# GLOUCESTERSHIRE SUMMER ASSIZES.

## A Long Calendar.

The Gloucestershire Summer Assizes commenced at the Shire-hall, Gloucester, on Saturday, before Mr. Justice A. T. Lawrence, who was attended by the County High Sheriff (Colonel Sir Arthur Anstice, K.C.B.), the City High Sheriff (Mr. H. G. Normna), and the County High Sheriff's Chaplain (the Rev. Money-Kyrle, Much Marcle).

The number of cases for trial was the largest for a considerable time, the calendar containing the names of 30 prisoners.

### PENAL SERVITUDE FOR A BURGLAR.

Oliver George Turner (25), labourer, pleaded guilty to three charges of burglary at Gloucester—on February 19 breaking into the dwelling-house of William Gurney, Calton-road, and on the same date breaking into the dwelling-houses of Angelina Farmer and Jennie Winstone, both of Calton-road. Mr. J. Lort Williams, M.P. (instructed by Mr. A. Lionel Lane) prosecuted.—His Lordship told prisoner he appeared to live by committing crimes of this sort, he having been convicted each year from 1911 to 1916. The only proper way of dealing with persons of this sort was to send them to penal servitude, where prisoner would go for three years.

### FALSE PRETENCES AND THEFT.

William Cecil Benjamin (21) pleaded guilty to obtaining food and lodgings by false pretences from Kate Johnson and Edith Jane Taylor at Gloucester, and also to stealing a pocket wallet containing £6 or £7 notes at Gloucester. Mr. J. Lort Williams, M.P. (instructed by Mr. A. Lionel Lane), prosecuted.—Mr. D.C.C. Hopkins gave prisoner's record, which was not good, and added that while in the Navy his conduct was exceedingly good.—Prisoner said he belonged to a respectable family, but had been led astray by bad company.—In sentencing prisoner to nine months' hard labour, his Lordship advised prisoner to start a new life when he come out of gaol.

### ATTEMPTED SUICIDES.

James Brinkworth (79), labourer, pleaded guilty to attempting to commit suicide at Whiteshill, Stroud. Mr. Jordan prosecuted. On promising to go into the workhouse infirmary, prisoner was bound over in the sum of £10 to come up for judgment when called upon.

Eliza Ann Sellby (42), no occupation, also pleaded guilty to attempting to commit suicide at Charlton Kings on May 19. Mr. H. Davey prosecuted.—Prisoner's daughter said she was willing to look after her mother, and she was bound over in £25 to keep the peace.

### YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS.

Henry Lloyd (18), carman, and Arthur Wright (19), carman, were charged with stealing a mare, valued at £12, the property of Thomas Matthews, at Newnham, on May 13; and also to stealing a pair of field glasses and case, valued at £1 1s., the property of Charles Percy Vernon. Both prisoners pleaded guilty.—Inspector Shelswell stated that Wright had been convicted in London of theft, and there was a warrant out for his arrest for failing to report himself. There was nothing known against Lloyd.—Wright was sentenced to eight months' hard labour, and Lloyd was bound over in £20 to keep the peace.

### NEWSPAPERS AND BAD LAW.

Edward Richings (43), labourer, pleaded guilty to bigamously marrying Fanny Mitchell at Bromley-in-Kent.—Mr. Wilfred Price, who prosecuted, said prisoner was married to his wife on February 4, 1905, at Wickwar, and there were six children of the marriage. He joined the Army in September, 1914, since which time his wife had not seen him, and on April 3 of this year prisoner married the woman Mitchell.—The last-named stated that before prisoner married her he told her he had a wife, but had not seen her for seven years, and did not know her whereabouts. She then consented to marry him, as she had read in the papers that if a man had not seen his wife for seven years he was free.—His Lordship: You see bad law in the papers at times (laughter).—Prisoner was sentenced to four months' hard labour.

### "BLACK SERPENT" GANG.

Percy Fry (15), labourer, and William Jones (15), collier, pleaded guilty to two charges of demanding money with menaces from Frederick Watkins at Coleford.—Mr. Jordan, who prosecuted, stated that in 1915 Watkins was manager to an iron and ore company at Coleford, at whose offices a fire occurred. Last year Watkins received a number of letters the writer of which demanded money under threats of exposing Watkins and the person who burnt the offices. These letters were dated from the Black Den and signed by "Black Serpent." The amount of money first demanded was £100, and this letter was shown to the police, who advised Watkins to reply to it, with a view to the writer being ascertained. The letters written by Watkins were placed in certain places indicated in letters to him. A number of these passed, those written by prisoners stating that they were prepared to accept £76, then £36, and lastly £10. The last letter concluded: "No more fooling about, or you know what to expect." It was said that the prisoners got their idea of this kind of thing from the local cinema.—Mr. H. Hardy, who appeared for Jones, said this was not an ordinary blackmailing case, but as the result of reading novels. His instructions were that the letters were dictated by Fry, who led a lad named Smith away, with the result that both were brought up at the police-court.—His Lordship said he did not agree. Letters of this kind were calculated to cause great annoyance and alarm to anyone but a level-headed person.—Inspector Shelswell said the parents of the prisoners were very respectable people. When he visited the house of Jones he saw two books on the table—"Dick Turpin" and "Buffalo Bill."—His Lordship said this was a very serious case, and he wanted prisoners to understand that he did not regard it in the least as a joke. This mode of getting money was one not to be permitted. They were both young, however, and he did not want them to be associated with criminals. They would both be bound over in the sum of £50 to be of good behaviour.

