witness, who was struck on the leg by one of the wheels. Witness managed to jump aside, and the car got clear .

PS Thompson said he later saw defendant, who said he would do it again, as it was private property and PC Carew had no right to stop him.

Defendant, giving evidence on oath, said he was a farmer and a haulage contractor. He had nothing in the lorry at the time, and he honestly mistook the constable's signal.

Evidence on behalf of defendant was given by George Martin Clarke (a brother), and William Edward Nichols, an employee.

The Chairman said that the magistrates had decided to convict, and defendant would be fined £2.

About half-an-hour later, defendant was brought back into the court by Supt C A Welchman and PS Thompson on a charge of using threats towards PC Carew, of Sapperton.

Supt Welchman informed the magistrates that defendant, when leaving the court with his brother and his witness, used threats towards PC Carew, and that it was because of these threats that they had brought defendant before their worships.

PC Carew said that as defendant was leaving the court, he said to him (witness), "You wait till you get outside, you ---- . We will be waiting for you." Defendant's brother and his witness were with him at the time the threat was made.

Defendant admitted to the magistrates that the remark he made when passing the constable was, "Alright, you wait," but he did not regard the use of those words as a threat.

Addressing defendant, Major Cripps pointed out the gravity of the offence, and said that defendant would be bound over in the sum of £10 and to find a surety for £10 to be of good behaviour for twelve months. Defendant's brother was accepted as surety.

Cheltenham Chronicle 11 May 1929