

WITNESS WHO BECAME A DEFENDANT

Because P.c. Saw His R.A.F. Shirt

A constable at St. Ives Police Court on Monday told the magistrates how he had seen a Woodhurst man giving evidence in a case at a previous court, and had watched him continuously adjusting his coat so as to cover up an Air Force shirt and collar which he was wearing. In respect of these and other articles the man—Arthur Cooper, a farm labourer—appeared before the magistrates together with another Woodhurst man, similarly charged.

The magistrates: Mr. J. Johnson (chairman), Mrs. W. R. Grove and Mrs. H. S. Turner, Mr. W. Wood Horn and Mr. W. Sandifer.

The charge against Cooper was that he did buy, detain or receive four shirts, six collars, two cardigans and two pairs of socks, the property of the Air Ministry, at Woodhurst on Nov. 4th. The second defendant, Ebenezer Chapman, of 8, Council-houses, Woodhurst, was similarly charged in respect of two shirts, four collars and one cardigan. Both were represented by Dr. S. J. Peters, who pleaded not guilty in each case.

BENCH CRITICISE R.A.F.

After the Bench's retirement, the Chairman said it was obvious that cardigans at 2s. each and socks at 6d. a pair would not appear to be anything other than stolen property. The Bench must express some surprise that these men were allowed to walk about the aerodrome wearing Air Force property and not be challenged by the officials. They had had several cases of this sort before them and they must be stopped.

The majority of the Bench were against a sentence of imprisonment but a heavy fine must be imposed. Each defendant would have to pay £5.