

HEAVY FINES FOR EXCESSIVE MILK SALES

Christchurch and Highcliffe Retailers in Court

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Three charges of selling milk otherwise than in accordance with a permit and failure to notify the Milk Officer of excessive supplies of milk, were brought against retailers in the Police Court on Monday.

Mr. E. Marshall Harvey conducted the prosecution for the Ministry of Food.

Joseph Bedford, of 4, Christchurch Road, Highcliffe, was fined £15 and two guineas advocate's fee for selling more milk than the quantity allowed by his permit.

Mr. F. E. Bishop, Chief Divisional Enforcement Inspector of the Ministry of Food, said that on the 15th November last he had visited Mr. Bedford and asked to see his milk records. His authorised sale was 484½ gallons, but defendant's books showed that he had retailed 740 gallons, 255½ gallons in excess of his permit. Mr. D'Angibau, defending, questioned Mr. Bishop as to the procedure which should be adopted if there was a "shifting population" and insufficient milk for certain periods. He said that this was the situation in Mr. Bedford's case.

Mr. Bishop replied that an application for extra milk should be made to the Food Office of either Lymington or Bournemouth. When answering another query from Mr. D'Angibau, witness stated that a reply to the application would be sent by return post.

Mr. Bedford said in evidence that the majority of the excess milk had been supplied to customers at Nash (Naish) Farm in the Lymington area because the number of people residing there had increased. His supplies of milk varied from day to day, but he realised he was retailing more than his allotment.

The Milk Officer of Lymington, Mr. F. J. Milliams, denied that the population of the Nash Farm area altered considerably.

Whilst delivering his defence, Mr. D'Angibau told the Court that defendant had been in the milk business for 40 years, 19 of which had been spent in Highcliffe, and during that time no convictions were recorded against him. His good character should be taken into consideration with the other facts of the case.

For a similar offence, John Arnell, of Hillview Dairy, Fairmile Road, appeared before the magistrates.

Mr. C. A. Bennett, Divisional enforcement Inspector of the Ministry of Food, stated that Arnell had supplied 124⅝ gallons in excess of his allowance of 293⅓ gallons. Defendant said he had used extra milk for members of H.M. Forces home on leave and visitors holding emergency ration cards. The officials of the Ministry of Food told the court that a 2½ per cent. increase was already granted for these purposes.

Mr. Arnell was fined £7 10s. and two guineas costs.

Albert John Brooker was fined £5 with two guineas costs for distributing extra supplies of milk without a permit. Mr. C. A. Bennett produced a statement in which defendant had declared that he had supplied extra milk as other retailers did in order to keep his custom. In court he denied having stated any such thing, and the magistrates were informed that persons could not change from one retailer to another unless they removed to a different district.

The proprietor of Mac's Cafe Bargates, Robert William House, was charged with using more than the permitted quantity of tea and not keeping an accurate record of all meals and hot beverages served in the establishment.

When Mr. W. Deacon visited the cafe and asked to see the records the proprietor told him that he only kept a rough account of the meals and beverages served. He admitted using too much tea, actually using a ten weeks' allotment in six weeks. His application for an increase of tea had been refused. A fine of £4 with one guinea costs was imposed.