

## **FIELD WORKERS' CLAIM.**

### **INTERESTING CASE AT INNISFAIL.**

Innisfail, April 6.

A case which created some interest came before the Innisfail Industrial Court, in which William Dell and Thomas Pilling, field workers at Banyan, proceeded against Ernest Otto Brutton, claiming £144 for work and labor done and performed in felling 24 acres of scrub at £6 per acre, and also claimed such damages as had been sustained by them by the neglect of their employer to pay such wages as appeared to the court reasonable.

Mr. J. T. McNamee appeared for complainants, and Mr. G. Markwell for defendant.

Mr. Markwell produced a telegram received from defendant at Bowen, in which it was intimated that he would be at Innisfail next Friday, and also asking time to pay.

Mr. McNamee: This is a very serious matter to my clients. Defendant is a man who secured one of the blocks in the Tully-Banyan area some time ago, and engaged complainants to perform certain services for him. They felled 24 acres of scrub, which he agreed to pay at the rate of £6 per acre, making a total of £144. Defendant cleared out, endeavored to sell his property at Innisfail, and has not since been seen by defendants. He has been fighting in the ring at Cairns

and strolling around the country looking for a buyer for his place. My

looking for a buyer for his place. My clients are waiting for their money. I think the Court could hear the evidence and then decide whether a warrant would issue for the arrest of defendant.

Mr. Markwell: I am appearing for the man.

Mr. Ryan (Acting P.M.): What benefit can complainants get by having the man brought here by means of a warrant.

Mr. McNamee: To get whatever money they can.

Mr. Ryan: You can get that now by a verdict.

Mr. McNamee: Defendant is not here. This is a very serious matter for my clients.

Mr. Markwell: A warrant for defendant's arrest will not advance your clients' interests.

Mr. McNamee: I understand that defendant has applied for a passport to leave Australia.

Mr. Markwell: That is only hearsay.

Mr. Ryan: You say that he has one of these Banyan selections?

Mr. McNamee: Yes, and he has not been seen by the men since they finished work. Neither has he sent them any word that he is going to pay them.

Mr. Markwell: The fact of him sending word that he will be here on Friday is indicative that he is going to settle.

Mr. Ryan: Supposing a warrant is issued for his arrest and he has no money, how much further will you be?

Mr. McNamee: It will stop a lot of

money, how much further will you be ?

Mr. McNamee:- It will stop a lot of these adventurers from going around the country and prevent them skipping without paying their liabilities. If he had paid for the men's food in this case it would not have been so bad.

Mr. Markwell: That wire is indicative of a desire to do something in the nature of a settlement. Some people are victims of very hard lines indeed.

Mr. Ryan: He may be only sparring for time.

Mr. McNamee: These men have been waiting for their money three months.

The case was adjourned till Tuesday of next week.

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