

January 19 1858 Tipton

ROBBERIES OF IRON. At the Public Office, West Bromwich, on Saturday last, before A Kenrick, T Bagnall and J Sharp Esqrs, a rough looking fellow, named **Thomas Westwood**, was brought up under the following circumstances. Police Constable Steele stated that on the preceding Thursday, he was on duty at Tipton Green, near the house of a marine store dealer, named Jordan, when he saw the prisoner come up with a quantity of iron on his shoulder. This he carried into Mrs Jordan's, and put into the scales near the door. However, the process of weighing was dispensed with, for the officer enquiring as to how had the iron come into the boatman's possession, and not satisfied with the old tale "Raked out of the canal", took Westwood to the station. Robert Ceeney, butty collier at Messrs J and W Hopkins pits at Dudley Port, proved that the stolen iron consisted of large "doggings" used to carry the great air troughs to ventilate the mines, were the property of the above firm. The identity was clearly established. The prisoner, who said up to the last fortnight he had been boating iron for Captain Bennett, Oldbury Furnaces, added that whilst raking for coal, he brought up this iron. Mr Kenrick said, even if that were so, he then had no right to take it. After some consultation, the Magistrates ordered the iron "finder" to the treadmill for two months.

January 7 1859 Staffordshire Quarter Sessions

CHARGE OF RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY John Smith, a marine store dealer, surrendered to take his trial on a charge of feloniously receiving 60lbs of cast iron, the property of John Jones and John Murcott, at Wednesfield, well knowing the same to be stolen. Mr Hill was counsel for prosecutors, Mr Jenkins for the prisoner. The case against the prisoner rested mainly on the testimony of an approver named **Pilsbury**, who had stolen the iron from the prosecutors, and it appeared from his testimony that the prisoner was a marine store dealer, living near the canal side at Wednesfield, and that he (Pilsbury) was boatman for the prosecutors, and managed the boats from one of their works at Spring Vale to the other at Birch Hall. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of last month, he left iron at the prisoner's house, which he had taken out of the boat, and for which he received payment. To corroborate this statement, a man named Bradley was called, who deposed that on the days in question he saw the prisoner stop his boat, and take from it some bulky substance, wrapped in a rough sack; but on cross-examination it transpired that the prisoner's wife received one of the lots of iron, and as the money paid by the prisoner for the quantities was the usual one paid for old iron, the Jury acquitted the prisoner of any felonious intention, and he was discharged.

November 5 1862 Tipton

A COUPLE OF IRON STEALERS At Wednesbury Petty Sessions, yesterday, before T Walker and J Haines Esqrs., a boy named John Holden, and **John Cox**, a boatman, in the employ of Mr G H Hickman, were charged with having stolen an iron pulley block and chain, the property of Cox's employer. Police-constable Williams stated that early that morning he was at the house of Thomas Jordan, a marine store dealer, residing in Canal Street, Tipton, when the prisoner Holden entered and offered the iron for sale. In reply to witness's questions, he said a boatman had given him the iron, and offered to point out the man. Witness went with the boy, who conducted him to Cox, and Cox at once admitted that the boy's statement was correct. He then took the prisoners into custody, and subsequently ascertained that the property had been stolen from Mr Hickman's premises. Arthur Wise, a stock taker in the employ of Mr Hickman, identified the iron, and the prisoner Cox, who in pleading guilty to the charge, said the iron had accidentally fallen into the boat, and he had neglected to return it, was sent to prison and hard labour for three months, but Holden was discharged.

March 24 1863 Tipton

THE ROBBERY FROM THE WEST MIDLANDS RAILWAY COMPANY At the Petty Sessions, West Bromwich, on Saturday, before Messrs W Sharp and T Kenrick, **Thomas Robinson**, boatman, was brought up on remand charged with stealing, on the 16th of February, a quantity of men's caps, the property of Messrs., Morgan and Sons, Leicester, who had consigned them to Mr Grainger, draper, Kidderminster, per the above company. They arrived safely at Dudley on the 15th, where they had to remain a night. The box was abstracted from the truck, and some of the caps were traced to the possession of the prisoner. Mr Bentley, of Worcester, solicitor to the company, conducted the prosecution, and called Mr Yarborough, manager to Messrs., Morgan and Sons, who deposed that he caused the caps to be packed as per invoice produced, and the caps in the Court were some of those so packed. The case of caps was traced from station to station by numerous witnesses who were in attendance, until it got to Walsall in safety, but when the truck in which the case ought to have been brought, arrived at Dudley, it was missing. Thomas Jordan, general dealer, Tipton, deposed that he knew the prisoner, who lived near him, and on the 17th of February, he asked him "if he could do with a couple of dozen of billy cocks" or "if he could do with a few for the children" but he declined to have anything to do with them. William Spittle, marine store dealer, deposed that on the 18th of February the prisoner asked him if he would buy some "billycocks" which he had in a bundle under his arm. He asked him how he came by them, when the prisoner said, "I purchased them cheap off a man in the Dudley New Road, and if you'll take the lot you shall have them at one shilling each". He agreed to take them, and the bargain was struck. The caps were sent by the last witness to an uncle of his, who kept a small tobacconist's shop at Tipton, who ticketed them at 1s 10d, and sold two, when the police seized the remainder. Inspector Phair, with Police-constable Swift, arrested the prisoner on the charge. The prisoner denied all knowledge of the caps, but when confronted with Spittle he owned to having sold him some which he bought off a man, a stranger to him, for a shilling a piece. This completed the case, and the prisoner was committed to take his trial at the ensuing Sessions.