

FORGED PASSPORT

GERMAN CHARGED

SIX MONTHS' HARD LABOR

Hermann Laage (37), a German, was charged at the Water Police Court this afternoon with stealing from Peter Pannel, a Russian, two ships' discharges, a certificate, and £5, on August 17.

Detective Rankin said that he spoke to accused concerning the case, and he said that he was a Russian, and that his name was Peter Pannel. The Russian Consul spoke to him and he did not reply. Later on accused said:—"I got the certificate from a man named Anderson, who got it from the Consul, and sold it to me for £8"

Peter Pannel, a seaman, stated that on August 17 he was drunk at an hotel at Circular Quay. Two men knocked him down and took his papers and money. He did not know the accused. He identified the papers produced in Court as his property. He did not sell the certificate.

Accused said he was a civil engineer. He was born in Berlin and not Russia. He met a man named Anderson in George-street near the markets in July and asked him to get a Russian passport. He got it, and witness paid him £8 in gold. He left the next night for Brisbane.

Police-prosecutor White informed the court that accused was at present serving a sentence of five months for stealing at Portland the sum of £90. He was convicted at the Bathurst Sessions on October 20.

Mr. King sentenced Laage to six months imprisonment with hard labor.

Laage was further charged with having in his possession at Brisbane on August 21 an altered consular certificate. He was proceeded against at the instance of the Defence Department under the War Precautions Act.

The accused was fined £100, in default six months hard labor, the sentences to be cumulative.

As he was leaving the dock Laage collapsed and was removed from the court by several policemen.