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“THE POLICE COURTS

“Linen and Cotton.

At South-Western, before Mr. de Grey, JOHN HOLDRON, draper, of High-road, Balham, answered to several summonses at the instance of the Board of Trade, acting for the Irish Department of Agriculture, for unlawfully applying a certain false trade description, "Linda linen belts" to three belts made of cotton cloth.

Mr. T. G. Horridge, K.C., M.P., with whom was Mr. Frank Safford, prosecuted: and the defendant was represented by Mr. E. Le Riche.

Mr. Horridge said the Board of Trade were anxious to stop the system of selling as linen articles cotton ones. The belts were entirely cotton. It was for the defendant to prove that he acted innocently. Moreover, he was responsible for the acts of his servants.

Mr. James C. Hill, linen expert, of Kingstown, Dublin, estimated the difference between the prices of linen and cotton goods at 100 per cent.

Mr. Le Riche said the whole class of white goods had for 100 years or more been termed by the trade as linen, but were not really linen at all. For instance, baby linen was made of cotton, bed linen was twill and calico, and a wholly linen shirt had never been worn.

Mr. Samuel Woolger, a director of Frederick Gorringer (Limited), Buckingham Palace-road, and other traders were called for the defence to prove that the term "linen" was generally applied to cotton goods in the trade.

Mr. de Grey said the defendant had evidently carried on a custom or a habit in selling cotton goods as linen. He thought the justice of the case would be met by imposing a nominal line of 20s, with £3 3s. costs."

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