



A Highway Assault Dog Owner's Revenge on Motor Cyclist Light Fine at Salisbury County Sessions

A Salisbury dog owner's revenge on a Hurdcott motor cyclist, for the death of a dog, had a sequel at Salisbury County Petty Sessions on Tuesday, when Percy Kemm, 8 Farley Road, Waterloo Gardens, Salisbury, was summoned by Victor Clifford Yates, baker's assistant of Hurdcott, for assault on the Salisbury to Porton road at Winterbourne Earls on July 22nd.

Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Mr. A. B. Lemon, for the plaintiff, said Yates was a boy of 19 who worked at Salisbury as a baker's assistant. On the evening in question he was riding home on his motor-cycle at a speed of between 20 and 30 miles per hour, and the defendant and his brother were riding push cycles in the same direction, and the dog was following them. The dog got right in the way of the plaintiff's motor cycle and it was killed. Plaintiff got off his machine and walked back to the defendant and apologised. Kemm said "You have killed my dog" and with that, struck Yates twice across the head with his fist, and if Yates had not ducked, his glasses would have been smashed by the blow.

Yates, in evidence, bore out Mr. Lemon's statement and said the dog ran deliberately from the side of the road and straight across in front of the machine. He had no time to pull up.

Sergeant William Watson and Sergeant John Watson, of South Camp, Winterbourne, spoke to seeing the defendant hit Yates with his fist.

Lost His Temper

The defendant alleged that the plaintiff told him the dog should have been on a lead and under control. Defendant added that he lost his temper and then pushed Yates more or less. He did not hit him because he was stopped from doing so by his brother.

Tom Kemm bore out his brother's evidence.

Superintendent Jones said there was a previous conviction for a similar offence against the defendant.

The Chairman, (Mr. G. H. Eyre Matcham), said they recognised that the offence was committed under great provocation, and that Yates was travelling a great deal too fast. Defendant would have to pay a fine of 2s. 6d.

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