

BANKRUPTCY COURT.

Husband Employed by Wife.

The story of a milk business, which was owned by a wife and in which she employed her husband, was told in the Bankruptcy Court yesterday, when Samuel Mackomel, of Second-avenue, Mt. Lawley, milk carter, was publicly examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. M. M. Moss). Mr. R. F. Cooper appeared for Mr. F. L. Washing, a creditor, and another creditor, Mr. B. J. Sermon appeared in person. Mr. D. Cullen (instructed by Messrs. Dwyer, Durack and Dunphy) watched the interests of the debtor.

Mackomel told the Registrar (Mr. T. F. Davies) that he was married and that he had come to this State in 1910. He was then 19 years of age and followed the occupation of a blacksmith. In 1929 he lost his employment and his wife started a milk business with the assistance of her parents. He was employed by her to deliver the milk which he did in her car, and, later, in his mother-in-law's car. There were three creditors, all of whom had secured judgment against him to a total of £157. He had no assets. One of the judgments was for damages awarded against him arising out of an accident between a borrowed car which he was driving and one driven by Mr. Washing, and another for milk supplied. He blamed these judgments for his present position. His wife kept her own account books and paid him £5 in cash a week for his services. He used to give her back the money for the

£5 in cash a week for his services. He used to give her back the money for the rent of their home and for housekeeping. He did not sign any wages sheet and no receipts passed between them.

Mr. Moss: It is a very amusing story you have told us, but do you think for a moment anyone is going to believe it?—I am telling you the truth.

Mr. Moss: It is not a badly conceived scheme, is it? You don't pay your debts and the wife gets the assets.

The examination was adjourned until November 19.