

CAUGHT WITH BAG OF COAL

Pirie Man Fined 10/

Stating that he had found a bag and its contents on the wharf John Limbek, fisherman, of Pirie, pleaded guilty in Pirie Police Court yesterday to a charge that he had had in his possession unlawfully a quantity of coal which might reasonably be suspected as having been stolen.

Messrs. A. H. L. Goode and P. H. Prosser were on the bench and Sgt. W. V. Virgo prosecuted.

Presenting details the prosecution said that at 6.20 p.m. on Saturday last Constable R. K. Trigg, while on duty on Barrier Wharf, saw two men hurrying along near the gantries. Defendant (one of the men) was carrying a sugarbag on his back, and when stopped and questioned he seemed to be embarrassed.

The constable looked into the bag and saw that it contained lumps of coal. Questioned again, defendant said that he and his mate, a man named Kennedy, had seen the bag lying on the wharf. Remarking to Kennedy that the coal would come in handy he had picked up the bag.

Defendant told the court that he had had no authority to remove the bag. He knew it was an offence to take coal,

knew it was an offence to take coal, even the smallest quantity.

He said that he had just come from his fishing boat when he saw the bag lying on the wharf.

"I have never 'pinched' anything in my life," said Limbek.

Mr. Goode: This was a despicable theft. It does not matter whether the bag was lying there or not. It is not the value of the coal so much as the principle of the thing. You are liable to a fine of up to £100 or imprisonment for two years. However, my colleague and I do not take a serious view of the case.

Defendant was fined 10/ and costs, in default seven days' gaol. Two days were allowed in which to pay.
