

Gillingham, Dorset
28th Sept 1881.

My dear Mr Creech,

As I understand the questions which you put to me on Monday, they are as follows. 1. What are the rights, under the ground game act, of an occupier of a Farm to which rights to stock adjacent commons are attached, as regards the Ground game on the common? 2. What are the rights, as regards such game, of persons having Freehold rights of stocking such commons?

I take it that all you want to know is my opinion as to the effect of the Act.

Now, as regards the occupier of such a Farm and the Freeholder in question, they are both alike Commoners as regards the Commons: the Farmer in respect of the occupancy of his Farm, and the Freeholder in respect of his Freehold Property.

The Ground Game Act professes to deal directly only with the occupier of Land.

I do not think that (apart even from the provision next referred to) the owner of Common rights would come within the denomination of "occupier," inasmuch as I take occupation to mean, exclusive occupation as regards the same interest, which no Commoner has, nor all of them together in the same right.

In order to prevent, however, there being any possibility of mistake in the

matter, the Act provides that "a Person
" who has the right of Common over any
" Lands is not to be deemed an occupier of
" such lands."

In my opinion, therefore, the right of
the Commoner remains unaffected by the
act. If he had sporting rights before, he
has them now; if he had none before, the
act confers none upon him. Rights of common
alone appear to me to give no right to kill
ground game under the act of 1880, and that
whatever the nature of the rights of Common
may be.

If I have not made myself clear, please
let me know, & I will try again.

Believe me to be

Robert S. Searles

A. G. Creech Esq

Sturminster Newton
19th Sept. 1887.

Dear Sir,

From Genl. Pitt Rivers' last Letter on the subject of mapping the Estate I do not think he will have anything done to it for some time yet in case he should therefore enquire for the Ordnance sheets I left with you it would be better perhaps if you will be good eno to return them to me.

C. Coombs Esq.

Yours &c
A G Coombs.

Widbury
Salisbury 23rd Sept 1887

Dear Sir,

I have to day sent to you by train Genl Rivers' Ordnance Maps.

Perhaps I should mention that having lately had an opportunity of looking over some surveys made by me many years ago of a country more like the Knobmore Estate and having nearly finished a press of matters I think I could now undertake the work named in my Letter of July 12th for a less sum than there suggested. If too much nicety be not required in embellishments and if a longer time be allowed as the acreage is large I would be happy to undertake it for from 6^d to 7^d.

per acre. I would suggest too that the maps should show the outfalls and general direction of the modern underground drainage so far as it could be ascertained on the ground and on any drainage maps. The date of such drainage and the system could be also shown

A. G. Creech Esq

Yours &c
Cyrus Coombes

Sturminster Newton
24th Sept 1881

Dear Sir,
I thank you for the Maps which has reached me to day.

When an opportunity occurs I will lay your Letter before Gen Pitt Rivers but as the cost will be so great I do not think he will have the mapping done at present.

C. Coombes Esq

Yours &c
Alg Creech

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