

BOLSHEVIKS IN SOUTH MEL- BOURNE.

AMUSING CASE AT LOCAL COURT.

Before Messrs. Baragwanath, Skinner, Farr, and Jago, Js.P., at the local court on Tuesday, a tall, middle-aged man named David Martinson, formerly of 19 Winwood street, Montague, and now of the Sailors' Home, Melbourne, was charged with threatening to "cut the complainant's throat and her little daughter, too," and that he chased the two with an open knife. Complainant, wife of defendant, is a Russian woman, and gave her evidence through an interpreter. Defendant is a Russian, too, but could, as

he said, "speaka the Eng" pretty well. Mr. Nolan appeared for defendant.

Complainant said she had been married to defendant for five months. He had given her a pound per week, and on the 19th inst., while under the influence of drink, chased her and her child with an open knife and threatened to cut both their throats. Cross-examined, witness said she had been married twice, and had also lived as a married woman with a man named Rosanna. Defendant, she said, had all the facts of her life before him prior to their marriage.

Mr. Nolan said that only the previous day complainant gave his wife £5. He was a returned soldier of the British Army, and had given his wife, whom he was fairly fond of, fully

whom he was fairly fond of, fully £200 of his military pay. Mr. Nolan said there was really no case to answer, as complainant had not sworn that she was in fear of her life.

Mr. J. Baragwanath, J.P.: Put your client in the box and let us hear what he has to say.

Mr. Nolan: I maintain that there is no case for defendant to answer.

Mr. J. Baragwanath, J.P.: Well, we think there is.

Mr. Nolan: All right. Now there will be a panorama. I don't know whether he is a Bolshevik or what he is, but it is hard to make him understand. (Laughter.)

Defendant: I am not the Bolshevik—my wife is. (Laughter.)

Defendant denied that he threatened his wife's life. He had given her good money, and left home because she was always pinching money out of his pockets. He reckoned she had had £97 off him.

A bank book belonging to defendant was produced. Mr. Baragwanath, J.P., remarked that Martinson had not had more than £1 4/3 in the bank when he married his wife. He could see no trace of the £200 referred to.

Mr. J. Baragwanath, J.P., said the Bench would like to bring the parties together again, and suggested that the case be postponed for one month. Would the wife go back and give him another chance?

Complainant said she was frightened. Defendant was in reality a Bolshevik, and she feared he would cut her.

cut her.

After further remarks complainant said she would go back and be a wife to defendant if he would promise to give up drink and be good to her and her child. On this understanding the case was adjourned for four weeks.

A Master of Language.

Patrick Murphy, wharf laborer, of 23 Richardson street, was before Mr. E. Notley Moore, P.M., and Messrs. O'Bryan and W. H. Russell, Js.P., at Thursday's court on a charge of using obscene language within the hearing of persons passing in a public place. Evidence was given that defendant used most disgusting language to his wife and daughter, and that he was a habitual offender. Murphy, who did not appear, was fined £5, in default six weeks' imprisonment, and was ordered to pay 14/ costs.

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The autumn leaves are falling, the green is turning to gold, and there is quite a possibility that instead of improving the prevailing epidemic will increase in virulence. It is the imperative duty of every citizen to take all possible precautions against contracting or spreading the disease.