

Acquitted On Charge Of Rape

SYDNEY: At Paddington Court today Michael John Ledwidge (35), laborer, of Harold-st., Newtown, was acquitted of a charge of having raped a young woman at Paddington on May 9.

Mr. Solling, S.M., acquitted and discharged Ledwidge after the complainant, a young waitress, said she did not wish to proceed further with the matter by giving evidence.

In the witness-box the woman said: "I met Ledwidge just before midnight on May 8 and was with him until about 4 a.m. the next day.

"I called at Paddington Police Station shortly afterwards and alleged to the police that Ledwidge had raped me."

The woman said she again saw the police on Saturday last and indicated that she did not wish to proceed further with the matter.

"Effrontery"

"It was at my specific request that police inquiries were instituted in the matter," the woman continued.

"I do not wish to carry on with this case."

"I should order proceedings against you," Mr. Solling told the woman. "You have caused this man to be charged with a capital offence and you have the effrontery to say you do not wish to proceed."

Mr. Moseley (for Ledwidge) said his client had made a statement denying the allegation of the complainant.

Mr. Solling then discharged Ledwidge.

(Ledwidge originally appeared before Mr. Solling at Paddington Court on May 10 when he was remanded until today without bail).