

CIRCUIT COURT.

The Newcastle Circuit Court was opened yesterday. Mr. Justice Sly presided, and Mr. P. Halse Rogers prosecuted for the Crown.

ASSAULT AND ROBBERY.

Konstantin Czarnulla and Anton Wickter Henrickson, seamen, pleaded not guilty to a charge of assaulting Roderick Roderick at Newcastle on September 14, and robbing him of a watch chain and a medal. The Crown case was that Roderick, a miner, while under the influence of liquor, was seen by several persons near the George Hotel, Scott-street, at about 6.30 in the evening. The two accused were observed with their hands on him, and apparently going through his pockets. The men were arrested, and on the way to the police station Henrickson said he wanted a drink. While at the fountain in front of the post-office, Henrickson stooped and dropped a piece of chain into the fountain. At the police station another piece of chain, similar to the other, was found on Henrickson. The evidence given in the police court recently was repeated by Water-constable Nesbitt, Constable Allen, George William Fawcett, a wharf labourer, boys who witnessed the occurrence, and Roderick. Czarnulla gave evidence that he met Roderick at the Criterion Hotel. At closing time a man named Schwiller took Roderick by the arm and walked away, witness following. When they reached Scott-street witness left them, and went to the Sailors' Home. On returning he found Roderick lying in the roadway. Henrickson said he did not know how the piece of chain got into his pocket. He remembered dropping a piece into the fountain. He did that because he and the other man had been arrested, and he did not want to be found with the property on him.

had been arrested, and he did not want to be found with the property on him. After a short retirement, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty against accused, who were each sentenced to three months.