

MILITARY TRIBUNAL

Mr. FARRAND, for the Ryde Gas Company, appealed for their employees, **Joseph E. COCKER**, 36. married, timekeeper and storekeeper, Edward R. EBELTHITE, 38, married, gas-fitter, and Frederick J. TABOR, 29. married, gas and meter fitter.---The military dissented in the case of **COCKER** and TABOR, and assented to conditional exemption for EBELTHITE.---Mr. FARRAND said 48 workmen were employed by the Company before the war, and now they only had 21. The Company had 4000 consumers and supplied gas to Binstead and Seaview. Owing to the increased price of gas the slot meters would have to be fitted with new wheels.---The Mayor (to **COCKER**): Have you any objection to joining the Army yourself?---**COCKER**: I think perhaps I should do the public a bit of good by staying here, but that is for you to decide sir.---Q. Have you tried to find any one to take this man's place?---Mr. FARRAND: I have advertised in the *Gas World* and the local Press; and have been to the Exchanges at Portsmouth and Cowes, but without result. The men would not come over from the mainland.---Mr. W. E. WEEKS: Mr. FARRAND has been to me, but I could not do anything for him.---Mr. FARRAND said if they could not have the men to do the repairs he did not know what would become of the Company.---Mr. HAYDEN: How do your works compare with others in the Island?---Mr. FARRAND: We are very low compared with other works.---Mr. COLNUTT, F.G.S. (the military representative), said many men of military age at the works had been exempted by the military.---The Mayor asked EBELTHITE if he had any objection to joining the Army, and he replied that he would sooner go on with his usual work, being a skilled workman.---Questioned by Mr. HAYDEN as to whether there was anything wrong with one of his hands, TABOR showed his left hand, which was minus two fingers.---Mr. COLNUTT said he was not aware of that.---Mr. FARRAND added that he expected to be very busy in fitting out 50 houses which had been taken by the military for the troops which were coming to the town.---The application in respect of **COCKER** was dismissed, EBELTHITE was told to get into munition works, and TABOR was granted conditional exemption.
