

S/W.A.
COM-

1951

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Commissioner of Native Affairs

for the

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1950

28 AUG 1963



PERTH :

BY AUTHORITY: WILLIAM H. WYATT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER

50465/10/51

1951

I N D E X.

	Page.
INTRODUCTION	5
Geographical Administration and Problems	6
 SECTION "A"—DISTRICT REPORTS—	
Central District—F. W. G. Andersen, Esq., District Officer	8
Southern District—C. Wright Webster, Esq., District Officer	10
West Kimberley District—D. L. Pullen, Esq., District Officer	13
East Kimberley District—J. J. Rhatigan, Esq., District Officer	17
 SECTION "B"—DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS—	
Moore River Native Settlement, via Mogumber	18
Carrolup Native Settlement, via Katanning	19
Cosmo Newbery Native Station, via Laverton	21
La Grange Bay Ration Depot, via Broome	22
Moola Bulla Native Station, Hall's Creek	22
Native Girls' Home, East Perth	24
 SECTION "C"—MISSIONS—	
Native Mission Farm, Roelands	25
Native Mission, Wandering	26
United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup	26
United Aborigines Mission, Mt. Margaret	27
Cundelee Native Mission, via Zanthus	28
Churches of Christ Mission, Norseman	28
United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges	29
New Norcia Mission, New Norcia	29
Pallottine Mission School, Tardun	30
Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong	30
Beagle Bay Mission, via Broome	31
Sunday Island Mission, via Derby	31
Forest River Mission, Wyndham	32
Pallottine Mission, Hall's Creek	32
Lombadina Native Mission, via Broome	33
Kunmunya Native Mission, via Derby	33
 SECTION "D"—HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION—	
Financial	35
Natives Medical Fund	35
Trust Accounts and Investments	36
Lotteries Commission Donations	36
Estates	36
Maintenance	36
Christmas Cheer	36
Relief	37
Population	37
Health	37
Education	38
Employment	38
Reserves	39
Citizenship Rights	39
Certificates of Exemption	39
Native Courts	39
Warrants	40
Offences by Natives	40
Offences against Natives	40
Maternity Allowances	40
Child Endowment	41
Old Age Pensions	41
Widows Pensions	41
Invalid Pensions	41
Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits	41
Appreciation	41
 SECTION "E"—APPENDICES—	
Appendix No. 1—Departmental Statement of Receipts and Payments	43
Appendix No. 2—Moola Bulla Statement of Receipts and Payments	46
Appendix No. 3—Divisional Population Return	46
Appendix No. 4—Natives' Medical Fund Statement of Receipts and Payments	47

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

THE HON. MINISTER FOR NATIVE AFFAIRS.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1950, as provided by Section 73 (6) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47 (as reprinted).

INTRODUCTION.

Staff.

Inability to provide housing accommodation for many of the experienced officers available for appointment to executive positions in the field resulted in some changes being made from the decentralisation plan outlined in last year's Report.

In the Northern Region the number of major administrative districts was reduced to two, *viz.*, the Northern District embracing the East Kimberley, West Kimberley and Broome sub-districts, and the North-West Districts composed of the Pilbara and Gascoyne sub-districts. Each district is in charge of a District Officer and the sub-districts in charge of Travelling Inspectors according to departmental requirements and availability of qualified staff.

The Southern Region was also divided into two major districts, *viz.*, the Central District, consisting of the Murchison, Eastern Goldfields and Central sub-districts, and the Southern District, which takes in the Great Southern and South-West sub-districts.

The position of Deputy Commissioner, vacated by Mr. C. L. McBeath on his appointment as Manager of Moola Bulla Native Station, was temporarily filled by Mr. S. Elliott-Smith, who was appointed to the Department on June 20, 1949. Mr. Elliott-Smith's substantive appointment was that of Senior Administrative Officer in charge of the Northern Region, but lack of suitable accommodation in Broome precluded him from taking up duty in that capacity.

At the termination of the year under report the permanent staff of the Department was made up as follows:—

HEAD OFFICE.

	Establishment.	Appointments.
Commissioner	1	1
Deputy Commissioner	1	<i>Vacant</i>
Clerk-in-Charge	1	<i>Vacant</i>
Clerks and Typists	22	15

FIELD DIVISION.

Senior Administrative Officer, Northern Region	1	1
District Officers	4	4
Travelling Inspectors	4	4
Cadet Patrol Officers	2	1

INSTITUTIONS.

Superintendents	3	3
Assistant Superintendents	3	1
Totals	39	30

Even a cursory examination of what has become generally known as "The Native Problem" and a study of its State-wide ramifications must lead to the irresistible conclusion that the Departmental staff, particularly that which is responsible for satisfying most of the welfare and administrative requirements of natives in the country and within closed communities, is most inadequate. The statistics set out above show that only half of the existing staff are actively employed in the field and at institutions. Field Officers have to cover an area of approximately one-third of Australia and the administrative responsibility for roughly one-third of its total native population. The magnitude of their task under these circumstances may readily be appreciated; but the exacting nature of their duties involving as they do the implementation of a policy designed to facilitate the harmonious assimilation into the fabric of the white social order of the many and varied incongruities of the native life pattern defies lucid description. Some conception of their difficulties may be appreciated upon studying their reports which follow in Section "A" hereunder. In the opinion of the writer the Field Officers have represented this Department with tact, ability

and dignity under the most trying circumstances. An association of ideas apparent in many parts of the State, particularly in the Southern rural districts, may possibly be the cause of officers in the field being treated on occasions with a lack of respect that amounts almost to an implication that they are of little more account than the coloured people who are their responsibility ; but this has been endured with the patient toleration of men who know that what they are doing is right, meet, just and overdue.

GEOGRAPHICAL ADMINISTRATION AND ITS PROBLEMS.

Broadly speaking, the partitioning of the State into two zones, Northern and Southern, with the boundary at the 26th parallel, appears to have been ethnologically as well as administratively justified. The aboriginal population of the North is preponderantly full-blood with a minority of mixed bloods, whilst that of the South consists almost entirely of mixed bloods and a handful of full-bloods living within the boundaries of a predominantly white community. Both sections present to the white race a diversified and at times embarrassing array of problems, which when fully appreciated for the first time, even by those who have had years of experience of natives and native administration in other parts of the world, invariably result in feelings of despair and confusion, bordering at times on hopelessness. The current system of "trial and error" administration, essential at this stage, leads frequently to an upsurge of enthusiasm and optimism only to be quelled, possibly with the goal well in sight, by a demagogic stone-walling, public prejudice or obstruction, even on the part of the perverse and unpredictable children of nature in whose particular interest the action is being taken.

The Full-blood.

Of the two sections comprising broadly the aboriginal group, the full-bloods, with the probable exception of the few who live in or near the Northern townships, present by far the lesser problem. This is not because of the widely held view that they are a rapidly dying remnant, although it is apparent that this is generally correct of the tribes inhabiting some parts of the desert and in the Prince Regent District ; in other parts of the pastoral and marginal areas where several generations of contact with the European way of living has resulted in the physical and psychological re-adjustment of the full-blood population, there is evidence of an increase in their numbers—this is particularly noticeable on certain stations in the Fitzroy Crossing District and at Moola Bulla Native Station. Elsewhere, however, on pastoral and mission stations the absence of young children is noticeable. This apparent lack of fecundity, which contrasts so markedly with the virility of the mixed-blood, has been the subject of much thought and consideration during the year and at its close an attempt was being made by the writer to arrange through Dr. Cecil Cook, of the Commonwealth Health Department, for a nutritional investigation of native dietary treatment to be carried out in this State as soon as possible, preferably by the Commonwealth Government or with its financial and material support.

Apart from this disturbing aspect of their administration the full-bloods of the marginal and pastoral areas need little assistance from us. Those domiciled on stations are well cared for by the owners and managers, who realise the economic value of both the full-blood and half-caste natives as stockmen and general station hands. Problems of a minor nature have sometimes arisen as a result of the universal payment of wages which was introduced throughout the Kimberleys as from 1st July, 1949, but the general effect of this timely move on the part of the employers has been most encouraging and it is my pleasure to record that among the first to admit it were many of the so-called "die-hard" pastoralists of the Kimberleys themselves. With this improvement in their conditions of employment there has been observed a growing concomitant demand by the natives themselves for the education of their children ; this requirement is now being actively taken up by the Department in collaboration with the Education Department, and plans for a more general educational coverage of the North are already well in hand.

Mixed-bloods.

One frequently ponders the unhappy lot of the "half-caste," and speculates upon his future. Objective study based on the knowledge of similar racial embarrassment elsewhere tends to magnify rather than minimise the problem ; it inclines also to quell enthusiasm and disperse long-held convictions regarding the prospects of solution, but "nil desperandum" must at all times be the motto to be followed by those who by choice or force of circumstance have taken up the "white man's burden" in this State, and indignities, disappointments and frustration notwithstanding, there can be no acceptance of defeatism and no lessening of the effort that is needed if the Native Affairs Administration of this State is to be pulled out of the morass of apathy, neglect and prejudice into which it has been allowed to sink, and elevated to parity with modern world opinion where under-privileged native minorities are concerned.

The problem of how to deal with the mixed blood is a difficult, but not in my view an insoluble one. It requires many things, some of which, enumerated in order of priority as seen by the writer, may be briefly listed in the following order : Adequate and suitable housing, in order that the requirements which follow may be based upon the sound premise that children emanating from the deplorable living conditions that exist at present can never be accepted on terms of social equality by the parents of the white children who share the classrooms with native children, however qualified they may be in other respects. The next requirement, which is one that would gain impetus proportional to the improvement in living conditions, is a vigorous educational and training programme, in which the Education Department, Christian missions, and denominational schools must play the most important part. Next, a departure from any existing policy and practice, official or otherwise, that postulates isolation and segregation ; and finally a thorough appreciation by everybody of the fundamental requirements of the policy of assimilation which has been universally adopted for implementation throughout Australia. The successful functioning of all plans for the implementation of the foregoing can be assured only with the sympathy and helpful understanding of the

white community, and the acceptance by those Departments and local bodies concerned of their full share of responsibility in a task which can never be satisfactorily carried out by any one Department however well endowed it may be. Experience has conclusively proved that ignorance and prejudice result in the almost complete nullification of earlier efforts in respect to education and training of natives. It creates in young native men and women an attitude of hostility towards whites, born of disappointment and indignation, which causes them to seek the company of their own kind, to shun social contact with whites excepting those whose political philosophy simulates friendliness, and in many cases to seek solace and stimulation by indulgence in physical and moral excesses.

In the assessment of blameworthiness for the unfortunate state of affairs which exists, officialdom must take its full share of responsibility. The legislation and policies of the past have proven to be defective ; elsewhere they have been thoroughly overhauled and amended to conform with the requirements of modern thought and administrative practice, and it is now timely that similar action be taken here. Defective policy has resulted, *inter alia*, in an unbridged gap in the lives of young natives ; in this State many native children receive good primary education but no provision has ever been made for their advancement towards secondary or tertiary education, or in the case of those with a particular aptitude for certain manual work, for their further vocational training. Steps must be taken immediately to bridge these gaps and give young natives that equality of opportunity with whites, without which their ultimate assimilation into the white community can be nothing more than a pious hope.

GENERAL.

This introduction does not purport to cover even a summarised account of the year's Departmental activities ; these have been mainly the responsibility of the Department's field officers, Head Office staff, and missionaries, who will, in the pages which follow, record their own impressions.

SECTION "A."

DISTRICT REPORTS.

The following are extracts from the annual reports of the District Officers in charge of all Native Affairs Districts, with the exception of the North-West District, where a District Officer had not, during the period under report, been appointed :—

Central District

F. W. G. Andersen, Esq., District Officer.

In this report I intend to cover, in a general way, the progress made in the Central District since March, 1949. I will avoid statistics, which, where required, will be provided elsewhere for inclusion in the main Departmental report.

After twenty months I have had no reason to change my first impressions and convictions. I found there were five major obstacles to the improvement of native welfare. I will deal with each in order of importance :—

Prejudice.

I found that colour prejudice is strong everywhere. It predominates in the South, South-West and Central sub-districts. In other areas further afield the white community have a more tolerant attitude towards the natives. This prejudice causes the natives to segregate themselves with resultant inter-breeding and perpetuation of an already prolific type. The ingrained hatred or fear of this group of people hampers attempts at reform.

Pauperisation.

Pauperisation as a result of the Protection Policy—now discarded—and ignorance are factors which retard the progress of natives in my district in their attempts to uplift themselves.

Lack of continuous employment has also served to retard progress amongst a great number of natives. It is often stated that a farmer is paying a native eight pounds a week. In too many cases this wage is paid only during the harvest, seeding and such busy times. Between these seasons the native is stood down until the next busy season, which often means that he is unemployed for three months. This has had its effect on the farmer and native alike. The farmer finds the native labourer unreliable—he lets the farmer down by leaving his employment when it suits him just as the farmer puts him off when he, the farmer, so desires. The effect on the native is very bad. His financial position is insecure, the realisation of which, after much bitter experience, causes him to give up all hope of stabilising himself within the community. It forces natives to congregate and share their possessions. It retards their efforts to advance themselves. Station natives and native farm hands who are in permanent employment are not despondent as their insecure fellows have become.

I know a number of farmers and pastoralists who, treating their native employees fairly, give them permanent employment. These employers have a constant supply of reliable workers. On the other hand where distrust, intolerance and insecurity prevail, the employers often suffer severe financial loss through not being able to obtain suitable labourers when urgently required.

Police Protectors.

The use of Police Officers as Protectors is unfair to the officers and the natives, to say the least. A number of Police Officers have done an enormous amount of good with the native people in their area. However, it is too much to expect that any man can have all the qualities required to be a good Protector and yet an efficient Policeman. In many cases natives are afraid to approach a Police Officer, whose work amongst them is therefore nullified.

The continued emphasis on protection throughout the State fosters pauperisation which in turn sponsors inertia and the general degradation of the native group.

The Applied Remedies.

Sir Arthur Keith states : " Although a homogenous people the Australians have population problems of their own. They are trustees of a dying race ; a race can save itself only by its own spontaneous efforts ; the best of trusteeship can only ameliorate, it cannot restore." This is perfectly true. However, his reference to the dying race applies only to the full-blood—certainly not the caste groups whose population is increasing annually.

To apply ameliorating administration, designed for the dying race of full-bloods, to the caste population would be retrogressive. The increasing number of caste people throughout the Central District indicates that a natural process of evolution is going on. There has been and continues to be a change from endogamy to exogamy. It is the infiltrating process of assimilation. Nothing can stop its course and it is the natural way of overcoming racial differences.

A nation has most remarkable power of unconsciously absorbing and imparting its character upon strangers. Each generation passes its tradition to its children, the next generation, until all are similar. With this in mind the greatest task is to change the existing administration from the ameliorating type, as far as the caste people and the exogamous full-bloods are concerned, to a positive welfare type. This change has been going on rapidly. In fact, progress has been so rapid that the unenlightened, being left out of date, are suspicious of these radical changes. This great step, supported by factual evidence in the field, is being taken with much public support.

The change of approach to the problem, and the public support, have brought about constructive thinking in many quarters and has greatly increased the number of supporters. With each additional supporter, the number of prejudiced people is reduced.

In its operation the native people find the new administration a solution to their problem and, gradually, are taking advantage of the opportunities offered. When refusing to send their children to a well conducted Christian Mission parents have been advised to give their children the opportunity they have not had themselves. In nearly every case they have put aside their sorrow for the sake of the children and sent them away.

In co-operating with the Department in its policy of providing better conditions for the spiritual, moral and mental upbringing of the children, the native people are enhancing the prospects of the future assimilation of their children.

In the practical application of this changed approach to the problems, field officers in the Central District have spent considerable time in discussing native matters with local authorities, employers, school teachers and other members of the community. The natives themselves have come in for a lot of this instructional discussion. It is all aimed at educating both parties so that this group of people, virtually outcast amongst us, will learn what is required of them by our society and the society informed how best it can assist in developing these people until they are fit to become part of it.

Field officers are constantly on the watch to avoid actions and decisions which tend to pauperise the natives. There has been a drastic check on the handing out of loans in cash, and unnecessary rail warrants. There has been an effort made to recover outstanding debts to make the natives realise their responsibilities. In many other ways they are shown how to proceed but are required to take the actual steps themselves.

The attention of farmers and local authorities has been drawn to the fact that natives in many areas are not given the opportunity of continuous employment. Natives have been directed to employers who offer permanent work. In one case a member of a Road Board volunteered to become a Protector so that he could attend to this matter in his district.

The need for the use of Police Officers as Protectors is diminishing as Departmental field officers take over more and more of the work. Also as amelioration is substituted by positive welfare in the administration so the need for protectors everywhere decreases. Proposed amending legislation, in which the antiquated permit system of employment will be succeeded by registration of employers, will further reduce the need for protectors throughout the district.

Various local authorities throughout the Central District have taken an active interest in native matters during the year. The most praiseworthy is the Merredin Road Board, which has embarked on a housing scheme for natives. In the first instance they are arranging for the erection of two houses, avoiding the pauperisation of the natives by organising the construction on a self-help and time payment basis.

The York and Geraldton Municipal Councils are also firmly behind the move to improve native conditions. The Pinjarra Road Board assisted the Department in its efforts to improve native living conditions in that area. The local Police Protector, Sergeant Daws, also gave very valuable support to the project. The experiment of constructing a number of face-cut cabins for the natives proved that something could be done to improve native housing; that the natives would improve their living conditions if given leadership and opportunity; but that it was impossible for this Department to satisfactorily carry out construction work of this nature.

The knowledge gained by the Pinjarra experiment led to an appreciation of existing conditions and needs to be drawn up and placed before the Government with departmental recommendation to institute a plan for building homes for natives.

Some local authorities, not wishing to be left out, have taken an interest in native matters with an eye to the improvement of local conditions purely in the interests of their white community and not from the broader national aspect. With public outcry and ridiculous or inhumane recommendations, they endeavour to embarrass the administration. They offer nothing constructive in deed or word. This must be expected in any community and it serves to increase the zeal of our officers, for what is better than a fight to keep a man on his toes, physically and mentally? However, it speaks well for the leaders of our community within the Central District that there are so few groups opposed to the changing administration. Action has been taken to address these groups and discuss their problems. In some cases they have been won over but usually they die hard.

To sum up, a strong attempt has been made during the period under review to reduce the main obstacles to the advancement of the assimilation of natives into our community. The progress has been good, but it will be many years before the way of assimilating existing caste children is easy and automatic. With the present exogamous full-bloods the assimilation of their caste progeny will follow in the wake of those of less colour. For the endogamous, they are faced with extinction. Their existence can only be prolonged by amelioration. However, the extinction of the full-blood will be hastened by their becoming exogamous. Thus, we can say, the main problem is the upbringing of the caste people as they occur in a manner which will fit them for a place within our community.

District Office.

This office was created to conform with the policy of administrative decentralisation. I commenced duty as District Officer on 21st March, 1949. Until the appointment of Mr. McLarty as Inspector in charge of the Central sub-district, I undertook the inspectorial duties of the sub-district in addition to my own duty as District Officer for the Central District during the period between the transfer of staff to out-stations and the appointment of officers to this office for initial training. In the middle of 1949, Miss Watt was provided from the Head Office staff as typist for the District Office.

On 15th November, 1949, Mr. Knight was transferred to the District Office from the Head Office staff. This officer instituted the District Office filing and record system. On 10th May, 1950, Barry Loo, a native youth, was transferred from Head Office Records to assist Mr. Knight in the District Office.

At this office an internal administrative system has been established. The District Officer of the Southern District has followed the main principles of this system and, in time, it may be adopted throughout the State.

To date only one District Circular Instruction has been promulgated. The instruction directs a method of recording a census of native people. In the Central sub-district a census, which is about 95 per cent. complete, has been recorded. This record has already proved invaluable to the field staff and officers of the Head Office.

