

THE FINN'S FIGHT.

John Pollanen, a Russianⁿ Finn, was charged before Mr. M. H. Fitzhardinge, S.M., and Messrs. Robinson and Jordan, J's.P., on Tuesday, with having inflicted grievous bodily harm upon James Charles McCrossen at Hornsby. It appeared from the evidence that McCrossen wanted to fight a man at the Waitara Hotel, and the Finn interfered. Afterwards, at the Railway Hotel, Hornsby, whilst Pollanen was having a drink, McCrossen came up and invited him to fight. Pollanen refused to fight inside, and McCrossen said he would go outside. They went out, and there was a scrimmage. McCrossen declared that the Finn was the aggressor, and that he stabbed him (McCrossen) in the side with a pen-knife, as a result of which he had to have the wound dressed by a doctor, and lost a week's work. The Finn declared, through an interpreter, that McCrossen rushed at him and hit him on the nose, knocking him down. That was all he knew about the affair. The knife produced was his, and prior to the fight was in his hip pocket, in which place he saw it after the fight. There were no blood-stains on it. He had had, as nearly as he could recollect, ten lemonade shandies that night and one rum. He had been fifteen months out in N.S.W., six months being spent in Hornsby, and this was his first appearance in Court. McCrossen, on the other hand, admitted having been "in trouble" on two occasions, once being for riotous behaviour. At the request of Mr. Crowe, who appeared for the accused, the charge was reduced to one of common assault, and the accused was fined £5, with 5s witness' expenses and 21s medical expenses. A noteworthy feature of the case

penses. A noteworthy feature of the case was the evidence given by Michael John Tierney for McCrossen. Tierney admitted having been in Court when McCrossen gave his evidence, though he had heard the order made for witnesses to leave the Court. He was requested by Constable Rowe to go outside, but said he thought the remark was not made for him. A searching cross-examination by Mr. Crowe failed to make him wobble in his testimony, however.