

## FOREIGNERS FIGHT

### DISPUTE ABOUT MONEY

#### Boy Assists Father

### COURT CASES AT BILOELA

A miniature battle, in which the participants were foreigners, was waged at the Plateau, near Thangool, on April 20. It is alleged that one combatant was hit over the head with a stick, that an axe was picked up, and that a gun came into play, with a threat to shoot.

As a result, in the Summons Court at Biloele on May 14, before Mr A. H. O'Kelly, Police Magistrate, Alack Bagally, cotton farmer of Lawgi, proceeded against Richard Michael Gregorenko, farmer, and Nicholas Shelfast, labourer, both of Lawgi, for unlawful assault. He also proceeded against Gregorenko, requiring him to find sureties to keep the peace towards him (Bagally), and he alleged that Gregorenko threatened him as follows, "I will — well shoot you. I will — well knock your head off." Bagally and Shelfast are Italians and Gregorenko is a Russian.

Mr A. T. Simmonds (Biloele) appeared for the complainant, and Mr L. J. Williams (Wowan) for the defendants.

Alack Bagally gave evidence that he was growing cotton on Gregorenko's farm. He also cut some house blocks. On April 20 he went to Gregorenko and presented a bill; defendant refused to pay it. Witness stated that he wanted the money to pay the registration fees on his lorry. The defendant rushed round the table, grabbed a butcher's knife and said, "I will pay you with this." Witness grabbed defendant's

knife and said, "I will pay you with this." Witness grabbed defendant's wrist. The latter saug out to his son George, "Get the rifle and shoot him."

The boy got a long fire stick and hit witness across the face. Witness heard a noise and saw Shelfast coming from the back; the latter hit him with a stick on the head, dropping him to his knees. Richard Gregorenko picked up an axe, but Shelfast called out, "Don't hit him with the axe; he has enough bleeding now." Gregorenko said, "I will knock his — head off." Shelfast took the axe Gregorenko, who chased witness with a stick for about 40 yards, calling out, "You — —, if I catch you I kill you."

Patrick Delaney, a cotton picker residing at Lawgi, deposed to seeing Shelfast on April 21. Witness said to Shelfast, "What have you been doing to Alack? Have you been trying to kill him?" Shelfast replied, "Alack is a lucky man this morning that he is not a dead man." He added that he had taken an axe from Gregorenko. Later witness saw Gregorenko, who told him that if Bagally came on to his property he would "shoot the mongrel —." He denied asking Gregorenko for £14.

For the defence—

Richard Michael Gregorenko stated that Bagally came to his place asking for money. Witness showed him an account which revealed that Bagally owed witness money. He also showed Bagally an agreement. Bagally endeavoured to take the agreement from him and attacked him. Witness heard his boy call out "Leave my father alone." After being freed witness got his gun, which was loaded, and said to Bagally, "You get out, you black devil, or I will shoot you stone dead."

Witness stated that he was a returned soldier and was an invalid; he was being treated by Dr Talbot. Delaney had approached him to get £14. He denied that he told Delaney he would shoot Bagally.

George Gregorenko, 12 years of age,

George Gregorenko, 12 years of age, son of the previous witness, told the Court that when Bagally started punching his father he got a stick and hit Bagally over the head. He did not see Shelfast hit Bagally. His father chased Bagally with a stick.

Nicholas Shelfast deposed that on the morning in question he heard a crash and heard a boy screaming. He ran across to Gregorenko's humpy and saw complainant come out. The latter, who was bleeding, said, "I show you agreement, you —." He did not hit complainant. He denied having any conversation with Delaney.

In the first case against Gregorenko for assault the information was dismissed. The defendant was allowed professional costs £2 2s.; in default, two weeks' imprisonment. In the case against Shelfast the information was dismissed. The defendant was allowed professional costs £2 2s.; in default, two weeks' imprisonment. On the third charge, sureties of the peace, the information was dismissed. The defendant was allowed £2 2s. professional costs, £1 5s. car hire, and 15s. witnesses expenses; in default, one month's imprisonment. The sentences were made cumulative, and one month was allowed the complainant in which to pay.

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