

CHARGE OF MURDER.

THE DAKABIN TRAGEDY.

FURTHER EVIDENCE.

Nicholas Tupicoff, a Russian, appeared on remand, before Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Moore, P.M., in the Central Police Court yesterday, charged with the wilful murder of Teodor Makovetsky, at Dakabin, on August 25. Detective Inspector O'Sullivan prosecuted.

Marfa Stoopachenko, who gave her evidence through an interpreter, said she resided at South Brisbane. She had known the defendant for about three months. She also knew the deceased, Teodor Makovetsky. They both stayed at her boarding-house. One Tuesday night about two weeks ago Makovetsky left, saying he was going to Petrie. He took a swag with him. (Witness identified a bag produced as that belonging to Makovetsky.) Before he left witness changed a five pound note for him, giving him £4 in gold and 18/ in silver. Witness was shown a photograph of the deceased, and identified it as that of Makovetsky, who had stayed with her. Previous to this, on the afternoon of the Tuesday in question, the deceased went to Petrie, but he did not tell witness with whom he went.

Paul Stoopachenko, husband of the previous witness, gave corroborative evidence.

Evan Evans, a ganger, employed on the railway construction line near Petrie, said he thought the defendant was like a man who passed him in company with a smaller man near Petrie, on August 25. Witness stopped working that day at about 5 o'clock, and left a jack handle near the line. Next day this jack handle and shovel were missing. Witness identified a jack handle produced in court as one similar to that missed on August 26.

John Dayden, a labourer, similarly employed to the previous witness, gave corroborative evidence.

Ernest Hunt, a farmer, residing at Lawnton, near Petrie, said he came to Brisbane on August 25 during the morning, and returned by the 10.25 p.m. train. Witness travelled in a small second-class compartment, and noticed two other passengers who conversed in a foreign language. They were dressed in dark clothes, and one was shorter than the other. Both men left the train at Petrie. Witness recognised the defendant in court as one of the men, and a photograph produced as that of the smaller man.

Detective Sergeant McCarthy said that on September 9 he had a conversation with the defendant at the watchhouse, and he asked witness if his brother had been at the watchhouse that morning. Witness replied, "I do not know," and the defendant said, "I had a letter from him in the goal, and he said the police had been to his house, searching for my knife. Continuing, defendant said: "The murderer a very clever man. He plan it well, and cover up all his tracks. He know that Tupicoff be suspected, as he was with the murdered. He then make himself up to look like Tupicoff, and travel out in the train. I have seen plenty murder like that in Manchuria

and travel out in the train. I have seen plenty murder like that in Manchuria, when murderer cover up his tracks, and never be found out by police."

Arthur Canning, a process engraver, residing at Bald Hills, said that on Tuesday night, August 25, he travelled to Bald Hills in the same compartment of the mail train as two men who spoke a foreign language. Witness recognised the defendant as one of these men. He identified the previous witness, Hunt, as a young man who was also in the carriage.

Sarah Dunn, a boarding-house keeper in Wharf-street, said the defendant had boarded with her at intervals for the last 18 months. He had a room on the front veranda. On August 25 the defendant introduced witness to Makovetsky. Later in the day the defendant told witness he had been to Petrie, but did not intend to work there. Witness retired to bed that night at about 8 o'clock, leaving the defendant reading a railway time-table at the table. Witness's husband called the defendant to breakfast next morning, and he unlocked the door. It was not his usual practice to have the door locked. At breakfast witness said to the defendant, "What do you think of this

Russian being murdered?" and he replied, "I don't know, missus," at the same time shrugging his shoulders. On August 25 the defendant borrowed 3/ from witness, and he paid her the sum next day.

Corroborative evidence was given by Denis Dunn. At this stage the case was adjourned until Wednesday next.