

# **GAMBLING DEN.**

**RAIDED BY POLICE.**

**MEN BEFORE THE COURT.**

**KEEPERS FINED £150 EACH.**

The Cairns Police Court was crowded on Monday morning when the men arrested by the police at a boarding house in Sheridan street, which was being conducted as a gambling saloon, were brought before the Police Magistrate. In the middle of the court was the special table used by the gamblers. It was a table of medium size covered with cloth and edged with a ridging to prevent money rolling off. In the centre was a small cash drawer into which the money was dropped by the keeper through a slot cut in the table. The drawer was full of playing cards.

The keepers of the boarding house, Tom Zamit, 34, a native of Malta, and Christopher Attard, 32, also of Malta, were the first charged. The information laid against them was that on the 26th day of February, 1921, at Cairns, they conjointly had the management of a common betting house. They were charged under section 233 (2) of the Criminal Code. Mr. McLaughlin appeared for the defendants, Senior Sergeant Lawrence prosecuted, and Mr. W. Simpson, P.M., presided.

Defendants pleaded guilty.

In opening the case for the prosecution, Senior Sergeant Lawrence said that both the accused kept a boarding house in Sheridan Street, Cairns. One man had been in business there since November, and the other had entered the business in January. They were registered as a firm, and the business was a boarding house. On Saturday night, about midnight, the police visited the place and a search was made

night, about midnight, the police visited the place, and a search was made by virtue of a warrant under the Gaming Act. The police found a game of chance being conducted with all the instruments necessary for that game. There was money on the playing table, and a large number of men were standing round it. Most of the men present were arrested, but he believed one or two escaped. Among those arrested was a lad, 18 years of age. The place was fitted up for the conducting of the game. From the large number of men who would subsequently be presented before the court, his Worship would see that the place was being conducted very openly. The door of the place was wide open, and the police did not have to burst open to enter the room where the gambling was being carried on. The gambling could not be seen from the street, but it could be seen that there were a large number of persons present. He had brought the proceedings under the Code, and the defendants were liable to a fine of £500 or 12 months imprisonment, or both a fine and imprisonment. "We want this thing stopped" added the senior sergeant. "This is the first time the defendants have been charged with an offence of this nature, and nothing is known against them. The game that was being played is known by the name of Troy. It all depends on the throw of the dice. Two dice boxes, and two sets of dice were found, and also a set of "crook" dice, with which anybody playing troy would find it impossible to lose." The senior sergeant went on to give a description of the gaming table, and explained that £2/11/0 was found in the drawer when the police entered. A sum of £20 was taken from one of the defendants, but that was only for the sake of safety.

Mr. McLaughlin said that as the senior sergeant had pointed out, the

senior sergeant had pointed out, the people in this house were having a game of troy quite openly, and the police must have been well aware that these games were being carried on. No secret was made about it whatsoever. The game was simply permitted to go on amongst the Greeks. The two defendants carried on the place as a boarding house, and a number of Greeks boarded there, and others who had come in from the cane fields. It was practically an utter impossibility to prevent these men having a game of cards, or a game of dice, and from that had developed the practice of a man taking charge of the game. It had been a matter of gradual development, and he thought that it was utterly impossible to go into a boarding house frequented by Greeks and Italians, and not find men playing with cards or dice amongst themselves. He asked the P.M. to take a lenient view of it, and to take into consideration that the two men were but proprietors of a boarding house established for the purpose of supplying accomodation to the Greek and Italian workers in the district. He also asked his Worship when imposing a fine to make the fine just as if there was one man. Subsequent to some other remarks by Mr. McLaughlin, the P.M. remarked:

"Surely they don't use that table (referring to the one in court) as a dining table."

Mr. McLaughlin repeated that things had developed from a small scale to that.

The P. M. said, "In this case it seems to me that the police raided what was an openly conducted betting house, and found a number of men playing on the premises. They also

found a table and the instruments for the game." The P.M. went on to say that the defendants were liable to be

that the defendants were liable to be indicted on the charge, and were liable to a sentence of three years with hard labor. It had been remarked by the senior sergeant that youths were found in this gambling den, and he thought it was a thing that should be put down with a firm hand. The proper upbringing of the youths was a matter of great importance to the nation. He intended to convict the defendants and to inflict a penalty on each of £150, default of payment levy and distress, in default six months imprisonment in Cairns gaol.