In the Murchison about 40 per cent. of the census has been recorded but a start has not yet been made in the Eastern Goldfields. In the more remote areas the compilation of a census will take a long time but it is expected that it will be completed, except for the nomadic tribes in the interior, within two years. It is felt that even the nomadic tribes will be recorded within five years for they occasionally do visit the outposts of civilisation, such as the Warburton Range Mission, where the missionaries will assist in obtaining the required particulars.

Missions.

Separate reports will be furnished by each Mission. However, it is necessary to mention the establishment of a new Mission, the Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission. This group of missionaries first settled at Madura but later transferred to Cundelee where they are now in operation.

About a year ago I was invited to and attended a Toc H meeting to advise how best they could assist natives. Since that time this body has conducted many tours for the metropolitan native children, including a visit to Yanchep Caves, the Museum and the beaches. Fortnightly they have shown educational films to the natives at Bassendean. They refrain from advertising the good they are doing. They are doing a marvellous job.

A little prior to my visit to Toc H I called on His Grace the Archbishop, Dr. Moline, to discuss the Church of England's activity amongst natives. Subsequently, a church committee was formed to investigate how best the church could help. The committee reported to Synod the existing conditions. It was resolved that a drive would be made against race prejudice from the pulpits and a sum of £2,500 was set aside to establish a native children's home.

Mr. McLarty lectured a Methodist group. Other officers of the Head Office have given talks and have been in touch with the Methodist Overseas Mission, members of which have shown a keen interest in recent developments of the native administration here. The Methodist Church has elected to contribute to native welfare.

The other Christian bodies are already in the field, carrying out welfare work amongst the natives.

A number of other groups not connected with the Churches have sought enlightenment on the subject of native affairs.

The Natives.

Natives, particularly in the Central sub-district, have been encouraged to obtain permanent employment and save for homes. They look on the new attitude in administration as a ray of light in their gloomy world. They have responded well to the efforts of the field officers. Of course, a complete change in their habits and behaviour cannot be expected immediately but there are indications of a great improvement.

There are many anomalies in the existing Administration Act which must be altered before the full effect of the new outlook can benefit the natives.

Staff.

I cannot conclude this report without making special mention of the staff placed in my charge. In Perth the office is grossly overcrowded whilst at Mullewa and Kalgoorlie only the barest necessary equipment exists. However, under these adverse conditions all members apply themselves conscientiously and zealously to the task. These untiring efforts deserve the reward of accomplishing, in time, the assimilation of this utterly dejected and forlorn group of near whites in our midst.

Southern District.

C. Wright Webster, Esq., District Officer.

Extent and Population.

The Southern District comprises the Great Southern and South-West, as they are generally known.

The native population of the district is 2,133, including both hybrids and full-bloods. Of this number, 204 are full bloods. But these figures are only approximate, being based on returns submitted for the most part by Police Protectors who, in very many cases, were haphazard in their collection of data. It is felt that this figure of 2,133 is a conservative rather than a liberal estimate of the true extent of the native population of this district.

Patrols.

Working on the principle accepted and in use in other parts of the British Empire that the basis of good administration is personal contact between the native and the officers representing the administration, a system of patrols is in force. These patrols bring the District field staff into contact with the native thus enabling field officers to get to know the native as an individual (and *vice versa*) and to appreciate his difficulties and disabilities and also to create in the mind of the native people the impression that there is a Department concerned with their welfare and working to this end. An important factor, in my opinion, likely to influence the native to rise out of his sloth and strive to better himself is his confidence in the Department and its officers—his own officers.

The total mileage travelled on patrol during the year under report was 10,222 and the number of days spent on patrol in this period was 106.

The contacts made during patrols with the native people and their employers and with the general public, whom I always found keen to discuss the question of the future of young hybrid native people, have proved of inestimable value and have assisted me to appreciate the magnitude of the problem which confronts the Department and to view it in its proper perspective.

I draw upon the knowledge and experience gained during the year under review for the facts and suggestions contained in this report.

Living Conditions.

I propose to refer to this subject under three sub-headings, namely, (1) Housing, (2) Sanitary and Ablutinal facilities, and (3) Food.

(1) *Housing*.—One word will suffice to describe living conditions in general and housing in particular—*deplorable*.

That a community of human beings could be allowed to exist in most cases on the fringes of our own white communities—in the conditions in which the hybrids of the Southern portion of the State exist today is a grave reflection on our sense of fair play and justice—qualities for which the Australian people claim to be renowned. In India where I have had 13 years' experience as an administrative officer, and where extremes of wealth and poverty are to be found, there is no parallel to the wretched living conditions of the natives of the district in my charge. Even the lowest class and caste of India, the Domes, who represent the poorest and most-looked-down-on section of the village community—their task is the removal of corpses and the dead bodies of animals from the village confines—are housed in huts which most of our natives would be glad to occupy, huts of mud walls with tiled or thatched roofs, more often than not of two rooms with a lean-to front verandah. The living conditions and housing of the aboriginal of India is by contrast with that of the native of the Southern portion of this State almost something out of another world.

For the most part housing of the native in this district is by means of either (1) *Mia mias*, (2) *bag humpies*, consisting of bags stretched on poles, (3) beaten out tins or old iron sheets on rough timber framework, (4) tent, or (5) dilapidated timber shacks with iron roofs. Generally only full bloods use *mia mias*, (2), (3) and (4) are mostly used by the Southern district native, with an occasionally lucky family occupying the fifth type—timber shacks with iron roofs. This last type of accommodation is usually only to be found on the properties of farmers employing natives who are prepared to work all the year round for the farmer. By far the commonest type of dwelling is the tent; it enables the family occupying it to be mobile thus facilitating quick moves to new places of employment. Tents, *bag humpies* and old tin shanties are favoured most by the residents on Native Reserves.

In contrast to the above dismal picture there is a handful—a mere handful—of exceptions, namely those natives who, possibly with a view to obtaining Citizenship Rights or Exemption, or imbued with a desire to improve their standard have, in several instances, purchased their own blocks of land, acquired second-hand materials and constructed for themselves modest little timber huts with iron roofs. Such exceptions only serve to accentuate the wretched housing conditions of the rest of the natives of this district.

Sanitary and Ablutinal Facilities.

With the exception of sanitary facilities supplied by the Department on its Reserves such facilities generally, among the natives of this district, are substandard. Where natives are camped in the bush there is seldom a constructed lavatory, the bush being used for the purposes of nature. In more open country a privy, constructed of bags, is usually used with a hole in the ground into which earth is thrown after use, the privy being shifted to another site when the hole is full. Where native camps are near townships, in several cases the Local Authority provide a pan and a sanitary removal service for which the native pays.

Ablutional facilities for natives in this District are entirely non-existent. In the Great Southern portion of the district there is always shortage of water and Local Authorities generally are reluctant to permit reticulation of their scheme water, even to Native Reserves, for fear of wastage by natives. The native has, therefore, no facility for taking a bath. There is not on any Reserve in this district an ablution block for use by natives. With materials for building such blocks and with water scarce the position in this regard is extremely difficult. It is not to be wondered at therefore that without the facilities for bathing the native is not as clean in body as whites would like him to be, but this, as explained, is not from choice but from force of circumstances. Oft-times it has been said to me by native men living on Reserves that they would appreciate the opportunity of a bath after work, especially at the end of a warm summer day. That bathing is not a practice alien to the natives, as most white people would seem to think, is proved by the girl domestics of Bridgetown who, because they are in a position to have baths when they like, seldom fail, according to their employers' reports, to bathe daily and have as a result attained a high standard of cleanliness. I feel sure that with the provision of ablutional facilities on reserves the standard of personal cleanliness amongst the native residents on reserves would considerably improve.

Food.

Food is one of the least of the worries of the Southern hybrid native. Little attention, if any, is paid to the preparation of proper meals. Flour and meat are the standbys in most native camps. Meals vary according to whether it is near pay day or settling up day when purchases are made and also according to how long a man has been out of a job. I have seen on week-ends—when the native is in town with his pay cheque—native men and women with the whole range of vegetables amongst their purchases, including tomatoes, onions, lettuce, potatoes and carrots. Tin provisions are also very popular at this particular time, as well as bread and butter. But during the week, visit a native camp at dusk and you will generally find just one pot boiling on a fire of sticks on the open ground outside the tent or humpy, and in the pot there is usually only meat being cooked or sometimes meat and potatoes.

When out of a job for any length of time the native falls back on just damper and whatever meat in the way of rabbit or kangaroo (in kangaroo country) he can trap or catch with the aid of his dogs. Very few Southern natives now keep dogs as they are only useful in kangaroo country and kangaroo country is seldom found round the more populated centres which the native favours.

Balanced diet or eating for strength is generally unknown to the native, or if known, is ignored. Yet the Southern native is generally quite sturdy with some unusually fine specimens of physique. This is no doubt due to the meat and flour diet of most of them and in the case of the men to the hard life they lead, coupled with manual labour which through lack of choice seems to be the natives' lot. In regard to food and meals, it may be stated generally that the native, untrained and uneducated as he is in these matters, does himself proud when "in the money"—that is shortly after he has received his pay—indulging in all the luxuries available in the way of food, and then when short of funds or even out of funds exists on a mere subsistence level.

Unfortunately, the children are the worst sufferers because of their fathers' and mothers' shortsightedness in the matter of harbouring their resources and their ignorance of the essentials of proper food preparation. It is the practice among native parents whose children attend school to provide their children with a shilling for lunch instead of a wrapped lunch. Lunch for these children varies from a couple of pies or pasties, in the case of the more sensible ones, to merely "lollies," ice-cream, and "lollie-water" in the case of the less sensible—hardly a diet to build strong, healthy children. On one occasion I saw on the Katanning Reserve two children of a native family considered to be the best type on the reserve have only two slices of bread and butter with jam as their lunch.

It would be palpably unfair to blame the native entirely for his living conditions; hitherto denied the benefits of education, despised for his colour and subjected as he is to a very strong prejudice, it is not to be wondered at that the native does not possess the incentive which inspires men to improve their conditions. It is to be hoped that with the present policy of insistence on education and the provision of opportunities for advancement for those whose educational progress justifies it, that within the next decade or so a different stamp of native will result, not prepared to be satisfied with the disabilities and conditions of the present generation but determined to make for himself and his progeny a new and a better life in considerably improved living conditions.

Health.

I take this subject up next as it is bound up with the question of "living conditions."

I have found from the number of medical fund matters dealt with by my office that amongst the Southern natives children represent the largest percentage of doctors' patients, then women and last of all men. It is natural that children should head the list of native patients, because it is recognised that children, in any community, are more vulnerable to illness than adults with their measles, mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough days behind them.

In the case of natives it would be natural to blame their living conditions for most of their illnesses; but in my opinion the incidence of illness amongst the Southern natives is no higher than amongst the white population. I would say that the natives of this district enjoy a ruder health than the whites and receive less hospitalisation than whites on a population percentage basis. Possibly the hard living conditions of the Southern native as compared to that of the average white man inures the native to hardship and hard conditions and so provides him with a rough sort of immunity denied to the white man who lives in softer conditions.

But living conditions are definitely a handicap in the case of the children's health. Lack of water prevents frequent and sufficient washing of little bodies and of bed clothes, and scabies is very prevalent amongst the children, particularly those of pre-school age. However, at the present time, with prompter medical attention available—brought about to no little extent by the recently introduced system of assured and prompt payment of doctors for treatment of natives—the standard of health amongst natives is probably higher than at any other period in the past.

Employer-Employee Relations.

The native today, in the Southern districts of the State, is in the fortunate position of being practically the only source of labour available to primary producers; they are the "hewers of wood and the drawers of water" for the farmer. And the native, generally, is very aware of his worth to the farming community and, of course, does not hesitate to trade on the fortunate position in which he finds himself. As a result wages, with rare exceptions, are good, particularly in these days when the farmer can afford to pay well.

With the farmers in the Southern districts anxious to convert uncleared lands into pastures and wheatlands because of the satisfactory ruling prices of wool and wheat the native in the South is assured of work as long as the boom lasts. Mostly, natives are engaged on clearing and burning off, cutting fence posts for and fencing newly cleared lands. The farmer prefers to perform the important operations of ploughing, super. spreading, seeding and harvesting himself, sometimes with native assistance, though in many cases reliable and proved native hands are entrusted with these jobs. In such cases the use of Christian names between employer and employee is not uncommon.

In operations relating to sheep, natives are entrusted with the important job of crutching and shearing and provide the bulk of shed hands in shearing sheds. Many farmers use native labour exclusively for their shearing and connected operations.

The dependence of the farmers in the Southern districts, generally, on native labour has made them very tolerant of the natives, even those natives who have proved unreliable. Because the farmer needs native labour he is prepared to overlook a lot. Unfortunately, most natives trade on this situation to the extent that in many cases farmers have been driven to forego native labour altogether and engage the more expensive but more reliable white labour.

It must also be pointed out that among the farming community, too, there are those who are not averse—to borrow a colloquialism—to “putting it across the native,” but generally speaking this is one sphere in which the native is not in need of protection. He is aware of his worth to the farmer and plays his cards accordingly. This new found strength, unfortunately, in some instances, has led to truculence on the part of the native. I have been told by farmers who have been cheated or let down by natives that they dare not take any action against the native concerned for fear of being burnt out. I have been told of one case in the Narrogin district where this actually occurred.

In contrast to the above it must be pointed out that there are not a few employers who, pleased with their native labour and anxious to retain their services, have made available small huts and cottages on their properties for their native employees. Some of these farmers have even told me that their native labour is better than any white labour they have ever had.

Generally speaking, however, relations between employer and employee are good, though not always cordial. In the South-West, however, where several girls are employed as domestics on properties and live in, employer-employee relations in nearly all cases leave little to be desired.

Wages.

Wages today are good for the simple reason that the native will not accept what he considers a poor wage. Natives in the Southern Districts know their rights in regard to wages and demand same. Frequent inquiries are received by me from natives for information re basic wage changes and whenever shearing rates go up. I receive numerous native callers wanting to know what the new rates are “per 100” or for shed hands, wool pickers, crutching, etc.

Natives today in this district seldom work for less than 25s. a day for day labour—generally for 30s. a day. For clearing and chopping down I know an employer at Kulikup who pays his native labour at the rate of 35s. a day, *i.e.*, £10 10s. per six day week. At Frankland River an employer is paying his natives £2 per day for packing (stacking timber) prior to burning off.

Native shearers were paid last season at the ruling rate of over £5 per 100 and many could shear 100 or more a day. Shed hands were receiving over £12 a week. But the shearing season is a short one and the good money paid seems to bring little in the way of tangible benefits to the native. For one thing food and clothes cost more; besides, the native does not save. Then there is the ever present and popular two-up school which can always be depended upon to rob the native of any little surplus he may have.

The “sub” system, as it is called, also militates against the native being able to benefit from the good wages he is now able to command. A native when he finishes one job rarely has another one to go to immediately. More often than not he likes to relax for a few days before going to a new job (if one has been arranged) or before trying to find a new job. In several cases, I may even safely say in most cases, when his food supplies are nearly if not completely exhausted he will go to the farmer to commence work or for a job. He will represent he has no food or money and therefore needs a “sub” (advance) before he can start work. He is given either a cash advance—usually £5—or an order on a store in town for goods to that value and promises to return and commence work at the beginning of the new week. When he is paid at the end of the first week or fortnight, or at the end of the job, he gets £5 less and does not like it. If on a contract which may take anything from one to three months the native takes several “subs,” orders on stores, receives tobacco supplies, too, on the “sub” system, so that on settling up day he has only a small sum to come. Farmers have told me that the “sub” system is so much a part and parcel of the native labour system that in many cases natives will not work unless they can get “subs” or at least a “sub” to start with. Personally, I would rather see the “sub” system abolished as it encourages irresponsibility in the native.

As long as the demand continues to exceed the supply in the labour field the native will be able to continue to claim and obtain good wages. As this seems to be the trend for some time to come the southern native is assured of satisfactory wages for a few years yet.

Planning and Public Relations.

Planning.—One of the main difficulties to be encountered in planning for native uplift and welfare is the very nature of the hybrid native. The adult native generation is in the main uneducated and ignorant. Never having had an education the older natives—and that would include the majority of hybrid parents of today—cannot appreciate the Department's efforts to assist them, in fact, they even suspect our motives. This ignorance, stemming from a lack of education, prevents them from appreciating the benefits to accrue from being educated. That opportunity is being provided through education for their children to improve their status and make their way through life in better circumstances than was the lot of the parent, does not impress the average native parent. What parents seem to be concerned with mainly is to have their older children with them to supplement the family income. They are, generally, opposed to a son or a daughter leaving home at a young age to go elsewhere even though ignorance and in many cases selfishness is a stumbling block in the way of the advancement of the next generation. Therefore in planning for native welfare and uplift the Department, it seems, must be prepared to push ahead in spite of apathy and even interference on the part of the parents.

With the older generation of today it seems little can be done beyond assisting them to improve their living conditions. This, with the known shortage of materials and the fact that there are so many white persons with strong claims on what little material is forthcoming, means that this aspect of native welfare can only progress very slowly, if at all.

Education and the provision of opportunity for the hybrid children of today would appear to be the first consideration in any policy for native uplift. A beginning has been made with the reorganisation of the Department in very recent years. All natives now know as the result of contact with the new field staff of the Department that education of native children between the ages of six and 14 is compulsory, that the Department is determined to ensure the education of native children and that if native parents neglect their duty in this respect the Department will step in and if necessary, by removing the children from their parents' guardianship, ensure the children's education. Results are indeed gratifying. Throughout this district with, of course, some exceptions, native children are attending school with fair regularity and well turned out. In a few years' time the Department will be faced with a situation whereby there will be several promising young natives who have attended school, from the ages of six or seven to 14 years, looking for opportunities that their parents cannot provide. Some will be in need of further education to fit them for careers, others will need openings immediately, for which their education will have fitted them. It is here that bold planning and funds are needed.

Public Relations.—Meanwhile the public mind is to be conditioned to prepare it to be more tolerant towards the hybrid native. In this district, while there is a great deal of prejudice, there is also a great deal of good sense displayed towards and in relation with the half-caste native people. Whilst much of the prejudice towards the native is inherent, a great deal of it is due to ignorance or uninformed opinion; a great deal can be done through the medium of the press in informing public opinion and this has been attempted; but much can also be done by officers in the field seizing their opportunities at places visited by them, at informal gatherings and wherever men congregate, to bring about discussion on the native question and thus to inform people. In this way I have at hotels while on patrol and amongst persons met in the course of my duties found means of discussing one of the burning social questions of the day—the hybrids' place in the community. Advantage has been taken of such occasions to explain the work and set-up of the Department and its policy. A great deal of sympathy

and understanding has been engendered amongst persons who normally would have no opportunity of getting to know what confronts the Department in its task of the regeneration of the native people. There is a great deal that can be achieved by this means, not only in bringing to public notice the work of the Department and objects for which the Department exists, but also in securing for the hybrid people a modicum of understanding and tolerance from their more fortunately situated white brothers.

One effect of public relations since the reorganisation of the Department has been the noticeable toleration shown towards the admission of native children to schools and native patients to hospitals. It is not exaggerating to say that a very short while ago in the Great Southern, people looked with open disapproval, often with the backing of the Parents' and Citizens' Association and so-called "Progress" Associations, upon coloured children attending schools side by side with their own. Much was said also when native patients were admitted to wards in which were white people. While such feeling still exists in places it has been considerably curtailed or toned down. In many hospitals in this district native patients are admitted without demur while in others they are still admitted, even though begrudgingly. The right of education for native children side by side with whites is no longer questioned though an odd voice is raised in protest, usually purely on grounds of prejudice. It could quite truthfully be said that such toning down of feeling may be attributed to the public relations part of the field staff's duties, the contact with schoolmasters, hospital authorities and the public contributing to the pronounced change of feeling in the directions pointed out above.

