

WARNING GIVEN TO LOITERERS AROUND OLD FAIR BUILDING

Two Suspects Charged With Vagrancy Before Magistrate Bates this Morning.

STATEMENT BY COL. CLARK.

A sharp warning was given to foreigners and others at the police court this morning when two Italians, Domenik Ross and Luiki Croziano were charged under the vagrancy act with behaving suspiciously outside the old winter fair building on Saturday afternoon. From the evidence of Sergt. Cornell it was shown that the two men were sitting on a wood pile opposite the building where the prisoners of war are confined and after making some gestures, taken for signals, went through the market building and to the place where some prisoners, under escort, were chopping wood. Their conduct was such that they were closely watched. One of them made some more gestures, and the two then went down town by a back lane route. They were followed and placed under arrest.

When searched Ross had \$486.55 in cash upon him, but this, he declared he had saved during his ten years in the country. He admitted that his wife was an Austrian but through an interpreter both men pleaded not guilty of any mischevious intent.

Col. Clark, addressing the bench, said his men had been given endless trouble by undesirable visitors, like the accused, signalling to prisoners, and loitering about the building. Letters had been dropped from the windows on to the sidewalk and smuggled away, but few, if any, had managed to escape the eye of the authorities. He did not, after hearing the explanation of the two accused, wish to press the case and thought the matter would be satisfactorily settled by a severe warning from the magistrate.

His worship said the military authorities had been perfectly justified in affecting the arrest of the men, and he quite agreed with Col. Clark that such conduct must be stopped. He asked the press to make note of the warning and told the two defendants that if they were caught loitering again they would be sent to jail.