

Lost and Stolen Property Auction Sales in Sheffield Police Yard

There was an interesting scene in the Police Drill Yard, Castle Green, this morning. It was a sale by auction of articles lost in cabs and other hackney carriages, of property found unclaimed, and of goods seized by the police from persons suspected of having stolen them, but for which the owners could not be discovered. Together with all these was a quantity, of metal leather and wood which were being disposed of by the Fire Brigade. Messrs. Ellis, Son, and Willis, the City valuers, conducted the sale on behalf of the Watch Committee.

A hundred or more persons were attracted, and business proceeded so brightly that nearly everything was disposed of as fast as it could be handed up to the auctioneer's assistant. The feature of the sale was the readiness of buyers to bid for stuff that looked the merest rubbish, but in which of course, these dealers in wastage could see value. Old clothing fetched rather poor prices, but was easily sold, so that bargains were no doubt the result – as when, for example, a big bundle of men's overcoats was knocked down for 5s. 6d. For a silver watch of the "turnip" variety 9s. 6d. was paid. Boots, new and old, paper bags, brushes, candles, chairs, a window pole, and rings, bottles of sweets, a shop till, horse covers, and rugs, dilapidated leather handbags and purses, a big butchers basket full of gloves, and other oddities were to be noted amongst the stock of sale. A hydrometer – a brass instrument used by publicans for reducing proof spirit to the correct degree below proof, was sold for 6s. 6d. The Fire Brigade articles comprised of old hoses, brass scrap (old helmets), cart wheels, axes, springs, cans and bottles, an old boiler, and a miscellaneous assortment of scrap metal.

The Chief Constable (Commander Scott), the Deputy Chief (Supt. Barker), and other officers of the police force were in attendance.