

CONDUCT WORTHY OF "THE MOST ...

Peter Holt said: "I am a "bottomer" at the conduit, and they dared not work on account of the men coming to the works drunk. About half past nine on Saturday morning he went with Pendlebury up to the house. He found the house all upset. He saw the old man Baker send a kettle through the window. There was a man lying on the floor in his shirt, with a broken leg, and they sent him in a cart to the infirmary. The men were drinking out of pots, bowls, buckets and dolly tubs.

The men were stripped and fighting. Some of the men were even without shirts. There was a horrible scene. It was dangerous to life to interfere with them. I helped to rescue Baker, he would have been killed if we had not rescued him. I saw Thompson there, he was drunk, he said he was the landlord. A man called "Wildfire" threatened to burn the house down. I and Pendlebury were both sober. We came away about 4 o'clock. We dared not stay any longer. One man put four sheets on him and ran away. All the things were thrown out of doors. We counted 37 barrels of beer. Pendlebury did not break anything. We went to protect the house but dared not interfere. The place was swimming with drink. There was a fearful scene at the place. The drinking commenced on Thursday afternoon. The men were mad and frantic with drink".

John Leeming said: "My father is a farmer at Thornyholme. I went with Pendlebury to the scene of the riot. When I got there most of the men were drunk, rioting and fighting. The house was in a filthy and shameful condition. It was all upset when we got there. The men were drinking out of pots, dolly tubs, bowls and one had a wheelbarrow". (laughter)

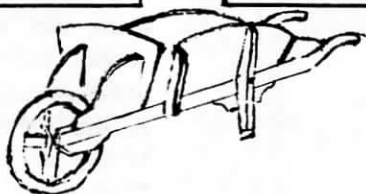
The place was swimming with beer. None of the prisoners did any damage. It was nearly all done before they arrived. People dare not interfere with the men as they were mad with drink and behaved like frantic beings".

When all the evidence had been heard the bench, after holding consultation said that they could come to no other conclusion that the prisoners had not been guilty of robbery, and that they were compelled to dismiss the charge brought against them. They expressed astonishment that such conduct could be perpetrated in the nineteenth century. It was worthy of the most barbarous regions of the earth

Police - Inspector Whaincup pointed out that there was a deficiency of police supervision in that district, and the magistrate remarked that the matter should be attended to.

John Scott was charged with receiving stolen goods, thrown out of the house in the mad freaks of the navvies, knowing them to be stolen. Mr. Eastwood defended. The case having been fully investigated, the Bench dismissed it, on the grounds that the prisoner had bought the goods from the navvies yet had voluntarily offered them to the owner, and bought them for the purpose of keeping them in the district, so that the owner could have them.

Holden was served in court with a summons charging him with selling intoxicating liquor without a licence.



And finally, what became of the servant girl? The Preston Guardian reported that, "the young women, after a series of indecent and strange escapades, went no-one knows where".

... BARBAROUS REGIONS OF THE EARTH".