

NINA COMES TO COURT.

After six weeks in the sanctuary of the Russian Embassy, Nina Ponomareva finally comes to Marlborough Street Police Court to answer the Case of the Five Hats - thirty shillings' worth of millinery which became an international issue. The ordeal proves to be not so terrible after all - Nina is found guilty, but is discharged absolutely, and leaves happily for home, using a back exit to avoid the crowds.

At Surrey Dock, the Russian ship Vyacheslav Molotov, outward bound for Leningrad, is waiting for her extra passenger, who arrives in an Embassy car. Nina by-passes the normal emigration procedure; a customs officer has arranged to see her on board. She is smiling as she makes her way to the ship; for now she can resume her life as school-teacher, wife, and mother - and Russia's discus champion.

Following Nina up the gangway are Russian sailors with suitcases and parcels - presumably not containing the five world-famous hats.

But another drama is developing on the quayside. A solicitor arrives with a court order to remove another passenger - two-year-old Tatiana Chvastova, whose father Alexis Chvastov, was taking her to Russia from America against the wishes of her American-born mother. Father says she is Russian; mother says she is American; so a British-judge declares her a ward of Court until the matter can be settled. Father bows to the inevitable, and brings her back to London.

Comings and goings at Surrey dock are keeping the pressmen busy - but as Nina's ship sails away, two nations can be glad her case is closed, and hope that it will be quickly forgotten.