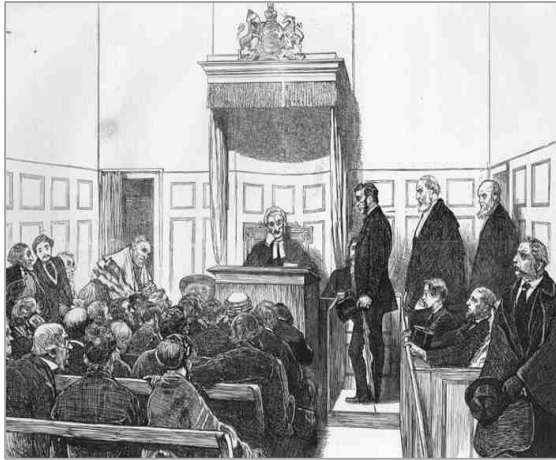


Gross Cruelty to Sheep 1891

Salisbury Petty Sessions



George Sackley Hook, the elder, and George Sackley Hook, the younger, were summoned at the instance of Inspector Smuin, RSPCA, for cruelly ill-treating sheep at Winterbourne on the 15th July.

The offence was denied.

Mr F Blake, former, of Ford, said he saw defendants driving about two hundred sheep on the day in question. They kept them about in the village of Ford for nearly two hours, far longer than was necessary. The sheep were over-driven, very distressed, and some were bleeding from the mouth. One of the defendants had a sheep tied up, and was dragging it along. The pair were not tipsy, but had had some drink.

William Street, shepherd to the last witness, said he saw the elder defendant tie a rope round one of the sheep and commence to pull and beat it. He expostulated with him, and the man replied to the effect that he did not care whether it lived or died. The animal was greatly distressed and witness got it some warm water, but the man would not allow it to drink.

Witness then went to look at the flock, and he saw defendants' dogs run after one of the sheep and pin it down, and he found another in the ditch bleeding. He had been used to sheep all his life, but he never saw anyone use such means as the elder defendant did to get stray sheep back to the flock.

Mr John Godwin, farmer, of Winterbourne Earls, said the defendants put up at his yard overnight, and on the following morning he saw two dead sheep there. He came to the conclusion that they had died from ill-usage, if not from over-driving.

PC Davis, stationed at Winterbourne Earls, saw the defendants with a sheep in a wheelbarrow. He found it bleeding from the mouth and making a gurgling noise. The youth said it had run into some barbed wire.

John Messenger, farmer and dealer, of Alton, said he engaged the elder defendant to take two hundred sheep to a place within two miles of his residence. He expressly stipulated that they should be driven by easy stages, and during the cool of the day. They should have reached him on Saturday, but did not arrive until Sunday evening. When he examined them the following evening he never saw sheep in a more distressing or pitiable condition. Some of them had died. Of the younger defendant he knew nothing, not having seen him before.

Supt Stephens produced a previous conviction against the elder defendant of stealing and selling nine sheep which he had been engaged to drive.

The Magistrates fined the father £5 and the costs, and the son £1 and costs, or the alternative of a month's imprisonment each.

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