

A Lively Crew.

And a Terrible Donkeyman.

A serious disturbance occurred last Friday night aboard a steamer lying in the Port River. A number of the crew were engaged in the affair and it took several policemen to round them up. They appeared before Mr. J. T. James and H. S. Sutton on Saturday morning charged with various offences under the Merchant Shipping Act. Although the steamer was a British vessel, every one of the men charged were foreigners. Three of them, John Henry Tomlinson (American), Peter Bispa-loff (Russian), and Jose Flores (Spaniard) were charged with being absent without leave and were sentenced to seven days imprisonment and ordered to pay £2 1/ costs each.

Mr. G. W. Dempster appeared for the prosecution in each case.

George Pollard (a Russian) charged with being absent without leave, was defended by Mr. R. Cruickshank, and the case was adjourned until Tuesday.

Alexander Stukit (Russian) a donkey

Alexander Stukrit (Russian) a donkey-man, was charged with having assaulted the second engineer of the vessel.

Thomas Henry McFarlane, chief officer, said that on Friday, at 12.45 p.m., he went down to the stokehold and saw a number of men there drunk. He spoke to them, and defendant came up to him and asked why he wanted to interfere with the men when they were working. Shortly after they again met, and defendant hit him on the side of the head and knocked him through the engine-room door. While he was lying there defendant kicked him on the shoulder and said, "I'll kill you, you — — —."

Defendant, on oath, said that the engineer came to him and said, "I believe you are just about as bad as those men are," meaning the other men, who were drunk. Witness denied the accusation, and said that he had to keep the engines going for the pumps and the dynamos. "The engineer was very drunk, and could not walk straight, and fell over everything that was in his way. Why, if I had hit him a bag would have been wanted to pick up his pieces. Besides, I have got more sense than to strike an officer," said the defendant.

The Bench—There is not sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction. The case is dismissed.

Stukrit was then charged on the info...

Stukrit was then charged, on the information of Sub-Inspector Fraser, with having inflicted grievous bodily harm upon Mathew De Carries on February 9. The Sub-Inspector stated that the man was then in the hospital suffering from a slash from a knife or razor, and about 20 stitches had been inserted in the wound. The injured person was not able to be present at the Court that morning, and consequently he asked for a remand until Wednesday morning, with the custody of the accused.

Pollard's case was resumed on Tuesday morning.

Accused pleaded not guilty.

Ernest Searle, the chief officer of the vessel stated that the captain of the vessel was in the Rut Rua Nursing Home at North Adelaide. The defendant was one of the crew of the vessel, and was employed as a fireman. On February 9 he saw the defendant go ashore between 7 to 8.30 a.m. without leave.

By Mr. Cruickshank—Defendant had some trouble with the donkeyman on board, and received a severe cut on the head which had to be dressed. Defendant did not speak to him about being afraid of the donkeyman—he did not say a word. The donkeyman assaulted one of the engineers during the week, and there was another case to be heard the next day (Wednesday) for assault.

heard the next day (Wednesday) for assault. Witness received a letter from Mr. Cruickshank inclosing a doctor's certificate from the doctor to the effect that the defendant was suffering from synovitis of the right knee. He had no reason to doubt the doctor's certificate. The donkeyman was on board on the morning of February 9. He had declined on behalf of the master to receive.

Mr. Cruickshank (to the S.M.)—There are two things to be shown: that the man was absent without leave, and, "without sufficient reason." The reason he had gone ashore to get a breakfast being in fear of the donkeyman by whom he had been injured on February 5.

The S.M. suggested that though it was evident from the letter sent through Mr. Cruickshank, that the man desired to leave the ship, he thought some compromise could be arranged by which all would be forgotten if the man undertook to go back to the vessel.

Mr. Dempster—We can't leave the man here; he is a Russian, and it would not be allowed.

The S.M.—He can't go to the front, poor

fellow.

After consultation between the clients and counsel, the S.M.'s suggestion was acted upon and the information was withdrawn and the man ordered aboard.

Another man who was in court elaborately bandaged and evidently a mass of burns on his face, arms and chest departed with him.

A Terrible Donkeyman.

Continued from Page 10.

A SERIOUS ASSAULT.

On Thursday a charge was heard against Stuhrit of having assaulted Robert Henry Ross on Wednesday, February 7, on board a British vessel.

Mr. G. W. Dempster appeared for the prosecution and Mr. R. V. Oldham for the defence.

Robert Henry Ross, able seaman on board the steamer, said the defendant was a donkeyman. Witness came aboard on the Wednesday afternoon in question, and defendant woke him up and asked him for whiskey, and that not being forthcoming, asked for money. On being refused, he struck witness in the face and throat as he lay in the bunk. Another seaman came to

lay in the bunk. Another seaman came to his assistance. Witness went ashore during the afternoon and returned about 6 o'clock. Accused attacked him again. Got him down and kicked him in the mouth, and struck him on the body with an iron bar.

