

POLICE SENT ON WILD GOOSE CHASE.

SERVANT'S BOGUS TALE.

**"Dragged by Two Men into
a Car."**

A domestic servant was bound over at Alfreton (Derbyshire) to-day for sending police officers on a wild goose chase.

She reported that she had been assaulted in a motor-car by two men.

The girl is Dorothy Ann Fitchett (18), domestic servant, of Byron Avenue, Alfreton. She was charged on remand under the Larceny Act—

"That she did, at Claycross, on October 18, procure for her own use and benefit public officers of the Derbyshire County Police to devote their time and energy, for which they were paid out of public funds, to investigate false allegations, thereby temporarily depriving the public of the services of such officers, and, further, to spend moneys to which they were entitled to be reimbursed from the said public funds by falsely pretending that, while she was in Belper on October 17, she was seized by a man wearing a mask, taken in a motor-car towards Chesterfield, raped by two men in the car, and further robbed of a sum of about 10s."

Superintendent Campbell said the case was without precedent in that part of the country. It was a type of case which was, however, becoming prevalent, that of laying false informations, and putting the police to expense and trouble.

The girl was employed by Mr. and Mrs. F. Wainwright, of King Street, Belper, and early in the morning she knocked loudly at the door of Claycross police station.

Sergeant Gould, the resident officer, was roused, and she complained to him of having been outraged in a motor-car. The sergeant could not make much of the girl's story, and he took her to headquarters at Alfreton.

A Voluntary Confession.

Subsequently Fitchett made a voluntary confession, which she signed, and he produced it. In this she stated:

"I had completed an errand upon which I had been sent by my mistress in Belper when I was attacked by a man wearing a mask, and dragged into a car by two men. I kicked, scratched, and struggled, and while in the car the two men assaulted me in turn. I was asked if I had any money, and I replied that I had not, but the man in the mask got hold of me and took about 10s. from my pocket."

"Afterwards," the superintendent continued, "the defendant signed a retraction of the whole story, declaring it to be nonsense. She also said she had sheltered in a doorway before she knocked up the police sergeant at Claycross."

Defendant pleaded guilty, and told the Bench she thought her young man had got her into trouble.

The defendant was bound over and put on probation for two years. She was also ordered to pay the costs.