

Morga's Alleged Confession of the Shooting.

HOSPITAL CONVERSATION.

Beznosuk's Terrible Wounds : Medical Evidence.

Sensational evidence was given by Mr. A. R. McLean, Cairns Area Officer, in the Police Court on Friday when the hearing of the murder charge against the Russian, Stefan Morga, was continued. Mr. McLean stated that in the course of a conversation he had with Morga in the Cairns hospital, the latter made a dramatic confession of the shooting on the wharf and admitted attempting to take his own life.

Mr. W. Simpson, P. M., presided, Sub-Inspector O'Hara prosecuting.

Alexander Robert McLean, Area Officer, Cairns, said he had occupied the bed next to accused in the Hospital. On January 31 last, in consequence of a conversation with a fellow patient, he spoke to accused who had intimated that he wished to converse with him. Witness asked Morga what he wanted, accused replying: "I would like to tell you of my case from beginning to end, so that you might be able to tell me my position." Witness said to Morga, "there is a constable on duty; why pick me?" Morga replied that witness may be able to tell him something, and insisted on telling his story. Morga then said, "I own two revolvers and

the one that I shot Beznosuk with I had not previously sold to him. During my absence at Mt. Mulligan, Beznosuk had put rumours round the town, saying that I was a thief and

town, saying that I was a thief and that I had broken open his bag and stolen a revolver that I had sold to him. On my return from Mt. Mulligan, other Russians in town would call me a thief and the people at the hotel where I was staying would point their fingers at me and ask me why I stole the revolver off Beznosuk. I could not stand that sort of thing, as I am an honest man, and have never been before a Court in my life.

MORGA'S ALLEGED CONFES- SION.

"During the afternoon of Saturday, January 21st, I left the hotel where I was staying, and went to the Esplanade, and afterwards walked towards the wharf. When I was getting near to the back of the wharves I met Beznosuk by chance. He was with another man. I asked him why he had been saying things about me and why he had spoken to the police. Beznosuk then made towards me, at the same time making a movement with his right hand towards his left inside coat pocket. Thinking that he was going to shoot me I drew my own revolver, raised the safety catch, and fired at him. Beznosuk grabbed me by the leg and struggled with me. I fired more shots at him while he was on the ground. By this time a crowd had begun to run towards us."

Sub-Inspector O'Hara: Did he state the number of shots?

Witness: No.

Morga went on to say, continued witness, "Two policemen also came. I pointed my revolver at one of the policemen and told them to stay where they were. I then pointed the revolver at my head and fired. I was then picked up by the police, and don't remember being taken to the hospital."

Morga further stated, said witness, that he and Beznosuk had worked

that he and Beznosuk had worked together and had been good friends.

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT.

Sub-Inspector O'Hara: During the conversation there was mention of accused selling a revolver to Beznosuk. Did he mention any sum of money?

Witness: Yes, £5/10/0.

Sub-Inspector O'Hara: Was this statement volunteered by the accused?

Witness: Yes.

ACCUSED SPEAKS.

After the reading of the depositions of the foregoing statement, accused asked witness:

Did I say I fired at him or above him?

Witness: At him.

Accused: Didn't I say I fired above him?

Witness: As far as my memory serves me, you stated that you fired at him.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

Dr. Alfred Langan stated that the deceased, Zaharey Beznosuk, was brought to his surgery on the night of January 21. After an examination he ordered his removal to the Cairns District Hospital, witness following immediately. Witness made a thorough examination of Beznosuk at the hospital, and found him to be suffering from five distinct bullet wounds.

FIVE WOUNDS.

One was on each side of the chest, said witness. One on the right side of the abdomen, one over the breastbone, and one on the left side of the face. He also found two bullets between Beznosuk's back and his shirt and handed them to Constable Carseldine, who was present during the examination. At that time, deceased was quite rational and con-

ceased was quite rational and conscious. He was suffering somewhat from shock. The bullet holes in the coat and shirt worn by Beznosuk, and exhibited in court, corresponded with his wounds. Beznosuk succumbed the following day.

The mental condition of accused, added witness, who was placed "top to toe" with Beznosuk in the hospital, in order that they could see each other, was that of rationality, but he was excited. The greater portion of his left eye was missing through a bullet wound.

On the morning of January 23, witness stated he was present at the morgue with Dr. Scholes, Senior Sergeant Tasker, and Constable Anderson and Carseldine, when the post mortem examination of Beznosuk took place.

POST MORTEM EVIDENCE.

Dr. Scholes, who conducted the post mortem examination of Beznosuk's body, corroborated the previous witness's statement as to the number of bullet wounds, and technically described their position. He stated that Beznosuk's death was caused: firstly, by multiple bullet wounds in the head, chest, and abdomen; secondary cause, shock and internal haemorrhage. Beznosuk's physical condition before being wounded was good.

A TRIANGULAR CONTEST.

Antony Sodkoff, a Russian, gave evidence regarding a conversation he alleged had taken place between the accused and himself at the Cairns hospital. An interpreter was procured, witness stating that he could not speak English well. Accused, who was allowed to sit close to the witness box, denied that he had had the conversation with witness. A

the conversation with witness. A triangular conversation ensued between the three Russians, the context of which, though translated into English by the interpreter, was scarcely audible and almost impossible to understand at the Press desk.

Another Russian also gave evidence, through an interpreter.