

**February 13 1863                      Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE A boatman named **Thomas Godfrey**, residing in Nelson Street West, was charged by Simeon Sell and James Heffer, two officers of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with having cruelly tortured his horse by working the same in an unfit state. The officers, it appeared, found the horse at work on the canal side, near Dartmouth Street Bridge. On examining the animal they found that one of its legs was dislocated, which together with other injuries, rendered it totally unfit for work. The prisoner consenting to the destruction of the horse in the presence of the officers, a penalty was not inflicted.

**June 21 1869                              Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS **Thomas Cooper**, boatman, Tipton, was charged by the Birmingham Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with unlawfully beating two donkeys, on the canal side, on the previous day. Superintendent Woodhouse proved the case. The Superintendent stated that there were two large wounds on the hind parts of each animal caused by the beating. Fined 5s and 11s 6d costs, or fourteen days imprisonment.

**August 4 1870                      Birmingham Police Court**

SHOCKING CRUELTY TO A DONKEY **Isabella Dollar**, Tipton, neither able to read nor write, was charged with cruelty to a donkey, by working it on the canal side when it was in an unfit state. Mr Sell (an officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and Police-constable Parry brought the case forward. It appeared that the prisoner and a younger sister were in charge of the donkey and an empty boat, which had come from Tipton. The prisoner said the donkey, but not the boat, belonged to her father-in-law, who was a boatman. The donkey was described as being in a dreadful state. It had a sore on the left shoulder, caused by the collar, as large as a five shilling piece, a sore on the right side, a large wound on the top of the withers, two large wounds on one hind-quarter, and a wound on the other hind-quarter. The collar was so thin as to cut the poor animal, was quite hard, and was in contact with one of the raw wounds. One of the Magistrates asked the girl her age, and she said she did not know. Was she fifteen? "No", she replied, "I isn't fifteen". Inspector Percy : They don't know their age at Tipton, sir. - As it did not seem that the prisoner was primarily responsible, she was discharged, and the Bench ordered that the donkey should remain in the custody of the police.

**September 26 1872                      Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY TO A BOAT HORSE **Joseph Hewitt** (32), boatman, Selly Oak, was charged with working a horse while in an unfit state. Mr Francis, officer for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, stated that from information received he went on to the banks of the Grand Junction Canal, about eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning, and found the prisoner in charge of a horse which was drawing a boat heavily laden with gas ashes. The animal was very badly spavined and could scarcely put its feet to the ground. Prisoner said he was willing to have the horse destroyed, and on this condition he was discharged.

**February 12 1877                      Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **William Higginson** (25), boatman, living near Tipton, was summoned by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for working a horse while in an unfit state. Inspector Thomas stated that at one o'clock the previous afternoon he saw the prisoner on the towing-path of the canal near Dudley Road working a horse that was lame, spavined in both hocks, and totally unfit for work. The accused said he was aware of the animal's condition, and if he could get it home he would allow it to remain there. A fine of 40s and costs was imposed.

**April 17 1877                              Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY BY A BOATMAN **William Pailing**, boatman, was charged with cruelly ill treating a horse by working it in an unfit condition. Mr W E Thomas, officer of the Birmingham Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said his attention was drawn to the horse, on the canal side, near Snow Hill, yesterday morning, and he ascertained that it had been drawing a boatload of iron. It was spavined in the hind hocks, and was also diseased with farcy in the hind leg. Mr Parker, veterinary surgeon, stated that the animal was in a very bad condition, was totally unfit for work, and was suffering from farcy, which was a very serious contagious disease, and he desired to prosecute the prisoner under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, for moving the horse while in that condition. He hoped an example would be made of the prisoner in this case, as the canal side was the hotbed of contagion amongst horses. Mr Parker observed that the animal would have to be at once destroyed. Prisoner was fined £5, or in default two months imprisonment.

**September 19 1877                      Birmingham Police Court**

CRUELTY TO A HORSE **John Morris**, boatman, was summoned for working a horse in an unfit state, and **Thomas Holder**, boat-steerer, the owner, was summoned for allowing the animal to be worked. On the 7<sup>th</sup> instant, Mr Thomas, officer of the Birmingham Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, saw the defendant Morris driving the horse, which was drawing a boat laden with iron. The animal was lame in all its legs, was suffering from a sore under the collar, and was in a very low condition. In fact its state was so bad that the society had it destroyed. Holder was fined 20s and costs, and Morris was ordered to pay the costs.