

BRISBANE NOTES.

(Correspondent.)

ST. HELENA

St. Helena is still holding its place in the limelight. No sooner were the two inquiries into the escape of the convicts from the penitentiary concluded than another inquiry became necessary in connection with the suicide of a trade instructor. There was, it transpires, some connection between the escape and the tragedy in so far as the whisky which the convict Craig had in his possession in the gaol hospital, and gave to two of the inmates who slept while the escape was being executed, was innocently supplied in a spirit of mistaken kindness, by the unfortunate man who afterwards took his own life. Since then the convicts have been tried, in accordance with the prison regulations, for breaking gaol, but no information as to the punishment meted out has so far been allowed to transpire. During the middle of the week the island was the centre of still another somewhat sensational incident. A constable and sergeant of the water police and a civilian who had given evidence at one of the inquiries, and in the afternoon, after the inquiry was over, had tea with one of the prison officials, were subsequently, when making their way across the grounds, placed under lock and key in the armoury—a big cage constructed of iron bars—until such time as they were escorted by a warder to the point of disembarkation. The three visitors, who were subjected to what they consider an unnecessary indignity and a needless display of authority, are very wrath, and it is said that the last has not been heard of the matter. In addition to the authenticated reports of the remarkable incidents which have been occurring on the island recently, there are many peculiar rumors rampant as to the administration of the penal establishment generally—so much so, in fact, that it would not be surprising to hear of the appointment of a Royal Commission to make thorough investigation. At any rate, until some such action is taken, the feeling of suspicion and doubt which has been aroused is not likely to subside.