



Dried Hops

Acquitted of Hops Theft

Thomas Llewellyn and Francis Leonard, were indicted for stealing 1½ lbs of hops, the property of Messrs. Arkell, at Stratton St. Margaret.

Mr. Read prosecuted; Mr. Herbert Saunders defended.

The prosecutors are large brewers, at Stratton St. Margaret, and on the 23rd August, the prisoners, who had been customers of theirs, applied to look over the brewery. A boy named New, was instructed to show them over, and he did so. On coming to the hop store, Llewellyn said, "I should like some hops for my tea." He took some hops, and put them into a handkerchief. Leonard also said he should like some, and took about the same quantity as Llewellyn had done. New remonstrated with them and told them there would be a bother about it. He did not, however, tell Mr. Barnes or his master what had occurred, until after the prisoners were in custody.

After leaving the brewery they were seen with some hops at two public houses, and they appeared to be somewhat the worse for liquor. They did not attempt to conceal the hops, which they said they were going to use for tea. When taken into custody, Leonard said the hops were given to him by a boy, at the prosecutor's brewery. Llewellyn said he did not see any hops at the brewery; afterwards he said, he only took a few to chew, and what he did not chew, he put into his handkerchief until the police came; the prosecutors had not missed any hops. They then missed both English and foreign hops, but the witness New, said the prisoners put their hands only into one pocket.

Mr. Herbert Saunders, for the defence, admitted that some hops were taken by Leonard, at all events, but he contended they were not taken with animus farendi or stealing mind. He further suggested that the boy New acquiesced in the taking, seeing that he made no representation of the facts to his masters.

Witnesses were called who gave the prisoners an excellent character.

The Chairman, in putting the case to the jury, said the question was, whether the prisoners took the hops with a felonious intention, or merely for the innocent purpose of making some tea?

The prisoners were acquitted, and the Chairman expressed his satisfaction with the verdict.

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