

WAITING FOR THE PRIEST.

A CLAIM FOR MAINTENANCE.

A slight, well-dressed young Russian woman named Dora Lapasoff proceeded against Berkus Gassieff, a Cossack, for an order for the payment of confinement expenses, in respect to an eight months' old female child and its future maintenance at the Police Court on Monday (says the Port Pirie "Recorder"). The bench was occupied by Messrs. S. J. Mitchell, S.M., and T. C. Simpson, J.P., and Mr. E. C. Padman appeared for the informant. Neither party could understand English, and the services of Mr. Didmore were obtained as interpreter.

Mr. Padman, in opening the case, said the man had brought the woman out to Australia with him on a promise of marriage and lived with her for some time. On September 27 last a child was born, and since that time she had been living with him under the impression that when the Greek priest arrived from Melbourne they would be married. He understood that marriage by anyone but a priest of their own church would not be binding in the eyes of their country people. The priest was expected this week, but the man had tired of the woman and turned her out, saying he was going away. In order to protect herself the woman had laid this information against him.

The S.M.: Why didn't they get married by civil law?

Mr. Padman: It cannot be done in Port Pirie.

The S.M.: Oh, no. It is time there was an alteration. It ought to be extended especially to a place like Port Pirie.

Mr. Padman: I have wired to the Greek priest, and he is coming over within a fortnight, but I thought it better to be sure than sorry. The man does not deny the parentage of the child.

child.

The S.M.: These proceedings seem to have been taken because there is no method of celebrating the civil contract as there should be in every community of the size of that of Port Pirie. However, there it is.

Mr. Padman: Of course, we won't enforce the order unless the man attempts to clear out.

The informant gave evidence supporting the opening statement of counsel, and the defendant stated he was earning between £7 and £11 fortnightly at the smelters.

The S.M.: He ought to have a lot of money saved.

Mr. Padman: I hope so, your Worship. The confinement expenses were paid out of the baby bonus. I consider he is still liable.

The S.M.: Yes.

An order for the payment of £10 maintenance from the date of the issue of the summons and costs (in all £13 8/) was made. The money was forthcoming, and the defendant was informed that if he married the informant the £10 would be returned.

Mr. Padman: It will be a kind of wedding present. (Laughter.)