

ALLEGED STEALING.

Alexander Starast (a Russian) was arraigned on a charge alleging that he did steal a mare the property of James Tattersall, of Koribar; (2) receive same; (3) did steal one saddle and (4) receive same, knowing it to be stolen.

Accused pleaded not guilty and conducted his own defence.

The following jury was empanelled: Cecil Thomas Cross, Walter James Weeks, Harold Wright, Donald Richard Newton, Thos. A. Irvine, Wm. A. McIntosh, A. J. Whitford, D. E. N. Lee, A. Mathers, D. A. McDonell, Peter Haley and Geo. Edward Wyster.

Sergeant E. C. Turnbull said he was stationed at Teralga but on November 14 he was at Nablac. On that day Mr. James Tattersall reported the horse stolen. On November 23 he saw accused at Bullahdelah police station; cautioned him. Accused said he took a brown mare, saddle and bridle from near Nablac. He rode the mare for eight or nine miles along the road, turned in at an opening in a fence and rode to the top of a ridge where he struck a wire fence. He had nothing to cut it with so went to sleep. In the morning he could see houses on either side. He took the saddle and bridle off the mare and let her go. Accused said he had no authority to take the mare.

Accused did not ask any questions.

Henry James Tattersall, farmer, living near Nablac, said the brown mare in the police yard was his. He lost her on November 12. Witness missed the mare on the Saturday and reported it on the Sunday. Accused had no authority to take the mare or saddle.

By accused: There was a strange saddle in witness's shed but there was not a strange horse in the yard. The strange saddle was nothing like

The strange saddle was nothing like that of witness's.

Re-called, Sergeant Turnbull said accused made a statement, which witness produced.

This was the case for the Crown.

The clerk read the statement, a very lengthy document, to the effect that the laws of society were wrong. Mr. English (Clerk of the Court) read a page and then his Honor took a turn, but after reading for a few minutes he handed the sheets back to Mr. English to complete the reading.

Mr. Browning described the statement as a wild outburst of nonsense.

Accused said he took the horse for a ride. He had a very heavy swag to carry. He saw a horse and saddled it and rode six or seven miles. The horse and saddle were found three or four days after.

His Honor addressed the jury briefly.

The Crown Prosecutor withdrew the counts of receiving.

The jury retired at 11.18.