

THE MAJOR AND HIS MISSUS.

Wife Desertion Charge Withdrawn.

A military man, Major Charles Henry Raitt, was up before the beaks in the Maryborough Court on Tuesday on a charge of deserting his wife, Amy Raitt. The Major was formerly manager of the Bank of Victoria at Maryborough, drawing a screw of £300. He went off to the war in 1915, with rank of major and pay at the rate of £600 a year. After returning from the disturbance on the other side of the world, he went back to his bank billet; but in September of last year he had another trip as officer in charge of a troopship. Since his return he has been on the unemployed list.

Mr. Herring, who appeared for the wife, said the latter had not received any money since January 2. From January to September, 1917, she only received £17, and that had to be extorted by threats. She then made application to the Defence Department, and was allowed £7 per fortnight. This allowance had now stopped, as her husband was no longer employed by the department. Things started to go wrong with the couple in January, 1916, when the Major first returned from the war. It seemed, said Mr. Herring, that defendant became fascinated by another woman, and this caused an estrangement. From something Mrs. Raitt heard when her husband returned from his second trip to the other side quite recently, she laid an information against him and had him arrested.

The Bench suggested that the parties should make an attempt to settle their differences amicably. After a consultation between counsel and clients, the Major went into the box and swore that he had no intention of leaving the country. He was out of work at present, and was finding it difficult to get a position; but when he did, he was prepared to allow his wife one-third of his earnings.

This offer was accepted by the complainant, and the information was withdrawn.