

Cowardly Curs.

CONSTABLE AND MOTORIST
ASSAULTED.

MOYLAN AND MURPHY
MUZZLED.

A brace of sun-tanned, wiry-looking bipeds, one of whom described himself as a horse-breaker and the other as a horse-dealer, occupied the dock at the Central Police Court yesterday, before Lieut.-Colonel Moore. Their names are: Thomas J. Moylan (22) and Charles Murphy (29).

Moylan was charged with assaulting Constable McPhillips and a motor driver named Nicholas Stepanoff, while his pal was arraigned on a charge of inciting Moylan to resist arrest.

Pleas of guilty were entered in each case, "Mr. Booze" being again blamed.

The story told by the prosecution was that Stepanoff, who is a licensed motor-car driver, was engaged by Moylan at 6.45 p.m. the previous night to drive himself and another man to Paddington. Subsequently, they drove to the Theatre Royal Hotel, arriving there at 7.45 p.m. The defendants got out of the car. Murphy asked how much the fare was. Stepanoff said, "You didn't engage me," and pointed to Moylan as the man who had engaged the car. Moylan thereupon struck Stepanoff on the right side of the face. The motor-man turned to go away, and Moylan delivered a second blow, which caused Stepanoff to fall to the ground. Moylan kicked the Slav several times whilst he lay on the ground. Stepanoff shouted for help, and Constable McPhillips came to his assistance. Moylan was evidently out for gore, for he downed the constable and assaulted him. Reinforcements arrived in the person of Constable Kelly, and the enemy capitulated. Moylan said he came from Toowoomba, and could not understand how the trouble arose.

Stepanoff said that his jaw was still sore. They had no words. He only asked for the fare. Defendants were under the influence of Bacchus. Moyland was not quite sober when he engaged the car.

The P.M.: You take my tip, and don't drive men about who have liquor aboard, otherwise you will run the chance of having this trouble repeated. It is a great pity that a cabman or a taxi-cab driver who takes in men who are under the influence of drink is not fined. It would stop a lot of this

trouble. I don't know whether there is any by-law to that effect; it would be a good thing if there were. A man is not allowed on a railway platform, or in carriages, if he is drunk, and the same should apply to licensed vehicles.

Moylan was fined £3, in default six weeks', on each charge, the terms to be cumulative.

The P.M. said there was nothing against Moylan, which accounted for the fine; if there were there would have been peremptory punishment.

Sub-inspector Ferguson said that whilst Constable McPhillips and Moylan were struggling on the ground for supremacy Murphy caught hold of the constable by the throat, and tried to throttle him. Murphy sang out to his mate, "Tom, it's only a John; don't let him beat you!" Constable Kelly's timely arrival upset their calculations.

Murphy was fined £3, in default six weeks in the boob.

Constable McPhillips deserves to be congratulated for his plucky action in trying to overpower two semi-drunken and cowardly specimens of humanity.