

The Inspector: I do not know, your worship; but I suppose some explanation of that will be given.

A gentleman, who appeared for the defendant, said Mr. Laird did not sell iron. The weights were kept for the purpose of weighing the stock of iron coming into the concern, so as to have a check on it.

The Mayor: No doubt; but the law says if such weights be found in the premises or possession of a party, the fine must be inflicted. I dare say the weights were not used for trade purposes in the yard.

The defendant's representative: No; and as your worship will see they were used against Mr. Laird himself, who would lose by them, as he only used them to check iron that came into the yard, and if they were light, so much the worse for him.

The Mayor: So I understand that, although you do not use the weights for selling goods by, yet they might be lent out to some neighbor who would sell by them to the public.

The gentleman said the storekeeper of Mr. Laird's place had received orders to have the weights properly adjusted, but he had neglected to do so.

The Mayor: I have no doubt but what you say is quite correct; the officer, however, got the weights light in the place, and all I have to do in point of law is to decide that case. I must fine you 10s. and costs. The fine was paid.

Mr. Richard Harbord was summoned by Inspector Kissick for having two 56 lb. weights light, one 5½ ozs., and the other somewhat light. The inspector said Mr. Harbord was a large warehouseman, and had, among other warehouses, one in Vulcan-street, in which he (witness) found the weights in question.

Mr. Harbord said it was his most anxious desire, as it was that of all warehousemen, to conform in every particular to the law. It was not a matter of profit or loss to him to have light weights in the warehouse. It was true the warehouses were in his possession, but he neither gained nor lost by the weights. The weights in question were not used, and had become light by the accident of falling into the cellar, where a small portion of the lead that adjusted them had fallen out; they were not used. The keeping of light weights was repugnant to his feelings; for, as a right-minded man, he would not have wrong weights in his warehouse, and if it were possible he would wish that some definite system could be adopted whereby weights could be properly adjusted. He had employed a person named John Jones, who was now in court, for the purpose of adjusting and testing the weights; but it appeared that the officer stated that weights could not be adjusted at any place except the office of weights and measures. This course would be totally impracticable with him, for if he had to send his large metal weights to be adjusted, it would involve a carriage of two or three tons every day in the week, because he was bound to say that large weights in use every day would be found to vary the day after adjustment. If the case could be adjourned, he would show that he had a man engaged for the purpose of adjusting the weights, but the officer said such could be done only at the office.

The officer said Mr. Harbord was under some mistake as to the point