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Foreigners' Quarrel.

FOLLOWING ISSUE OF ORDER.

"Was Hit With Bottle."

A dispute between foreigners was before Mr. N. Gallagher, P.M., in the Summons Court yesterday, when Mrs. Vera Platonoff, a Russian, claimed that she had been assaulted by Eliza Egnatoff, a Bulgarian, on November 5. The proceedings at times were considerably heated.

The assault was alleged to have taken place near the A.W.U. office in Gregory-street, following the action of Egnatoff in securing a verdict against Mrs. Platonoff in the Industrial Magistrate's Court on November 1 for £25 and costs. Mr. A. R. Hartley appeared for the complainant and Mr. J. Condie for the defendant.

Mrs. Platonoff, of Farleigh, said that when she was between the Pioneer Hotel and the A.W.U. office the defendant said, "How about my money?" She replied, "Wait till I am ready." "I'll kill you if you won't," answered the defendant, and raised his hand to strike her. She ran into the Pioneer Hotel. When she went out he again attempted to strike her, but Cicognini, an Italian, who was standing near the A.W.U. office grabbed his arm. Defendant, however, managed to hit her on the arm with a bottle.

In answer to Mr. Condie, witness

IN ANSWER TO MR. CONDIE, witness said she was defendant in the Industrial Magistrate's Court on November 1, when Egnatoff obtained judgment for £25, and costs. The money had been owing for a considerable time, and none of it had yet been paid.

Witness denied there was a day when defendant ran into the Cremorne Hotel or when she threw a stone at him. She did not grab him by the arm and strike him on the mouth on the day of the dispute, nor had she thrown stones at him as he walked back to the A.W.U. office. She admitted throwing a bottle at him, but he turned and caught it. She did not throw it again. She also denied saying that she would make trouble for defendant so that he could not get his money for six months. Certain things, she alleged, had been said against her husband and herself.

Augusto Cicognini, of Farleigh, stated that when he was calling at the A.W.U. office he saw complainant and defendant speaking together. On his approach complainant said defendant wanted to kill her. He grabbed defendant, who hit complainant with a bottle and then threw it away.

An interpreter was sworn in to allow defendant to give evidence, but the latter had not proceeded far before complainant, who on November 1 admitted she could speak Russian and Bulgarian, complained to Mr. Hartley.

Mr. Hartley: I am instructed that Egnatoff speaks English on the farm. The interpreter and he are now speaking Russian, and Egnatoff is a Bulgarian.

Mr. Condie: If I am not allowed

Mr. Condie: If I am not allowed to continue I'll have to withdraw.

Mr. Hartley: On oath the interpreter said he understood the language of witness. The interpreter speaks Russian and witness speaks Bulgarian. Witness, so I understand, speaks English on the farm.

Interpreter: He speaks broken Russian; I understand him.

Mr. Hartley: All right, continue. But I shall not use him to cross-examine.

Continuing, witness said that complainant met him at the Pioneer Hotel corner grabbed him by the hand, and struck him on the mouth, saying that she would not pay him any money.

"You are not translating all he says," accused Mrs. Platonoff of the interpreter.

Witness further said that complainant stated. "I'll make trouble for you. I'll put you in gaol for six months so that you cannot get the money." As he walked away complainant threw stones at him. He caught a bottle she threw, and threw it away. She picked it up and again threw it. Again he caught it, but this time "put it in his pocket." He went to an Italian near the A.W.U. office, but complainant came over and again struck him on the mouth. As she walked away with the Italian she said, "Now I'll fix you up for six months' gaol." Witness denied he said he would kill her if she did not give him the money. He never hit her.

Mrs. Platonoff: "He did. Here is the mark," at the time pointing to a dented armlet.

Mr. Hartley used the interpreter in cross-examination, but asked Mrs. Platonoff to check remarks made.

Platonoff to check remarks made.

Witness said Cicognini arrived after complainant threw the bottle; and in answer to Mr. Hartley's question, "Why did complainant immediately come to the Court House and lay a complaint," stated so that she could escape paying him the money she owed him.

After brief addresses were given, Mr. Gallagher said he agreed with the evidence given by complainant.

Mr. Hartley: You are not bound down to a £5 fine.

Mr. Condie: I ask for a nominal penalty.

Mr. Hartley: If a man lifts his hands against a woman there should not be any nominal fine. It is a travesty on justice for a man to ask for a nominal fine for assaulting a woman. What is it coming to when foreigners come in and think they can lift their hands to a woman?

Defendant was fined £17/1/4 and ordered to pay £3/18/8 costs.

Mr. Hartley: And in default?

P.M.: In default, one month's imprisonment.

Mr. Condie: Which Englishman probably will have to do because this woman will not pay him his wages!