

ESTHONIANS AT LAW.

CLAIM FOR WAGES SUCCEEDS

Natives of Esthonia, a little republic in the north west of Europe, which before the war was part of the Russian empire, appeared in a court case at Griffith last week. Peter Laar claimed wages to the amount of £39/4/ from John Fuks, of Yenda, and succeeded in getting an order for £24/15/, with 8/ costs, professional fees £2/2/, witness' expenses £1/6/6 and car hire £1/5/.

According to the evidence on defendant's side Laar was a guest and worked only when he felt inclined, while on the complainant's side it was deposed he was hired by Fuks.

Laar could not speak English and the services of Peter Klink, interpreter, were sought.

Laar's statement was that he was at Yenda from May 4 to July 8. He was engaged to do general work, but did not make any arrangements regarding wages. He worked every day with the exception of one, and cleared mallee country, skinned sheep, shot birds and did all Fuks told him. Fuks supplied board and accommodation and tobacco, but gave him no money.

To Mr. Dickson: He did not write to Fuks and ask if he could live on Fuks place. He fed sheep three times a day. It was not true he went

times a day. It was not true he went shooting in the mornings. He was not there as a guest. Fuks did not take him to Goolgowi to get work, nor to Griffith to fill in a form.

Complainant told Mr. Blumer he used to knock off work after sunset. He had been working in Sydney for £2/10/ and keep, and was not staying at Fuk's just for his keep.

John Fuks deposed he did not agree to pay wages, and did not ask Laar to work for him. Laar came to him to learn English, as he wanted to buy a cheese or butter factory, or brewery. Laar used to go shooting, and take photos printing them in the day time. Defendant drove him to Goolgowi twice as he wanted to take up land. He provided for Laar, who, when defendant was going to Sydney asked him to buy a suit and boots. Fuks sent them from Sydney, giving them to Laar for looking after the place while he was in Sydney, but when they arrived Laar had gone.

Les Doig, C. Pearce, of Yenda and Reg Brumby, of Myall Park, gave evidence corroborating the statements that Laar was not in constant work on Fuks' property.

Mrs. Fuks said Laar took photos every day. She had seen Fuks and Laar working together grubbing malle.

Edward Klink said he had seen Laar working with Fuks.