

HE WAS "FANNED"

Wallet Went During Dance

DRUNK'S £40 LOSS

Man Committed For Trial

BEGINNING a drinking bout at 11 a.m. on December 20, Robert Alexander Ernst was pretty drunk by 5 p.m., and when a man in the bar of the Royal Hotel asked him to have a dance, he offered no objections.

When the dance was over, and he found that a wallet containing about £40 in notes, which had been in an inside coat pocket before the dance, was missing, he became suspicious.

Ernst told this story at Newcastle Police Court to-day when Reginald Gladstone Clinton, 37, painter, was charged with having stolen a wallet containing £38.

Clinton said that he would prefer the matter to go to a higher court. He was committed for trial at Newcastle Quarter Sessions on February 4 on a £50 bail. Clinton reserved his defence.

Ernst, of 36 Railway-street, Cook's Hill, said that he was in the bar of the Royal Hotel about 5 p.m. on December 20, drunk. He had about £40 in notes in an inside pocket.

Clinton grabbed him and started dancing with him. When the dance was over his wallet was missing.

Robert Lens, a seaman, living at Darby-street, who was also in the Royal Hotel bar on that day with Ernst, said that he saw Clinton's hand

go through Ernst's pockets. The first time he pulled something out, but put it back.

Then followed a second round of drinks, and another dance, added Lens. It was during this dance that he saw Clinton take Ernst's wallet. When he tackled Clinton about it, Clinton hit him on the jaw.

Mr. F. O'Donnell appeared for Clinton.