

CAIRNS SENSATION.

MAN SHOT DEAD.

RUSSIANS IN CONFLICT.

Brief details of a sensational shooting occurrence at Cairns were received yesterday by the Commissioner of Police from Sub-inspector O'Hara. The telegram stated that at 7 o'clock on Saturday evening Zahrey Beznosuk, a Russian alien, was shot dead by Stefan Morga, another Russian alien, on the Cairns wharf. Three of the shots fired by the assailant, who used an automatic pistol, lodged in Beznosuk's body, and one in his head. Constables Anderson and Richardson, who were on duty in the vicinity, hurried to the scene. They heard some of the shots while they were approaching, and saw Beznosuk lying on the ground. Morga was getting away, but the two policemen closed in on him, and as they did so Morga covered them with a pistol and threatened to shoot. The policemen, however, continued to close in, and when within a few yards of Morga the latter shot himself in the right temple, blowing out his left eye. Morga was taken in charge, and Beznosuk was conveyed to the hospital, where he died at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday. Morga's condition is critical, but he may possibly recover. The telegram adds that a revolver was stolen from Beznosuk during the week, and he suspected Morga, who resented the accusation, hence the shooting.

CAIRNS, January 23.

A shooting sensation occurred on the wharf at Cairns about 7 o'clock on Saturday evening. 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

injuries in the head, chest, and internal organs, to which he succumbed in hospital at midday yesterday.

The full circumstances of what occurred are scarcely known, as the quarrel appears to have taken place with dramatic suddenness, and it was not until the noise of the shots was heard that the attention of persons in the neighbourhood was drawn to the incident. The names of the men concerned are Zahrey Beznoski and Stefan Morga. It is stated that the altercation was over the possession of a revolver, which Beznoski says he purchased from Morga. Witnesses state that Beznoski was seen attempting to recover the weapon from Morga, and from this, it appears, the fatal shooting ensued. Five or six shots, it is stated, were fired by Morga. There was little hope at the outset of saving Beznoski's life. After the arrival of the police Morga is stated to have covered and, halted Constable Anderson. He then suddenly pointed the revolver at his own right temple and fired, blowing out his left eye, and so badly shattering the nerves of the right eye that even should he live there is little hope that he will recover his sight.
