

MAKOVETSKY MYSTERY

Still Unsolved and Secret.

**TUPICOFF TRIED AND DIS-
CHARGED.**

A MOTIVE FOR THE CRIME.

**THE MURDERED MAN AN EX-
RUSSIAN POLICE AGENT.**

The trial of Nicholas Tupicoff on the charge of having wilfully murdered Teodor Makovetsky, at Dakabin, on August 25, was held at the criminal sittings of the Circuit Court, at Maryborough, on October 7, before Mr. Justice Real and a jury.

Mr. J. J. Kingsbury prosecuted, and Mr. Fahey (instructed by Mr. Morton) defended.

It will be remembered that on the morning of August 25 the dead body of Teodor Makovetsky was found on the railway line near Dakabin, where new railway works are in progress. His throat was cut, and his head had been smashed by some heavy instrument. On the line was found the dead man's hat, swag, and pocket knife. There was a pool of blood some distance from the spot where the body lay. There were also marks between the place where these things were found and the body, as though it had been dragged along the line to the place where it lay. At a waterhole still further down the line, the two shovels and the iron lever of an hydraulic jack were found. The lever had human hairs, similar to those of the murdered man, adhering to it. The murdered man and Tupicoff had been

SEEN TOGETHER

at Dakabin the day before, and they had got employment on the new railway works. They spoke to several Russians who were employed there, and then returned to Brisbane together, and went to their respective boarding-houses for tea. It was arranged that they should start work at Dakabin on the following day. But neither of them turned up at the job. Makovetsky must have returned to Dakabin some time that night, but Tupicoff denied that he (Tupicoff) did so. He gave an account to the police of his movements that night, and said that he returned

account to the police of his movements that night, and said that he returned to his lodgings at 11 p.m., and passed the night in his bed. It is certain that his landlord found him in his bedroom at 7.30 a.m. On the other hand, evidence was given by two men who swore that they travelled with Tupicoff and Makovetsky in the 10.30 p.m. train from Brisbane to Dakabin. A woman said that Tupicoff visited her in Brisbane at 9.30. Tupicoff was committed to trial from the North Brisbane Police Court. There were no finger prints found on the lever or on the shovels, and at the trial at Maryborough John James Harris, Director of the Laboratory of Microbiology, said that he had examined a quantity of clothes of the defendant, and found no bloodstains on them. There was

NO INSTRUMENT FOUND

which would have produced the fearful wound on the throat.

At the trial at Maryborough, similar evidence was adduced to that which has already been reported in this paper.

Mr. Fahey called no evidence for the defence, and asked his Honor to take the case from the jury on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence against the accused, or, in the alternative, that it would not be safe for the jury to convict on the evidence.

His Honor declined to take the case from the jury, which, after retiring for three hours, found a verdict of not guilty, and Tupicoff was discharged.

In connection with the above case, it is stated that there was a strong belief, based on certain knowledge, amongst some of Tupicoff's countrymen that Tupicoff did not commit this crime. There was evidence that Makovetsky, it is said, was recognised as having been connected with the secret police in Russia, and therein lies the solution of the mystery.