### MORE BIGAMISTS.

Ernest Frank Ireland (31), printer, pleaded guilty to bigamously marrying Maud Ellen Florence Hanks at the Tabernacle, Chalford. —Mr. Lowry Porter, who prosecuted, said prisoner married his lawful wife in March, 1912, and they separated in 1913. Before he married the woman Hanks he told her he had divorced his first wife.—Mr. Jordan (instructed by Messrs. W. Langley-Smith and Son) appeared for prisoner, who, he said, commenced divorce proceedings against his wife by reason of her living with another man. Before he married the woman Hanks he believed his wife had married again.—Prisoner, who was given a good character, was bound over in the sum of £100 to come up for judgment when called upon.

James George Jordan (24), letter sorter, also pleaded guilty to bigamy.—Mr. J. Lort Williams, M.P. (instructed by Mr. A. Lionel Lane), prosecuted, and Mr. Wilfred Price (briefed by Messrs. Wellington and Clifford) defended.—Mr. Lort Williams said prisoner married his wife at Tewkesbury in February, 1915, but they only cohabited for three days. Prisoner joined the Army in 1916, and in 1917 married Ethel Brown at Cheltenham. There was one child of the first marriage, which was dead.—The woman Brown said she believed prisoner, who had treated her well, to be a single man when she married him.—His Lordship said he had taken into consideration the statement made by the prisoner's first wife that she intended cutting herself off from him, and he would be bound over in £100 to come up for judgment when called upon.

### RECONCILIATION BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE.

Hannah Bingham (48), no occupation, charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on Thomas Bingham, her husband, with intent to murder him at Littledean on May 7, pleaded guilty to unlawful wounding.—The Hon. Reg. Coventry, who prosecuted, said the parties lived happily together for 20 years, but some time ago the woman got it into her head that her husband was giving money to her sister, and she went behind him and cut his neck with a razor. There was no doubt prisoner was very sorry for what she did, and under the circumstances he (Mr. Coventry) was willing to accept the plea of guilty to the lesser charge.—Mr. W. Price and Mr. Hardy, who appeared for the husband and wife respectively, said the parties had become reconciled, and hoped his Lordship would deal leniently with prisoner. —His Lordship bound prisoner over in the sum of £100 to be of good behaviour.

### MAN WITH A QUEUE OF WIVES.

Theodore William Cuss (29), soldier, was charged on three indictments with bigamy. Mr. J. Lort Williams, M.P. (instructed by Mr. A. Lionel Lane) prosecuted, and prisoner was not defended.—The evidence formerly given at the police-court was repeated by the various witnesses, including Dora Evelyn Wallis, Rosetta Jane Elbrow, and Emma Louise Baker, who stated that they were married to prisoner at different places.

## On Trespassing

To describe imported foreign-grown grapes as equal to English hothouse grapes, and to expect the buyers to believe it, is a serious trespass on their intelligence.

Our customers are fortunately blessed with as much common sense as most people, and that is why we do not describe Ceylindo Tea as "The Very Best" or "The Finest the World Produces," or give to it any other exaggerated description.

## But

**When you purchase Ceylindo Tea, whatever price you pay, you are assured that it will be better than any of the so-called "Very-Best—Finest-the-World-Produces" types sold at a corresponding figure.**

## CEYLINDO TEA

A Perfect Tea

**2/- 2/4 2/8 3/-**

Each worth every penny of its price. The dearest in price is the cheapest in use; it makes the most cups of the Best Tea.

## INTERNATIONAL STORES

THE GREATEST GROCERS IN THE WORLD
TEA : COFFEE : GROCERIES : PROVISIONS

For Good Second-hand Furniture
NO BETTER FIRM THAN

**LEA & Co.,**
Northgate Street and Aldgate Street GLOUCESTER
TELEPHONE 267.

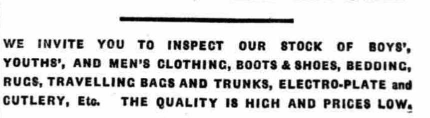
COAL.
Customers are Recommended to ORDER SUMMER COAL STOCKS NOW.
WEBB BROS., LTD.,
FUEL MERCHANTS,
10 COLONNADE, CHELTENHAM.

## THE RELIABLE HOUSE.

WE INVITE YOU TO INSPECT OUR STOCK OF BOYS', YOUTHS', AND MEN'S CLOTHING, BOOTS & SHOES, BEDDING, RUGS, TRAVELLING BAGS AND TRUNKS, ELECTRO-PLATE and CUTLERY, Etc. THE QUALITY IS HIGH AND PRICES LOW.

## HARRY HIGGINS Ltd.,

## 313/314 HIGH STREET, CHELTENHAM.



**RALEIGH**

THE ALL-STEEL-BICYCLE

THE WICLIFFE CO. (CHELTENHAM), LIMITED, 88 HIGH STREET.

LADDER POLES, Prime Christiania, from 9d. per Foot.

WOOD STRIPS (Deal), 2 inches x ½ inch, suitable for many purposes, 4/3 100ft., 40/- 1,000.

BEAN STICKS, 1/9 Bundle, 20/- Dozen.

SAWDUST.—A Quantity Now on Hand.

**SMITH BROS.,** MANUFACTURERS, SAW-MILLS WORKS, ALBION STREET, Cheltenham.

Image © Trinity Mirror. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.