

HOUSEBREAKING CHARGE AT RUGBY

" HUNGER MADE US DO IT."

THREE YOUTHS COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Three poorly-dressed youths appeared before Mr. C. W. Browning at a special Rugby Police Court on Friday morning.

They were Daniel Callaghan (20), seaman, no fixed abode, a native of Liverpool ; Charles Corkhill (20), no fixed abode, also a native of Liverpool, and Weller Jones (17), 6 court, 5 house, Horatio Street, Liverpool ; and they were jointly charged with breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Richard George Hobley, farmer, New Inn Farm, Willoughby, at 3.30 p.m. on August 8th and stealing three tins of fruit, one tin of milk, one tin of tomatoes, one tin of salmon, one milk can, One 1lb. of butter, and one cake, value altogether 9s. 11d.

Inspector Stanley, giving formal evidence, stated that at 5.30 p.m. on August 8th he went to the New Inn Farm and saw the three prisoners. They had been detained, having broken into a window at the rear of the house and taken the articles mentioned in the charge. Witness brought them to the Police Station, where they were locked up.

On the Inspector's application, the prisoners were remanded in custody until Tuesday.

Tuesday's Hearing.

When the case came before the Magistrates—Mr. L. Loverock (in the chair) and Mr. S. Dowell --on Tuesday.

Richard George Hobley, farmer, New Inn Farm, London Road, Willoughby, stated that on the 8th August he locked up the house at ten o'clock in the morning and went to work on the farm, arriving back between 3.30 and 3.45. When he got back he saw Corkhill on the road outside the house, whistling and apparently trying to attract the attention of somebody. He dodged into the ditch when he saw witness coming. Witness went past the front of the house, and when he got round again to the other side of the house the other two defendants came from the back. Witness put the horse away, and then saw the defendants going along the road fairly quickly, and this made him suspicious. He saw them go into a field farther along the road. He followed them and found them in the field eating cake and a tin of fruit. He asked them where they had it from and what they had been doing at the back of his house. They said they had only been round to the pit to wash. Callaghan said they had bought the articles. Witness then left them, and when he got as far as the gate he saw them running away through the next field. He followed them, caught them, and brought them back to farm. He examined the house and found that the back window had been forced open. Later on he discovered the articles mentioned in the charge were missing.

In reply to Mr. S. Lowell, witness said the catch of tin window had been forced with a knife.

Inspector Stanley repeated his evidence, and stated that Callaghan said to him, " We only went in for food. I opened the window with my hand, and got in and handed the things out." Witness arrested them, and brought them to Rugby Station, where he cautioned and charged them. In reply, Corkhill said, " Yes " Callaghan said " Yes, that's right," and

Jones made no reply.

Asked if he wanted to cross-examine the Inspector, Callaghan said " hunger made us do this."

All three prisoners pleaded guilty, Callaghan adding, " We were looking for work. When we were in Liverpool we decided to go to :London to look for work."

Inspector Stanley told the Bench that Jones had been convicted several times of house and shop-breaking and stealing. Corkhill also had a number of convictions against him for housebreaking and stealing, and on the last occasion was sent to a reformatory school, from which he absconded five times. Callaghan had been before the Court only once, on a charge of housebreaking and stealing.

The Chairman stated that owing to the serious nature of the charge, and the fact that they had pleaded guilty, they would be committed to the Quarter Sessions, at Warwick, in seven weeks' time, They would have to remain in custody until then.

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