

# HAZARDS.

## "THE MAIN WAS SIX."

### ALLEGED LARCENY BY A TRICK.

Lionel Jacobs and Kelly Mansfield were at Grafton Police Court yesterday charged with larceny in company. Sergeant Swan prosecuted and Mr. Pollack (McGuren and Pollack) appeared for the defence. Mr. R. D. Bawden attended in the interest of the Russian witnesses.

Sergeant Swan, in the box, said at 9 p.m. on the 9th inst he saw two constables in Queen-street. One of the constables handed him two dice, and the other constable handed him two more (produced). From something they told him he went with them to Commercial Hotel, Grafton. He there saw the defendant Jacobs. Witness said to him: "I am informed that you have taken down two Russians at hazards, one for £40 and the other for £18, and Mansfield was with you at the time." Jacobs said: "We had a game; it was fair enough; they are squealing because they lost." Witness said: "Is it your idea of fairness playing with dice like these?" (showing him the dice). Jacobs did not look at them, but he said he never had them. Witness said: "You did, you were seen to drop them in the room." He replied: "No, I never had them at all." Witness said: "Well, I am going to arrest you and charge you with stealing money by a trick." Defendant the

ing money by a trick." Defendant, the two constables, O'Sullivan and Barry, and witness went upstairs to accused Jacob's room at the hotel and searched him. Witness then brought him to the lockup. On the way to the lockup Jacobs said: "You said it was £40, did you?" Witness said: "Yes, in one case, and £18 in another." Jacobs said: "Oh, I thought it was only £12; they have put it up a bit." Arriving at the lockup Jacobs was charged as he now stood charged. He made no reply. Constables O'Sullivan, Barry, and witness then went to the Fitzroy Theatre, where they saw the accused Mansfield. Witness said to Mansfield: "I want you to come with me to the police station, where I am going to charge you with stealing certain sums of money from two Russians." Mansfield replied: "Strike me, I never stole any money from two Russians. I never stole any money in my life." Witness said: "They informed me you did, at playing with dice in Kirkpatrick's billiard room." He said: "I did in £60 of my own money since I came here, and I have had my wife in the hospital ill." Witness said: "You can't expect sympathy on that score." He said: "No, but I drew out £2 last night, and lost 25s to-night." Witness then took him to the lockup, and charged him. He made no reply.

By Mr. Pollack: Mansfield did not show him his Savings Bank book. Witness did not see it when he was searched. It was not seen at any time. Witness did not say: "You will get gambling with these foreigners; they are dangerous men."

Constable O'Sullivan said that about 8

Constable O'Sullivan said that about 8 p.m. in company with Constable Barry he was standing near the Lion Hotel. He heard a disturbance, which appeared to come from Kirkpatrick's billiard room. He went into the billiard room and saw Kirkpatrick coming down the stairs. From something he told them they went upstairs into a room and saw four men—Jacobs, Mansfield, and two Russians named Baff and Kekoff. Baff had hold of Jacobs by the arm, and said to him "Hand over those dice until I see them." Jacobs replied: "I won't let you put your hand in my pocket." Kekoff had a revolver in his hand. Constable Barry took the revolver from Kekoff, and witness said: "What is all this row about?" Baff re-

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plied, pointing to Jacobs: "That — took me down for forty quid, and my mate for £18." Witness said to him: "How were you taken down?" He replied: "By dice, and he has them in his pocket, and I want to see the dice. They are crook dice." Jacobs was standing near the table with his right hand in his trousers' pocket. Both the Russians kept on saying, "He has crook dice on him." Jacobs replied: "I have not, you can search me if you like." Jacobs pulled his hand out of his pocket and put both hands above his head. Constable Barry then searched him, but found no dice. Baff said: "He pulled them out of his pocket and dropped them on the floor." Constable Barry looked on the floor and picked

Constable Barry looked on the floor and picked up two dice near Jacobs' feet. Baff looked at these dice and said: "They are crook ones." Barry took possession of the two dice and witness took possession of two more which he got from Baff, which he had had since they had been in the room. Baff said he picked them off the table. The men were ordered outside, and witness reported the matter to Sergeant Swan. He handed the dice to the sergeant, and identified two in court as the same. Barry also handed his over to the sergeant. The second exhibit of dice was marked from one to six. In the first exhibit of dice there were two sixes, two twos and two threes.

Under cross-examination to Mr. Pollack, witness said the table where the play had been was a small one, and was covered and padded. The room led on to a hall, and the hall led to the stairs. When witness came up the passage Kekoff was not in the passage. The four men were in the room. The Russians used very filthy language; they were very excited. Jacobs did not ask the witness to make Baff let him go. There was no complaint against Mansfield. Kekoff said he was a fair man. The whole complaint was against Jacobs. Mansfield said they had often gambled out at Glenrcagh, and they replied that they had never gambled before. Mansfield said: "Why, you have played with me out there." Witness remembered Mansfield saying he had lost money. Baff said he lost the £40 in the room the day before.

