

PUZZLE FOR COURT

Man's Marriage

Doubt as to how he could correctly describe himself in a marriage register was expressed in General Sessions yesterday by a Russian, Armin Sher-Rowehl, of Bay street, Brighton, manufacturer.

He was charged with having made a false statement concerning a marriage. The Crown case, presented by Mr. M. L. Cussen, was that Sher-Rowehl had described himself as a bachelor when he went through the form of marriage with a woman on November 24 last year, and that after the marriage he had made a statement to Senior-constable Madin admitting that his wife was alive and in England.

Sher-Rowehl, in evidence, said that in Russia there was no word specifically meaning bachelor. Such men were described by the word meaning "free."

When he went through the form of marriage he believed himself free. He had not seen his wife for seven years, and then believed her to be dead.

To Judge Richardson, Sher-Rowehl said that he knew what was meant by the three words—bachelor, widower, and divorced man.

Judge Richardson.—Then why did you choose bachelor to describe yourself?

Sher-Rowehl.—Bachelor was the first thing the clergyman mentioned. He said, "Bachelor, I suppose?"

"Do Not Know"

You knew that a bachelor was a man who had not been married?—I did not know what to call myself. I still do not. At the Government statist's office, where I went after this was pointed out to me, they did not know. One man there suggested that I should call myself a deserted husband.

Judge Richardson.—You could scarcely do that when you were going to be married.

When the trial had nearly concluded, Judge Richardson, instead of summing-up to the jury, discharged it. He said that he had been examining the law and had come to the conclusion that it would be too risky to go on. Though the charge was not actually made under the Marriage Act, it was made under an act which provided machinery for marriage, and was, therefore, probably out of the jurisdic-

tion of the General Sessions Court, and, like charges of bigamy, should be dealt with by the Supreme Court.

He remanded Sher-Rowehl for trial by the Criminal Court.