



Crime and Punishment

Bratton

Hawking Without a Licence

At the Town Hall, Westbury on Monday, before Messrs W H Laverton and W P Clark, a case of great interest to auctioneers was heard. Mr Henry William Hooper, auctioneer of Seend and Devizes, was summoned at the instance of the Inland Revenue Department by Mr C Collins, supervisor, for hawking without a licence, contrary to the Act passed in August 1888, consolidating the law relating to hawkers licences. The facts of the case are these: Mr Hooper held an auctioneer's licence, and in December last he had a sale by auction at the Duke Inn, Bratton. At the close of the sale the surplus stock he removed thence in a wagon hired by him of the landlord (Mr Hobb) to the Ludlow Inn, Westbury, three miles distant, where he held another sale; and after that he took goods from that town in a wagon hired of Edward Scull, to the King's Arms Inn, Dilton Marsh, where he held a further sale on December 12.

Handbills announcing these sales were produced, and defendant held that he had a perfect right to sell at these places, the hired rooms being his place of business for the time being. The Supervisor showed that by the Act any auctioneer selling at his own place of business where he resides, or anywhere else in that same town, did not require a hawker's licence, but in this case defendant's place of business was at Seend and Devizes, and that to sell as he there was selling required a hawker's licence. - The Bench took the same view, and said they founded their decision on Mr Justice Best's judgment - "The King v Turner". Barnwell &c, Alderson's Reports, LJ, which was under the old law, and held that the defendant was hawking without a licence. They inflicted a fine of £5 and costs. Or a month's imprisonment.

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