By Mr. Oldham—He had several pints of beer on the morning, perhaps half-a-dozen. He went ashore to an hotel. He went for a walk afterwards and then had another two pints.

By the S.M.—An argument arose in which he called defendant a scab, and defendant said that he would break witness' face for him, and he replied, "I don't think you could."

The S.M.—You invited him to do it then? —No. He did it without.

By Mr. Oldham—This man was the only man he was on bad terms with aboard the ship, and he merely made a point of avoiding him.

The S.M.—You wouldn't ask him to have a drink with you?—Certainly not. I'd break it first, much as I like it. (Laughter).

John Warren, seaman, said he remembered the donkeyman coming into the fo'castle on the Wednesday afternoon and striking Ross three times on the face as he lay in bed. He washed the blood off Ross's face after the accused left.

Walter Evans, the ship's quartermaster, said that he saw the assault occur on Wed-

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said that he saw the assault occur on Wednesday. The donkeyman was lifting the body of someone and knocking it on the deck, and he picked up an iron bar and struck at the victim as he lay on the deck. The accused left, and witness went across to the scene. He found Ross bleeding from the mouth.

The S.M. characterised the assault as a shocking one and imposed two months' imprisonment.

A STABBING CASE.

Stuhrit was then proceeded against on the information of Sub-Inspector Fraser for having assaulted Matthew de Carries on Friday, February 9, on board the oversea vessel already mentioned.

Dr. Percival Cherry stated that on February 9, at about 9 p.m., he attended to Matthew de Carries at the Port Adelaide Casualty Hospital. He was lying in bed and in a great deal of pain. An examination showed several cuts on the upper part of his back extending from the spine towards the right shoulder. One was about 6 inches long and very deep near the spine, gradually becoming shallow towards the shoulder. This was a clean cut and blood was issuing from it freely. The other cuts were jagged and superficial. He inserted several

and superficial stitches, and the man was still in the hospital, and it would probably be another fortnight before he was fit for discharge. The wounds were dangerous, but the man was now out of danger.

The victim Matthew de Carries was still in too serious condition to allow of his appearance in court. The court therefore adjourned to the Casualty Hospital, where his evidence was taken. He said that on February 9 he went aboard the vessel between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon. He had one or two drinks, but was not tipsy. He did not have a dispute, but "simply argued the point" with a man called "Kaiser," and the man "up-fist and let him have a blow," and witness started to scruff with him. He was ahead of him and felt a sharp point get through his (witness) back. He fell, and he looked up and saw the donkeyman (Stuhrit) beating him with a bottle on his back, at the same time holding a knife in his hand. Witness got away from him and rushed to his quarters and shut the door. A seaman named Ross saw the donkeyman trying to force his way into the fo'-castle after him. Witness was standing up at a table and Ross was telling him from the inside that he (accused) could not come in. The donkeyman got in, nevertheless, and witness threw himself under the bunk when he saw him. He went after witness and

he saw him. He went after witness and said, "You —, I'm going to kill you." He saw him and came after him into a corner with a bottle, and started to jab him in the back with the bottle. Witness got away from him and ran out on the deck and down the gangway on to the wharf to ring up for a constable. The police came, and he saw the accused again then, but was unable to talk at the time. The constables brought him to the hospital.

The witness here caught sight of the chief mate, and, breaking into tears, cried out, "I am sorry I have to leave you, sir; you see I can't help it."

The court was then resumed.

Robert Henry Ross stated that on Friday night last (February 9) he was on board the boat. Carries went out for some reason into the alleyway, and a few minutes later came rushing in with blood flowing freely from him and said the donkeyman was after him. Witness closed the door and attempted to hold it shut. He opened the door a few minutes afterwards and found four men with a form in their hands attempting to ram it in. As soon as the door was open a shower of bottles came in. One man broke the seat and with a plank from the top started jabbing at de Carries under the bunk. Someone chased de Carries into the alleyway, and he saw no more of it.

Ernest George Scott of Rosewater

Ernest George Scott, of Rosewater, laborer, in the employ of Simes & Martin, said he was working on board the vessel on the date in question. He was on board between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening. He saw de Carries in the alleyway and heard screams. He looked back and saw the donkeyman in the alleyway hit de Carries with a bottle five or six times. De Carries got away and the donkeyman banged a bottle after him.

Evidence was also given by Plainclothes Constable Herbert Trotter.

The S.M., however, held that there was not sufficient definite evidence to send the defendant on to a Criminal Court, although there was certainly a case to answer.

Mr. Oldham did not call any evidence.

The S.M. fined the man £5, including costs, in default one month's imprisonment.

Defendant refused to pay the fine, and, therefore, with the two months' inflicted on the previous charge, will serve three months in gaol.