

## RETURNED SOLDIER IN TROUBLE.

Before Mr. W. Harris, P.M., in the City Summons Court yesterday, James Claude Henderson, Deputy Comptroller of the Department of Repatriation, proceeded against George Connand, of the Y.M.C.A. Hut, North Quay, on information that, on May 27, at 82 Wickham-street, Valley, he, without the consent, in writing, of the State Repatriation Board, pledged a tent and fly and two blankets, which goods were granted to him under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act, 1917.

The defendant pleaded guilty.

Mr. Dudley M'Nab (of Messrs. Chambers, M'Nab, and M'Nab), who prosecuted, said that the defendant was a returned soldier, a widower, with two children. In April last he applied to the Repatriation Department for assistance to enable him to get together an equipment for his employment. He "was issued with" a tent and blankets at a cost of £4/10/. On May 27 the defendant went to Isaacs's pawnshop, and there pledged the goods. In addition to receiving the goods, defendant also received a certain allowance for sustenance. Mr. M'Nab asked the magistrate to inflict such a penalty as would recoup the department. The goods were pawned for 25/. The department did not wish to press the case, in view of the poor circumstances of the defendant. They wanted to give him another chance.

Mr. Isaacs, who was in court, said that he would forego the 27/6 involved, and hand over the goods. He did this because defendant was a widower with children.

Mr. Harris made the formal order of imposing a fine of £1/10/, including restitution, with costs amounting to £2/12/4. Two months were allowed for payment.