

REPATRIATION.

Mr. Markowicz Arraigned.

Criticism of Administration.

We understand (says the "Daily Mail" of May 15) that yesterday the State Repatriation Board summoned Mr. A. J. de Torpor-Markowicz, who was organiser for this district for the Seventh War Loan, before the Board, to answer certain charges preferred against him in a summons issued in accordance with the regulation framed under the Australian Soldiers' Repatriation Act of 1917. The press was not invited, and we understand that subsequent application for press representation at the hearing was refused, and somewhat of a scene is reported to have occurred when counsel presented himself for admission to the inquiry.

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It is alleged that considerable discourtesy was manifested towards the gentleman who sought to appear on

behalf of Mr. Markowicz. Later, this difficulty was overcome, and counsel was admitted. The inquiry was then proceeded with, but had shortly to be adjourned in consequence of the sudden illness of Mr. Markowicz.

The inquiry, we believe, stands adjourned.

The regulation under which the action is being taken reads as follows:—

73 (1) A State Board shall have power to summon witnesses, take evidence on oath, and require the production of documents in connection with any matter arising under these regulations, or to authorise, in writing, any person or persons to summon witnesses, take evidence on oath, and require the production of documents on its behalf.

Mr. Markowicz is editor of "The Leader," which is the official publication of the Retired Soldiers' and

tion of the Returned Soldiers' and Citizens' Political Federation, and is also secretary of that body. For some months past he has severely criticised the administration of the Repatriation Department, both on the public platform and in the press.

It is understood that the subject-matter of the inquiry was an article which appeared in the March issue of "The Leader," under the headings:—
"Repatriation: What it does for the Returned Soldier."
