

GERMAN WITH RUSSIAN PASSPORT.

IMPRISONMENT AND £100 FINE.

Hermann Laage (37), a civil engineer, late of the Portland Cement Works, who is now serving a sentence for stealing, was charged at the Water Police Court yesterday before Mr. King, S.M., that at Brisbane on August 21 of this year he did have in his possession an altered Consular certificate.

Captain J. Bowie Wilson (Barrister, Victoria Barracks) appeared for the prosecution.

Accused pleaded guilty, and was fined £100, in default to be imprisoned for six months, with hard labor.

Accused was further charged that at Sydney on August 17, 1915, he did steal from the person of Peter Pannel two ships' discharges, one Consular certificate of identification, and the sum of about £5 6s 6d, the property of the said Peter Pannel.

Accused was undefended.

Detective David Rankin explained that on November 29, with the Russian Consul at Sydney and the Government Interpreter, he asked accused his name, and he replied, "Peter Pannel." Accused said at first that he got the certificate from the Russian Consul; afterwards, that he bought it from a man named Anderson, and then admitted that he was not Pannel. He said: "My name is Hermann Laage. I was born in Germany." When shown the certificate, he said, "I wrote Peter Pannel on it."

Peter Pannel stated he had been robbed and assaulted by two men on August 17, at Sydney, when he was drunk.

Mr. Thomas Archibald Welch stated he was Imperial Russian Consul at Sydney, and said he knew the man named Peter Pannel, and issued him a Consular identification certificate. The signature on the document produced was not that of "Peter Pannel." The original signature had apparently been erased by acids and another signature written over it.

Accused pleaded not guilty, and stated his name as Hermann Laage, and said

his name as Hermann Laage, and said that he met a man named Anderson in Sydney and asked him if he could get him a Russian passport, as he did not wish to be interned at the camp. Anderson said he could get one from a man named Pannel. He afterwards met Anderson and Pannel, and got the passport for £8, and he left the same night for Brisbane. He did not steal the papers or money.

To the Police: He was born in Berlin. His wife and family were there now. He was serving a sentence for stealing at Portland, but he had never stolen the money.

The magistrate convicted, and accused was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labor.

On the sentence being pronounced the accused swooned in the dock.



LANCE-CORPORAL CAMPBELL,
Died of Wounds.