



Crime and Punishment

Oaksey

Court Case

Albert Kent

Tuesday, before Sir R H Pollen (chairman), Col. Luce, Messrs C Pollen, T L Hinwood and the Mayor, Mr J Moore.

Albert Kent, grocer, of Oaksey, was summoned by Samuel Smith, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, charged with selling to him $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of powdered ginger, 30 per cent of which had been extracted.

Mr H Bevir, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the County Council, and handed in the report of Mr Gatehouse, the county analyst, showing that one-third of the ginger had been abstracted. He observed that doubtless Mr Kent, the defendant, knew nothing about the adulteration.

Samuel Smith, Inspector, stated that on March 25th last, he called at defendant's shop at Oaksey, and asked for $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of ground ginger. Mrs Kent (defendant's wife) served it, and he paid 10d, which was a fair price. He told her he purchased it for the purpose of having it analysed by the public analyst, and divided it into three parts. He then gave one part to Mrs Kent and sent another part by registered post to Mr Gatehouse, whose certificate he received in due course. He never saw defendant until now.

Defendant stated that he bought the ginger in a 7 lb tin (produced) in October 1892, since then he had never touched it for any fraudulent purpose. He asked the bench to take a common sense view of the matter and to dispense justice, as he had in no way tried to evade the law or to act dishonestly.

The chairman told defendant it was a misfortune for him, but it was his duty to inflict a fine. He would be fined 10s including costs.

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