

## NEWCASTLE POLICE COURT.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

(Before Mr. J. W. M. Laidlaw, S.M.)

### Drunkenness.

William Thomas Brown, 36, and John Edward Davies, 39, were each fined 10s, or three days' imprisonment for drunkenness. William Denby, 56, was fined £1, or seven days' imprisonment, and Annie Shepherd, 40, was fined £2, or one month's imprisonment, for a similar offence.

### Remanded.

Cecil William Henry Grimstone, 24, traveller, was charged with the theft of a pawn ticket for 35s, issued on a lady's wristlet watch, and a ring, the property of Leonard Pfeiffer and another. On the application of the police, the defendant was remanded until Monday. Bail was allowed in sureties of £10.

### Travelled without Ticket.

A fine of £2, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment, was imposed on James Duggan, 39, wharf labourer, for having travelled on the railways without having previously paid a fare. Traffic Inspector O. N. Rowe, stated that on the previous night, the defendant was found under a seat in a second-class compartment on board the Glen Innes mail train. He said he joined the train at Gosford.

### Vagrancy.

Earl Jones, 19, pleaded not guilty to a charge of vagrancy. Constable Gordon, of the water police, said the defendant was sleeping in the engine-room on the M'Myler hoist at Carrington. He admitted having been running around moving coal trains, and that he had expressed an intention of committing suicide, but this was only a joke. Defendant, had done very little work in the last eighteen months and was always in a dirty condition. He got his food from the various ships in port. In evidence, the defendant

union. He got his food from the various ships in port. In evidence, the defendant stated that he was a Canadian, and could not get work on the Australian coast, as he could not join the union. He had taken work where it offered. Defendant, against whom there were other convictions, was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment.

Committed for Trial.

Leslie George Barnes, 18, labourer, was charged that at Newcastle, between March 5 and 7, he received a silver watch, gold chain, and one Maltese cross, valued at £25, well knowing the same to have been stolen. Sergeant Ward prosecuted, and Mr. T. A. Bray defended.

Plain-clothes Constable R. W. Munday stated that with Detective-Sergeant Fergusson he saw the defendant at the Mont-de-Piete on the night of February 7. Defendant told them he was trying to pledge a watch and chain. Asked how they came into his possession, defendant stated that the watch and chain were given him by a man named Rolls to pledge. He did not know Rolls, and did not know where he lived. They met at the Newcastle ferry, where Rolls gave him the watch and chain. Witness remarked that there was a medal missing from the chain. Defendant said, "Yes, there was a big medal, bigger than a penny. I threw it into the sea near the Dyke." Witness asked why he did this, and defendant said: "You don't think I am a — fool, do you? The man's name was on it from whom it was stolen." Questioned about the name on the back of the watch, defendant said, "If I had seen it that would have gone into the harbour, too." Next day witness said: "We have arrested Rolls, and he states that he went into a place at Newcastle and stole the watch and chain, which were in your possession, and medal attached, and handed it to you to pledge. You said you thought you could get £100 for it." Defendant

you to pledge. You said you thought you could get £1 10s on it." Defendant said: "Yes, that is right, but you see I told you the truth. I did not steal the watch." Charles Hawken, a retired hotelkeeper, living in Newcomen-street, identified the watch and chain as his property. He missed it from his home on March 6. Albert Rolls, who stated he was sixteen years of age, and lived at Erskineville, said that for two weeks he had been sleeping at King Edward Park. One night the defendant stayed up there with him. Witness stole the watch and chain and medal, and told defendant where he got it. Defendant said: "Give it to me, and I will sell it to my uncle." To Sergeant Ward: They both came from the Gosford Farm Home.

Defendant, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial at the Newcastle Quarter Sessions on June 10. Bail was allowed in sureties of £50.

#### SUMMONS DIVISION.

##### False Representations.

John Broome and Frank Buckley, both young men, were each fined £5, with 8s costs, or one month's imprisonment, for having falsely represented themselves to be travellers to the licensee of the Belmont Hotel on February 16. Sergeant Ward stated the defendants said they came from Cessnock, whereas they lived at Hamilton.

##### Early Closing Act.

Eric Oldham, of Stockton, pleaded guilty through his father, to having opened his shop before the time fixed by law. Inspector Clark, of the Department of Labour and Industry, who prosecuted, said the Act provided for the opening of butchers' shops at 6.30 a.m. Defendant's shop was opened at 5.45 a.m. There had been numerous complaints.

Defendant's father: The whole thing is purely a matter of jealousy

The Magistrate: I am not going to

The Magistrate: I am not going to listen to representations from anybody else than the defendant, who should have been here.

Defendant was fined £1, with 8s costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

On Licensed Premises.

Mr. H. L. Wheeler pleaded guilty for Henry James Hutchinson to a charge of having used offensive words in Kenrick-street, Junction, on February 23. Sergeant Ward said that the defendant, who was a builder and contractor, was found on the licensed premises of the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, at The Junction, on February 23, and when spoken to by the constable, made use of the words complained of.

The Magistrate: This was a very offensive thing to say.

Mr. Wheeler: The defendant is an old man —.

