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LAW REPORT Jan 7

MIDDLESEX SESSIONS

(Before SIR RALPH LITTLER, K.C., sitting at the Guildhall, Westminster)

“George Eastwood, 40, a dealer, surrendered to his bail on an indictment for stealing and receiving two pewter pots, the property of Walter Freeman Holman. Mr. Boyd was for the prosecution; Mr. Purcell appeared for the prisoner. The prosecutor is the licensee of the Bricklayers' Arms publichouse at Edmonton, and the prisoner had for some years kept a marine store next door. On November 13 Police-sergeant Woolgar and Police-constable Painter were in High-street, Stoke Newington, when they saw a man of the name of Fontaine driving a van which had the name of the prisoner on it. (Fontaine was indicted with the prisoner, but the grand jury threw out the bill as against him). The officers stopped the van, which was found to contain a quantity of sheet lead and brass fittings, subsequently ascertained to have been stolen. Sergeants Woolgar and Roach and Constables Bradshaw and Painter afterwards went to the prisoner's shop, where they found a quantity of stolen property, including the two pewter pots the subject of the indictment, the pots being crushed together. The prisoner in his defence said that he bought the pewter pots from a potman and did not know they were stolen. The other property found at his shop he also said he had bought from different people in a legitimate way of business. The jury found a verdict of Guilty of receiving. Detective-sergeant Martin said that, although the prisoner had nor been previously convicted, there was no doubt as to his being a professional receiver. He was sentenced to five years penal servitude. Sir Ralph Littler said that the police engaged in the case deserved commendation for the intelligence they had displayed. Three other indictments relating to robberies at Edmonton were not proceeded with”.

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