POISON IN BEER ALLEGED

ESTONIAN'S DEATH IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY, Wednesday.
Evidence that Mart Pikkur, 54-years-old Estonian who collapsed and died from cyanide poisoning after drinking a glass of beer in the Estonian Club, Sydney, on September 24, had frequently spoken of suicide was given at the Central Criminal Court to-day.

THE evidence was given in defence of Alexander Novad (51), who is charged with the murder of Pikkur.

At the end of the case for the Crown, Novad, in broken English, made a statement from the dock lasting more than an hour.

"Why should I kill my best friend?" said Novad. "He kept me and gave my wife food when I was out of work. I did not poison him. When Pikkur tasted the glass of beer and spat some of it out, he said, 'What did you put in it—poison?'"

Novad said he replied, "Don't be silly," and tried to grab the glass to taste the beer but Pikkur knocked it over.

Alexander Tuum, a wharf foreman, said he had known Novad and Pikkur for ten years. They had been always

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"Funny Taste"

"Often Pikkur talked of suicide." said Tuum in broken English. "When he is drink he is very low. All his money went on methylated spirits and cheap wine. His home trouble made him miserable."

Harry. Heydon, a Drummoyne signwriter, said that last February he was living at a Darlinghurst residential with Pikkur and Novad. One Friday night Pikkur brought a bottle of beer into the kitchen and gave him and the landlady a drink.

"It was a funny taste and I threw it down the sink. Pikkur laughed and took the bottle outside," said Heydon.

Beer Down The Sink

The landlady, Mrs. Mary Lawrence, said the beer tasted very bitter and she threw her beer down the sink. She asked him what was in it but he laughed and took the bottle away. She was sick that night.

Mr. McKean, K.C.: Did he put things in drink?—Yes, often; that was his form of humor. He used to put pepper and salt and things in beer.

(Proceeding)