

Four Guilty Men

The other day four men were fined one dollar and costs for pitching quoits in a lane within the city limits.

The circumstances of the case must have been unusual to justify the fine. Perhaps the lane was so narrow and the men played the game so badly that occasionally a quoit or a horseshoe dropped over the fence into neighboring gardens where chickens were feeding, children playing, or women digging in their flower gardens. Or it may be that the men had pitched horseshoes in that lane so long that they thought they owned it and would not let others drive or walk through it.

One cannot tell without having all the facts what warrant there may have been for preventing those men pitching horseshoes in that lane. But the bald report of the police court proceedings leaves all who read about it quite uninformed as to the merits of the case.

There are many uses to which streets and lanes may not be put. The by-laws regulate all that. But one would suppose that there might be a lane wherein men could pitch horseshoes without the act being regarded as one that could call for fines in the police court. When some lanes and some men are not doing anything else they might very well do a game of quoits in the evening without anybody feeling called upon to make a fuss about it.