

REVOLVER OUTRAGE.

Russian Runs Amok on Cairns Wharf.

VICTIM DIES IN HOSPITAL.

**Alleged Attempt at Suicide:
Left Eye Blown Out.**

A dastardly revolver outrage took place on the Cairns wharf at about seven o'clock on Saturday evening last, when two Russians, after a brief altercation, are alleged to have closed in a deadly struggle. Several shots were fired, one of the men receiving terrible injuries in the head, chest and internal organs, to which he succumbed in hospital at mid-day on Sunday.

The full circumstances of the story are scarcely known, as the quarrel appears to have taken place with dramatic suddenness, and it was not until the noise of the shots were heard, that the attention of the people in the neighbourhood was drawn to the incident.

The names of the two men are Zahary Beznoski and Stephen Morga.

Morga it is alleged had an altercation with the other over the possession of a revolver, which Beznoski is stated to have purchased from Morga.

Eye-witnesses state that Beznoski was seen to be attempting to recover the revolver from Morga, and from this incident it appears the fatal shooting followed.

Five or six shots are stated to have been fired by Morga, and little

been fired by Morga, and little hope was expected at the outset of saving Beznoski's life.

The dramatic struggle was followed by a still more serious incident, when after the arrival of the police, Morga is stated to have covered and halted Constable Anderson, of the Cairns Police Force, and then suddenly pointed the pistol at his own right temple and fired, blowing out his left eye, so badly shattering the nerves of his right optic, that, even should he live little hope can be entertained for him recovering his sight.

Sensation in Cairns.

A swift rush along Abbott Street in the growing dusk on Saturday by the Cairns Ambulance car—a sharp jerk to a standstill at the surgery of Drs. Jamieson and Langan. Such was an intimation of sufficient significance that something of a calamitous nature had happened. A small throng of curious people quickly gathered round the surgery and in a few moments it was learned that a Russian was alleged to have shot a countryman in the chest, and then put a bullet through his own temple.

The Ambulance car contained the victim, who, with his hand placed on his left breast, was indicating in a feeble voice that "it was there." His moanings were audible some yards away.

After a hurried consultation, the car was rushed to the Hospital, to be followed in a few minutes by a hired car, bearing the man who is said to have done the shooting.

Stefan Morga, aged 35, is the name of the alleged gunman, while the other was Zaharey Beznoski, aged 38.

Beznoski died on Sunday and

Bezneski died on Sunday, and Morga's condition was considered critical. The scene of the tragedy was on the Cairns wharf, at about Howard Smith's, and the Adelaide Co.'s boundary.

THE ALARM.

The alarm was raised at about 7 o'clock, by some people at the Royal Hotel, states a police report. Constables Anderson and Richardson were on duty in Wharf Street, opposite Messrs. Jack and Newell's premises, and they proceeded quickly to the scene, to where a number of people were then running.

Two revolver shots were heard in quick succession, when the Constables were within 300 yards of the wharf entrance.

A WHIZZING BULLET.

A man was seen to drop, and another with a revolver in his right hand ran towards the edge of the wharf. He was shouting, "Good-bye, Good-bye, I am going."

Constables Anderson and Richardson were then about 30 feet away when the warning cry, "look out, he is shooting at you," was directed at them from the crowd. Constable Anderson states that almost at this instant, a bullet whizzed past his ears.

When within a few feet of the armed man, Anderson was momentarily halted by the revolver being pointed at him, with the warning that he would be shot if he attempted to interfere.

Seemingly taking advantage of the brief pause in the advance, Morga placed the revolver to his own temple and pulled the trigger.

The resultant wound was of a shocking nature, the left eye being blown clean out. According to medical advice the nerves of the right eye

cal advice the nerves of the right optic have also been so shattered that the sight may be lost.

TERRIBLE WOUNDS.

A 32 Webley automatic revolver, capable of carrying nine rounds in the magazine was the weapon used. It was emptied when taken possession of by the police. Three empty cartridge cases were picked up where the body of the alleged victim was found, in a pool of blood, and two live rounds were lying a short distance away where there was evidence of a struggle having occurred.

Beznoski's wounds consisted amongst others, of a bullet puncture in left breast, right chest, right side of face, and the lower part of back.

It appears that no less than six shots were fired.

A third party, named Andrew Soranoff, also a Russian, comes into the scene in the proceedings, which are stated to have occurred prior to the shooting.

WAS LEAVING ON THE COOMA.

Beznoski, it appears, purposed leaving Cairns for Melbourne, by the s.s. Cooma, accompanied by Soranoff. Learning that the Cooma would not be taking passengers, Beznoski placed his luggage on board with the hope that he might thus stand a chance of getting away.

prior to the shooting, Beznoski and Soranoff made a second visit to the wharf. It is alleged they were standing talking at the fatal spot when Morga came along. Beznoski then intimated to Morga that the latter had taken his revolver. Evidently annoyed by this statement, Morga is said to have covered the speaker with the revolver.

THE FIRST SHOT.

Realising the danger, Beznoski attempted to grab the weapon, but Morga jumped back, eventually getting his shot in. Whether that first shot was effective is not known. Soranoff, who by this time was beating a retreat, stated that on looking round hurriedly, he saw his mate fall, but could not say whether he had been struck by a bullet. It is declared by an eye-witness, however, that when Boznoski sank to the ground in a pool of blood after the second shot, Morga deliberately fired a third bullet into his head.

This incident occurred some little distance from where Beznoski's body was subsequently found.