The Magistrate: He should have better sense than to talk to a policeman like that. He is fined £2, with 8s costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

Henry James Hutchinson was also charged together with James Hutchinson with having been unlawfully on the licensed premises of the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel on the night of February 23. A fine of £1, with 8s costs, or seven days' imprisonment, was imposed in each case.

Information Dismissed.

Mary Margaret Paton, who elected to have the case determined in open court rather than avail herself of the privileges of the Act relating to feminine first offenders, was charged with having driven a motor car in a manner dangerous to the public at Newcastle on February 2. The defendant, for whom Mr. H. L. Wheeler appeared, pleaded not guilty.

Samuel James Hanna, a tailor, of Mayfield, stated that on the morning in question he saw a motor car turning from Hunter-street into Market-street at a speed of about four miles an hour.

from Hunter-street into Market-street at a speed of about four miles an hour and on its correct side. The car had just about entered Market-street when a man stepped off the footpath. To avoid the man the car swerved, and struck a verandah post at Pearce's jeweller's shop, displacing the same. There was a little girl there.

Sergeant Ward: Would it not have been possible, seeing that the car was only going four miles an hour, for it to have pulled up?—I hardly think so. It was on a down grade.

Anyhow, it knocked down a big post?—Yes, it displaced it. It was easily shifted.

Frederick Charles Linn, a painter, living in Brown-street, said he saw a little girl standing a yard or two yards from the post that was knocked down. He had said the car was travelling at 10 miles an hour, but he now said the speed was five miles an hour. A man stepped off the footpath and was about nine feet out on the roadway when the

car came around the corner. To avoid the man the car came into contact with the post. The little girl was knocked down. Mary Day, an eleven-year-old schoolgirl, was questioned by the magistrate as to her capability of realising her obligation under an oath. Her testimony, however, was not accepted. The information was dismissed, the magistrate remarking there was no evidence to justify a conviction.

#### No Order Made.

William Walter Slater was proceeded against by Leopold Barfield, of Newcastle, for alleged detention of property. Mr. O'Neill appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Braye for the defendant. Complainant stated he was a salesman. Some time

Mr. Braye for the defendant. Complainant stated he was a salesman. Some time last year he was carrying on business in Watt-street, Newcastle, as a ship's supplier of mercery. He had some business transactions with the defendant, who was to be paid 15 per cent. as commission on the sale of goods, which he took away from the shop. All the goods taken had not been returned. The claim was for the goods detained, demand for which had been made several times verbally and in writing. As far back as last November the defendant had told him that he could not go to Catherine Hill Bay for the goods. In answer to Mr. Braye, complainant denied having gone bankrupt. He assigned his estate, everything going to D. R. Israel and D. R. Murray, of Sydney. He saw the defendant and made a demand for the goods, and defendant said he would have to wait a little longer. He had given the defendant three days in which to settle up. Donald Clay Lauer, who had been employed as the complainant's clerk, stated that in August the defendant returned about £5 worth of goods, which were written off. Goods had also been returned at different times previously. The defendant, giving evidence, stated he was a labourer. He commenced to work for complainant early in 1923. For all the goods sold he had paid the complainant, and the balance of stock unsold he had returned. The goods consisted of jewellery and clothing. Three months after the return of these he met the complainant, who made a demand for them, and said that the defendant had owed him £13. This was disputed, and complainant said he would summons him. He told him to "carry on." No order was made. Mr. Braye said he would not apply for costs.

#### Motorist Fined.

John William Bockerstein, motor mechanic, pleaded not guilty to driving past a stationary tram car, in Hunter-street, West, on February 16. Sergeant Ward

...tram car, in Hunter-street,  
West, on February 16. Sergeant Ward  
prosecuted. Constable Crothers, station-  
ed at Wickham, stated that, on February  
16, he was a passenger on the tram from  
Parnell-place to West Wallsend. When  
the tram stopped at the Bank Corner,  
about 6.15 p.m., he was going to get off  
when he noticed the motor car, driven  
by the defendant, travelling along at  
seven or eight miles an hour. He had  
to hang back on the footboard to avoid  
being knocked down. The tram was full.  
He was in uniform at the time. He no-  
ticed a newsboy go to cross the street,  
and put his hand on the mud guard to  
push himself clear, otherwise he would  
have been knocked down. The defendant  
said to the boy, "Why don't you get out  
of the road?" The car had then passed  
witness, and no endeavour had been  
made by the defendant to stop. There  
was another carriage to pass. There  
would have been between 20 or 30 people  
who passed from and to the tram after  
the defendant had gone past. Evidence  
in corroboration, was given by a tram-  
way employee, who said the defendant  
had passed in the midst of the traffic.  
The defendant, who did not give evi-  
dence, stated he was a careful driver,  
and had not had anything against him.  
The magistrate, in convicting, said he  
had come to the conclusion that the de-  
fendant was one of those who brought  
discredit on a decent body of motorists,  
and had a singular disregard for the  
rights of others. People like him could  
not be tolerated. They considered, ap-  
parently, that they owned the street, and  
must be met with a sharp reminder to  
make them become seized of what their  
legal position was. Sergeant Ward said  
that Inspector Hood was also a passen-  
ger on the tram, and considered the case  
a flagrant breach of the regulation. A  
fine of £5, with 18s costs, was imposed,  
in default imprisonment for two months.

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