

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

Two strangers, Alex. Fulcher and Emil Edward Hofdahl, brought their troubles to the local court on Thursday. Both men were employed on the s.s. Kadina, and, while berthed at Yarraville, Hofdahl interposed in a wordy argument between Fulcher and a mate—with a boot-last! Fulcher was "knocked out," and had to have several stitches put in his head. Hofdahl admitted the assault, but said Fulcher had annoyed him by calling him "A German — !!" This Fulcher denied. The captain of the ship said that, when Hofdahl told him of the assault, he told Hofdahl it served Fulcher "d— well right," but he (the captain) did not then know a boot-last had been used. He thought it had been an affair of fists. Mr. Caldecott said Hofdahl was fortunate that he was not answering a charge of manslaughter, and inflicted a fine of £5, with £1/19/9 costs, in default one month.