Conclusion.

The numbers of natives calling at the offices at Narrogin and Katanning and the numerous approaches made to officers in the field during patrol point to the fact that the earlier suspicion which field officers were confronted with has gradually melted away. Natives everywhere know that the Department is their friend. There are a few exceptions—the confirmed malingers and criminals amongst the hybrids. To these our appearance at their camps is not welcome. However, to the large majority of natives the appearance of an officer at their camps is usually the occasion for getting their difficulties untangled and for a wide range of inquiries. They are even getting accustomed to our reminding them of their debts to the Department. The fact that many natives have been helped in Court by officers of the Department speaking for the native against charges by the Police and also the fact that an officer of the Department never visits a native camp in the company of a Police Officer if he can help it, has established in the native mind that we are on their side. As a measure of their confidence natives are now coming to us with their private quarrels, a practice which is sternly discouraged. All this points to one very important fact, namely that we have established ourselves as the "friend, philosopher and guide" of the native people. This is a very great step forward on the situation as it was when the District Office was inaugurated at Narrogin.

With this important part of the battle won it is not too much to hope that as our programme for amelioration of the conditions of the native people proceeds apace we can look forward not only to the satisfaction of seeing our aims and objects being achieved gradually, but also to the active co-operation and appreciation of those whom the Department is pledged to assist—the native people themselves.

West Kimberley District.

D. L. Pullen, Esq., District Officer.

Introduction.

In the introduction to my Annual Report last year I pointed out that it covered only three months of the year, in which time I was able to make only a rapid survey of my district, record the impressions received, and the plans we hoped to carry out.

This present Report covers a full year's activities and although I am not able to claim many spectacular achievements, it is a record of endeavour and of some progress made. The natives were much more responsive—they began to appreciate the fact that an officer, whose efforts were mainly directed towards their welfare, saw them regularly, heard their troubles and, where possible and necessary, tried to solve them. It was made clear to them, however, that "humbug" would not be tolerated and that trivial complaints would be treated as such.

With this closer association I was able to learn more about the customs which are still in vogue and which need not be interfered with. Appearing on their behalf in Court also added to my knowledge of their manner of reasoning and, in some instances, of their less desirable customs.

As the year progressed the natives came looking for me—somewhat different to my early months in the district when I had great difficulty in getting them to enter into any lengthy conversation. It was noticeable, also, that they were getting more confidence in themselves, not yet in a truculent way, but that they were beginning to realise that they were of some importance to the district, which they undoubtedly are.

And while this change was taking place in the minds of the natives, so was there a noticeable change in the attitude of the employers. Perhaps, in some cases, it was simply a resigned facing up to the inevitable. But the majority of owners and managers only needed some form of guidance, were glad to feel that an effort was being made to implement a policy which was progressive but not revolutionary and that there was no suggestion or hint of coercive measures to effect these changes. A more healthy outlook began to pervade the district and it grew healthier as the year progressed.

Nothing occurred to cause me to revise my early opinion that, basically, the true aboriginal is not greatly different to natives in other parts of the world. Another similarity I found is that they are keenly athletic and what they lack in style they make up for in a remarkable keenness of eye. The children play the same games and get into the same mischief as other coloured children, with neither group very different from our own.

There also is not much doubt that they are rapidly becoming divorced from their nomadic habits. During their regular walkabout time the rule rather than the exception now is that they do not travel far from their place of working. They will venture, with their families, from one station to another along the river valley or further, to attend an initiation ceremony. Even so, they would much prefer to travel by vehicle than do the trip by foot. One Derby native and his wife wished to visit relatives at Noonkanbah on their last walkabout. They received a lift by truck to Yeeda Station (27 miles) but never reached Noonkanbah. When asked why, they simply replied: "No truck come along." So their walkabout was spent at Yeeda and they wouldn't budge from there to return home until they could get a lift by truck.

The attacks on the methods being used by the Department to cope with the native problem almost died out completely throughout the district—on the contrary compliments were numerous for the Department's efforts to implement a practical policy. People appreciate something positive and this is particularly so with the natives, who are not at all impressed by promises of bountiful things to come but are enthusiastic when they see some practical improvements made at their place of work.

As a matter of fact, violent criticism of the policy of the Department has been replaced by solid support and, in a few cases embarrassingly so, where owners and managers have jumped ahead of our programme.

I think that the greatest factor contributing to the progress that has been made is the appreciation by employers that the Department's policy is long range—this term is becoming hackneyed but it does correctly describe our intentions so far as these Northern natives are concerned. And when the employers gained confidence from this they almost without exception commenced a programme of improvements more or less along the lines desired by the Department—these are described in detail in the respective sections of this report.

There were also fewer references to the desirability of obtaining white jackeroos to replace native labour. There has been a reasonably steady influx of young jackeroos from the South but it is doubtful if the proportion that are remaining after a few months' experience is any greater than before. Nevertheless, the wages paid to and the amenities provided for white jackeroos are improving all the time. But it would not appear, at this stage, that the native stockman is in danger of losing his job—in fact the native labour shortage is still acute throughout the West Kimberleys.

The question of having to feed numerous indigents on and near stations was seldom mentioned this year. The owners and managers appear quite satisfied to look after these old people, but perhaps in some cases this has been influenced by the prosperous condition of the industry.

During the year I met every employer in the West Kimberleys, and also all the people in charge of the various Missions and Institutions. They were all very reasonable and in accord with our ideas so long as we did not expect too much too soon. Finding that we were not impatient but nevertheless firm about the improvements that are required, they responded accordingly and it is pleasing to be able to commend their co-operation and to honestly report some progress in the betterment of the working and living conditions of their native employees and dependents.

This desire to help has lightened my burden considerably and although we have only started along the progressive trail, these early efforts are heartening.

Wages.

In September, 1949, I submitted a simple scheme for the implementation of the payment of wages to natives employed in the pastoral industry in the West Kimberleys. It was thought to be ambitious, but it did act as a starting point for discussions between the Department and the Pastoralists' Association and, eventually, a scheme submitted by the Pastoralists' Association was accepted by the Department, to come into force from the 1st July, 1950. However, Kimberley Downs, Napier, Blina, Leopold, Fossil Downs, the Springs, and perhaps other stations were all paying wages prior to the above-mentioned date and at rates different to the Association rates. In most cases they have agreed to adhere to the Association rates as from 1st July, 1950.

We were handicapped by the fact that we did not possess any statutory powers over the question of wages but the acceptance of the Pastoralists' Association scheme was a definite gain, inasmuch as it was an acknowledgment on their part of the principle of monetary reward to native employees for services rendered.

But the scheme had a number of glaring faults, the most glaring being the flat rate decided upon or the principle of a flat rate. It was quickly evident that this would not work—managers and owners soon solved the problem by creating different rates for different classes of stockmen—exactly what was recommended in our original submission. It was obvious up here that all stockmen were not of equal wages value but this elementary fact evidently escaped or was ignored by the people who conceived the scheme.

The same thing has occurred to the rates offered to women—it was soon obvious to the employer that the girl who does all the washing and ironing is worth more than the picker of weeds in the station garden, and again the rates have been varied. So actually it will be our own scheme in operation.

Wages have been paid for a long time on stations near and south of Broome, but the scheme adopted is not one that I can heartily endorse. A weekly wage is paid, out of which the employee buys his own clothes and extra items of food. The result is that the natives are seldom in credit and recent departures from Anna Plains were undoubtedly caused by this system.

So far only one native has come to notice who urged his mates to try to get a higher rate of pay to what will be offered—he was promptly dismissed by his employer but is now working on a nearby station where the owner is paying more than the Association rates.

I am quite sure that the majority of stations will pay, on an average, more than the rates suggested by the Pastoralists' Association, which again spotlights the fact that the Department's scheme was based on sound ideas. After all, since the pastoralists had never paid wages, it was really unfair to expect them to devise a workable scheme.

To implement the scheme it was necessary to draw up simple rules covering A.W.L., hospitalisation for V.D., annual leave, etc. This has been done and all employers circularised so that the payment of the wages should proceed smoothly.

Some station managers expressed concern about the likelihood of "bidding" for the services of good stockmen. There is no doubt that some wage fixing powers are necessary to curb any sudden upward trend. Once again, our own scheme did cover this point by recommending a progressive rate over a period of four years.

The natives are looking forward to the regular payment of wages, more particularly the women who did not handle much money, being entirely dependent on hand-outs from their husbands on their return from a droving trip. It could prove an important step in the emancipation of the native women.

Housing, Food, Sanitary and Ablution Facilities, etc.

My early months were spent in closely studying the conditions under which the natives were living on the stations and they really disclosed a rather wretched state of affairs.

For some time I was not sure if the natives themselves desired any change so far as their housing conditions were concerned, but early this year I felt convinced that they did, and from time to time and in different localities I was asked if something could be done to give them better houses. Immediately I found that there was a diversity of opinion amongst the managers and owners. Some favoured separate dwellings, others one large building with partitions. And very few agreed as to design. On several stations huts designed by natives themselves showed that they had not a great hankering after ventilation—the huts were usually completely enclosed except for the door entrance. I thereupon decided that the wisest course was to allow each station to build to its own design—it really did not matter what shape a new hut took so long as it was an improvement on the old scrap iron and bag lean-to. But I did make one suggestion—that a large shelter shed be provided so that, during the wet and the cold seasons, the natives would have their own shelter shed instead of using the wool shed or a stable. Managers and owners rather liked the idea with the result that the shipment of Nissen huts to Derby has been constant. Already up to a dozen stations have them in course of erection.

To set an example, using a native carpenter, eight huts were erected on a Native Reserve just outside Derby—they are built of secondhand galvanised iron and bush timber and the floors cemented. At the back and on both sides there are push out shutters which leave openings at bed height. When closed the huts are reasonably weatherproof. They are for the use of indigents, discharges from the Native Hospital awaiting transport and natives who come into Derby with their employers and have no place to sleep. If an employer in Derby wishes to house his native employees in the huts, he pays a nominal weekly rental. Water is laid on to the reserve and there are also pan latrines for males and females. A recreation

hut with a kitchen attached, also showers for males and females, have yet to be built. The idea is a native village rather than a compound. The huts are proving popular and I hope, during the wet, to complete the camp and introduce some amenities such as music and various games for the recreation hut. Also, I am keen to get started on a similar village on the outskirts of Broome.

Although the building programme on the stations is far from complete, we have advanced during the year and if materials are easier to obtain I anticipate further improvements during 1950-51. Some stations are lagging although they have promised to come into line, and it will be simply a matter of keeping on their tails.

Food.

The diet of the natives has not changed much during the year, the staple issues still being flour, usually in the form of baked loaves, meat, tea, sugar, with jam and powdered milk as extras for the women and children. But there has been more interest shown by employers in the question of diet and with the little they have at their disposal an effort has been made to introduce food varieties. More stews are being made and they always have a fair sprinkling of potatoes and onions. But I still cannot understand why the station gardens are not much larger. And I have seen some very fine vegetable gardens with prolific growths of cabbages, tomatoes, onions, pumpkins and water melons. Yet the areas under cultivation are too small to allow of a regular supply of vegetables to everyone on the station during the whole of the dry season. On most stations there are a number of old people, men and women, who are good gardeners and appear to take an interest in the work. So I have continued to urge the expansion of the areas as the work does not affect the young men or interfere with the stock boys for the reason that it is done by the men and women who are past their prime.

I anticipate that quite a large proportion of the natives' wages will be spent on food items—they are very keen on tinned fruit, which is not easy to obtain in large quantities—sweet biscuits and condensed milk are also popular. Some managers are now using marmite more freely, per medium of the stews, and the natives like the flavour. Small quantities of rice are received on the stations, but barely sufficient to give the natives more than a taste a few times a year. The tea position has been eased by the abolition of rationing, so that there should be no further complaints about short issues of weak tea.

Sanitation and Ablution.

It is pleasing to be able to report a number of excellent achievements in this direction. The outstanding improvement was the block built by Mr. W. N. McDonald for the use of the natives on Fossil Downs Station. The building is 33 ft. x 10 ft. 6 in. and is well constructed of brick and cement. It is divided into two equal sections for males and females and each section contains two septic system lavatories and three spray showers. The women's section has, in addition, two cement troughs for washing clothes. Electric light is installed throughout. The block is kept spotlessly clean and, much to Mr. McDonald's surprise, used by young and old.

Worthy of mention also are the efforts at GoGo, Christmas Creek and Cherabun Stations. On GoGo and Christmas Creek septic systems have been installed for the women and children, and burn-out, pan type latrines for the men and boys. The men at Christmas Creek were not so keen on the pans and asked me if they could have the "ones where you make water come with the chain."

The majority of the stations have plumped for the pit or pan latrine systems and it was gratifying to learn that the facilities were being used and not just ornaments. A quiet insistence by the Managers now that they will frown on the old bush methods, and in a year or so all except the very old people should be broken out of their previous unhygienic practices. This should result in a lessening of the fly menace and, perhaps, fewer sore eyes.

Fortunately there is rarely any shortage of water on or near the native camps. At Anna Plains Mr. Stan Mullins has given the camp its own mill, so they have their own independent supply of water unless, of course, there is a wind drought.

As with the housing programme, there are still a number of stations that are lagging in their sanitary and ablution improvements, but with such striking examples being set around the district it is unlikely that any manager will drag behind indefinitely. Labour is still very short and they will all make a strenuous effort to hold their present teams.

Health.

While the Flying Doctor Service continues as before and giving excellent service, the need for a regular station to station check-up was emphasised more than ever. Dr. Musso carried out such a service some years ago and it was evidently popular and efficient. Station managers and owners throughout the year urged the re-introduction of this service and it was more or less in operation again prior to the end of this financial year. The second doctor at Derby was assigned to this job and has already covered considerable country. I understand that the service will be maintained, but it will not be completely effective until it is carried out by road in a similar manner to our patrols.

From the Department's point of view, the improvements made in hygiene and general sanitary facilities are pleasing to record and there is no doubt that these will continue to improve.

The A.I.M. Hospital at Fitzroy Crossing again served a useful purpose, really as a Field Dressing Station and where patients could be held and nursed until transport was available to Derby. The Sisters here also regularly checked up on the old indigents in the camp.

South of Broome, complaints were also received about the paucity of medical checks of the station natives and this also applied to our own depot at La Grange. The defence was that the Broome doctor was already overworked. It is possible that the Derby doctor will cover this area in future.

By the time this report is finalised a T.B. survey of Kimberley natives should be almost completed so there appears to be much livelier interest being taken in the health of these Northern natives.

Complaints continued to be made about the unsatisfactory service at the Native Hospital, Derby—not so much against the medical treatment but from the angle that station natives sent in for treatment often did not return to the stations, but were either kept in employment at the Hospital or allowed to accept employment with another employer. These patients should be discharged to the District Officer to ensure that they get back to their home stations, unless, of course, they have a good reason for not wishing to return. The trouble appears to be that the Native Hospital authorities take it on themselves to decide this question and the District Officer then gets the resulting backwash from the irate manager.

On the inspections carried out the health of the station natives appeared good—all employers are alive to their responsibilities regarding the hospitalisation of serious cases and in this respect the advice received from the Flying Doctor Service is of great assistance. An epidemic of influenza has appeared in the East Kimberleys, and it is likely that it will spread through to this district.

I received excellent co-operation from the numerous District Medical Officers stationed at Derby throughout the year.

Relations between Employers and Employees.

As the year progressed there was a noticeable lessening of hostility against the Department for its efforts to effect improvements in the living and working conditions of the natives, and a quickening of the interest shown by employers in their employees.

When you have a third authority or party paying regular visits, it is not possible for an employer to remain aloof to what is going on, and it was not long before owners and managers were coming forward with suggestions as to ways and means of helping along the programme. This was a definite gain and when the employees got to the stage where they were courageous enough to voice complaints in the presence of their employers the gate was opened to freer and easier relations between the natives and their bosses. This is, perhaps, one of the outstanding changes noticed in the West Kimberleys during the year. A slow but not yet truculent awakening of the natives to their importance in the industry is evident. The danger of this change developing the wrong way is appreciated but with our officers covering the district it should be noticed and controlled quickly.

It can be truthfully said that the relations between employers and their native employees have not deteriorated, with the possible exception of Broome. Here, although the problem is not acute, it surely needs an officer on the spot until such time as he is able to classify the various groups, assist on the social service side, encourage the better class of coloured people to own their own land and house and assist the remainder to a better way of living. For the short period that we had an officer stationed there, the natives responded well to the interest shown in them and their needs and only require this regular guidance and advice.

In Broome, the European outlook towards the natives is not quite so cordial as that noticed north of the Fitzroy River, but this also might be gradually overcome if we had a Departmental buffer between them and the natives.

Complaints by natives against their employers were not numerous and can be classified into two main groups—shortage and lack of variety of food and minor assaults. Every complaint was followed up. No serious assault cases came to notice and so far as the complaints about food were concerned, they were usually traced back to lack of variety rather than quantity issued.

That the natives were watching developments closely was emphasised when a group of them at a station I visited asked if it would be O.K. for them to leave their present place of employment and go to work for a station over one hundred miles away, where the boss was paying his blackfellows "a few bob wages." I told them that I would not advise them to leave, but promised them that I would endeavour to persuade their boss to introduce the same working conditions for them as existed on the distant station. Fortunately soon after this word got around quickly that wages were to be paid and this small spot of unrest quietened down.

With the paucity of experienced white stockmen in the district and the increasing competence of the native workers, it is unlikely that there will be a lessening of effort on the part of employers in their desire not only to make the working and living conditions better but also to improve their relations with their employees. The trends that must be watched are, any sign of truculence on the part of the natives and any subversive influence working amongst them, but these Kimberley natives do not appear to be very pliable material for agitators.

STATISTICS.

1. *Number of natives contacted—*

Adults.		Chidren.		Children of school age.
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1,054	854	114	84	
Total 1,908		198		128

2. *Labour Employed—*

Males.				Females.			
Stockmen	....	....	376	Domestics	....	....	257
General	....	....	154	General	....	....	67
Total	....	....	530	Total	....	....	324
				GRAND TOTAL 854			

3. *Indigents—*

On stations	82	On institutions	151	Pensioners	103
-------------	------	------	----	-----------------	------	------	-----	------------	------	-----

CONCLUSION.

The year's work left one indelible impression on my mind—that I was fortunate to be in charge of district which contained not only an excellent type of employer, but also a very good class of native.

While the distinction between "meum" and "tuum" has never been a characteristic of other native races, I found that these Nor-West natives do not treat the other persons' property so lightly—and when a thief is caught up with he usually turns out to be a sophisticated "townie."

I heard much criticism levelled against all the Missions, some justified, some born of a general dislike of all such bodies. And, as I listened, the words of Curle in his "Shadow Show" often ran through my mind:—

"A Mission station boy is no use to anyone for he has acquired the vices of the white man without his virtues. In return for a smattering of education and Christianity he is liable to become conceited, insolent and secretly disloyal. He has learned that all men are equal in the sight of God without the useful corollary that they are not equal in the sight of man and that the world conforms to the latter usage."

But I think that this would be too harsh a judgment of the Mission products here. Their achievements are not spectacular yet it would seem that, in the past, they did not have a great deal of guidance or assistance. They are appreciating a positive policy and there is no doubt that they should be encouraged and strengthened to allow them to go forward with us.

The granting of Citizenship Rights is not very popular in the community and the rather easy generalisation heard is that they are simply a permit to purchase liquor. Yet in this district there are many coloured people who have already proved themselves worthy of the honour, and the Act, even if the approach to the method of granting is altered, should be persevered with.

In my last Annual Report I said that I thought that all of our plans were practicable and this view has been strengthened after a full year's patrolling in the district.

With the implementation of the payment of wages, the prospect of more attention being given to the training and education of the native children and the re-arrangement of the districts, the coming year promises to be one full of incident and interest. Our staff housing problems are still acute but, on the office accommodation side, if materials continue to be made available it is hoped to erect offices at Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Broome. It is also proposed to extend the native village at Derby and commence the building of a similar village at Broome.