Constable Barry, who was in company with Constable O'Sullivan, gave corroborative evidence.

Examination by Mr. Pollack

Under cross-examination by Mr. Pollack, witness said he picked up both dice from the floor. Baff did not pick up one. The Russians spoke English fairly well, but had a difficulty in understanding. Witness did not understand Baff to say they were playing with the two dice Baff had. Baff said he took them from Jacobs. Mansfield produced a bank book in the lockup and showed him a withdrawal of £2.

Re-examined by the sergeant: The light in the place was not too good. Even if Jacobs had dropped the dice witness would not have seen them. The Russians had difficulty in letting witness understand whether it was £40 or £14 that had been lost.

Harry Baff, railway worker, Grafton, admitted he was in Court during the examination of Sergeant Swan, and the examination in chief of Constable O'Sullivan. He said he was a foreigner, and did not understand the order made as to witnesses. He stated he left Russia three years ago. He was working on the railway line at Glenreagh. He had been there six or seven months. He knew the accused Mansfield. He did not know Jacobs before the Casino races, this month. Witness saw him on the racecourse on the first day. Jacobs came and spoke to him. He said, "Have some dinner with me." Witness did so, and Jacobs paid for it. Afterwards he said: "Where are you staying?" Witness replied: "Nowhere; I have just come in." Jacobs told witness to come to the hotel he was staying at, and added, "We'll have a game up there to-night. It is a good place." Witness did not play. He returned to Grafton on Thursday with Kekoff and a cousin

...ON ON THURSDAY WITH KEKOFF AND A WITNESS  
named Baff. On Tuesday Kekoff and witness  
had a drink, and they walked up to the  
N.S.W. Bank corner. Jacobs came over from  
Clark's Hotel, and took hold of Kekoff's arm  
and said: "Come this way." They went to  
Kirkpatrick's billiard-room and went up-  
stairs. When they were in the room a few  
minutes Mansfield came in. Jacobs said:  
"This is a good place. No one knows we play  
here." Jacobs further said: "We played here  
last year with over 20 bookmakers. There are  
two tables in the room. Money has been on  
the table that high (holding his hand about  
a foot high). The room was full, and you  
could not get a seat. I won over £100. I  
rowed with a fellow, and I fought him and  
beat him." Jacobs asked Kirkpatrick to  
bring the box. When witness went into the  
room he had £62. He carried it in his belt.  
Kirkpatrick brought a dice box with two dice  
in it, and Jacobs said: "This box belongs to  
me; I got it yesterday." The four of them  
started gambling. Every man shook for him-  
self; there were no partners. Witness did not  
know what they called the game. There were  
two dice in a leather box, which was lined  
with something soft. The dice were red.  
Witness threw first. He had never seen the  
game before. He threw five; that was called  
the main. Jacobs bet him six to four that  
he could not throw the main. He threw  
seven and he lost. Mansfield and Kekoff  
also had a bet on the throw of witness. Next  
time Kekoff threw ten, and Jacobs bet £2 to  
£1 with witness, and as Kekoff did not throw  
ten again, but seven, Jacobs got the money.  
Witness never won once the whole time he  
played. Nobody threw twice. They played up  
till five. Witness said to Kekoff: "Come on,

till five. Witness said to Kekoff: "Come on, we will have some tea," and he said: "Very well." They both went home. Before the play finished some big money was played for. When he went home he found he had £25 in five pound notes. Kekoff was there when he counted the money. On Wednesday witness met Mansfield at Cowan's billiard-room. Witness was again with Kekoff. Mansfield said: "We'll have a game to-night," and witness said, "Yes." They went down to Kirkpatrick's room in the evening. Nobody was there, and Mansfield said he would go and get Jacobs. Mansfield said to witness: "Jacobs has won over £60, and he is going away in the morning. We might win that money back before he goes away." While Mansfield went away to get Jacobs, witness and his mate went back to Cowan's billiard-room. Afterwards Jacobs came in and said: "Come on." They came up to Kirkpatrick's billiard-room, and Jacobs told witness to sit down in a chair. Shortly afterwards the four went upstairs. After some further talk Mansfield said to Kekoff: "Sit down, what are you frightened of? Do you think anybody will rob you?" Kekoff sat down in a chair. Jacobs asked Kirkpatrick to bring him a chair, which he did. Jacobs then asked Kirkpatrick to bring him a box, and he followed him out. Witness heard Jacobs say to Kirkpatrick, "Shut the door hard," which he did as he brought the box in. The shutting of the door broke the lamp. Jacobs shouted to Kirkpatrick: "Come back here, you broke the light," and he said he would be back soon. They then started to play, and witness threw first. The main was six, and Jacobs bet witness ten

