

Insulting Behavior at Baddaginnie.

"ON THE WINE."

A Russian Finn, a wood-cutter, aged about 25 years, named Henry Matson, was presented at the Court of Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last before the Police Magistrate (Captain Burrowes) and two honorary justices (Messrs James and Blackburne) on the abovenamed charge, with intent to commit a breach of the peace.

Sergeant Couche prosecuted and Mr Hamilton Clarke defended.

The Sergeant stated as follows:—In this case, your worships, I sent Constable Henderson to Baddaginnie in consequence of a telephonic message I received from the stationmaster there about a disturbance. We had to hire a buggy, but when Constable Henderson got to Baddaginnie he could not find defendant, who, I believe, was on the wine at the time somewhere in the bush, and when we issued a summons for him I found he went to Burnt Creek, near Longwood. There are three witnesses summoned here, who, however, do not want any expenses; and I might as well remark that the offender has since paid the buggy hire.

Constable Henderson said it was reported to him that the defendant had got into a great row. He (witness), however, did not see anything in this respect but he believed Mr Withers knew all about it.

S. E. Withers, a storekeeper, etc., at Baddaginnie, stated on oath:—On the 15th inst. I went to the local railway station, and requested that a message be sent by telephone to the police at Benalla. This man Matson was going about at the time, apparently the worse of liquor, wanting to fight with everyone around, creating a disturbance. He was using the ordinarily bad language of a drunken man—not outrageously bad, though. He has been working for me, and, when sober, is a quite, decent fellow.

The P.M. to (witness)—Were any women present?—Yes, my wife.

Mr Clarke—Is he not usually most inoffensive?—Yes, very inoffensive when sober. I think his doings were due to drink.

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Mr Clarke pleaded for lenity for his client, asserting that the offender belonged to a class of men who lived mostly in the bush, coming only occasionally into town and getting a little drunk. Besides, offender had paid some of the expenses incurred on account of what he had done.

The P.M. strongly condemned offender for what his Worship described as "the dirty, filthy language" employed by him. "It's not so bad," his Worship concluded, "when this sort of language is used before men, but in the presence of women, it is something awful. We think we are dealing very leniently with this man by the fine we intend imposing and (looking at prisoner) I hope you won't come here again to this court for using such filthy language. You (to prisoner) are fined 20s and you may consider yourself exceedingly lucky to get off at that."

In the case of Margaret Bradford, referred to in our last issue as being tried for arson the previous day at Benalla Supreme Court, the jury disagreed. The accused is to be retried in consequence, at Beechworth on the 11th of next month.

Mr Wm. Brown, a son of Mr J. H. Brown, Samaria, won £20 last week in Tattersall's sweep on the Caulfield Cup.

Last issue of the LEADER, copies of which are locally obtainable, is an excellent number.