

March 16th 1894

KETTERING. DIVISIONAL PETTY SESSIONS. Wednesday.—Before Mr T. Stockburn (chairman), Mr T. Wallis Sir Arthur Brooke, and Mr H. Crespigny. Mr J. J. Boughton and Mr H. Sartoris "were present

Dismissed.—George Hawkes alias "The Reverend," Stanion, and Mark Prentice, carrier, Weldon, were summoned for a breach of the Poaching Prevention Act, at Kettering, on October 16. — This case was adjourned from the 8th November, consequence of the Bench being unable to arrive at decision.— Mr P. L. Rawlins prosecuted, and Mr C. Holt defended. —Sergeant Hinds deposed that on Monday, November 16, he was on duty near Fuller-street, on the Weeklev road, when he saw the defendant in Prentices carrier's van. Witness called Hawkes out, and searched the van, finding a bag containing 22 rabbits. Witness seized the rabbits, which were addressed to a man named Norman, in Montagu-street. Since the previous hearing he had made enquiries, and ascertained that the defendant had no land.—inspector Andrews deposed to meeting Prentice and his van in Geddington early on the morning of the 16th, and noticed Hawkes and other poachers in the van. On the following Friday the defendant Prentice made a communication witness about the rabbits.—P.C. Cotton deposed that he went with Sergeant Hinds to meet the defendant's van. When Sergeant Hinds seized the rabbits, Hawkes said he should hold the sergeant and Prentice responsible for their delivery. Hawkes did not deny that the rabbits belonged to him.—for the defence Mr Holt called Mrs White, of Kettering, who deposed that on the morning of the 16th October last she journeyed from Weldon to Kettering the defendant Prentices van. When they reached Stanion Prentice pulled up and went to a house for a parcel, and while he was gone a man with one arm came to the van and put a sack in, and went away. Shortly after Hawkes got in the van, which then proceeded on its journey when just outside Geddington they picked three more men, one of whom she recognised as the man who put the bag in the van. Mabbutt and the other men. Descended just before they reached Kettering, and the police then came and searched the van. Hawkes got excited when the police seized the rabbits.—Walter Gamble, of Stanion, deposed that Mabbutt put the rabbits in the van, and when he left he gave witness instructions to see "the rabbits safe to Norman's, and receive the money for them.—BY Mr Rawlins: He declined to answer where the rabbits came from.—The Bench having retired, the Chairman said there seemed a doubt, and they would give the prisoners the benefit of that doubt, and dismiss the case.—There was some applause in Court, which was immediately suppressed