

## **MR. DITTON'S DE- PARTURE. POPULAR SPORTSMAN.**

Mr. R. A. Ditton, who will leave Cairns this morning, has been connected with the Cairns City Council as Assistant City Inspector and Health Inspector for six years. Recently he accepted a position as Health Inspector in the Lockyer district; and his resignation from the Cairns Council was regretfully received at the last meeting.

While connected with the Cairns City Council Mr. Ditton was in charge of the campaign against the outbreak of bubonic plague in 1921. He took control of the cleansing of the principal business blocks of the town, and completed the work with excellent results. In the course of his work he carried out the "rat-proofing" of the whole business area. It should be safe to attribute the subsequent scarcity of rats in Cairns to Mr. Ditton's efforts.

Outside his official round, Mr. Ditton is also well known to a wider circle. He is the holder of the amateur welterweight boxing championship of North Queensland. He won the title originally at Mackay in 1917, and a year after his arrival in Cairns he defended it here in 1922. He has not been seriously challenged since.

But although not an active boxer for five years, Mr. Ditton promoted practically all the boxing contests here for the last four years. Throughout all his interest in the game, "Bob" Ditton showed a desire for clean sport; and it was due to his insistence that a special clause empowered him to hand over the proceeds of any contest to charity, if he were satisfied that that contest was not genuine.