

## Charges of Assault.

### QUARREL AMONG RUSSIANS AT NORTH IPSWICH.

At the Ipswich Police Court yesterday, before Mr. P. W. Pears (Police Magistrate), Peter Krulin, of Tivoli Hill, Ipswich, proceeded against Alex. Bridihin and A. Ponamaroff for alleged assault at the Bellevue Hotel, Downstreet, North Ipswich, on the 17th of December last. Mr. D. J. R. Watson, instructed by Mr. N. D. Welldon, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. W. H. Summerville defended. Vasily Fikunoff acted as interpreter for the complainant, and Litman Victor did a similar duty for the defendant.

Peter Krulin, the complainant, stated that at about 6 p.m. at the place and on the day mentioned witness asked Mr. Cooper, the licensee of the hotel, to change a cheque for £50. Mr. Cooper did so. He (Mr. Cooper) was going away and witness was following him, when the defend-

ant Bridihin hit witness several times. Then Ponamaroff came and hit witness. Witness fell amongst some boxes. Witness did not know if anyone picked him up, because he became unconscious. Witness went to a doctor the same night and showed him that his face was scratched, and one cheek was very sore, there being still marks upon it.

By Mr. Summerville: I was first in the hotel. When the defendants first came into the hotel they came into the corridor. I did not call Bridihin a bad name.

Mr. Summerville was proceeding to cross-examine the witness in regard to an assault alleged to have been previously committed, by the complainant on the defendant.

Mr. Watson objected on the ground

that this brought up evidence about an entirely different case.

Mr. Summerville contended that he had full power, in cross-examination, to put the questions.

The Police Magistrate allowed the questions, and the cross-examination proceeded.

Witness further stated: I met the defendant Bridihin on the 19th of November. We quarrelled, and there were blows. The reason I hit Bridihin was because he (Bridihin) offended my wife. Mr. Cooper did not call on the defendant Ponamaroff to separate Bridihin and me. I have not been to the Bellevue Hotel since the night in question.

The Court then adjourned till 2 p.m. On resuming after lunch,

Fred. Slazaroff, joiner, employed in the railway workshops, stated that on the night in question he and the complainant went into the Bellevue Hotel. Drinks were ordered by the complainant, and the complainant asked Mr. Cooper (the proprietor of the hotel) to change a cheque for £50. When the complainant was going with Mr. Cooper to get the change, the defendants came into the hotel, Bridihin then struck the complainant several times. The complainant did not do anything. A man named Mr. J. Neill tried to separate Bridihin and the complainant. Ponamaroff also hit the complainant. The complainant did not say anything to either of the defendants. Witness then went for a policeman, and when he came back all the men but the complainant had gone.

By Mr. Summerville: I did not hear Mr. Cooper call on Ponamaroff to part the complainant and Bridihin.

James Neill, miner, Pine-street, North Ipswich, stated that he and his son were present in the public portion of the bar when Slazaroff and the complainant came in. The de-

the complainant came in. The defendants came in shortly afterwards. Witness saw the defendant Bridihin strike the complainant a couple of times as he was on the point of going out of the bar with Mr. Cooper. This was done without any provocation so far as witness could hear. Bridihin then got on top of the complainant. Witness tried to get between the two men. Bridihin was clinging on to the complainant's face with his hands. Ponamaroff also started punching the complainant. He was not trying to separate the other two men. Witness succeeded in parting Bridihin and the complainant. Witness and Mr. Cooper then put the defendants outside, and they went away in a motor-car. Mr. Cooper told Ponamaroff not to come back to the hotel again. The complainant did not speak to either of the defendants that night.

The witness was briefly cross-examined by Mr. Summerville.

This concluded the evidence for the complainant.

Alex. Bridihin, one of the defendants, a blacksmith, employed in the railway workshops, stated that on a previous occasion the complainant had assaulted him. Witness never on any occasion said anything about complainant's wife. On the night of the alleged assault on the complainant, the complainant called witness a name which, in English, meant that witness kept a house of ill fame, that he was a thief and was a bad man. Witness then hit the complainant twice. Complainant also hit the witness. Ponamaroff then put witness outside. Witness knew Ponamaroff by the name of Norvick. He knew Norvick for 13 years. Witness never heard anyone call the man Ponamaroff before he heard the complainant call him by that name.

By Mr. Watson: I did not go to the doctor after the fight. I don't remember scratching the complainant's face on the night in question.

Eupheim Norvick, one of the de-

and a name on the night in question. Eupheim Norvick, one of the defendants, stated that he had received a summons in which the name of the

offender was written as Ponamaroff. No one had ever called witness by that name before. Witness was present in the Bellevue Hotel on the night in question. Witness heard the complainant call Bridihin by a bad name. Bridihin then struck the complainant and the two men had a fight. Witness heard Mr. Cooper calling out something, but he did not understand what he said. Witness saw some English people try to separate the men. When witness saw that they could not do so witness assisted, and put Bridihin outside. Witness did not touch the complainant. When the fight was over there was a scratch and blood on Bridihin's face.

By Mr. Watson: In Brisbane, I am sometimes called "Fanaroff," which means a "tall man."

In the course of Mr. Watson's cross-examination the witness said that he had been in the hotel since the night of the alleged assault. Mr. Watson then made some remark about what Bridihin had said in regard to the defendant's presence at the hotel.

The matter was the subject of a

wordy conflict between Mr. Watson and Mr. Summerville.

Mr. Summerville warmly took objection to Mr. Watson making use of the instructions he was endeavouring to obtain from Bridihin, in the course of the proceedings. Mr. Watson, he said, had no right to make use of what he thought he heard Bridihin saying.

Mr. Watson said Bridihin had said the words loud enough for him to hear—he could not help hearing them, and the stories were so different that he considered he had a right to make use of the words uttered.

Mr. Justice said the mat-

use of the words uttered.

The Police Magistrate said the matter was of no importance. The witness was on his oath—Bridihin was not at present.

The cross-examination then proceeded.

George Arthur Cooper, proprietor of the Bellevue Hotel, North Ipswich, stated that at the time the quarrel occurred he called on Ponamaroff to separate Bridihin and the complainant. Witness helped to part the two men. Witness did not see Ponamaroff strike the complainant. He had not seen Bridihin in his hotel since the fight, but Ponamaroff had been there.

By Mr. Watson: I put Bridihin outside—not Ponamaroff. When I came in the complainant and Bridihin were in holts. Neill was there at the time. He was in a better position to see the fight than I was.

James Alexander Brown, motor-car driver, gave evidence as to having taken the defendants to the Bellevue Hotel on the night in question. He also gave evidence as to having witnessed the quarrel. Ponamaroff did not hit the complainant.

After a brief cross-examination of the witness by Mr. Watson, the complainant was called in rebuttal. He denied having used the bad word attributed to him towards Bridihin.

Vasily Pikunoff, labourer, residing in South Brisbane, stated that he had known Ponamaroff by that name for 12 months, and he had not objected to being called that name.

This concluded the case.

The Police Magistrate convicted both defendants, and fined them each £2. Costs as follows were allowed against each defendant:—Professional costs, £1 11s 6d, 3s costs of Court, 10s two witnesses' expenses, and 5s for interpreters.