The mention of the heavy penalty was received with murmurs from the big crowd in court, which drew forth the admonition "silence please".

The P.M. added that in future he would think very seriously of inflicting peremptory imprisonment for an offence of the same kind. The P.M. ordered the table and other instruments including the £2/11/0, found on the table to be forfeited.

Mr. McLaughlin asked for a month in which defendants could pay the fine. He reminded the court that the last time a similar conviction was recorded in the court a fine of £25 was imposed for the first offence. In view of the large fine it was only reasonable, he submitted, that a month should be allowed in which to pay the fine.

The P. M. : I don't care about allowing time to pay the fine.

The following men found in the place, and arrested by the police failed to answer their names, and the P. M. ordered their bail of £3 each to be entreated:—Charles Anderson, 35 years of age, a native of Queensland; Demetros Doulos, 30, Greece; Hubert Preston, 43, Scotland; Terrance Abel, 20, Queensland; Walter Legin, 29, Russia; Peter Benson, 26, Denmark; Steven Stevenson; Opostolos Karalambo, 38, Greece; Anastas Lazaros.

lambo, 38, Greece; Anastas Lazaros, 40, Greece; Leonard Costello, 18, Queensland; John Clien, 34, Queensland; Peter Mattavogni, 25, Italy; Wm. Parker, 22, Queensland; Jim Plozza, 33, Italy; Percy Edward Jackson, N.S.W.; Walter Young, 24, Queensland; Victor Butler, 24, W.A.; Emili D'Campo, 28, Italy.

Jack Jopowsky, 33, Russia, was fined £2. and ordered to pay 2/- cost of cab fare, in default levy and distress, in default 48 hours imprisonment. Others similarly dealt with were: Thos Michaelades, 32, Greece; John Venery, 36, Victoria; George Wilfred Vize, 23, Queensland; George Johnson, 61, Victoria; George Harris, alias Forde, 34, Queensland; Jack Pannizza, 27, Italy;

George Carmody, Queensland; when asked if he had anything to say, said: "As a matter of fact, I was sitting down having a drink when the police arrived. Sergeant Petrie can testify to that." Fined £2 and 2/- cost of cab fare, in default, levy and distress, in default 48 hours imprisonment

Verne Jacques, 24, Victoria; "I went to this place not knowing it was a gaming house. I understood it was a boarding house, and I went there to see some other chaps. I happened to be there when the raid was made. The P.M.: "You appear to be a youth. I hope this will be a lesson to you." Fined 20/-, and 2/- cab fare.

George Palmer, 22, Tasmania: "I went to the boarding house to see a friend and happened to be there when the raid took place." The P.M.: I see you are quite a young man. I trust this will be a lesson to you not to visit these places." Fined 20/- and 2/- cab fare.

Hugh McCready, 23, Qld. The P.M.: "I see you are just a young man. I trust this will be a lesson to you." Fined 20/- and 2/- cab fare.

**Fined 20/- and 2/- cab fare.**

**F. Price, 22, Queensland. The P.M.:**  
I see you are quite a youth. You are fined 20/- and 2/- cab fare.

**Victor Louie, 38, Italy, pleaded not guilty.** He had just gone inside for a cup of coffee, he said, when the raid took place. Remanded till Monday, bail of £3 being extended.

**Phillip Farrugo, 28, Malta, said he boarded at the place and pleaded not guilty.** Remanded till Monday, bail being extended.

**John Oscar Bourke, 32, N.S.W., who had first pleaded not guilty, now changed his mind and pleaded guilty.** He said he went into the place to get some sandwiches. He was fined £2 and 2/- cab fare.

**Arthur Bone, 17, Qld., pleaded not guilty and was remanded till Monday, and John Tantry, 26, Malta, was similarly treated.**

**The fines, bails estreated and cab fares for the whole of the cases totalled approximately £377.**

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