The European staff position has not been satisfactory, but this should also be stabilised in the coming year when it is anticipated that permanent officers will be stationed at Broome, Wyndham, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby, which should cover the whole of the Kimberleys effectively.

Once again, I should like to place on record the co-operation of everyone at Headquarters. There was a complete absence of friction and although the paper work increased as the work of the district progressed, correspondence to and from Headquarters was kept reasonably up to date. With staff at strategic points, it will be possible to keep more accurate records and to supply much more useful data.

East Kimberley District.

J. J. Rhatigan, Esq., District Officer.

To my mind there is as yet no Native problem in the East Kimberleys, but unless foresight is used there could be a half-caste problem develop in Wyndham in the future.

We have in Wyndham approximately 60 coloured children attending the State School and it is obvious that as the years roll by this number will increase. The children reaching school age each year will outnumber those being discharged so it can be taken for granted that the number of coloureds attending school will increase yearly.

The girls on leaving school will find domestic employment in private homes and on the stations, but to a lesser extent on the stations because, as yet, they have the full-blood domestic labour. The full-blood domestic labour is cheaper than the half-caste, and therefore the station people will be reluctant to employ half-caste female labour whilst the full-blood labour is available.

To my mind the problem, unless tackled, will be with the coloured male who, on leaving school, will not be prepared to work on stations at a low wage, yet what else will there be offering unless we put him in a position to command a reasonable wage and living conditions? This can be done by the establishment of a manual training school in a central position in the Kimberleys. Admittedly this will cost a large sum of money but the money will be well spent because the establishment of such a training school will mean more skilled labour and, in addition, more useful citizens. The parents of these children, in a great majority of cases, are honest, hardworking people who are making every effort to live according to white standards. These people and their progeny are the potential labour of the North, and to my way of thinking will be the mainstay of labour under the trying conditions of the tropics. It only remains for us to place the facilities at their disposal whereby they can, and will, become competent tradesmen.

We have half-castes as boss drovers, head stockmen and truck drivers, and all are doing an excellent job but the half-caste population is increasing (*i.e.*, the children of half-caste parents). The demand for skilled labour is also increasing and we have the material, ideally suited to the climatic conditions, to turn out this skilled labour. It remains for us to provide the facilities to train these children in the trades for which there is a demand in the North.

Fitzroy Crossing would be ideally suited for the establishment of a training school as it is situated in the centre of the cattle industry and moreover, in my opinion, the soil is the best in the Kimberleys for the establishment of an Agricultural Training Farm and could be made almost self-supporting. However it would be probably less costly to establish such a training school at Moola Bulla where we already have the foundations on which to work. Although unsuitable for agricultural training, the provision of facilities with which to train coloured children as engineers, mechanics, carpenters, saddlers, etc., would make Moola Bulla the show place of the West and, in addition to meeting the station's own labour problems, would benefit the whole pastoral industry. It would also do an inestimable amount of good for the coloured population of the Kimberleys and I therefore urgently advocate the early establishment of a manual training school at Moola Bulla.

In my opinion the full-blood population of the Kimberleys does not present any problem nor can I see any problem here in the future. With the exception of a very few who are employed in towns, they are employed on stations mainly as stockmen and domestics and do a good job in these capacities. These people are ideally suited to station life in which they are perfectly happy and contented and all that need be done for them is an improvement in their living conditions. This is slowly but surely coming about.

In the East Kimberleys the stations are all cattle stations and, with the exception of a few, are holdings of a million acres. The busy season is from March to October when the bullocks are mustered and put on the road to Wyndham Meatworks and also the year's calves are branded. In most of the mustering plants there are at least twelve full-blood stockmen who work long hours mustering and watching at night during the busy season, but it is all horse work to which they are well suited and enjoy. During the slack period they are given rations and go on "pinkeye" which extends for about three months. This they regularly look forward to each year. The stations would experience great difficulty in functioning without this labour and the native would, on the whole, be unhappy in any other class of work. Therefore all that is required is a gradual improvement in his general conditions.

Although this report deals with 1949-50, a wage scheme has since been put into operation in the Kimberleys and, in my opinion, is a definite step in the right direction. Although faults may be found, these can be rectified as time goes on. There is also a wage system in operation in the Northern Territory which is entirely different from that in the West, and these differing systems are causing confusion among the natives on adjoining stations. For instance, Ord River, Western Australia, adjoins Mistake Creek in the Northern Territory, the boundaries of Gordon Downs in Western Australia and Berunduda in the Northern Territory adjoin in the east. Although the two stations in the Territory are controlled or managed from the two in Western Australia, two differing wage systems are in force. The natives are of the same tribes and cannot understand why "Silly Begger Whitemen" as they term us, cannot have a universal system of payment. Of the two systems I personally favour that of the West because of its simplicity and the fact that it is an agreement between the employers and the Department of Native Affairs, and alteration or faults can be speedily remedied by a round table conference.

SECTION "B."

DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

The reports of the Superintendents of Departmental Institutions which follow indicate considerable improvement in many directions ; but in my view the system is only partly successful. In the North and North-West, due mainly to the lack of educational and other facilities in the districts containing the main centres of native population, the maintenance of settlements for rationing, education and general welfare purposes will be necessary for many years to come. In the Southern districts, however, the system of maintaining Government controlled isolated Settlements within the general fabric of a large white community is incongruous to the accepted policy of assimilation, and the practice of accommodating on such institutions native children and young native men and girls classed as delinquents raises in the minds of the native people themselves intense antipathies towards all forms of official supervision and attempts to control these temperamental half-caste people. Their value, therefore, to a welfare department is a matter for speculation ; in my view it is in inverse proportion to the enormous cost of their maintenance and upkeep. Some point is given to this view in the opinions and statements set out in the following reports.

Moore River Native Settlement.

A. L. Ethell, Superintendent.

A review of events of the year 1949-50 shows that for portion of the year Moore River reached a peak of efficiency not attained for many years past, but in the closing months deteriorated rapidly on the Administration side to a new " low " which caused a great deal of concern not only to the writer but to Head Office and Audit personnel as well. Staff changes were mainly responsible for the chaos which resulted from the employment of unreliable and thoroughly irresponsible staff, but at the close of the year the position had improved slightly and once again Moore River had raised its battered head and returned to the attack on dirt, disease and past maladministration.

The changes during the year under review have been many and varied, and have covered a wide field ranging from a new system of banking, new canteen procedure, and a new basis of Administration to activities on the maintenance, construction, gardening and agricultural side, the latter terminating in a concerted attempt to make the Settlement self-supporting. Improvements have been gradual but certain. Working mainly with only a skeleton staff, the building programme has proceeded (spasmodically on occasions it must be admitted) but with ultimate results which are evident even to the most cursory visitor.

Summarised, the figures regarding the major projects attempted during the year are interesting, and are listed below for information.

New buildings completed or in hand	17
Extensions to existing buildings	1
Alterations to existing buildings	2
Buildings completely demolished	17
Buildings partly demolished	2
Buildings renovated	2
Septic systems completed	2
Septic systems part complete	1
Grease traps completed	7
Soak wells completed	6
Sullage lines completed	2
French drains completed	3
New wells completed	1
Wells repaired	1
Engineering project	1
Bore lowered	1
Windmills erected	2
New pipeline laid	Approx. 5,000 feet
Additional water storage provided	7,500 galls.
Area of land cultivated for garden	3 acres
New fences	Approx. 65 chains
Cement bricks for building	Approx. 9,000

This shows a total of 73 different jobs on which work was carried out during the year under review, and the results obtained are extremely gratifying.

Administration.—As a direct result of the foregoing the administration of the Institution suffered severely during the latter months of the year. There is no need to list the clerical duties of a Superintendent for these are well known, but it must be conceded that the long list of returns, reports, correspondence, administrative detail and general staff matters added to the never-ending need for constant outside supervision creates a Frankenstein that could well destroy the most stout-hearted's interest in Moore River.

Despite the inevitable chaos which resulted from non-compilation of statutory returns, especially in the Stores section, other aspects of administration received attention, and new avenues for increasing the benefits to the natives were explored, tried, and proved successful, and by the close of the year were well established and functioning satisfactorily. Foremost among these were canteen, bank and handicraft section.

When the increased wages scale came into operation in April, 1949, the natives on the Settlement were suddenly confronted with a spectacle of having greater spending power than they had ever enjoyed on the Institution, and as predicted in an earlier report, gambling—especially two-up and poker—thrived. In order to cut down on the gambling a system of compulsory saving was introduced, and a bank account opened with sixteen depositors in August, 1949. The procedure is now to automatically deduct one week's pay from each native's wages and pay the amount direct to a Trust Account. These credits, known as the Natives' Private Savings Fund, have grown considerably, and at the close of the year the position was most satisfactory.

Handicraft Section.—In February, after devoting much thought to the problem of what to do with native women who spent several hours off duty each day among the pinas pinaster either gambling or indulging in the oldest profession, it was decided to initiate Handicraft Classes, under the control and direction of a female attendant. At the outset all girls under eighteen were directed to the classes, and gradually tuition was extended to all women off duty in the afternoons. The knitting and fancywork turned out by the women is a credit to the interest shown by Mrs. Stephens in the class, and compares quite favourably with first-class articles made by experienced women. The most important aspect of this branch of the Settlement's activities, however, is that the women are separated from the men during the afternoons, gambling has declined considerably, and there is no longer any need to round men up from the pines who should be employed elsewhere.

Staff.—As ever, Moore River has upheld its age-old tradition of frequent staff changes, but despite the problem of ever changing staff there are many of the "old contemptibles" left who are doing an exceptionally good job of work.

Health.—Figures available show a marked improvement in the health of the inmates, as evidenced by the decline in the number of natives admitted to the Settlement Hospital. This unit is functioning well as the main native District Hospital, and Dr. Myles, of Moora, the visiting Medical Officer, is impressed with the overall improvement in the general health.

Inmates.—It is felt that the general attitude of the majority of the inmates has improved slightly, though it will be many years yet before the memory of years of racial discrimination is erased completely. Perhaps the most radical change during the year was the discontinuing of the barbarous practice of locking free women in at night time, and keeping them in close confinement from sundown to sunrise. Apparently the idea behind this procedure was to safeguard the morals of the girls concerned, but once any person goes to the lengths of setting himself up as the guardian of someone else's morals he is immediately faced with an attitude of resentful defiance which I consider only aggravates rather than improves the situation. Further, I contend that it is an offence against the laws of the land to deprive anyone of his freedom without a warrant and in January the women on the Settlement who are not held under the terms of a Ministerial or a Magisterial Warrant were allowed their freedom until 10.30 p.m. each night, when the door of their dormitory is locked, more for their own protection than anything else. The results of this action have been most encouraging, and to a degree, startling. Fights and "free for alls" in the Women's Dormitory are now a rare occurrence, where a year ago we averaged sometimes two and three a night. Most important, the number of pregnant, unmarried girls on the Settlement has declined to the stage where at time of writing there are only four women out of a total of sixty known to be pregnant.

On 1st May, seven women ran off the rails, and caused a mild disturbance which resulted in Police action being necessary. This is the only major disturbance of the year, and points to a big improvement in the conduct of Settlement personnel.

Dealing with the men, the improvement in mental outlook is encouraging. They are naturally slow to respond to the new ideas of administration, but appear to be settling down well. Their work has improved considerably, and provided they show a comparative improvement in subsequent years, I feel there is some real future for them.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR L. ETHELL,
Superintendent.

Carrolup Native Settlement.

V. H. Sully, Superintendent.

I commenced duty as Superintendent on 9th December, 1949. On assumption of duty, office files, records and procedure were so scanty and nebulous that I have no previous Annual Reports to refer to. If they have been prepared in the past, no records or copies remain here. It is inevitable, then, that I use my own style, trusting it conforms to the requirements of the Commissioner.

Total number of staff at the end of the year—17. There are no records of the number of staff at the beginning of the year, i.e., 1st July, 1949.

Total staff changes for the year—57.

Between 1-7-49 and 31-12-49	....	....	....	32	6 months
" 1-1-50 " 31-3-50	....	....	....	20	3 months
" 1-4-50 " 30-6-50	....	....	....	5	3 months
				—	
				57	
				—	

Staff changes at an average of more than one per week must surely have had a retarding influence on any progressive programme. On studying the staff change figures, however, a settling down period will be observed for the quarter ending 30th June, 1950.

Without prejudice I must record here that on commencing duty in December, 1949, the whole place was in a shocking condition. There was no administration or supervision of staff. In fact, the dormitories were enough to make anyone sick. These facts are recorded, not as recriminations on previous staff, but more to present Carrolup in its true perspective at the beginning of 1950. Too often are reports "flowery" showing where all is well. All is not well at the end of June, 1950, but substantial progress and cleaning up has taken place. We are no longer ashamed to show visitors over the institution. We were a few months ago.

Staff changes for the quarter January to March, 1950, totalled 20. This period denotes a general staff review with dismissals and engagements at a fairly rapid rate. This was inevitable and no other course was open. The result was that very little tangible progress was made—there being no continuity of work.

The next three months however (April to June, 1950), saw a steady progressive policy of work in all sections—works, motor transport, store, dormitories, kitchen and dining room. In fact I must record here and now my thanks and appreciation to the staff who worked with me through those months up to the end of the year. Without their support and co-operation my task would have been impossible.

Native Labour.—In January there were 39 natives on the pay sheet, only three of whom were young men receiving training of some description. Thirty-six were adult labourers. At the end of June, of 38 natives on the pay sheet, 22 were school boys and young men receiving some sort of training, leaving only 16 actual adult labourers. The reduction in adult labourers over the six months was 20; their places were filled by young men and boys who are receiving some training in the following activities:—Carpentry, painting, mechanics, farming, cooking.

Inmates.—The number of inmates at the Settlement at end of June was 102. Of this number 55 were boys of primary school age, the remainder being made up of adults, babies and young men of post-primary age. For the first half of the year—June to December, 1949—the inmates were mixed and schooling was co-educational. Arrangements were in hand during 1949 to implement a change in policy whereby the girls became segregated from the boys. Final segregation took place during the Christmas school vacation, 1949-50. On completion of a ten days' holiday camp at Swanbourne the girls were transferred to Roelands and Wandering Missions, according to their religious affiliations. Likewise, the boys from Moore River Native Settlement were transferred to Carrolup Native Settlement on completion of their Christmas camp.

Many of the adults and parents were loud in their protestations towards this new policy and for many weeks I was virtually attacked by them. My arrival at Carrolup Native Settlement coincided with the general announcement of new policy. Needless to say I was held responsible to a degree. It was difficult to explain the coincidence.

By the end of this year, June, 1950, the old idea of locking the dormitories had been abandoned.

Works Programme.—As the result of what must have been utter neglect in the past an extensive works programme was called for between January and June, Buildings and drains generally were in a deplorable condition—particularly the compound kitchen and dining room, staff quarters and the dormitories. Staff quarters have now been painted and enlarged. Kitchen and dining room has also been renovated and it is now hard to visualise what it was once like. A complete transformation has taken place in the dormitories. Much more remains to be done, however.

Test bores put down by the Kojonup Boring Company proved a failure. We are now waiting for an officer of the Public Works Department to make another inspection with the view of his recommending some way out of the dilemma. The water situation at Carrolup is well nigh intolerable—particularly will it be so next summer.

Clothing of Inmates.—Early this year a request was made to have the clothing for boys supplied ready made. Such action would ensure uniformity of dress and enable issues to be made on an organised basis. Head Office approval was forthcoming. The position now is that the general standard of dress has greatly improved which, I feel sure, causes most of the boys to take more pride in their appearance. Their general dress now consists of good warm trousers with khaki ones for second best; good quality grey-blue shirts; 2 pullovers; socks and boots (it will take time to get them fully used to these).

Inmates' Accommodation.—Possibly the greatest change brought about at Carrolup this year has been in the dormitories. At the beginning of the year they were filthy and a disgrace. They stank with the dirt, grime and ill-use of years. There was no external drains leading away from the bath section. Internal drains reeked of excreta and rabbit entrails. They were generally polluted and there appeared to be no hope of rehabilitation. However, continual washings and scrubbing with disinfectants, etc., have freshened them up considerably. They could almost be called "sweet" now, in comparison. New external drains were laid and the buildings were painted throughout internally, including the beds.

New mattresses, khaki sheets, pillows and pillow covers have been introduced and the change is remarkable. Baby boys have rubber sheets to save their mattresses.

Room heating during the winter months is provided by "Blueflame" oil burners. These are small but effective.

Room decorations include only curtains to date. One building, however, has "murals" painted on the walls. This is more or less the nursery section.

Without being pessimistic I must say that, although a considerable change has been effected in a short space of time, the ultimate cannot be reached with these buildings. They were built many years ago. Times have changed. Small cottages would prove to be far more satisfactory. Nevertheless, the dormitories are quite livable now and will be improved upon by the end of the year. It is proposed to attach a dressing room to each with the hope that someone of the staff may eventually sleep there. This, of course, would be a step towards the cottage system. Next to the dormitories the most noticeable transformation has taken place in the compound kitchen and dining room. It is hard to describe the conditions that also prevailed there at the beginning of the year. The place appeared beyond redemption. Here again, however, hard work and tenacity have achieved what seemed, a few months ago, impossible.

The interior now has a "come-in" air about it. It is bright and airy. Tables and stools have been painted and curtains fitted to the windows. In short the place has had a thorough "face-lift."

Seating arrangements are such that each table has say five small boys with one big boy as a table-steward in charge. Before entering the dining room they form up outside—are sometimes inspected—and then march in in an orderly fashion.

Staff Accommodation.—General accommodation has greatly improved during the year. What was once a blot on Carrolup's face has now been converted into respectable living quarters for staff. I refer to the old staff quarters. The dining room has been enlarged and fitted with glass louvres. Linoleums have been renewed and the place painted inside and out. Conditions were further improved when buildings of the old isolation block were renovated, painted and converted to staff accommodation.

The Head Teacher's house has been completely renovated, relined and painted throughout.

Water Supply.—The general rehabilitation of Carrolup has been pursued with vigor always, of course, with the feeling that some day from somewhere would come an adequate water supply. The water problem here was recognised right from the beginning of the year (or on assumption of my duties). I was alarmed. (See my general report of February last).

The Kojonup Boring Company were eventually hired to sink four test bores on the Settlement. Mr. Maidment made a preliminary survey and reported water at four sites—one of which he reported as "good fresh water." This later proved to be false. Three bores gave a fair supply of water, but it was far too salty for general use. The fourth yielded fairly fresh water (24 grains) but in no quantity. A test taken eight weeks later revealed that it had doubled in salinity and reduced its quantity to 13 gallons an hour. On the advice of the District Hydraulic Engineer it was decided not to spend any more money on this bore as it would never give sufficient quantity for our needs.

Our salvation seems to be the enlargement of the existing dam and the erection of more tanks. Even then, our only reticulation scheme could come from the muddy dam. Water or lack of it, will make or break Carrolup. Arrangements are in hand for an officer of the Public Works Department to visit the institution to make a further report on the water situation. The cost of transporting and pumping water would total a considerable amount over a year. It appears that this method has been employed for years now.

Works and Services.—These activities are mainly under the supervision of Mr. Rule, carpenter, who has two New Australian men working with him and one (and sometimes more) trainee carpenter. Progress in this sphere was rapid between the months of January and April, when much of our timber and hardware was being purchased locally. On instructions from the Treasury, through Head Office, this practice was discontinued and timber and hardware are now requisitioned through Government Stores. During a recent visit to the State Saw Mills in an endeavour to expedite some of our items of timber, I was informed of a six months lag in orders. This means that we must "mark time" for six months until this "lag" period is overtaken and that is exactly what is happening. Three Nissen huts now stand incomplete and have been that way for about three months. Floors are waiting for cement; other buildings are awaiting the completion of jobs and renovations already started. The works' section employees move from job to job doing a bit here and a bit there as materials come to hand. There is now no continuity of work; time is inevitably lost in moving tools and equipment from point A to point B, and works are still incomplete. Perhaps this could be countered by Government Stores issuing orders on local firms (at Katanning) instead of the apparently overtaxed metropolitan suppliers. I know that the Katanning Stock & Trading Company carries a comprehensive stock of building material, etc.

