

## CONSTABLE ATTACKED

### MAN RESISTS ARREST.

On Tuesday, April 4, Constable Strahan visited a farm about six miles from Goomalling on the Dowerin road with a search warrant to look for firearms which it was suspected were unlicensed. The farm is owned by Ernest Adolph Louvel, a Frenchman by birth, who, with his mother, has resided there for some time. Louvel came to this State when 19 years of age. On arrival at the farm, the policeman approached a fence, and was met by Louvel, who was carrying an axe. He stated his business, but Louvel adopted a threatening attitude, and after abusing Strahan, threatened to murder him. Strahan, thinking Louvel was merely bluffing, made to get through the fence, but Louvel swung the axe in an endeavour to hit the constable, who was too quick for him. The following day, Constable Strahan returned to the farm, this time accompanied by Constable Duperouzel of Dowerin, and the car in which they were travelling was stopped some distance from the farm. They had hardly put in an appearance, however, before Louvel, who was evidently on the watch, saw them and called out in a loud voice, "Oh, two policeman, mother get the gun." Both constables then got through the fence and approached Louvel, who showed fight. He was tackled, but proved to be very strong. He was, however, overpowered, and brought before Messrs. I. H. Royal and J. A. White, J.S.P. on three charges: (1) that of abusing and threatening to murder Constable Strahan; (2) that of resisting the police in the execution of their duty, and (3) having in his possession firearms and a packet of ammunition without the necessary licence. Louvel, when he appeared in court, was outwardly calm and pleaded guilty. He is a short man, but very solidly built. He spoke rather quickly, and on that account was rather hard to understand at times.

#### Dogs Let Loose.

Constable Strahan in evidence said

Constable Strahan in evidence said that on the occasion of his first visit Louvel had abused him and then made a swing at him with an axe he was carrying. Louvel also called to his mother to release the dogs, and, having done so, she appeared on the scene in support of her son with a piece of wood taken from a wood heap. On this occasion he had spoken to the accused, who appeared very angry, but after a while his anger seemed to decrease for a time. As soon as he made a move to get through the fence, however, Louvel became very active. The following day when he again visited the farm with Constable Duperouzel of Dowerin, they heard Louvel call his mother and tell her to fetch the gun. They lost no time in getting to grips with Louvel, but his mother intervened, upsetting one of the constables. Constable Strahan obtained a good hold on the accused, which, he said in the majority of cases would have rendered the ordinary man incapable of further resistance, but Louvel appeared to execute a summersault, and was free of the grip. He was possessed of amazing strength, which was probably due to his anger, for he roared the whole time in a most peculiar manner, while his eyes became bloodshot. He was eventually handcuffed, and placed in the motor car. A search of the dwelling revealed a most appalling state of uncleanness, and a shot gun, a .32 rifle and a box of ammunition were seized, the latter weapon being loaded. The dwelling was described as the filthiest either of the constables had seen. There was but one bed, and the floors of the place were littered with rubbish and dirt.

Louvel was sentenced to one month's imprisonment on the first charge, and twenty-one days on the second, and fined £3, in default nine days' imprisonment on the third, while the firearms were confiscated. A recommendation was added by the Bench that the accused be placed under observation. He was escorted to Fremantle on the Thursday morning train by Constable Frazer of Northam, while Constable Duperouzel returned to Dowerin the same

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It was learned that Mrs. Louvel owned some property in Northam and that she was in the habit of making the journey to that town every week in order to collect the rent.