

PROSECUTOR'S PLEA FOR MERCY SUCCEEDS

Defendant Given Chance To Rehabilitate Himself

Another change for a defendant was obtained by the Assistant Police Prosecutor (Mr. L. Bond) in the Adelaide Police Court yesterday, in a case in which Jacob Nevola, laborer, of Parkside, was charged with being an idle and disorderly person.

Nevola had been before the court the previous day, on a charge of drunkenness. He had been fined, and later in the day re-arrested on a charge of drunkenness.

Nevola told the court that he had regular employment, had a wife and child to keep, and had never received rations. He bore the appearance of a hard-working man. He informed the court that he had paid £2 2/ in income tax.

Mr. Bond suggested that the man be released under the Offenders' Probation Act for 12 months if he gave a promise not to indulge in liquor. The trouble with him was that he drank methylated spirits. He was a good worker, and was employed by various business people. All his numerous previous convictions had been for drunkenness or offences associated with liquor. He had paid his fines, and on several occasions he had been sent to gaol. He had also been an inmate of the Inebriates' Institution. There seemed to be a lot of good in him. "It seems to me," said Mr. Bond, "that the Offenders' Probation Act should be this man's Magna Charta."

Mercy Justified Previously

Mr. Bond added that about four years ago a man had appeared in the Police Court for drunkenness and wilful damage. He appeared despondent, but had a decent looking countenance. Mr. Bond said he had asked the magistrate to release him under the Offenders' Probation Act and give him an opportunity to get away from bad

Offenders' Probation Act and give him an opportunity to get away from bad company. That request was acceded to, and the man had shown his thanks in a practical manner. With the assistance of a business man, a position on a station in another State had been obtained, and he was still there. He had since married and had one child. He was well respected, and he communicated with the business man and with Mr. Bond regularly.

The magistrate, on obtaining a promise from Nevola that he would abstain from the use of intoxicating liquor for 12 months, said he would convict him without a penalty on the charge of drunkenness, and release him under the Probation Offenders' Act for 12 months, to come up for sentence if called upon.

"You have to thank Mr. Bond for this," said Mr. Muirhead, "and I hope you do not let him down."

The accused—I'll guarantee that I will not break my promise.