

ALLEGED INCENDIARISM.

Mr. J. Jamieson, Acting City Coroner, yesterday held an inquiry into the origin of a fire which occurred at No. 114 Goulburn-street, Sydney, on October 6. Alfancy Nesterenko, who had been charged with setting fire to the premises, was present in court.

Mr. Bathgate, of the Crown Law Office, appeared for the Police Department; Mr. J. Williamson (Messrs. J. Williamson and Sons), for Nesterenko; and Mr. Rooke (Messrs. Rooke and Springhall), for the London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company.

Constable Victor Lenehan said that he saw a shop at No. 114 Goulburn-street, occupied by Alfancy Nesterenko as a machinery merchant. One of the walls was singed, as though by smoke and fire. He noticed a strong smell of kerosene, and a large box, which was burnt, contained wooden shavings. Underneath the machinery he found a detached door saturated with kerosene. There was also a large quantity of newspaper, which was also saturated with kerosene. In reply to questions put to him by witness, Nesterenko said that he was the proprietor of the business, and the stock was insured for £2800 with the London and Liverpool and Globe Insurance Company. He further stated that he brought the money with him from Russia about eight years ago, but had not put it in any of the banks, as he did not believe in them. He had not done any business or sold anything since he had started the business.

In reply to Mr. Williamson, witness said that he knew there had been fires which had been attributed to the I.W.W., but not close to Nesterenko's place. Nesterenko told him that the shavings had been used as packing round the machinery.

The Coroner found that the premises were maliciously set on fire by Alfancy Nesterenko, whom he committed for trial at the next Quarter Sessions. Bail was fixed at £200, with one surety in £200 or two in £100 each.
