

P.M. Tells Lawyer He's Drunk

Storm that swept through the courtroom could be sniffed in the air from the start. The lawyer in the case was threatened with contempt of court. The client collapsed, and had to be carried from the room. And the magistrate pronounced an adjournment.

Well-known Melbourne lawyer, Gordon Fraser Farrar, was appearing for Mrs. Isabelle Baker, who had charged Peter Kusmin with alleged assault.

Farrar several times objected to the cross-examination by the opposing lawyer, Mr. R. V. Edwards. His objections were over-ruled, and a wordy battle followed with Mr. Mahony, S.M. Then Farrar jumped to his feet and ordered Mr. Edwards to "shut up."

Magistrate Mahoney admonished Farrar, and reminded him that this sort of conduct was happening too frequently.

"If you cannot conduct yourself in a manner befitting your profession," the Magistrate went on, "I will charge you with contempt of court. You come into court under the influence of liquor to defend a client and your conduct throughout this case leaves a lot to be desired."

His Retort

An immediate retort came from Farrar. "In that case," he replied, "I must ask Your Worship to conduct your court in a proper manner."

Three times Magistrate Mahoney requested Mr. Farrar to withdraw the remark, which, he said, was a di-

the remark, which, he said, was a direct insult to him.

But the lawyer refused to withdraw, though he made a general apology.

"When I walked into this courtroom today, the smell of intoxicating liquor was overpowering," the Magistrate told him, "and I wouldn't need a detective to know where it was coming from."

Gordon Farrar was informed he would be charged with contempt of court.

Sabotage has destroyed the power station controlling the important French Rhone Dam, the damage amounting to several millions of francs. Gestapo agents have been sent to investigate.