Stores and Supplies.—The store, in the charge of Mr. Rollins, is functioning with efficiency and is at last organised and orderly. Unfortunately, this was not so early this year (1950). On commencing duty here, the store was in a chaotic state. Records, etc., were months behind. The then storeman had to be dismissed. He was followed by another one who was pathetically incompetent. He left after a month. Mr. Rollins then took charge. Over a period of about three months he gradually brought the store section out of the doldrums.

Welfare Activities and Amenities.—During the year a Scout Troop was formed under the leadership of Scoutmaster Urwin. On the 24th June, the Scouts were invested before a gathering of visitors. Subsequent activities, however, have been restricted by the movement to employment of some of the inmates. I feel too, that Mr. Urwin has not followed these activities with the vigor and interest necessary where a native troop is concerned. I fully appreciate the difficulties involved in such a step, and even making allowances in this respect I still feel that he (the Scoutmaster) should have achieved more than he has. I shall endeavour to stimulate new interest as I am most anxious that this phase of activities should be a success.

On 4th April, a Bell and Howard 16 mm. sound projector was installed by Brown & Dureau. This acquisition serves two important functions; that of bringing visual education to the boys in school and general recreation to the staff and inmates in leisure hours. General programmes are held one evening per week and school screenings are held at least twice a week. Another attribute of this equipment is that it can be used as an amplifying system for concerts and records.

Other welfare activities take the form of picnic outings during summer months; an occasional concert or social gathering of the inmates; darts tournaments and indoor games. P.T. and gymnastics occupy one evening per week. A gramophone and library of records is at their disposal and extension wireless speakers bring them selected radio programmes.

An additional amenity will be the introduction of a library at a later date. Buildings and space for this purpose are inadequate at the moment.

Transport.—The institution has been rather well off for transport during the year. The carting of wood, water, and supplies calls for the continuous use of vehicles. Early in 1950, a Bedford truck and panel van were in use. At the end of June, the Bedford truck and a Dodge utility supplied our requirements. The Bedford Van was replaced by the Dodge utility. When the farm work is taken into consideration three vehicles could be used here to advantage; one full time on wood and water; one for town runs and farm, and a utility for emergency runs and relief when one or other has to be grounded for overhaul.

Education—Primary.—All boys of school age regularly attend school. Teachers are supplied by the Department of Education and a modified State curriculum is followed. Between January and June, 1950, the school has been fortunate in having the services of three teachers for a daily attendance of about 55 pupils; one to eighteen. They are singularly fortunate in this era of teacher shortages and big classes.

On alternative Fridays the boys attend manual training classes at the Katanning School. Transport is provided by the Department of Native Affairs.

Education—Post-Primary (Vocational).—Until a works programme has been completed and facilities are available, organised vocational training is out of the question. A number of the senior boys are receiving some training (*see* Native Labour) but by virtue of the general condition of the installations on the institution, their training at the moment, must be catch-as-catch-can. Be that as it may, they are receiving some beneficial training.

Farm.—This section is under the supervision of Mr. Sutherland. During the 1949–50 season, 100 acres of wheat, 100 acres of barley, and 300 acres of oats were sown. In addition a quantity of lupins and peas were sown with the oats.

A localised water reticulation scheme was installed. The source of supply is a soak in one of the farm paddocks. Water is pumped to a 4,000 gallon overhead tank which services the following points: Cow shed, fowl house, stables, sheep yards, bull yard, two troughs situated in nearby paddocks, and a shower point for farm workers.

New sheep yards and a new stable yard have been completed. These yards are of a very strong nature with heavy white gum posts and 5 in. x 2 in. rails, and should prove to be a real asset to the farm and institution. During the year, 1½ miles of fencing was renewed.

Shearing was carried out in October, 1949, and 14 bales of wool were recovered. A 70 ton haystack was built and by the end of the year 55 tons of chaff have been cut.

On the 26th and 27th June, all cows at the Institution were tested for T.B. by officers of the Department of Agriculture. The test proved that all cows were free from disease. As far as can be ascertained, they have not been done previously.

General.—Medical facilities are available to all inmates at the Settlement Hospital under the supervision of a trained nurse. Dr. Caldwell of Katanning visits on alternate Sundays and handles any major cases. A Government Dental Officer carried out an inspection of inmates in January, 1950. He advised, however, that he only performed extractions. He said fillings would have to be done in Katanning. But the dentist in Katanning is reluctant to handle fillings for natives too. It means that every time someone reports for dental treatment they loose more teeth. I feel, personally, that many teeth could be saved if only someone would do fillings. Perhaps the Mobile Dental Clinic used by the Department of Education could offer this service.

May I thank you, Sir, for your tolerance and guidance during the past months when, as a new officer to this State, I have had to pass through a period of adaption and adjustment. I also wish to record my appreciation for the assistance and co-operation which has always been extended by your officers and staff from Headquarters.

(Sgd.) V. H. SULLY,
Superintendent.

Cosmo Newbery Native Station.

H. C. Bromby, Superintendent.

The beginning of this year saw the transition of Cosmo Newbery from the status of ration depot to that of detention settlement and the arrival of warrant cases led to a complete re-adjustment of works programme and general routine.

In effect it was at once apparent that detention natives must be fully employed so that strict discipline could be maintained. Little building material was at that time available for any construction programme to be embarked upon, making it necessary to look for other types of work. Roadmaking was one obvious outlet, and some 40 miles of the road between the Settlement and Mount Shenton were improved by hand labour.

Six miles of brush fence were added to the Poonythana paddock, and a one-mile enclosure (brush fence) was made at the Limestone Well. This has been advantageous as a half-way camp for horses travelling through to Mount Shenton.

Two sites were tried for the establishment of a new well half way to Mitigar; both attempts proved abortive. Wells were in each case sunk to a depth of 20 feet but granite was encountered in both and defied even fracture.

Stock work had its difficulties. Whilst it was obviously a good line of work to teach detention natives it was impossible to get around the fact that it was only tempting would-be absconders to let them have access to saddles, bridles and horses. They could only therefore be employed on the yard work involved in handling stock and local native labour did most of the mustering and horse work.

The sheep were shorn by one of the detention natives who proved a clean shearer who would probably develop speed with good shearing.

The tangible improvements carried out by detention inmates were not very apparent but many really tackled hard work for the first time in their lives and learned how to work. Two new buildings were erected during the year. The bungalow purchased and removed from Laverton was re-erected with the addition of bathroom and laundry. This constitutes a very suitable married couple unit. About half an acre of lucerne under irrigation and half an acre of domestic garden proved profitable. Treatment of sick natives, carting and maintenance of vehicles, closure of Cundeelee Depot, and general duties of management kept the staff fully employed.

(Sgd.) H. C. BROMBY,
Superintendent.

La Grange Bay Ration Depot.

A. C. M. Peters, Acting Officer-in-Charge.

Health.—The health of the natives has been good generally. The usual outbreaks of influenza, skin complaints, rheumatism, etc., have occurred with the seasons. Two natives sent to the Broome Native Hospital for treatment. A number of natives from adjoining Stations have been treated at the depot and returned to their respective employers. Two aged natives died.

The main bugbear is the constant fight with filth and the primitive native reluctance to report for treatment. They usually endeavour to doctor themselves with ashes, etc. This reluctance is slowly being overcome, but the need of a properly equipped sick bay for treatment is both vital and necessary.

Improvements.—A new 8 ft. mill, also 2,000 gallon tank with stand have been erected, thus giving the depot a good permanent supply of water. A cement well has been sunk to a depth of 27 ft. The 8 ft. mill is working the well.

Storeroom.—A storeroom 26 ft. x 24 ft., built with local cudgbutt timber and second-hand iron, cement floor, has been erected.

Native Camp and Kitchen.—Built also of local timber, the roof part iron and bush, also erected. Fowl shed and run 30 ft. x 30 ft. erected totally enclosed with netting. Two verandahs of the house have been re-timbered. A new cudgbutt sapling fence built around the garden, also goat yards rebuilt with similar saplings.

Native Camps.—The local La Grange natives have been moved from near the Post Office to a site approximately two hundred yards west of the homestead; a number of solidly built camps with bush roofs have been erected for their use. A similar camp is being erected on the other side of the road for the Udialla natives.

All employable natives have been placed in employment, leaving the aged, children and primitive natives only, which number 110.

(Sgd.) A. C. M. PETERS,
Acting Officer-in-Charge.

Moola Bulla Native Station.

C. L. McBeath, Manager-Superintendent.

I regret the lateness of this report. This results from an accident which befell me in April last and from which I had the misfortune to lose my right eye. I was absent from this Station from the 20th April until the 19th July, 1950, a period of three months.

Education.—As education ranks as a high priority in the field of native administration it gives me great pleasure, and I am sure to you also, to record the re-opening of the school here at Moola Bulla Native Station and which had been closed through the inability to find a teacher since, I think, 1945, upon the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Hovenden. On the 1st March, 1950, Mr. and Mrs. Gill opened the station school with an attendance of 30 in the senior school and 23 in the advanced kindergarten section, a total of 53. All children were fitted out with two sets of clothing each, and they settled in very quickly indeed to the school routine we all know so well, and the serious side of attempting to master the three R's. Great credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Gill because the progress made by these children is nothing less than astonishing when it is realised that prior to attendance at school the majority could only speak poor pidgin English, and consequently the teachers found it very difficult to understand them, and to be understood. However, in the period under review all these difficulties were mastered and the children are well on the way to an education.

Mr. and Mrs. Gill also commenced voluntary night classes for the adults, and others past school age, and I am pleased to report that the average attendance spread over three nights a week would be in the vicinity of 27, the oldest pupil being sixty odd years of age. Quite a few of the older people have shown a pathetic eagerness to learn to read and write.

All the station children are keen on their school work and absenteeism is unknown. Long before school hours many can be found waiting around the school building, and I am now receiving inquiries from outside caste people who are anxious that their families should be educated.

At this stage I might mention that educational aspects will never be completely successful at this station until it is possible to transfer the camp children to special institutional accommodation and thus remove them from the camp influence of the adult full-bloods, parents and otherwise. This same influence, although often arising from the love of the parents, and others, for the child, is completely undesirable from our standards and can only delay the progress of the child to such an extent that it becomes retrogression. Nomadic habits and tendencies must be eliminated if the child is to be given a sense of responsibility sufficient to take its place in the community both economically and in other respects.

Mr. and Mrs. Gill have experienced many a heartbreak in their work, and duties, but they have been strong enough to meet and overcome these difficulties and I am pleased to report that both sections of the school function very efficiently under their guidance and control.

Native Welfare and Health.—Generally speaking the visiting Medical Officers found little or no sickness here at Moola Bulla, and further they expressed surprise at the healthy condition of both adults and children.

Visits by Medical Officers and Health Inspectors are welcomed, and greatly appreciated, and although I was absent from the station during all the visits recorded I know that the officers who made the inspections were untiring in their efforts to conduct thorough examinations, and the success of their efforts is amply illustrated in the fact that all the inmates have come forward willingly, and completely without pressure, when they have been informed that they are required to attend for a medical examination. I would like to record my sincere thanks to those officers mentioned, and express the hope that such visits will be even more frequent throughout the coming year.

Of great value to the Institution was the appointment of a trained nurse to the staff strength. Sister Griffiths arrived here on the 17th April, 1951, three days before my removal to Hospital. This appointment removed all the worry and anxiety which is ever present when lay people are in charge of health aspects, especially when such is applied to a community of over two hundred people.

Natives Generally.—On an average, slightly over two hundred people are accommodated and cared for by this Institution. This number includes workers, children, and completely indigent natives. Of the workers, many are only capable of performing minor duties of a light nature but are given work as this is considered preferable to permitting this class of inmate to laze about the camp week in and out. Even employment however unimportant tends to give the person concerned a feeling of independence, and does away with the hopeless outlook usually associated with indigency. Many of this class of inmate are completely unsuitable for outside employment but they fit into the industrial pattern of this institution quite successfully, and they are happy on that account as they feel that they have a place in the scheme of station working. Twenty odd natives are classed as non-employable, principally because of old age, and they are issued with bulk rations weekly.

Fifty-nine children are in attendance at the senior and junior schools, and there are in addition twenty-one children who are as yet too young for admittance to school.

Of the average population a total of sixty-five are caste people, this number being made up as follows:—Adults 34, children 31, total 65. Four couples are legally married and have eleven children between them. There is one half-caste legally married to a full-blood woman and this couple have two children. In addition one caste man, an ex-warrant case, is living with a full-blood tribally, and this couple have one child. Three young caste women have four children in all, and there are five full-blood women tribally married to full-bloods who have caste children three years of age and older.

Of the total of 34 adult castes 22 are males and 12 females. All males are employed, 10 being in receipt of wages ranging from £1 to £6 per week. Duties include mechanics, handymen, yard builders, fencers, stockmen and butchers. Two caste girls are paid wages at the rate of 10 shillings weekly. A special rate of wages has already been approved for this station but can only be implemented with caution and discretion as the majority of the stations in the East and North Kimberleys as yet have not placed their workers on a wages basis.

The caste people here are mainly good types, the exception being the warrant cases. This is explained by the fact that they have not travelled very much outside this district and are thus completely free from the contamination of people likely to have a bad influence upon them. However I have noticed a difference with some, especially the younger ones, since the admission of certain warrant cases transferred for corrective treatment. The station proper caste population are both industrious and well behaved. The male full-blood workers are engaged mostly as stockmen, and all have worked exceptionally well. No day has been too long or too hard.

The older people attend to the general work about the station such as woodcutting, sanitary removals, gardening, hygiene squad, labouring and domestic work, and in these duties they have given satisfaction throughout the year.

It would seem that all the inmates are appreciative of the improved conditions which I implemented after taking over, and that they have expressed this feeling in their readiness to perform the tasks allotted to them to the best of their ability.

Institutional and Staff Accommodation Facilities.—Institutional accommodation is shockingly short. Two large type dormitory buildings with verandahs back and front provide for the male and female caste inmates, and certain educated full-bloods.

When I took over I found one half-caste man married to an educated full-blood woman camped in the creek by the garden in a shelter constructed of sticks and a native blanket. There were two small children. I brought this family out of the creek and transferred them into quarters improvised by adding to a section of the cart and harness shed. They are occupying a weatherproof room, and have some privacy. This family was being fed from the rear of the common kitchen in the same manner as primitive full-bloods. This man is employed as the station saddler. He is very efficient and could command very good wages in outside employment. I have purchased no new saddles since taking over; this man has made all that I have required. I also found the male dormitory building unoccupied, and the majority of the caste inmates living in the native camp. A few were camped in a building known as the blacksmith's shop. These men, youths and children were fed from the rear of the common kitchen in the same manner as has been the custom to feed full-blood workers, just a piece of bread and beef, the recipient squatting down anywhere from the creek to the woodheap to devour the food. Steps were taken immediately to transfer these caste people and educated full-blood youths back to the dormitory building and where possible they were provided with beds and mattresses. A new kitchen was erected and established to cater for their meals. From necessity some of the inmates had to sleep on the floor until such time as bedding could be supplied.

Generally speaking all institutional aspects were found to be chaotic, and consequently most of the inmates were depressed and sullen in their outlook when I assumed control on the 14th April, 1949. This was after conducting an exhaustive inquiry into complaints of maladministration on the part of the former Manager.

In July, 1949, the concrete foundations of four cottages for the married caste families were laid. Quite often it was found necessary to divert the carpenter to maintenance work of an urgent nature, and for other small jobs which were continually cropping up, and material shortages resulted in further delays.

In January it was found necessary to cease cottage construction as advice had been received that a teacher had been appointed and it was the Commissioner's wish that the station school be re-opened as soon as possible. The existing teacher's cottage was rebuilt and renovated, and a start was also made to construct a suitable school building. This delayed the caste cottage programme for at least three months. Mr. Robertson resigned and left this station at the end of March, 1950.

Practically all the building timber used in my new work and repairs has been cut as trees on the property and sawn by the natives into suitable building sizes. This is done on the station saw bench. Had it not been for the possession of our own saw bench I am afraid that little or nothing would have been achieved in buildings or repairs.

During the year a great deal of maintenance work was performed on existing buildings; most are very old and in addition termite ridden to such an extent that they will have to be replaced very soon. Showers and lavatories were constructed for the full-blood natives; a new kitchen constructed at the end of the boys' dormitory; new school building 32 ft. x 16 ft.; also the enlargement and complete renovation of the teacher's cottage; also a new substantial meat house. Portion of the Manager's house was partitioned and quarters built for a married couple. Concrete foundations were laid for four caste cottages, and the walls of two erected. It is expected that two of these cottages will be ready for occupation towards the end of the year.

Extra dormitory accommodation is badly needed to eliminate the present overcrowding, and in order that the camp children might be removed to better conditions, and away from the conditions and influences which are definitely detrimental to education and good training. It is really wonderful that so much has been achieved with these children to date seeing that the majority are living under ordinary Kimberley camp conditions.

Stock—Cattle.—At the 1st July, 1949, herd cattle totalled 27,421. At the 30th June, 1950, the total was 31,018. Throughout the year brandings numbered 5,497. One hundred and twenty head of cattle were slaughtered for station use and one hundred and twenty-seven to provide meat for indigent natives, thus making a total of two hundred and fifty-one head killed for institutional and station consumption. At the 1st July, 1949, the herd total was actually 30,461 but mortality was written off during the month at 10 per cent., thus reducing the total to the figure quoted, namely 27,421.

Conditions for the 1949 wet season were almost the worst on record as this station only registered a little over 10 inches of rain. Two inches of this total fell in one shower over a period of one hour and consequently most of this rain ran away without doing very much good from a grass angle. The balance of eight inches fell unfavourably as the periods between showers was too long, with the result that shooting grass and herbage was burnt off by the extremely hot weather which usually followed. Grasshoppers then came along in dense swarms and ate off or destroyed anything green. The result of these setbacks was an extreme shortage of both water and feed throughout the year. Wells and bores also began to fail early. Cattle, especially the old and young cows with calves at foot, began to die early in the year through lack of grass.

Adequately watered, Moola Bulla Station would be one of the finest pastoral properties in the North, and once waters are established it is then a relatively simple matter to improve the country by fencing in order that cattle might be properly worked. Breeders should be apart, and the young cattle of both sexes weaned at the proper time. Male cattle do better under such conditions, and the females are not serviced until fully developed. Under the present setup right throughout this country, it almost amounts to calves dropping calves. It is also impossible to keep the herd clean. Owing to the rough nature of the country, and the difficulty of making clean musters male cattle are missed each year which results in a degree of inbreeding. This could be almost completely eliminated if the country was sub-divided by fencing. In the not too far distant future the Kimberley stations will have to make some attempt and effort to erect boundary fences, for any station that attempts to carry out a big programme of herd improvement will find its efforts nullified by the fact that scrub bulls on adjoining properties, or even poor class herd bulls, will have free access to the female cattle of the improved herd. One station owner up here freely boasted to me that he had never purchased a herd bull since he established his property in the early twenties, therefore what chance has the surrounding stations got unless they are boundary fenced. Open bronco methods of branding will also have to go and drafting yards will have to be erected at proper intervals, and the cattle staged from holding yards on other portions of the run. In fact, all cattle should be hand drafted through a yard for quietness. Wild cattle are seldom good conditioned.

Most of the yards on this station are in bad condition, and this applies to the fencing too. However, these defects will be remedied as time permits. This is a big job as most of the yards will have to be completely rebuilt.

