

CAIRNS WHARF OUTRAGE.

Further Hearing of Murder
Charge Against Morga.

CONSTABLE'S STORY.

Dramatic Sequel to Revolver
Hold-up.

FIRST OF MORGA

Further evidence was given yesterday in the hearing of the murder charge against the Russian, Steian Morga, in the Cairns Police Court. Morga, it will be remembered, is alleged to have had a quarrel with a fellow-Russian named Beznosuk on the evening of Saturday, January 21. The quarrel had a tragic sequel. It is stated that Morga drew a pistol from his right hand trousers pocket and fired a number of shots at Beznosuk, who died of his wounds the following day in the Cairns District Hospital.

Mr. W. Simpson, P.M., was on the Bench, Sub-Inspector O'Hara conducting the prosecution.

Constable Malcolm Ronald Anderson in further evidence, stated that he was in Wharf Street on Saturday, January 21st, on duty with Constable Richardson. About 7.15 that evening they were in front of the Empire Hotel, Wharf Street, proceeding to the Royal Hotel.

"COME QUICK."

Continuing, witness said that as he was passing the Empire Hotel, he noticed a number of people standing in front of the Royal Hotel. On seeing witness and Richardson, some of them shouted out excitedly: "Come Quick: there is a man shooting ano-

Quick; there is a man shooting another on the wharf." Witness Richardson immediately ran to the wharf entrance.

Two shots in quick succession were heard proceeded the witness, as they started to run. The sound appeared to come from the boundary of Howard Smith's and the Adelaide Co.'s wharves. Owing to the presence of a shed witness could not see the entrance to the wharf at this time.

On reaching the gate entrance to the wharf yard, added witness, he noticed one man on the ground, about eight yards from the steps leading up to the Howard Smith and Adelaide Co.'s wharves. He was lying motionless face upwards. Another man was standing on the wharf on top of the steps. He proved to be Morga, and was facing witness. He remained in that position until witness and Richardson came close to

REVOLVER HOLD UP.

When approached, continued witness, accused crossed in the direction of the water's edge. Witness was in the lead and ran up the steps, accused then being about at the corner of Howard Smith's shed. His hands were behind his back, and he made for the centre of the wharf. When witness was within 10 yards of accused, the latter turned round and faced him at the same time drawing a revolver from behind his back. He pointed the weapon straight at witness, and said, "You no touch me, or I'll blow your — brains out." He then pointed to where the deceased Beznosuk lay in the wharf yard, and said: "That man tried to do me a great injury. My life is no more good to me now; I shoot myself." With that, he turned the revolver which was still covering witness, on

which was still covering witness, on to his own right temple, it was discharged, the bullet passing through his temple. He staggered and fell into a sitting position. Witness rushed in and took possession of the revolver which accused still clutched in his right hand.

Constable Richardson, continued witness, at this juncture, came up to witness and accused. The latter remained quiet. An Ambulance bearer came soon after, also a number of civilians. Witness took charge of the weapon.

The revolver which was described as a .32 Webley Automatic Pistol was tendered as an exhibit.

STRUGGLE IN WHARF YARD.

Continuing, witness said that he found an empty shell near the body of Morga. He found a second empty shell on the wharf, three yards or so from the steps, both fitting the revolver. Returning to the body of Beznosuk, witness found signs of a violent struggle having occurred about a yard from where the deceased was lying. About two yards further away, he found signs of another struggle. He also found two bullets, an empty cartridge case, a sixpenny piece, and some coppers. The Ambulance by this time had arrived, and Beznosuk was removed to Cairns District Hospital. Witness came to the Police Station in a private car, leaving Constable Richardson in charge of accused. Witness was joined by Constable Carseldine, and then followed the Ambulance car, bearing Beznosuk, to Drs. Jamieson and Langan's surgery. Constable Carseldine proceeded with deceased in the Ambulance car to the Hospital. After a short examination, witness returned to the wharf in a private car with Constable Richardson. Witness placed accused in

ardson. Witness placed accused in the car, and the former and Senior-Sergeant Tasker accompanied him to the Hospital. On the following day, at 1.30 p.m., Beznosuk died.

Witness, continuing, said that about 100 yards separated Constable Richardson and himself from the scene of the shooting. About a minute elapsed before witness reached the wharf steps from the Empire Hotel.

There were no questions by the accused.

SAVANOFF'S STORY.

Arthur Savanoff, Russian, laborer, residing in Cairns, said he knew accused for three years, and had worked with him at times. He also knew deceased, Beznosuk. On the day of the shooting, he was in company with Beznosuk. They intended leaving Cairns that evening by the Cooma for Melbourne. They took their luggage on to the wharf, and later in the day removed it from the boat, as she was taking no passengers. Beznosuk and Morga were acquainted prior to the shooting.

THE SHOOTING.

After tea, went on witness, Beznosuk and he went again to the wharf, and stood talking. Presently he saw Morga approaching, about two or three chains away. He was walking steadily, with his hands buried in his trousers' pockets. When accused was about 12 feet away, he called out to deceased, "You come here; you say I broke your portmanteau open." Beznosuk replied, "I don't know." Morga then advanced until he faced Beznosuk, about three yards distant. He was sneaking in the Russian language. Morga pulled a revolver out of his right hand trousers' pocket, and covered Beznosuk, saying "I'll shoot you straight away." He also said something like "Good-bye, added

witness. Beznosuk made an unsuccessful attempt to grab the revolver, Morga stepping back. Morga, who was a couple of yards from deceased, then fired at him.

Sub-Inspector O'Hara: And did you go then?

Witness: I ran away quick, as I think he shoot me too. (Laughter).

"I STAY AWAY."

Sub-Inspector O'Hara: You're a sensible man. (Laughter). You did not return.

Witness (decisively and smiling): No; I stay away.

Continuing, witness said the only thing Beznosuk did was to try and grab the revolver when Morga first covered him. Beznosuk did not put his hands in his pocket as though he would produce a revolver to shoot accused. There was no hostile inclination on his part, whatever. After the first shot Beznosuk turned round, but did not drop.

After he left Beznosuk, witness explained with the aid of gestures and amidst some amusement, he "went right through," but heard two additional shots as he ran.

Witness said he had worked with deceased on a railway construction, and he found him to be a quite unquarrelsome man.

ACCUSED'S QUESTIONS.

Taking advantage of the P.M.'s invitation to ask witness questions Morga said:

Didn't I say anything to you at the wharf?

Witness: No; you did not speak to me.

Morga: Didn't Harry rush me before I drew the revolver?

Witness: No.

Morga: It it all true that you are saving?

saying?
Witness: Yes.
Morga (ironically): I thank you for your honesty, then.
Sub-Inspector O'Hara: Did Morga point the revolver straight at deceased's body?
Witness: Yes.
Sub-Inspector O'Hara: What part of his body?
Witness: Towards his chest.