

PARTNERS QUARREL OVER FILM VENTURE

George James Leslie Johnson, picture-show manager, was charged at the Central Police Court with obtaining the sum of £28 from Oscar Strom, by means of a false pretence and false promise, with intent to defraud.

Johnson was arrested at Kogarah by Sergeant Harrowsmith, on a warrant issued at Strom's request, and he is a brother of Mrs. Strom's brother-in-law,

FREEDOM OF THE WORLD.

Oscar Frederick Strom told the court that defendant had made a proposition to him for a partnership agreement for £50. He said he had the country showing rights of five films. The Freedom of the World, Tigress, Robinson Crusoe, Just Peggy, and The Enemy Within. Johnson said there was no risk as he was a well-known business man in the city and had offices at 241 Pitt-street, Sydney.

Strom asked what security he would have, and Johnson replied that he would have to look after the ticket box, the cash and the films, and added there would not be any risk as he was prepared to back his brains and his 15 years' experience and £125 in cash for the sole country rights of the picture, The Freedom of the World.

He said he wanted £50 for the partnership, and explained that he was collecting for Quality Features, and had all his films and posters packed away in a big case.

Strom said he had not got £50 to invest, but could put up £40. The partnership agreement was then signed and registered. The partnership, later, was registered.

JOINT BANKING ACCOUNT.

On the way to the Commonwealth Bank to open a joint banking account, witness handed defendant £28, keeping £12 for travelling expenses. At the bank defendant opened a joint account for £10.

Defendant said he did not think a country tour would be a success. He had a better scheme which was to open

country tour would be a success. He had a better scheme which was to open a picture show at Drummoyne, which was for sale. They visited Drummoyne and tried several nights at an open-air show. The proceeds were not at all satisfactory, and the partnership was subsequently dissolved. Johnson promised to refund the £28 the following day.

NOT GOING TO BE FOOLED.

Strom called several days for the money, but Johnson said he could not find a man who owed him £50 and lived at Ryde. Several days after he called for the money again and asked Johnson how much longer he was going to fool him?

Johnson replied: "If you are going to be nasty I won't pay you anything." Strom said he would give Johnson a fort-

night to think the matter over. If he did not pay in that time he would take action against him.

About three weeks after, hearing nothing from Johnson, Strom visited 241 Pitt-street. From something he heard he wrote certain letters to Johnson and then obtained a warrant for his arrest.

At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution, Mr. Abigail submitted that his client had no case to answer. The transaction was purely a partnership matter, and there was no evidence of felonious intent.

The magistrate, Mr. McKensy, said he would consider the point and adjourned the case until next Friday, when he would give his decision.