

STABBING AFFRAY.

ACCUSED COMMITTED FOR TRIAL.

Before Messrs A. J. Cantor and H. C. Gibson, J.'sP., in the City Police Court yesterday, Andrew Kairi, a labourer, was charged with having on December 31 unlawfully assaulted Thomas Green. Inspector Walsh prosecuted, and Mr. W. Dwyer appeared for the defence.

Thomas R. Green, attached to the naval guard at Fremantle, stated that on December 31, in company with several other naval men, he left Fremantle by the 3.15 p.m. train, and alighted at West Perth station. With his companions he visited several hotels, and when near the Great Boulder Hotel the accused, who was an entire stranger to him, swore at them as they passed, and followed them into the bar. The accused left the hotel before them, but on returning to the street witness and his friends were again subjected to abuse. One of his companions named Young then warned the accused to be quiet. By way of reply, the accused knocked Young down. Witness then rushed the accused and knocked him down. He could not say whether he struck the first blow or whether the accused struck any blows at all. He heard someone say that the accused had a knife, so he stood a little away, but Kairi jumped up and rushed him. After this rush he felt a stinging pain in his chest and neck. His assailant then made off in the direction of the Federal Hotel. He was feeling very sick, and blood was flowing freely. He was taken to the back of a house and his wounds were bathed, and from there he was removed to the hospital.

William J. Young stated that when he arose to his feet after having been knocked down by the accused, he was feeling dazed. He saw Green fighting with the accused, and when a man rushed up and attacked another of their party named Robson, he again joined the fray. A

Robson, he again joined the fray. A woman also came on the scene screaming that one of the lads had been stabbed. He saw that Green was bleeding. When the accused heard the woman's screams he ran down the street.

William Dewhurst, a stoker, said that he and Robson heard someone fighting, and on turning round saw Green at grips with the accused. He ran back and put the "hammerlock" on the accused in order to take the knife from him, but the accused was too strong, and wrenched him self free.

Paul Villain, manager of the Great Boulder Hotel, said that he saw the accused look at the sailors and then say that he would knife one of them. He told him that he would not allow him to talk about knives in the bar, and ordered him out. When the accused passed the water trough outside, he heard him say that he would kick someone to death like a football.

Dr. Montgomery, who medically attended Green at the hospital, stated that the wound in the neck was dangerously close to the innominate vein, and if that had been severed death might have ensued. The wounds could have been inflicted by the blade of a pocket knife.

Evidence of arrest was given by Detective Doyle, who stated that when, later in the evening, he and Detective-Sergeant Muller met the accused, he denied having been at the Great Boulder Hotel, and said that he had just returned from Fremantle, where he had been all day. He said that he had received the fresh cut on the bridge of his nose in a row which he had had at Fremantle the previous day, but could not say with whom. At first he refused, but later agreed to accompany them to the Great Boulder Hotel, where he was recognised by the manager, and where the arrest was then made.

The accused, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial.