Horses, Mules and Donkeys.—At the 1st July, 1949, the records showed that there were 531 head of horses on this station made up of 473 workers, 53 brood mares, and five entires. Brandings throughout the year totalled 68, whilst deaths numbered five. Of course under the conditions which horses run in this country many deaths occur without being known.

Whilst in Perth in the latter part of 1949 I purchased a blood stallion for this station but owing to the adverse seasonal conditions it has been impossible to turn this entire out with brood mares.

On the 30th June, 1949, eight mules were on hand, mostly old animals. Twenty-two were branded throughout the year, making a total of 30.

Donkeys remain the same as last year, namely 120. However, there are many hundreds of wild donkeys scattered throughout the run and I understand that the local Road Board is contemplating an approach to the right quarter to have animals declared vermin. This will assist the stations considerably providing the bonus is sufficient to attract shooters.

In the new year if the season is favourable I hope to increase the number of brood mares to the hundred mark. Bigger brandings will then satisfy the station's requirements in workers more quickly, and when this stage has been reached I will then be in a position to sell horses locally. The position generally up here is desperate for most stations are always short of working horses. In this regard I am assuming, of course, that the period will be free of setbacks such as disease and poor seasons.

Religious Services.—In July, 1949, Mr. E. Falkiner of the United Aborigines Mission, visited this station by truck and during his stay conducted religious services for the natives. Apart from this visit no other services have been held. The services of Missionary—Welfare Worker are badly needed on this station, preferably a single man for the time being, but one who has had training for such work.

In July, 1949, visits were made by Magistrate Taylor of Broome, and Mr. S. Elliott-Smith, the Acting Deputy Commissioner, but on separate occasions. Both expressed themselves as being agreeably surprised at the improvements made up to the time of the visits.

Conclusion.—I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you, Sir, for the interest you have shown in this institution throughout the year, and the ready response to all requests for materials, supplies, etc., or any proposition for the benefit of the inmates, also for the co-operation at all times extended by the members of the Head Office Staff.

I would like also to record my appreciation to the members of the staff here on the station, and to all the inmates for their ready response at all times for increased industry and good behaviour. These people have not let me down and for that I am grateful. Not once since I have been in charge have I found it necessary to resort to Police Court action in the interests of discipline, and I consider this fact to be a credit to the people of Moola Bulla.

Staffing has been an ever present problem. Owing to the impossibility of securing the services of a competent Head Stockman I have been compelled to shoulder this responsibility as well as manage the station and institution, and I must say that this has been a severe strain both physically and mentally. Also certain members of the staff are unsuitable, and in consequence certain adjustments will have to be made as soon as possible.

(Sgd.) C. L. McBeath,
Manager-Superintendent.

Native Girls' Home, East Perth.

H. E. Markey, Matron.

During the past year the Home functioned much as usual except that fewer of the older girls made use of the Home while on leave. Four trainees remained in the Home at the end of the year; and only one was admitted. Three of these trainees were placed out in suitable positions. Two remained in the Home at the close of the year.

One student was admitted to the Home as a boarder. Several others had to be refused admittance for accommodation reasons, which is made more acute by the constant admissions of sick women and children and the practice of placing waifs and strays in the Home.

Outings.—Picnics and outings were arranged for the girls. One enjoyable day was spent at National Park. Show Week is always a special occasion for the girls, and last year proved no exception to the rule. Many girls gathered at the Home for Christmas, and enjoyed a very happy time.

Health.—The general health of the house and visiting girls was good.

Conduct.—Very little trouble with inmates was experienced during the year.

Replacements.—The obsolete drainage system at the Home was replaced by an efficient service.

During the year 2,508 beds were occupied, and 8,143 meals served at the Home.

(Sgd.) H. E. MARKEY,
Matron.

SECTION "C."

MISSIONS.

Native Mission Farm, Roelands.

K. A. Cross, Superintendent.

Policy.

The Mission policy is to accept Native children into the Mission Home at Roelands, for the purpose of giving each child such training and assistance that the Mission in its power is able to perform, so that the child will be able to take his or her place with the white people on an equal basis and to lead a Christian life. For this purpose the Mission provides such training as scholastic subjects, sewing, hygiene, cooking and experience in domestic duties for the girls, while the boys not only receive training in scholastic subjects, but also experience in farm work such as dairying, orchard, poultry, gardening, together with general repair work, including building construction. Provision is made for healthy recreation, including an annual camp at the beach and periodical visits to the seaside during the summer months. All this assists together with the provision of wholesome food, and developing healthy bodies and in turn producing healthy minds, and so acting as a deterrent to the child to ever want to revert to the degrading influence of Native Camp Life. Because the need for a strong moral character is fully realised, the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented to all.

Amelioration.

The results from the activity of the Mission and the reports from the employers of the young people, who have left and are working in various parts of the State, confirm the fact that so far the policy of the Mission has been effective. Of the 24 young people who have attained the age of 16 years, 22 are employed, and they are giving every satisfaction to their employers and taking their place in the community. The girls are following pursuits which are giving them training in dressmaking, nursing, kindergarten work, cooking and domestic duties, while the boys are employed in carpentry, general farm work, including the use of all types of farm machinery.

In February a convention and re-union was arranged for the young people and a very happy and helpful time was enjoyed.

Children.

Forty-eight children were in the Home at the beginning of the year and to this number has been added 33, comprising 32 girls from Moore River and Carrolup Settlements, together with one girl from the Boyup Brook area.

Discharges during the year include one girl who left to attend dressmaking classes in the Technical College in Perth, while another girl accepted domestic employment at Coorow. Of the two boys, one accepted employment with a leading Hatchery in Mt. Lawley, while the other boy obtained a position with a Master Builder.

The introduction of the new girls greatly increased the numbers, but we are pleased to report that as soon as they became accustomed to their new surroundings, they were very happy to settle in and take part in all the Mission activity.

Health.

The visits of the honorary medical adviser, Dr. Pell, and also the inclusion of Matron Murray on the Mission staff, has resulted in a general check being kept on the health and well being of the children. With the exception of common colds, minor ailments and accidents, and tonsilectomy cases, the health of the children has been exemplary.

Education.

Mr. Brown reports :—

“The increase in numbers due to 32 additional girls being sent to the Mission created problems and necessitated a complete re-adjustment of the classes. However, many of the problems have been overcome and we look forward with confidence to the school work in the New Year.

Our Education policy is to train the children in such a way that they will be able to command the respect of those with whom they come into contact when they leave the Mission. To achieve this object, spiritual and moral issues are emphasised in all activities, and personal hygiene is stressed. The normal school subjects are treated in such a way as to give the children the mental development to be able to reason for themselves, to converse and correspond intelligently and to make such arithmetical calculations as are necessary in a usual normal lifetime. We are greatly encouraged by the progress and reports of a senior girl who is taking 7th Standard Correspondence lessons and who hopes to enter the nursing profession in the near future.

The school did remarkably well at the Interschool sports at Harvey, gaining a high number of points as well as individual trophies.”

Farm Activity.

The first consideration has been to supply farm products to the Mission, including personnel, and then to dispose of the surplus. Milk, cream, butter, eggs, veal, vegetables, walnuts, honey and fruit have been produced during the year and all crops have contributed to the health and well being of the community. To provide meat, sheep have been purchased and killed, but the higher cost has greatly increased the expense on this particular item. We are therefore anxious to extend the pasture facilities, and thus have ample feed to raise our own sheep and alleviate the position. However, the difficulty of procuring superphosphate prevents any great improvement.

Our principal source of farm revenue comes from the grapefruit crop, and we are pleased to report that an export market has been established for this product and has proved of great assistance to the Mission. Besides fruit having been placed on the local market and in the processing factories, 1,700 cases were exported during the year.

Improvements.

During the year a new building was erected, comprising two dormitories 20 ft. x 18 ft., common room 20 ft. x 18 ft., front verandah 40 ft. x 9 ft., bathrooms together with quarters for the missionary, and the building was made very suitable accommodation for the senior girls and Supervisor. The principal part of the building which comprises 24½ squares, was erected by a team of men in 12 working days, and their services were given voluntarily. The completion of the building was

performed later by the Mission staff and further voluntary assistance. Towards the cost of the building, which is a great acquisition to the Mission Home, we wish to express our appreciation to the Native Affairs Department in providing a sum of £500. The balance of £650 was made available by contributions from interested friends, including a donation of £250 from Sir Ernest Lee Steere, and for these gifts we are grateful.

For some years representation has been made to the Road Board to improve the road to the Mission property, and we are pleased to report that this has materialised. A new road at a higher level, so as to prevent flooding in winter time, has been constructed.

Finance.

The ever increasing cost of goods for the maintenance and conduct of the Mission places a difficulty on the financial resources, although this has, to some degree, been alleviated by the increased Departmental assistance which has been raised to 4s. per week per child. It is only through voluntary services of the Missionaries, together with the produce from the farm, that has made it possible for the Mission to maintain its present standard.

General.

An atmosphere of progress pervaded the Mission during the year, brought about by increased building activity and the influx of children into the Mission Home. We are grateful to the Commissioner of Native Affairs and his Department for the practical assistance and co-operation rendered in this regard.

As a Mission, we feel encouraged by the results of the year's activity and look forward to future service amongst the Native boys and girls, realising that, given the right opportunity and the Christian teaching, they will, with a firm tread and with their heads erect take their stand with the best of the young people of our land.

(Sgd.) K. A. CROSS,
Superintendent.

Native Mission, Wandering.

Rev. Fr. A. Wellems, Superintendent.

This year has been a progressive one in the affairs of this Mission. In June, 1949, it was decided that at all costs, measures must be taken to ensure that the first children should be in residence by the end of the year. The building of the Orphanage was speeded up and late in December, with the consent of the Department of Native Affairs, 25 girls were transferred from Moore River Settlement, with a further three a little later and four private children, making a total of 32. For a few months, there was a certain amount of restlessness but the children have now settled down remarkably well. They are making good progress in school, and are very happy.

It is hoped within the next year to extend our buildings to take an increased number of children. The policy with regard to these children is study each child carefully, take any note of any particular aptitude and to develop it to the full, including secondary school education. The health of the children has been extremely good throughout the year, except for normal minor ailments. The experiment so far has proved a very happy one.

After some early difficulties, the Mission is on the way to becoming self-supporting. During the year, a further 500 acres of land were cleared and pastured, and the Mission is now running about 900 sheep. An additional 250 are to be bought off shears.

Each year should show additional progress, and much credit of any success is due to the enthusiasm of the Pallottine Fathers, the Sisters of St. John of God and the co-operation of the Department of Native Affairs.

(Sgd.) Rev. CYRIL STINSON,
Chairman, Board of Management.

United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.

Mr. T. Street, Superintendent.

Our policy in this Mission is evangelical and all our activities are to this one aim—to win the people for the Kingdom of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

To further this policy we have established a native children's Home, in which we have the full charge and care of boys and girls left here voluntarily by the parents. They receive the usual State School secular education as do all children on the Mission.

There is also a Mission store for the convenience of the natives at the Mission.

We also keep some cows, the milk from which is for the benefit of the children in the Home.

There is also a well equipped registered Maternity Hospital which is in constant use by the native women.

The health generally of our inmates is good.

Regarding buildings, we have a church, store, two Missionary's homes, big girls' dormitories, a large kitchen and dining room for the children's work, quarters for the boys, and a nicely equipped Maternity Hospital.

We also buy any dead wool from the natives. When brought in, all this goes through the store books.

We have many sick calls from as far as 40 miles away, which take up much time. To do this we have a Chevrolet utility truck.

Our work also extends to Carrolup Native Settlement, which we visit every fortnight, having two services, one for the boys and one for the camp natives.

We also visit Borden and Ongerup Native Camps for services when time permits, mainly on a Sunday.

(Sgd.) H. G. WAKERLEY,
Acting Superintendent.

United Aborigines Mission, Mt. Margaret.

Mr. R. S. Schenk, Superintendent.

"I will seek that which was lost and bring again that which was driven away—and I will make them and the places around about my hill a blessing—there shall be showers of blessing." Ezek. 34: 16–26.

We like the words "bring again" in our text. When we remember how our natives were chased with stock whips here in the early days and scattered, these words are very very true. Even not so long ago we sadly remember how the Native Affairs Department commanded us to give native children back to their parents, even though these parents had voluntarily left them for education. The Department said that there was no need to educate native children. Now there is a different regime in power and we receive every help and encouragement. If we have been able to do so much "in spite of an unsympathetic Department," how much should we do now with a Department that co-operates with all Missions? Yes! "Bring again."

Miss Sadie Corner is now in her second year at Bethesda Hospital in Melbourne, passing her examinations with credit, and you will remember how she was taken up to the 9th standard here before she went. She intends to come back to serve her people. Miss Dora Quinn is also a fully accredited missionary at the Warburton Ranges and doing splendid work. Then we cannot forget our first missionary from here, Miss Gladys Vincent. When born, infanticide held sway here and we just saved her. We have seen her grow and develop, and now she is in charge of the Kindergarten section of the Roelands Mission. All these have trained and gone out to serve their people and now we are hoping the Commissioner will take three of our girls into the new Mount Lawley Home for training. (The three girls have been admitted to Alvan House—Commissioner of Native Affairs). The Education Department has this year provided one teacher but we need three teachers to do the job properly. We are hoping soon to provide three teachers and then the work of bringing the boys and girls up to standard will proceed far more rapidly. Everything has been against the dark people rising. They cannot be preachers, and teachers, and leaders of their own people without education, so now under the new regime our hopes for the future are very bright.

Arts and Crafts.

During the year, 43 seagrass shopping bags, 384 silk raffia brooches, 471 hand-painted and poked text and mottos, 146 raffia promise baskets, and five large raffia work baskets were made and sold besides a good stock of articles still on hand. The women were all well paid by piece-work, any profits being used to help in the uplift of the native people generally.

Settling in to do this work we have found to be one of the first steps in their economic uplift, and this, we believe should go hand in hand with spiritual uplift. There is much truth in the Proverb, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," and cleanliness is one of the first lessons taught in our workrooms.

Sewing Classes.

Mrs. Lovick continued these five classes from June to December, 1949, and the very fine display of knitting and needle work was a tribute to her careful teaching. Beautiful supper cloths, d'oyleys, knitted pullovers, aprons from small pieces of material, and fine darns exhibited at the Annual School Exhibition were all much admired. A bedspread made from joined squares of knitted fancy patterns by younger girls attracted much attention.

The senior girls are taking keen interest in drafting and designing patterns, frocks, costumes, lingerie and children's wear.

If this is thoroughly grasped and applied, time and money will be saved on patterns, and pocket-money earned as they make for their friends.

We are badly handicapped through lack of sewing machines and machine needles (Singer).

Manual Training Classes.

Rows of properly constructed wood-work benches with two complete sets of tools hanging in a stand at the end of each.

It is worked on a system of queuing up as most things used to be during the war. Each is given his piece of wood, told what to do, and then waits his turn for the tool that is needed. In such a manner, chairs and tables have been made for the Infant Classes and are now in use in the school.

School.

In the Upper Classes the children have varied widely in ability and achievement. Classes IVA, V, and VI, are generally proficient in most subjects of the school curriculum. But even here ability and success varies. The two difficulties are, the easy command of English, to them a second language—and the comprehension of facts beyond their local experience. The use of pictures, many prepared by the well-known industrious Mrs. Bennett who taught here previously; and use of a film strip projector has been an advantage.

There are many children in Class IVB and III who are slow to grasp with meaning the English work and elementary money work. Many circumstances such as two hours' school per day, late age in starting, lack of teachers, have held these children back in their education. There is much to be desired in this group but much has been done. Recently, native children have visited the Mission and there has been a contrast. One visiting boy of 13 years could neither read nor write. By the time these children leave school they will be able to do both and more.

During 1950 the children have participated in inter-school sports. Not only did they show skill on each occasion, but showed a good standard of conduct.

Improvements.

One room in the large mud brick house has been painted inside, and louver windows put in, and with a large table tennis table inside makes a nice recreation room for the girls. Later, we hope to make the adjoining room into another reading and playroom for them. We have built a hot water system in both girls' and boys' dormitories; new verandah on the native cottage; two or three cottages have been whitewashed and painted, the house Snowy Barnes bought has been carted and erected; tennis courts were top dressed; a shelter shed erected for the boys; lining and painting of two staff cottages, and football guernseys and sports outfits made in addition to the host of articles to be made and mended in the usual way. However, as far as the native men are concerned, the work of the reservoir has taken most of their time during the year. We are hoping in 1951 to launch a programme to improve all our native cottages.

Hospital.

Miss Ball has been doing all the medical work besides caring for all the boys, and it is really too much for her.

We have felt the loss of Matron Murray very much and still pray for someone fully qualified to take charge of our hospital.

Mining.

Our men still find that they can earn more money on the stations than at the mining, so during the year our battery has been idle. However, we do not intend to sell it or dismantle it, as the day may come when it will be needed, and all the machinery is under a roof and protected. There is a large quantity of low grade ore in this district, so we know that if ever a depression comes we shall be able to provide a living for many of our people. During the year, during their out of work periods our men specked £97 worth of gold. Specking gold is simply finding little pieces of alluvial gold in the valleys and creeks.

Post Office.

We had the pleasure of upsetting our store to make room for the Post Office in one corner, and now Mt. Margaret is a proper Post Office with all money order, telephone and telegraphic facilities. Already 43 of our people have opened Savings Bank Accounts and we think this will be another step in the ladder of education which includes saving and thrift.

Reservoir.

At least we have our reservoir finished, and even now we can, and will, spend some weeks of work facing the cement sides. But it is now ready to catch 180,000 gallons of water and we are hoping for the rain. We are indebted to the Department of Native Affairs for a £500 grant-in-aid towards the cost of this project.

Anthropology.

No Missionary who has any sense will ever want to break down customs that have no evil significance, and all the so-called anthropological methods will retard the natives' progress by a score of years. Some very good points in the anthropological programme are learnt better and quicker on the mission field in direct contact with the natives, and with an experienced Missionary.

Evangelisation, Education and Environment.

As I broadcast in Perth some time ago, I still claim that the three "E's" provide the solution to the Native problem. "A" stands for Aborigine, and "W" for Whites, and between the two must come Evangelisation, Education and Environment. Any or every policy that is propounded must have the three "E's" or fail. Not the four "E's," no, not "evolution" as we understand it. The Natives have the same brains as we have, and they need what we and our children need. Education is the handmaid of Evangelisation. Children cannot read "Jeremiah" till they can read their A.B.C. They cannot rise to be teachers and preachers till they are educated.

(Sgd.) R. S. SCHENK,
Superintendent.

Cundelee Native Mission, via Zanthus.

Rev. A. J. Sopher, Superintendent.

On 22nd April, 1950, work was commenced at Cundelee in the nature of sinking a shaft for water at what was thought to be a place where a supply of fresh water would be located. This work continued till 30th May, when great rains fell, which filled up rock holes and small dams. Other good rains followed, and things at Cundelee began to look very favourable.

No natives had congregated at Cundelee until 2nd June, when some twenty came, and in about a week's time we had about 150 of them. Since that time we have had an average of 83 adults and 12 children all the time.

The work has been continually going ahead on the wells, two of which are being sunk. We have met with no success yet, but we must go deep. Work has also been going ahead on water conservation dams, and large tanks for the storage of water. At the time of writing there is no water at Cundelee except that which we are carting from Zanthus, the rail head 26 miles distant.

The building programme also has been going ahead, and buildings, which have been erected on the Mission include: two Nissen Houses (complete except for flooring and proper partitions) and three other temporary shelter buildings along with two tents.

We have been unable to start a school for children yet, though for the past several weeks we have sheltered and cared for several native children. We hope these will be the nucleus of a children's home and school in the near future.

