

EXCITING TIME ON A SHIP.

TWO MEN COMMITTED.

Vaine Alexander Simulo (24), a Finn, and Matthew Ernakoff (21), a Russian, were charged before Mr. M'Kensey, S.M., at the Central Court yesterday with maliciously wounding William Bauckham, John Mahoney, Frederick Gitsham, and William Ward, on board an overseas steamer at Sydney on March 31.

Dr. Leo Bamber, medical officer at Sydney Hospital, said that Bauckham was suffering from 17 different skin wounds; Mahoney had a wound about 8in. long on the left side of his chest, which necessitated nine stitches being inserted; and Gitsham had a large wound in his back about 10in. long. They left the hospital on April 12. The wounds could have been inflicted by the knife produced if one of the blades was intact.

The evidence for the prosecution was that several of the crew, including the two accused, had been ashore on March 31. They returned to the vessel about 6.30 p.m. Bauckham, who had been drinking, started an argument with Mahoney in the fireman's quarters. The two accused struck Mahoney from behind, and he fell under a table. Bauckham went to his assistance, and was attacked by Simulo, who struck him several times in the back. Bauckham threw him down and Simulo stabbed him in both thighs with a knife similar to that produced. Bauckham was taken away by another member of the crew, and the two accused then attacked Mahoney, who was struck by a sharp instrument several times in the back. Gitsham appeared on the scene, and joined in the struggle, receiving a stab in the back. During the scuffle Ward, who was a quartermaster on the vessel, went to see what was the matter, and the two accused attacked him. One of them stabbed him near the left eye, necessitating the insertion of two stitches.

Both accused were committed for trial.