



Crime News - Leaving service

*Wanborough
1875*

SWINDON POLICE COURT
Thursday

Albert Compton, in custody, was charged with leaving the service of Mr. Sargent, of the Nythe Farm, Wanborough. Mr. Foreman appeared for defendant/ Mr. Sargent said he hired defendant at Michaelmas, as a general farm servant for one year. He entered his employ and worked to the 22nd of May, when he left. He claimed £2 compensation for the loss of his services. By Mr. Foreman: He did not agree that there should be a weeks notice on either side to break the contract. He might have told him he did not like an unwilling servant, and that he would sooner part with such a one than keep him. Defendant did tell him he should leave at a week, and that he had better get someone else. Defendant's wife applied for the wages on the 22nd before he left. He told her there was 6s due on some boots, and he deducted that from the money. Defendant applied to him afterwards for the remainder of the beer money due to him, and on his refusing to pay him, he said he should "try it" with him. He then told him he should "try it" with him (defendant) also, and ordered him off the premises, He had since engaged another man, who had done part of defendant's work.

In answer to the Bench, complainant admitted that when defendant told him he should leave at the end of the week , and he had better get another man, he (complainant) said he would see about it, but, never gave him permission to leave. Mr. Foreman examined the defendant, who swore that the arrangement was that they were to have a weeks notice either way to dissolve the contract. He thought this was in the contract, which he signed without having it read over. Ellen Compton, defendant's wife, proved going to complainant after her husband left, and asking what was to be done about the things in their garden: would he purchase them, or should they sell them to anyone else? To this Mr. Sargent replied by ordering her off the premises, and telling her he did not want to see their faces again. George Compton, a brother, gave similar evidence.

The Bench retired to consult, and on returning dismissed the summons, saying it was very clear complainant had given defendant sufficient reason to believe he was discharged.

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