No industry for the employment of the natives has been started yet. All work on the station as yet has been medical work, well sinking, dam making and building. Most of the natives have shown a keen interest in the establishing of the place and been trying to lend a helping hand, and for the most part are willing workers. The commencement of industry for the natives depends upon whether or not we are able to find an adequate supply of water, so also does the continuance of the work in any measure. Our livestock consists of only nine goats.

The health of the people has been very poor. Great influenza outbreaks have caused much work and anxiety. For the most part the people are in a weakened condition due to severe colds, influenza and other chest troubles. At the time of writing, we are in the midst of a fresh outbreak of influenza.

(Sgd.) A. J. SOPHER,
Superintendent.

Churches of Christ Mission, Norseman.

Mr. E. H. Park, Superintendent.

Our policy is for the uplift of the native people when opportunity offers, and in particular to have the children come in to the Mission Home to receive training in Christian living, and to educate in school work as well as possible. Through all their training we trust to bring each one to know and accept Christ as their Saviour. Also, to fit them for their living in the world outside of the Mission.

During the year, one of the older girls went to domestic work with Christian people, and is proving quite satisfactory.

We have 36 children in the Mission. Five of these came in since last July; the parents having brought all five, which is what we most desire.

The health of the children in the Mission has been generally good throughout the year. We have had two or three cases of pneumonia.

School has been carried on without any breaks of more than a day or two. The children have shown good improvement despite three changes in teachers. We follow the Correspondence Course set out by the Education Department.

The children are on the whole very happily occupied, but our organised sport or social activities are not what we would like. The boys have their football which gives them hours of pleasure, and the girls their basketball, while on Friday nights we have a games night which is enjoyed by all.

During the year a voluntary team came and erected a Government school, which is a wonderful improvement. The team also put extensions on two of the Missionaries' quarters. The general dining room has been lined and made flyproof, making it much more comfortable.

This year we have 500 fowls laying, which is proving a great help to finances, besides training for the boys. Our goat herd was increased by the purchase of 100, and at present we are getting six gallons of milk a day. The cattle have not done well, mainly because they have to come too far for water.

(Sgd.) E. H. PARK,
Superintendent.

United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges.

Mr. J. M. Gurrier-Jones, Superintendent.

We are happy to report that the past year has been one of progress.

It is estimated that the Mission influences between 500 and 700 Aborigines (all full-blood natives), and aims to uplift them and fit them to take their place as citizens of Australia, through evangelisation, education and the establishment of local industry by the natives for their own benefit—some have been taught to hew stone for building, others have proved themselves capable of laying stone in a wall and plastering, road making, etc. Also, the women have been encouraged and assisted to develop and improve their native spinning craft and to turn it to good effect in the manufacture of fur caps, cosies, etc., of high standard and commercial value.

Education.

The teaching staff has been added to and the hours of schooling increased, under which the children have shown a marked progress. Also, a kindergarten is conducted for the pre-school age, catering for as many as 48 infants.

Children under the care of the Mission.

The numbers of children housed and cared for by the Mission has increased from 46 to 87. These are provided for in two separate homes, one for boys and the other for girls, each with its own staff and native helpers.

Health.

The health of the people has been very good on the whole—the usual sore eyes, colds and wounds from tribal fights, etc., being the chief cases for treatment (amounting to hundreds of treatments).

Building.

The buildings erected during the year include a home housing 47 boys, one Missionary's residence, one native home, one Engine room—all made of stone won by the natives.

Plant.

A 32 Volt Diesel lighting plant has been installed for the lighting of the Mission. A second well has been completed, timbered and made ready for the erection of a windmill to be installed when available. Two kerosene refrigerators have been purchased for the use of the Mission—also a one-stand shearing machine.

Stock.

Our flock of sheep has increased to nearly 300 in number, also 150 goats are kept for the supply of milk and meat. We also have one cow, one bull and one horse. These give employment at present to three natives as shepherds. It is the intention of the Mission to increase the present numbers of the stock, and establish animal husbandry amongst the natives, as soon as practicable.

Transport.

The distance of nearly 400 miles from the nearest railhead is a great problem, as the Mission grows, the need becomes greater for bigger payloads. The Mission staff includes 15 adults and seven children which, together with the needs of the native population, imposes a big strain on the present one vehicle.

(Sgd.) J. M. GURRIER-JONES,
Superintendent.

New Norcia Mission, New Norcia.

The Lord Abbott, Rt. Rev. A. Catalan, Superintendent.

The number of natives at New Norcia Mission during the past twelve months (1949–50) has been 140. In this number are included the 103 children educated in our Institutions, St. Mary's Orphanage for native boys and St. Joseph's Orphanage for native girls. The others are employed as labourers and they live in their cottages with their own families.

Our chief aim towards the young natives has been to give them a thorough Christian education, both in theory and in practice, and we have endeavoured to prepare them as much as possible to become decent and useful citizens. In the schools, the ordinary curriculum of the primary teaching has been followed, and the more advanced pupils have reached the fourth standard. We have stressed on them the necessity of cleanliness and hygiene as an essential factor, so that they may be welcomed by the whites in their activities and amusements. They have also enjoyed some picnics in the course of the year. The younger boys have taken a very active part in the Church functions, singing as contraltos and sopranos with the monastic choir. The natives show a special ability for music. The brass band which for some time had been discontinued here, has been taken up again by the present boys and with such enthusiasm that they, in a few months of practice, have enabled themselves to give appreciative concerts.

As all boys are under the school age, not much time is left for them to learn trades. However, the senior boys strong enough to do some manual work have been regularly occupied for a few hours under the supervision of the Brothers in some useful works, such as the bakery, shoemaker shop, kitchen, shearing shed, olive oil making and now and then in some other mechanical job.

The senior girls too, under the supervision of the Sisters, have been taught all aspects of domestic service, and also they learn fancy work, crochet and other useful works.

During the year, some of the senior girls and boys have gone back to their own parents or relatives, and as far as we know they are making their living, the girls as domestic servants and the boys as farm hands. Other newcomers have filled up their vacancies.

The farming activities, as well as milling, butchering, shearing, smithery, the work at the pig-sty and at the dairy, together with much of the mechanical work connected with the farm and many other jobs, have been carried out efficiently by the Aborigines employed at the Mission.

Some improvements have taken place in our orphanages; the staff of St. Joseph's Orphanage has been considerably increased with a number of new Sisters, the girls' working room has been provided with all necessary conditions to work in it comfortably. At the boys' orphanage some of the rooms have been re-painted; the hot showers system has been inaugurated; a 16 mm. projector has been installed for the education and amusement of the children, as well as for those other Aborigines visiting or working at the Mission.

The general health of the Aborigines has been quite satisfactory, though some cases of influenza with high temperatures have been recorded, particularly among the children.

Pallottine Mission School, Tardun.

Rev. Fr. L. Hornung, Superintendent.

Mission Policy.

Our aim is to help solve the native problem of the State, particularly in this District, by endeavouring to lift the natives up, to bring them ever more up to the standard of the white people. We wish to help them to have confidence in themselves, to keep themselves, their children and their homes, clean; to enable them to mix freely with the white population, to work with them side by side, and thereby encourage the white people to accept them into their community.

We believe that the surest way to success is to begin with the young children. We try to give them a good schooling—including secondary education where possible and advisable—training in their social and religious obligations. After leaving school, the boys will be taught trades and especially farming, whereas the girls will be trained in domestic work, cooking, dressmaking, fancy-work, etc. When well enough equipped for life, we will try to find them good positions in the district, where they can still be supervised and guided by ourselves or an Officer of the Native Affairs Department. To achieve all this, we believe it is essential to bring them up in the type of surroundings in which they are expected to live later on; good clean buildings, comfortable accommodation, facilities equal to those that children have in our white schools—as far as possible.

Inmates.

The number of children increased to 50, up to July this year (we have 52 at present). Their health all round has been very good. Only two children were seriously ill, and were taken to the Hospital with pneumonia. One boy hurt his shoulder while playing, and was treated in Hospital.

The education of the children is progressing quite satisfactorily. We have increased our teaching staff to three, and have begun music lessons for native pupils. All sing well, while others have made good progress on the piano. We also expect to get a wireless and a projector for the school soon, to bring teaching up to the most modern standards.

The improvements effected during the year are considerable. We put in an electric washing machine, and an additional sewing machine which enabled us to start a dressmaking class for the bigger girls. We also planted trees around the buildings, and improved the playgrounds for boys and girls, including swings and a merry-go-round. A number of new buildings have gone up, i.e., a Sewing Room and a Recreation Room for the girls, the boys' Ablution building has been completed and a Bakery, as well as a workroom for boys is under construction.

Farming Activities.

These were carried on as usual. The wheat harvest was good, and promises to be good again this year. We have about 1,800 acres in crop, mostly wheat. The total number of sheep is 1,400 plus 300 lambs, this year's throw.

To secure the future of this establishment, we have also acquired an adjoining property of 2,147 acres, and a new 50 h.p. tractor to assist with the farming and clearing operations. We expect to get 300 acres of land cleared in the next season.

Concluding the report on the past twelve months, we can say that it was a rather successful period, and although expenses for farm and Mission buildings were rather high, we face the future of our Mission-School with confidence.

(Sgd.) LEO HORNUNG, S.C.A.,
Superintendent.

Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong.

Mr. N. W. Melville, Superintendent.

Our policy for the advancement and betterment for the natives is to concentrate mainly on the children. We are endeavouring as much as is possible to make the school more attractive to the children. We are hoping to use visual education in the form of Lantern Slides to a much greater extent than in the past. The children are able to absorb visual education much more readily than both oral and written. We have found the natives to be very musical in themselves and they love to sing. They have a wonderful memory for music and are able to pick up the words and the music of a chorus, hymn or song very quickly. During the times of recreation they sit around in small groups and sing for hours. We have found that music is another excellent means of educating the children. There are several families of natives here at the Mission who came from the desert only a very short time ago, and the children of these families have made wonderful advancement in the school and shown remarkable ability to learn. Their attendance at the school on the whole is quite good and satisfactory.

During the months of September and October, owing to the extremely unseasonable weather, we had a very severe epidemic of influenza. This resulted in the death either directly or indirectly of eight natives. At the height of the epidemic we had over 30 in-patients, as well as the large number of out-patients. All told, we treated 92 in-patients and also 480 out-patients. At the present time, there are only a few cases of influenza and the general health of the natives is good, particularly the babies. These babies receive special food and attention. Some of the babies who came recently from the desert suffering from malnutrition, are now in very good health. As most of our inmates are indigent natives, some became so ill with the influenza that we feared our mortality rate would be much higher than it was. However, with the help and co-operation of Dr. Saint, of Port Hedland, we were able to save quite a number of chronic cases.

A general store is operated for the benefit of the natives and the Mission staff. We endeavour to keep our prices as low as possible, in order to help the natives. Natives from surrounding stations have spent several hundred pounds in the store.

During recent months we have had considerable damage done to a number of our buildings, caused by severe winds. Up to the present time we have only rebuilt buildings which are absolutely essential, owing to the fact that we do not possess a copious supply of good drinking water and there is a possibility that we may have to shift the Mission to a more suitable site. Every effort has been made to locate good drinking water. Recently we had a visit by a Geologist who made a thorough examination of the surrounding country. After studying the country very carefully, the Geologist selected a site in close proximity to the Mission buildings, where he considered we should find good water. Boring operations will commence on this site at the very earliest opportunity.

As an experiment, three years ago we acquired about 30 sheep. These have increased in number to about 150. The sheep are in good condition and have done so well that it is hoped within the near future to increase our flock in an effort to help make the Mission self-supporting. Owing to the fact that the Mission property for the past thirty years, approximately prior to being taken over by the Mission, was held as a reserve, the feed on the Mission is very good, having never been eaten out by stock. At the present time, the Mission property is about the only piece of land for hundreds of miles around which has any quantity of feed.

In concluding, we could also mention that we are endeavouring to train as many native girls as possible for Hospital work. We have just sent one native girl to the Port Hedland Hospital as a Nursing Assistant. This girl has had four years experience in our own Native Hospital. It is hoped in the near future to send many more girls from the Mission for Hospital work. I have endeavoured to keep this report as brief as possible, and hope that it will meet with your requirements.

(Sgd.) N. W. MELVILLE,
Superintendent.

Beagle Bay Mission, via Broome.

Rev. Fr. F. Huegal, Superintendent.

On behalf of the Superintendent of this Mission I wish to submit the annual report to your Department. It is regretted that it comes so late. Several changes in staff, mainly caused through several members going on long service leave or through illness are responsible for the delay.

Staff.

This comprises at present one Priest, five Brothers and five Sisters. Apart from their board and lodging, they receive no salary or wages.

Work.

The fact that three of the five Brothers are well over seventy years of age made it very difficult to arrange the working of the Mission satisfactorily, and the results obtained in the various workshops, gardens and stock were not what we would have wished them to be. However, we were assured that towards the end of 1950 new staff would be provided. Three young Brothers, all skilled tradesmen, have arrived since then.

School.

One Sister, assisted by a senior girl, is in charge of the school, which was attended by 69 children. Apart from the ordinary curriculum, special attention was paid to various lines of handicraft, for which a good number of our children show remarkable ability. After school hours the children are occupied with various little jobs before they are allowed to play. The results obtained during the year were gratifying and the behaviour of the children was satisfactory.

Health.

The general health of the population was good. Apart from ordinary colds there was no serious outbreak of any epidemic. Two trained nurses are in charge of our surgery, which is well equipped with medical instruments. We had two visits from the District Medical Officer of Broome. No general examination of the natives was carried out.

Maintenance and Improvements.

Owing to the acute shortage of competent staff, we had to confine our activities mainly to repair work on buildings, fences, stock-yards, windmills, etc. No major improvements were carried out.

(Sgd.) OTTO RAIBLE,
Bishop.

Sunday Island Mission, via Derby.

Mr. H. Lupton, Superintendent.

The policy of the Mission is first to instruct and help its 140 adherents to a knowledge and understanding of the things of God as taught in the Scriptures. Running parallel to this in temporal things, every effort possible is made as far as staff and finance will allow to uplift these people into a better way of life.

To do this, the Mission staff runs a store, a school, a dispensary and cares for the children, engages many of the folk in employment and assists the men in the gathering of trochus shell.

The general health of all on the Island has been good, but a recent visit from the Derby Doctor resulted in three of our people being removed to the Leprosarium as positive lepers, two women and one lad of five years.

We have two teachers and have our school divided into junior and senior sections and all children of school age are receiving full time schooling. Attendance is 100 per cent. because of our geographical position.

To date our main efforts are being concentrated on our 50 children till there are further additions to existing staff.

Each Wednesday afternoon the girls have sewing classes and are making excellent progress. Teachers say that this is the quietest period of the school week. During the sewing period for the girls, the boys are taken in the garden and there taught and engaged in the art of vegetable growing. All show keen interest and some started plots of their own.

The women folk have been taught needle fancy work and excel at it. This opens to them an avenue of work whereby they can and do earn good money as orders for fancy work come in from many sources.

A two staff cottage with bathroom and conveniences and a medical room have been added to our existing buildings during the year. Our main trading is in trochus shell and turtle shell, which is gathered by our people.

Eighty-odd goats which supply milk and meat are the only stock on the island at the present time, but recently we have been assured by two or three experienced sheep men who have visited us that we could run a considerable number of sheep on the island. We have ample good water, and because of this advice, I trust we might be in a position to make this experiment next year in the interests of our people and growing children.

We have a large programme of extension and expansion laid down for 1950-51, which embraces quite a number of new buildings, also extensions to our garden and gardening plus the increase of our poultry flock, to supply us with eggs for sale and for private consumption.

If this venture proves successful, as we are assured it will, quite a number of our girls and lads will have employment as poultry hands. Other extensions are possible to this work in the way of industry and employment but, as larger amounts of capital are necessary to exploit them, they must wait for consideration and development at a later date when some of the more immediate items of development are working smoothly and satisfactorily.

(Sgd.) H. LUPTON,
Superintendent.

Forrest River Mission, Wyndham.

Rev. K. J. Coaldrake, Superintendent.

Report.

We are pressing on with the general policy of trying to provide at the Mission an environment and way of life that will prevent the natives from going off the Mission to live in or near Wyndham by offering a more attractive domicile here.

To this end we are gradually drawing nearer to the time when we will have plenty of good water reticulated through the village from our Camera Pool project for which we are now awaiting material.

The present unsatisfactory state of poor ablutionary facilities will then be overcome.

I am frequently faced with the problem of native parents wanting to go to Wyndham to live and work. Any native in Wyndham township is far worse off than he or she is here, but the attraction of such useless amenities as the movies, lemonade, and fancy food, and even grog in odd cases, draws them away from the healthy ordered life of the Mission.

Money is being collected in the South to buy a 16 millimetre sound movie projector, which it is hoped will help offset at least one of the attractions of the township, and also help to intensify and broaden the general education of these natives.

Health.

The State Department of Health has been very attentive to the physical welfare of our people during the year. In August the T.B. Survey team spent five days here and carried out a thorough examination of everyone, including the staff. Only three old people have the disease.

Then in November a Doctor and his Assistant came and spent a week to carry out a Hookworm Survey and treatment. We are fairly heavily infected with this unpleasant parasite. It is to be hoped that no time will be lost in treating all positive cases amongst the native population of Wyndham, as some of these people like to spend holidays here at times, and we do not want to have any good work undone.

Education.

It is our aim to bring the standard of education up to State School standard during the forthcoming year. We will need the services of another trained teacher in order to conduct school sessions long enough to cope with the additional commitments such a project would involve. It is hoped that a teacher will be found by our organisation, and that the Education Department will assist financially and advisorily. There are over fifty children attending school here.

Night classes are conducted in technical subjects by a staff member who is a tradesman mechanic.

Once a week a still film projector is used to give a talk on various subjects of general interest, the films coming from Perth Education Department Library. Travel, industrial and historical films are used and much appreciated.

General.

This Station needs more good buildings and lots of the present ones need attention, but we are unable to get a builder of any sort. The staff shortage over the past three years has had a retarding effect upon the progress and maintenance of the Mission, especially the fabric of the place. This shortage is particularly acute at the present time.

An attempt to increase the cattle herd by the purchase of 150 head of heifers and bullocks from Moola Bulla was forestalled by the lateness of the season when negotiations were begun, but it is hoped to get these cattle next season.

Three miles of fencing has been erected to form a block fence to make a holding paddock of approximately 15 miles of good country adjoining the Mission.

A second-hand launch of 32 ft. has been acquired to provide transport to and from Wyndham.

(Sgd.) K. J. COALDRAKE,
Superintendent.

Pallottine Mission, Hall's Creek.

Rev. Fr. A. Bleischwitz, Superintendent.

The principal aim of the Mission, as of all religious missions to the primitive people, is to help these people to become ideal Christians. The secondary, but important, aim is to endeavour to give them any positive good which our modern civilization is able to give to them, and they on their side are able to absorb to the benefit of their general well-being.

We instruct the natives with this double aim in mind, but this instruction has not as yet taken the form of set classes. We hope in the near future to have a school for the children where they will be educated, both in religious and secular matters. Further, we intend to build dormitories for the girls and boys—the dormitory of the girls has been begun and is now nearing

completion. Afterwards, when these children grow up and wish to live more according to white standards, we will build homes for them. Gradually, by instruction and practice, they will absorb our methods, thus avoiding a sudden clash of culture with all its undesirable consequences, and at the same time enabling them to retain and develop the good that is in their own culture—their artistry, their discipline, ability of endurance. The boys and girls, by living in dormitories, will be removed from those practices in the camp which are definitely immoral and others which are not the most advantageous, such as the custom of too early marriages.

There are about 90 natives living on the Mission at present. Over one-third of these are children under 14 years of age. There are 12 men working constantly at present and three women. Some of the younger boys are helping with the sheep and the girls in the domestic affairs.

The health of the natives has been very good. There was no influenza or pneumonia here, although it went through many stations in the north during the year. No death occurred during the year.

The education of the natives has not been fully organised yet. The men are learning to use their ability in the doing of the many tasks connected with the Mission and with the sheep station.

