

## The Saturday Disturbance.

RAUTLIN CONVICTED ON THREE COUNTS.

CASES AGAINST NEWBY FAIL.

Cases arising out of the disturbance outside the International Hotel on Saturday evening were heard in the Police Court yesterday morning before Mr. T. C. Simpson, J.P. Sergeant Bond prosecuted for the police.

There were three charges against Sulo Rautlin, a powerfully built man, and he was convicted on all of them. For drunkenness, to which he pleaded guilty, he was fined £1 or seven days' imprisonment. For indecent language, which he denied, he was ordered to pay £5 and 15/- costs, or go to gaol for one month, and a similar penalty was inflicted for resisting the police, to which he also pleaded not guilty. The sentences were cumulative.

Joseph Newby, an elderly man, defended by Mr. J. W. Regan, pleaded not guilty to a charge of using insulting words.

Constable Frederick William Ferguson stated that at 6.20 o'clock on Saturday night, in company with Constable Taverner, he was taking the last prisoner (Rautlin) to the watchhouse. There was a crowd of about 200 men following them, booing and throwing stones. When in front of the Commonwealth Bank he saw the accused. He seemed to be very excited, and called out, "Give the — a go." Witness

was four or five yards away from the accused when he said these words. He was positive he was the man.

By Mr. Regan: The defendant was amongst the crowd. He did not know Mr. Dick Sampson across the road. He did not see the defendant talking to anybody. He was dressed the same as he was in Court, with a white straw hat on. There might have been others dressed like the defendant, but this man stood out on his own in this respect. He heard the defendant quite distinctly use the words. He had not made a mistake.

Sergeant James Bond, giving evidence, stated that at 9.30 o'clock on Saturday evening he bailed the accused out. After doing so he walked across the road from the watchhouse to Mr. Sampson's butcher's shop. On the way over the defendant said, "Sergeant, I am very thankful to you for bailing me out. I don't know what came over me to get myself in to this mess." He then said, "You have some money of mine," and witness replied, "Yes, we hold £14 odd." He said, "You take £5 and let the matter drop." Witness told him he would do nothing of the kind.

By Mr. Regan: Witness did not know the defendant at all. He had seen him a time or two. He went over to Sampson's with him, and Mr. Sampson and Mr. Slater were there. They said the defendant was a man who had borne a good character. Mr. Sampson said there must have been some mistake, as he was a very quiet and orderly man. Mr. Sampson did not tell him he was talking to him when

tell him he was talking to him when that disturbance was on.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

The defendant, a storekeeper, of Florence-street, stated that he never saw a crowd nor was he in one on Saturday night. He knew Mr. Dick Sampson, whom he saw some time after six o'clock. He was talking to him about the restaurant opposite the Court-house. He did not know until he was told that there had been a crowd. He did not use the language complained of on Saturday night.

By Sergeant Bond: He was not having an argument with a man over conscription at the time. His memory was pretty clear about events on Saturday night. He was not praying to the Blessed Virgin to take his money and square the case. He was outside the Family Hotel at 10 minutes past six. His memory was not clear on the matter. He was talking there for about five minutes. He would swear that he was not at the Commonwealth Bank corner at 10 minutes past six.

Constable Albert John Taverner deposed that he knew Mr. Scotcher, the tailor. He told Mr. Scotcher that he did not see Mr. Newby in the crowd at the time. He was with Constable Ferguson at the time. He heard lots of bad language, but he could not distinguish the person who said it. There was some noise at the time. Constable Ferguson would look one side and he would look to the other. The prisoner was not struggling at this particular place.

By Sergeant Bond: It was possible

By Sergeant Bond: It was possible for Mr. Newby to have been there and he not see him.

Martin Burke, of Port Pirie South, laborer, stated that on Saturday at 6.20 p.m., he saw the police arresting a man. There was a big crowd all round them. He was among the crowd of men. He knew the defendant. He did not see Mr. Newby among the crowd. They brought the man from below the International Hotel to the corner of the Commonwealth Bank and then across the road to the watch-house.

By Sergeant Bond: He was standing in front of the International Hotel when they were arresting the man. He walked with the crowd, and then came back to the International corner. He could not say whether the defendant was in the crowd or not at the bank corner.

Richard Henry Sampson, of Port Pirie, butcher, said he knew Mr. Newby. He saw him on Saturday evening at about 20 minutes past six. There was a big crowd between the Commonwealth Bank and the International Hotel. At that time Mr. Newby was talking to witness in front of the Britannia cafe. Witness did not stay to see the police bring the man across the street. That was 19 minutes past six. He left Mr. Newby, and he did not know what became of him then.

The bench dismissed the case, and another charge, of having thrown stones, was withdrawn.