

## INNISFAIL NOTES.

(For the "N.Q. Register.")

INNISFAIL, April 6.

East Innisfail Reserve Committee.

A meeting of the East Innisfail Reserve Committee was held at Breen's store on Monday. There was a fair attendance and Mr. F. Wright occupied the chair. The Secretary, Mr. E. S. Attard, explained the position with reference to a suitable area of land. Two and a half acres in a good position have been purchased and paid for by the Committee. Before starting the work of improvement the area has been found much too small. For various reasons the adjoining land is not available for extension but six acres of really suitable land could be obtained from the Co-operative Butchering Co. On Monday night the members of the Committee favored this idea on condition that the present reserve could be sold at a satisfactory figure. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. P. Pease, M.L.A., offering the ground to the Government as a site for Workers' Homes. The matter of tree planting on the Esplanade was further discussed before the meeting closed.

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### The Summons Court.

BEFORE Mr. D. Ryan, Acting Magistrate, H. A. Noone, a well known farmer at Mena Creek, was sued for a breach of the Industrial Act. It appeared that a Chinese named Sam Swan wishing to leave the employ of Mr. Noone was paid off in the presence of a witness named Trembath. Now the rule is in such cases of Asiatics the money should have been paid in the presence of a policeman, inspector, or clerk of petty session. Mr. N. R. Mighell appeared for defendant and pleaded guilty. He pointed out, however, that in such a case as this the provisions of the act were contradictory and inoperative. It was laid down that the claim must be paid within four hours or the employer becomes liable for waiting time. It was not always convenient at this time of the year for a farmer to travel to the nearest police station. He was aware that not very long ago the inspector sued Mr. Noone for employing Sam Swan without a certificate. As the document was produced the case fell to the ground and the present case looked like prosecution. The full amount of money was paid to Sam Swan in the presence of a reliable witness. To travel six miles in such weather as the present would be a

weather as the present would be a great inconvenience and waste of time. The magistrate took a light view of the case and entered a conviction but no fine.

It will be remembered that when the Banyan Agricultural Farms were balloted for only approved applicants went to the ballot, and the Lands Department selected Ernest Otto Brutton as a fit and proper person to conduct the business of sugar growing. But already he has struck trouble. Mr. J. T. McNamee, in court on behalf of the plaintiffs, explained that William Dell and Thomas Pilling had been engaged to fall 24 acres on the farm at £8 per acre. In the meantime Brutton had been trying to sell the farm, perhaps to pay the contractors. For some reason or other the defendant had strayed to Bowen and wired his defence to Mr. G. E. Markwell. Under the circumstances Mr. J. T. McNamee suggested that the proper course was for the Magistrate to order Brutton's arrest. His clients had now been waiting for their money for three months. The Bench decided to adjourn the case for one week.

#### General Items.

For the seventy seventh time Tom O'Rourke was at it again. On Tuesday he was charged with drunkenness