

FOREIGNERS' INCOME TAX.

Ignorant of Liability.

Ignorance of the existence in Australia of income tax laws was professed by two foreigners at the North Melbourne Court on Monday. Joe Ipp, fruiterer, of Erskine street, North Melbourne, was charged on two counts with having failed to furnish a return of income for the years ended June 30, 1930, and June 30, 1932. Ethel Ipp, his wife, was similarly charged on two counts with respect to the same periods.

Mr. Ettelson (for the defence) said that Ipp and his wife, who were in business together, were foreigners and were ignorant of the fact that they were liable for income tax. They assumed that, after having paid for their stock, and the various charges for running expenses of the business, they had no further charges to meet.

Mr. Stafford, P.M.—Is that what happens in their native country? What happy people!

Announcing that both defendants would be convicted, Mr. Stafford said that the cases did not call for more than the minimum penalty in view of the explanation offered. A fine of £2 in each case would be imposed.