

Aborigine alleges he was punched by policeman

SYDNEY: An Aborigine told a Newtown Court last week that he had been punched on the jaw by a detective.

HE was Kenneth Brindle, labourer, from Redfern, who said that he went to the police station to make inquiries after a railway detective arrested two Aborigines and shot another in the back of the head the previous night.

He pleaded not guilty to using insulting words to Detective-Constable R. Armour at Newtown Police station on June 4, last year.

Shot dead

He said that about 4.15 p.m. on June 4 he went to the detectives' room at the police station, where he saw Constable Armour.

He said he was inquiring about an incident at St. Peter's railway station the day before when an Aborigine was shot dead.

He told Constable Armour he was a member of the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship Society.

Constable Armour told him a railway detective shot the Aborigine when he and two others were seen trying to break into a kiosk.

Brindle said that it seemed "pretty drastic action". He alleged Constable

Armour said: "Look, don't think you can come here and paint those Aborigines lily white, because I know the 'abos.' around this area, they are a pack of no-hopers."

Denied

Brindle said he did not go to the police station to hear Constable Armour's biased opinion of Aborigines.

Constable Armour then said, "Oh, a cheeky black—" and punched him on the jaw.

Constable Armour then dragged him to charge room and said: "I will teach you to use insulting words to me."

Constable Armour denied the allegation.

Rev. James H. Downing, superintendent of the Congregational Metropolitan Mission, said he saw Brindle on June 4.

He examined Brindle's mouth and found he had a bruise on the inside of his left lip. As a man experienced in alcoholics, he did not think that Brindle was under the influence of liquor when he saw him.

Mr. J. Scott, S.M., remanded Brindle to March 19 and allowed him £5 bail.