main was six, and Jacobs bet witness ten shillings, even money bet. Jacobs won, as witness threw seven. Kekoff then threw, and the main was six. Jacobs bet another ten shillings, and won again, as seven was

thrown. Mansfield then threw and made the main nine. Witness was bet 15s to 10s Jacobs, and witness won. In the next throw Jacobs bet witness £2 to £1, and Jacobs won. Now the box came to Jacobs. He made the main five, and bet witness 15s to 10s. Jacobs won. Jacobs threw again, and witness bet him £2 to £1. Jacobs won. He won three times running. When Jacobs started to make the main he changed the dice. Witness and Kekoff saw him. Kekoff stood up and said: "Catch him by the hand." Jacobs started to make the main, when witness caught his hand. In the other hand he had dice, which he threw on the table. On the hand that was caught he made a wrench, and put the dice which was in the box in his pocket. Kekoff said: "Get the dice," and Mansfield said: "Keep quiet, or I'll knock your head off." Kekoff said: "I don't want to speak to you; I want to speak to Jacobs." Kekoff pulled out a revolver. Witness asked the dice from Jacobs, who replied that he had no dice. Mansfield said: "Don't make a noise, or you will have the police up." Witness said: "Let the policemen come up, I want them to." Jacobs said to witness: "How much did you lose to-night," and witness replied: "I don't care how much I have lost to-night; you robbed me yesterday." Jacobs said: "You

robbed me yesterday." Jacobs said: "You have lost £6 or £7; I will give you it back." Witness said he didn't want it. Jacobs tried to give the dice to Mansfield, and witness saw him. Kekoff said: "Don't let Jacobs get too close to Kelly Mansfield," and witness pushed Jacobs back. Then the police came. Witness still held Jacobs' hand. The policeman asked what had happened, and witness said he had been robbed with crooked dice. He let go the hand he was holding, and Jacobs threw the dice on the floor. Witness told the police they were on the floor, and pointed them out. The constable picked them up. Jacobs said they were good dice. Witness identified the good dice as those thrown on the table, and the bad dice as those thrown on the floor. Witness lost £40 in the two days. After he left the billiard-room he met two constables and the sergeant.

Cross-examined by Mr. Pollack, witness said the game of hazards consisted of throwing two dice out of a box. The first man threw what was called the main. He continued throwing until he threw either a seven or the main. If he threw the main he won, and if he threw a seven he lost. There were different odds for different throws. If a man won he could keep throwing till he threw a seven. To throw a six or eight meant even money, five or nine was 6 to 4, four or ten was 2 to 1. These were the fixed odds of the game. The man who had the box had to back in, while the other players could back in or out if they liked. Witness only learned this game last Tuesday, the 8th. He had never played dice before. He came from the North of Russia. He was 20 years of age. He had not done any military service. He would

not done any military service. He would not be called up till this year. Previous to coming to Glenreagh he had been eleven months at Glenugie Peak. He had been 13 months in Australia previous to going to Glenugie. Kekoff and witness camped together. Witness came into Grafton on the 8th of July. He had £233 in the bank, and about £5 in his pocket. There was not one penny of that gambling money. He had never gambled before except for packets of cigarettes, tobacco, or threepence or sixpence. He had played with Maltese, but had not played with Australians. There was a lot of gambling at Glenreagh. He had never played hazards, Yankee grab, or two-up at Glenreagh. Any time he had gambled he had never won £1. He had played poker in Grafton for drinks. Witness knew Kelly Mansfield. He had been working out at Glenreagh. Witness had never played boxer, hazards, or any other game in Glenreagh with Kelly Mansfield or a man named Nicholas. He had not played boxer with Darkey Dunovan. The 3rd June was a holiday on the line. Witness never saw a game of boxer. Mick Kekoff did not lose £30 that day to Curley Coombes. Mick did not pull his revolver out that day. Mick always carried a revolver. Witness remembered St. Patrick's Day. He did not play hazards at the tunnel camp that day. There were big games going on at Glenreagh every pay day. Witness never took part in them. Witness came down to Grafton before the Ulmarra races. He did not attend all the races. He missed the big Grafton meeting. He lost £30 in betting at the races. He had £135 left, but had nothing in the bank. He had loaned £50 to Barney

the bank. He had loaned 200 to Barney Sholnick. Tuesday week was the first time he had been in Kirkpatrick's room. There were two other men there, but they were not playing. Jacobs said he did not want one to play, and witness said: "Yes, let him play." This man did not play until after witness had gone. Witness did not play in that room on Monday afternoon. Witness knew Clarrie Young, Sexton, and Wicks, but he was not playing with them on Monday afternoon. He did not play hazards with Mick and another Russian and the two accused on Monday afternoon in Cowan's billiard-room, and witness and Mick did not win. On Tuesday morning he was not playing hazards in Cowan's billiard-room, nor there on Wednesday morning or afternoon.

At this stage the proceedings were adjourned till to-day.