

## QUESTION OF NATIONALITY.

A Military Court was held at Victoria Barracks yesterday, when Nicholas D'Orloff, known as Count D'Orloff, was charged with escaping from the German Concentration Camp at Holdsworthy on July 20.

The issue before the Court was whether D'Orloff was legally interned, as he had previously pleaded not guilty, on the ground that he was a Russian.

In a statement by the accused, he said that as far as he could remember his father had told him that he (the father) was a Russian. He (accused) had been in several Russian towns before going to Riga, from which town he went to sea. He had not served with the Russian army. He arrived in Australia when 22 years of age, and had been on and off in Australia ever since.

The President: To what country did you go when you left Australia for the first time after landing here?—I refuse to say.

Accused asked that he be granted permission to have a private interview with Mr. T. A. Welch, Russian Consul. The request was granted, and the Consul informed the Court that he could put the accused to certain tests at the Consulate, and could then decide whether he would issue him a certificate as a Russian subject. The Court adjourned for three hours to allow the tests to be made.

On the reassembling of the Court the Consul was recalled at the request of the accused. Mr. Welch stated that he had made a most searching inquiry into and examination of the accused's statements, and was of the opinion that he had lived in Riga since boyhood, but was not prepared to say that he was of Russian parentage.

The accused applied for a week's adjournment to enable him to communicate with Russia by cable.

The Court refused the application, and also overruled accused's plea that he was a Russian.

The further hearing of the case was adjourned till 2.30 to-day, at the German Concentration Camp, Holdsworthy.