

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The weekly sitting of the Bankruptcy Court took place yesterday, Mr. Registrar Moseley presiding.

A Fruiterer's Failure.

Lionel Rapoport, lately a fruiterer and wine saloon keeper, carrying on business at High-street, Fremantle, was examined. He stated, in reply to the Acting Official Receiver (Mr. A. A. Moffat) that his liabilities were £260 11s., and his assets £10. He had carried on business at Perth and Fremantle since his arrival in the State in 1902. He commenced a fruiterer's business in January, 1911, with the financial assistance of an uncle, Meyer Breckler, who lent him £280. He continued in that line of business up to the time of his failure. He was originally in partnership with his brothers, Alexander Rapoport and Samuel Rapoport, and they had traded as Rapoport Bros. The liability to his uncle in respect of the advance made by him had been discharged and three years ago debtor and his partners purchased a wine saloon previously owned by one Piconi, with the assistance of Seppelt and Sons, Ltd., to whom they gave a bill of sale over the premises. The whole of the liability to the firm had been met at maturity, and they had had no difficulty in financing the deal. His wife had purchased furniture to the value of £39 from C. and H. Locke for their private residence, and that liability had also been met. Portion of the furniture had since been disposed of, and £10 or £15 worth was left. In April, 1915, the partnership held a meeting of creditors, and arrived at a composition of 12s. 6d. in the £. They were then carrying on four businesses, including a boot shop, and in connection with the boot shop they claimed that the vendors had misrepresented the value of the stock on hand. In October, 1916, the partnership between debtor and his brothers was dissolved, and he retained

his brothers, was dissolved, and he retained the shop in High-street, Fremantle, only. The partnership had no creditors, all the liabilities having been discharged. Meyer Breckler financed his purchase of the High-street business and took a bill of sale over it. After carrying on the business for about twelve months debtor was unable to meet his obligations under the bill of sale, and Breckler assumed possession. The wine licence had been lost owing to new legislation, and this had seriously affected the business. Breckler now had possession of the shop, not having realised. Debtor had borrowed money since becoming aware of his financial position, hoping to carry on until the summer arrived, but in each case he had advised the lender that he was in difficulties. He had used the money, about £70 in all, to replenish the stock in his shop. His turnover had fallen from £25 per week to £11 or £12 after his wine licence was forfeited, and his weekly expenditure had been about £11. On a £25 turnover his profit would only be about £8. Debtor had enlisted for active service with the Expeditionary Forces, and was to enter camp on October 15. He attributed his failure to the loss of the licence. He was a married man with two children.

The examination was adjourned for two weeks.

Blacksmith in Difficulties.

Arthur Henry Voss, blacksmith, of Gnowangerup, said he had resided in various portions of the State since his arrival in 1901. For six years he was at Broomehill, first working for wages, and later entering business on his own account, with a capital of £30. Shortly afterwards he became a partner of Edward Wright, and they carried on business as blacksmiths, wheelwrights and undertakers. A few months later, however, they dissolved partnership on August 6, 1912, and he paid Wright, the outgoing partner, £75. To pay this he borrowed £30, and obtained the balance out of the moneys owing to the firm. The loan had been repaid, and the liabilities of the partnership discharged. His liabilities to unsecured creditors totalled £75 13s., and to one partly secured

talled £75 13s., and to one partly secured creditor £154 8s. 5d., as against which there was security, in the shape of land at Broomehill, valued at £96, leaving a liability to the creditor of £58 8s. 5d. The security, however, was in the name of his wife. He denied that the value of the security was only £20, as alleged by the creditor. His assets totalled £42 13s. 9d. After carrying on business in Broomehill on his own account for a time, he became aware in November, 1915 that he was in difficulties, but he hoped that he would be able to pull through with the help of the business coming in. Eventually, however, he was sold up. He attributed his failure to lack of capital and the rise in the price of material. Owing to his inability to purchase material, custom had fallen off. He was a married man with seven children. His two eldest children were now working in Gnowangerup, and he was employed on a farm in the district. Between them they earned £4 17s. 3d. per week. He was willing to set aside £2 per month for the benefit of his creditors as from November 1.

The examination was adjourned.
