

EMPLOYEE CLEARED OF THEFT CHARGES

AN employee of Suters Ltd., High Street, Uxbridge, for eight years, Charles Llewellyn Reynolds, of Harefield-road, Uxbridge, was found not guilty of theft by Uxbridge magistrates on Thursday and discharged.

Mr. J. C. McNaughton, for Suters Ltd., read a statement made to the police by Reynolds in which he admitted taking a tie to wear at the firm's dinner and dance on March 25.

Reynolds was also accused of stealing a grey trilby. Two warehouse coats, a child's blazer and shoes, a raincoat, and a scarf, had been given by Reynolds to Mr. L. F. T. Bartlett, a former employee of Kirby's Ltd., High-street, Uxbridge, the prosecution alleged. The value of the goods mentioned in the charges was £19 7s 5d.

A director of Suters Ltd., Mr. J. D. Suter, of Austenwood Common, Gerrards Cross, explaining the system of cash and credit payment which operated on the firm, said that only the directors or Mr. J. W. Murray of the counting house was authorised to give credit. Bartlett was not a credit customer.

KEPT PRICE TAGS

Mr. Frank Suter, another director, said of Reynolds, "He did not say he was going to pay for the things, but that he had put some tickets on his desk. During an interview Reynolds said 'I have been a fool. I have been trying to help other people.'"

Mr. G. Rowntree, for the defence, said that Reynolds was keeping the price tags, meaning to pay for the articles.

Under cross-examination, Mr. D. L. Harris of Orchard-close, New Denham, said that Reynolds had handled the goods openly in the shop.

Mr. Bartlett, formerly of Dellfield-crescent, Cowley, and now living at Reading, said he had taken the blazer and shoes on approval from Reynolds. He wanted the scarf and raincoat and took them, agreeing to pay for them later.

During cross-examination, Mr. Rowntree suggested that although Reynolds may have been guilty of breaking the firm's rules he was not guilty of deliberate theft.

No evidence for the defence was heard before the case was dismissed.