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“A SHOWMAN’S STEAM ORGAN

At Southwark, RAYMOND EDWARD WOOLGAR, showman, was summoned before Mr. Paul Taylor by Dr. A. Salter, of Jamaica-road, Bermondsey, for playing or causing to be played a steam organ in major-road, Bermondsey, to the annoyance of the neighbouring residents. Mr. Philcox, who prosecuted, said that every winter a show, with steam roundabout, &c., was held on some waste ground in Major-road. For two or three years the defendant had been in charge of a roundabout with a steam organ, which was a great nuisance. Dr. Salter spoke to him about the matter a few weeks ago, and he discontinued using the organ on every day except Fridays and Saturdays. Dr. Salter, a member of the Bermondsey Borough Council, said that he lived 20 yards away from the show ground, and when the organ was playing the noise was intolerable, and it was impossible for him to study or do any serious work. The neighbouring inhabitants had sent complaints to the borough council, and everything possible had been done to give effect to them. The council tried to stop the roundabout being taken on to the waste ground by putting some posts in the pavement, but the defendant defeated this by driving his traction engine on the pavement. Other evidence showed that the show caused some of the worst characters to assemble in Major-road. The owner of the land had been petitioned not to let the place for shows, but he had refused, stating that he realised more by letting the land for shows than he would if houses were upon it. The magistrate imposed a fine of 40s., the maximum penalty, and £1 3s 6d. costs, with the alternative of 21 days imprisonment.”

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