
SOLDIERS AND DRINK.

EFFECT ON INVALIDED MEN.

Although the blue armlet supplied to returned invalided soldiers for compulsory wear has come in for much criticism, there is no doubt that it is beneficial in many cases. To soldiers suffering from the effects of some injuries the obtaining of intoxicating liquor is disastrous. Most right-thinking hotelkeepers welcome the safeguard of the armlet, but unfortunately with the utmost care they are likely to supply a man if he strips his armlet off before entering the hotel. One such case was before Mr. J. W. Channon at the Port Adelaide Police Court on Wednesday morning. John August Pankoff, a Russian and a returned soldier, was charged with having been drunk in Commercial Road, Port Adelaide, on November 19. He pleaded guilty.

Defendant was further charged with having at the same time and place resisted Senior-Constable John Conroy and Constable Walter S. Harris in the execution of their duty. Sub-Inspector Fraser prosecuted. Defendant said that he could not say what occurred, and this was taken as a plea of "not guilty."

Senior-Constable Conroy gave evidence that he was called to the Exchange Hotel corner of Commercial Road at 6 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. He found defendant drunk, and, in company with Constable Harris, arrested him. He resisted and endeavored to bite him. Defendant kicked witness on the knee violently and was practically carried into the police station.

was practically carried into the police station by four constables. When searched a flask of whisky and two blue armlets were found in his pocket.

Constable Harris, in corroborating the evidence of the previous witness, said that defendant threw himself on the ground, and in the course of his endeavour to kick and bite witness, bit a piece out of his tunic.

Mr. Fraser informed the Bench that although the constable had to pay for his own uniform, he had generously taken no action against the man for the damage done.

The Bench (to defendant): This is a serious charge, for which you are liable to a fine of £10 or three months' imprisonment. What have you to say?

Defendant: I have been away two years, and I have "played the game." I only came back yesterday. I met some of my mates and they gave me some beer, and that started me drinking further.

Mr. Channon said he did not want to inflict a heavy penalty on a man who had done his duty for two years, but the police had to be protected. On the first charge there would be a conviction without a penalty.

In reply to a question from the Bench as to whether the military would be likely to further punish the defendant for having removed the arm-bands, Sub-Inspector Fraser said he did not think so, as the man would probably be discharged from the forces almost immediately.

Mr. Channon (to defendant): You must exercise your will and say "No" to these people who ask you to drink. It is a pity they could not be punished as well.

Sub-Inspector Fraser: I think so too.

Sub-Inspector Fraser: I think so too.

A fine of 10/, with 10/ costs, was ordered.

Defendant: Will you give me time to pay, please?

Mr. Fraser: The man has £1 at the police station.

After consultation between Sub-Inspector Fraser and the Bench, the fine was reduced to 5/ (15/ in all), so as to allow the man to retain a few shillings in his pocket.

Defendant: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Channon: Don't thank me. I should do my duty.