Natives living in the camp are given clothing and food rations partly supplied by the Mission and partly through the subsidy granted by the Native Affairs Department.

The girls living in the dormitories and the men and boys employed on the Mission have all meals, clothing, bedding and tobacco provided. All the food is cooked in the kitchen for staff and inmates by Natives and Half-castes.

The general activities during the year were those connected with the care of sheep, attending to the young lambs, breaking horses, repairing and constructing buildings, improving the water supply, mending fences and other similar tasks.

(Sgd.) A. BLEISCHWITZ,
Superintendent.

Lombadina Native Mission, via Broome.

Rev. Fr. J. Herold, Superintendent.

The Annual Report for this Mission for the year ended 30th June, 1950, is as follows:—

The following facilities are available to the Mission. The Reserve of 196,550 acres is used to run cattle, donkeys, mules and goats. The cattle provide a source of meat for the inmates, but the herd is not large enough to sell any of the calves.

A large vegetable paddock of 15 acres supplies most of the greens required for an Institution of this size.

A small area of rich pasturage is maintained for the milking goats which comprises the only supply of fresh milk for the Institution.

Building improvements at the Mission include the near completion of a sewing room, a stock yard for the goats, and a small girls' dormitory. During the year, two laundries were completed and a dairy and stalls for the goats is in the course of erection.

The health of the inmates of this Mission has been quite good with the exception of an influenza epidemic, which affected the entire population whilst the epidemic raged. There were four cases of fish poisoning from which two deaths resulted.

There were no births or marriages on the Mission during the year.

(Sgd.) J. HEROLD,
Superintendent.

Kunmunya Native Mission, via Derby.

Mr. J. H. Duncan, Superintendent.

In submitting the survey of the 12 months ending 30th June, 1950, for Kunmunya, I would draw attention to the fact that priority has been given to the new responsibility for Munja property and people and the selection of a new site for the reconstruction of the Mission. Both tasks have presented problems which have been the more difficult to meet by reason of staff losses, which included the former Superintendent of the Mission, Mr. R. A. Ross, whose health prevented his continuance in the work. It will be realised, therefore, that this report covers a period of extensive investigation and preparation, rather than a normal progressive year's activity.

At the time of writing, it is pleasing to know that more concrete plans are evolving for the re-establishment of this Mission on a more promising locality on the north-east side of King Sound.

Activities.

The Mission was running approximately 1,800 cattle at the close of the year. The 1949 muster disclosed that Munja was over-run with bulls and unbranded cattle, and it is unlikely that there is anything near the 1,690 taken over as unsighted. Kunmunya has not been mustered since 1945, due to loss of horses, but there may be 200 head on the Reserve.

Other than horses and donkeys, the Mission runs 240 merino sheep.

Special efforts to make the Mission self-supporting for the year under review, were:—

- (a) The trial of sheep at Kunmunya which met with little success, as the grass seed and dingo problem resulted in many losses.
- (b) Encouragement of beach combing and turtle shelling by natives.
- (c) Sales of native curios and handiworks.
- (d) The growing of small quantities of vegetables when water permitted.

Inmates.

There are 173 natives on this Institution, the number of which includes only 23 children. Of these children, twelve, all full-bloods, are attending school regularly.

There were four births during the year and no marriages. Thirteen deaths resulted during the year.

A number of inmates were ill for various causes during the year, including leprosy, granuloma, yaws, severe ring worm, boils, scabies and infected eyes. A visit was made to the Mission in August, 1949, by Doctor Davidson.

General Remarks.

The population of Kunmunya Mission is comprised of the remnants and representatives of the Worora, Wungarinjin, Wunumbul and Jo-djab tribes, which over the past decade have decreased in numbers and are rapidly, of their own choice, being de-tribalised. Whether prepared or not to take their place in white society, the desire for the white man's goods is too strong, usually resulting in a reluctance to remain in the bush life and the tendency to concentrate around the Mission, town or station. It is now evident that the authority of tribal heads has passed away with the enlightenment of the younger people, and, where there is lacking a moral sense of responsibility, the individual does much as he or she pleases, regarding not white law and fearing not the black. Only a faith in the Fatherhood, Justice and Mercy of God and the brotherhood of men with a hope which is not bounded by tobacco and clothes, can give stability and purpose to the lives of these people.

Leprosy has drawn many from this Mission, causing separations of man from wife or wives and too often resulting in adultery and shameless behaviour. Young men are growing up without prospect of marriage within tribal lines, so that to marry they must seek a bride elsewhere or risk the displeasure of their old folk by taking women to whom marriage is not lawful. In addition the greater percentage of the population are in the middle aged and aged group. Thus the problems are many and our goal must not only be for the material betterment of the people, but also for a corresponding advance in moral law and the regulation of a large community brought together, contrary to their natural customs, for long periods, to adapt themselves to a new society and changed economy.

(Sgd.) J. H. DUNCAN,
Superintendent.

SECTION "D."

HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

Financial.

Although the total Departmental expenditure increased from £105,102 in 1948-49 to £139,008 in 1949-50, the overall increase in expenditure, through inflationary tendencies, did not provide any great material increase in welfare. The average amount spent per native during 1949-50 was £8.48, whereas the previous year reached the figure of £6.3. With the high salary and wage rates applicable, and the ruling rate of everyday consumer requirements, the necessity for large grants of finance for welfare purposes is most apparent.

Missions were granted additional moneys in the way of lump sum grants-in-aid (£6,950), but this grant is by no means proportional to the capital improvements already performed and the total of capital improvements still to be made. Subsidies remained at the same base level of 4s. per inmate per week, as against that granted by the Child Welfare Department (19s. 4d. per week).

The Departmental Institutions of Moola Bulla Native Station, the Carrolup and Moore River Native Settlements, by virtue of their previous run down and dilapidated condition, needed large expenditures for rehabilitation, which caused draining of funds from other necessitous functions.

Whilst spiritual welfare can be imparted at the Missions, a portion of material welfare must emanate from this Department in the form of subsidisation for maintenance and for capital expenditure. The shifting emphasis to Mission upbringing and education will necessitate an overdue revision of subsidy rates—this matter has now been put before the Minister for consideration. Coincidental with the proposal to increase Mission subsidisation, there will be a lessening of Departmental Institutional activities in the South and the savings thus effected will allow greater financial Mission subsidisation.

During the year under review no new establishments were opened necessitating financial expenditure. During the year the North-West Mobile Works Unit, having completed its immediate task under the guidance of District Officer Pullen, was disbanded, the vehicle and tools being sent to La Grange Native Depot. The Southern Mobile Works Unit, after a series of reversals regarding carpenters and materials, was discontinued and the vehicle returned to Carrolup.

An increase in Loan Fund expenditure resulted during the year. A total of £7,734 was spent on various Institutions, mainly for water, lighting and building purposes, with an amount of £4,000 being expended on the purchase of Nissen Huts for shelter. This purchase has eased the accommodation programme on certain Institutions, but, from being so far in arrears in building activities, and the existing buildings in a sorry state of disrepair, expenditure of money and material has had to be unavoidably incurred. However, much of this leeway has been accomplished and with the exception of Moola Bulla, existing Departmental Institutions are now in a reasonable state of repair.

Natives' Medical Fund.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June is contained in Appendix No. 4.

At the close of operations for the 13th year of the Fund, contributions totalled £4,651 15s. 6d., being the highest total annual contributions since the commencement of the Fund. During the year, £3,542 ls. was paid in claims. This figure was very much the same as that paid for the previous three years.

It would appear that the Fund at the 30th June was in an excellent position by virtue of the fact that a balance of £2,945 16s. 1d. was held in credit. Making an allowance for the estimated accounts not yet received for services already rendered, the accrued profit over the 13 years amounted to £2,000. However, this figure is misleading. When at the time of writing of this Report certain facts which were not apparent at that time, have now been brought to bear with the result that the Fund is in a serious position.

For the current year under review, the Medical Fund was inclined to show a profit for the reason that hospitals which are registered under the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits Act, were in the main, in receipt of an amount of 8s. per patient per day for treatment to in-patients, whereas the Medical Fund Schedule of Charges provided for a payment of 5s. per in-patient per day. Many of the Southern Hospitals who were not aware as to the bona fides of a Medical Fund or other case, could not be blamed for assuming that they were not Medical Fund cases and by simply not rendering accounts to this Department for cases, the Medical Fund was naturally gaining.

Many Doctors had also reached a stage of exasperation with endeavouring to secure payment from the Medical Fund, as it entailed a lengthy procedure of declarations and reports to justify payment for a simple visit or for any surgical treatment, and in this respect the Medical Fund again was not charged with many legitimate accounts which should have rightly been rendered against the Fund.

The cumulative effect of hospitals and doctors not rendering accounts against the Fund placed it in that false position at the end of June, 1950, in showing an accumulated profit approximating £2,000 (after allowing for unpaid accounts).

It must be mentioned in this report that negotiations have been proceeding for some time especially in connection with Doctors who were concerned with the very low scale of charges payable to them under the Medical Fund. This scale of charges had been fixed in 1938 and had been operative since that date. Hospitals also were only receiving 5s. per diem for in-patient treatment and this did not compare with the amount that could be received by registration as a hospital within the meaning of the Hospital Benefits Act.

When the Native Hospitals were taken over by the Medical Department in February, 1950, the change over of administration caused a slackening of effort on behalf of the new authorities in securing the statutory forms required before payment could be made from the Medical Fund, with the result that the Medical Fund again showed an advantage.

Discussions with the Public Health Department subsequent to the 30th June, 1950, indicated that it would be necessary for the Medical Fund to meet an annual payment of £3,000 per year as from the 1st July, 1950, to cover treatment to Medical Fund patients in the four Northern native hospitals. This sum, together with the agreed revision of Doctors charges to that similar to the Workers' Compensation charges, will have a very marked effect on the stability of the Medical Fund, and should at the 30th June, 1951, find the Medical Fund virtually insolvent. This matter is being investigated and a solution sought.

Trust Accounts and Investments.

At the close of the operations for the year, a total of 302 Commonwealth Saving Bank Pass Books were held in this Department on behalf of natives, the Commissioner being the trustee in each and every case. A total of £3,513 2s. 6d. was held in these Trust Accounts and a considerable amount of this money turned over during the year by virtue of deposits, withdrawals, the opening of new accounts and the closure of others.

This service to natives is appreciated by those holding bank accounts, as they are always free to withdraw funds whenever they require them, and at the same time are earning savings bank interest on their deposits.

Investments are also held on behalf of natives. Surplus monies in trust accounts are withdrawn and Commonwealth Bonds purchased on behalf of the natives. This secures better interest for the native than the normal Savings Bank Account, and again, those natives who are Bond holders realise that this investment is whole-heartedly in their own interests. There are 57 holders who possess Bonds to the total of £7,321, the Bonds themselves being deposited in safe custody at the Commonwealth Bank, Perth, and the receipts for same being held in safe custody in the Department.

Bond Registers and Bank Pass Books are subject to rigid Governmental audit.

Lotteries Commission Donations.

The Lotteries Commission have again been most generous in their gifts to Native Institutions. To Departmental Institutions an amount of £543 10s. was granted and to Secular Native Missions and other Institutions an amount of £11,411 5s. 6d., making in all a grand total of £11,954 15s. 6d.

I wish to place on record the deep appreciation of the Department to the Lotteries Commission for these very kind donations to assist in the welfare of natives.

Estates.

Under Section 36 of the Natives Administration Act, the Commissioner may obtain letters of Administration of the Estate of any deceased native.

During the year a total of 23 Estates were handled, there being 13 new Estates reported during the year. The value of these Estates totalled £210 16s. 2d.

Maintenance.

The handling of maintenance orders on behalf of female natives is a service offered to native mothers.

Maintenance Orders are made in the Children's Court for the support of children, the father of whom, when adjudged, is required to contribute to the support of his off-spring.

Seventy-nine cases were in existence at the 30th June, and comprised 62 cases against white men, 10 against natives and seven against Asiatics.

Owing to the Crown Law Department ruling, many Orders which were held to be valid were suddenly declared invalid through a legal point, and further recovery action in these cases had to be suspended. Whilst every effort is made to assist native mothers, especially when the punitive father is a white man, now remains for the mother to initiate the original complaint in her own name and no longer in the name of the Commissioner of Native Affairs. Previously, the Commissioner of Native Affairs was named as plaintiff and in some cases where the plaint was native versus native, it was held that the Commissioner could not be plaintiff under these circumstances. Legal advice and method of procedure is personally explained to each mother regarding the action she should take, if desirous of securing maintenance for her offspring.

Christmas Cheer.

As is usual over the Christmas festive season, it was again possible to give to the natives a small Christmas gift in the form of a toy or some other small appropriate gift where the recipient was an indigent native, mainly through the courtesy of the Lotteries Commission, who donated an amount of money for this purpose. In addition, the Daily News Orphanage Christmas Fund kindly donated £20. The Economic Stores once again forwarded cheques to the extent of £21 to assist the natives in having a better Christmas.

Approximately 3,500 natives participated in the distribution of Christmas Cheer in the many centres all over the State.

The donors of these grants are sincerely thanked for their generosity.

Relief.

At the 30th June, 1950, there were ten centres where bulk (dry rations) were being issued. A total of 316 adult natives and 101 children were being ameliorated, these natives being full-bloods. These centres of rationing are wholly in the Northern areas of the State and in the main, fringe the inland desert from where the primitive nomadic type native first meets the impact of civilisation. These rationing centres are either under the control of Departmental Officers, Missions or Police Officers. Only 20 of the 101 children were being rationed at centres other than Missions and Institutions.

At centres in the Southern half of the State, the improved ration scale is available for the necessitous cases. Pauperisation is firmly discouraged and where possible permanent indigents—the blind, aged, and crippled—are normally encouraged to reside in the Departmental sanctuaries at which they can be better cared.

Contract rationing is spasmodic in that of the 23 towns where rationing was carried out during the year, only 51 natives were actually in receipt of assistance at the 30th June. Of this number 41 were aged natives and virtually permanently rationed. These figures will emphasise the abundance of work available for able bodied natives in the country areas and together with the high market price for furred skins, direct necessitous amelioration to natives is on a minimum scale.

Population.

Appendix No. 3 shows details of the native population distribution of Western Australia at the 30th June, 1950.

Native Population returns are forwarded to each Protector of Natives at the end of the close of the year, with the request that he specifies the number of natives within his district. In the majority of cases, the figure submitted is purely an estimate from the Protector concerned, and whilst in many cases considerable care is taken to arrive at an accurate estimate, in other cases very little trouble is taken, with the result that the returns cannot be considered as conclusive evidence that the native population of Western Australia is as shown in the accompanying appendix. However, until such time as a full census is taken of the native population in Western Australia, no accurate details can be provided.

The figure of 6,000 unclassified natives who are estimated to be beyond the confines of civilisation is again included.

It is interesting to compare, however, how the population figures remain relatively stable about the total shown in the accompanying appendix. The most relevant fact is shown in the decreasing full-blood population and the increasing half-caste population. This emphasis will be felt as the rate of change becomes increasingly more noticeable and the problem will devolve from what was once a pure anthropological question to that of a sociological problem. There are no adequate statistics to indicate the fertility rate among the caste natives, but if this could be calculated it is considered it would be surprisingly high as compared to the white Australian population.

It would be a relatively magnitudinous task to satisfactorily achieve a comprehensive census, as much time and money would be required and the support of the native population themselves might not be receptive. The last Commonwealth census excluded full-blood natives, but included half-castes and less blood. The result from this census shows a surprising lack of reliable statistics with regard to natives.

With the decentralisation of field administration, it is possible, however, to secure a much closer estimate of the number of natives in each district, and future population returns should reveal more reliable statistics.

Health.

Under the control of the Public Health Department all natives are in the best of hands and from the administration point of view, health is within its correct perspective.

Early in 1949, the four Northern Native Hospitals were passed to the Medical Department and they have functioned since that date under the care of that Department. Natives are receiving excellent care at the hands of the Medical Department doctors and nurses, and it is understood that considerable plans have been made for the future of natives medical welfare in the North.

Natives throughout other parts of the State attend local district and public hospitals for medical attention, and surprisingly few instances of complaint regarding unsatisfactoriness of the patients is received. This is an example of the splendid work of the Kalgoorlie Hospital Doctors and staff during the influenza epidemic which struck the Eastern Goldfield bush type natives and caused many deaths. That primitive type of native had probably never been treated in hospital previously, and the attitude of the doctors and nurses to overcome the epidemic is most worthy of the highest praise.

Natives from all over the State are being continually sent to Perth for specialistic treatment at either the Royal Perth, Princess Margaret, Infectious Diseases or the King Edward Memorial Hospital, in which Institutions they receive equal consideration and sympathetic treatment. In certain cases, and especially at the Princess Margaret Hospital, patients soon win the love and tenderness of the hospital staffs. Mental Hospitals and Sanatoriums are particularly sympathetic towards their native patients and the monthly visit by Departmental officers reveals that natives are receiving the very best of medical care and attention.

During the year a trained nursing sister was sent to Moola Bulla Native Station to watch the medical care of the 200 odd inmates of that Institution, and the Manager, in his report, draws particular attention to the good work carried out by this Sister.

At Carrolup Native Settlement a change in function from that of a mixed Institution containing males and females to that of a boys' Institution soon showed that the retention of a nursing sister and the small hospital was unnecessary when a major hospital was in Katanning, some short 20 miles away. Cases of sickness or accident to any of the inmates at the Carrolup Native Settlement are now treated with the very best care at the Katanning District Hospital.

Education.

During the year a change of policy in regard to the activities of the Moore River and Carrolup Native Settlements was made. The native school at the Moore River Native Settlement catered for mixed sexes as did the Carrolup school, but with the opening of the Wandering Mission and the enlarging of the Roelands Mission, the policy was expedient to close the Moore River native school and withdraw the girls from both Moore River and Carrolup, and send them to Missions of the particular religion of each native child. Approximately 35 girls were sent to Wandering and about the same number to Roelands. All the boys of the age of 14 years and under were sent to Carrolup, where they attended the state school at the Carrolup Native Settlement.

At Moola Bulla Native Station the native school was re-opened after a period of nine years, during which time there had been no educational facilities whatever. This school functioned particularly well under the capable guidance of the teachers Mr. and Mrs. Gill. Education to the native on Moola Bulla was in such esteem, that absenteeism was non-existent. Voluntary night classes held by Mr. and Mrs. Gill resulted in clamouring by the adult native for an education.

Schools continued to be held at the Missions where a large number of native children received their primary learning.

State Schools, mainly in the country areas, each have a small number of native pupils and it is pleasing to read the reports from teachers and Headmasters of the educational ability, diligence and aptitude of many of these native students.

Responsibility for education being accepted by the Education Department, the Department chosen to carry out education as a whole in Western Australia, is now an accepted practice of that Department rather than a desired project, and whilst native children are being educated on the same basis, with the same opportunities as white children, the future assimilation of the native into the white race of Australia will present a decreasing problem.

The present problem in education tends towards making opportunities for the better type native student as well as making opportunities for the student who is desirous of furthering his education. It is planned in the future to open Institutions in Perth where these country children may be boarded and attend the existing State educational Institutions for higher learning. Whilst a plan is in hand to accommodate a small number of girls in Perth, a similar plan must be put into operation for a selected number of boys, and efforts are being made to this end.

Employment.

Employment problems in the country areas have caused Departmental Field Officers only small concern, for the reason of the abundance of unfilled jobs in the rural-pastoral areas. Whilst Western Australia is desperately short of European agricultural workers, natives can get an abundance of work.

Reference to the relief section of this report will show that only 51 natives in the South of the State were in receipt of assistance at the 30th June, 1950, this number mainly comprising aged and infirm people.

Reference to the individual reports of the several Field Officers will indicate the employment of natives in the particular districts, but taken as a whole, employment of natives is a matter of demand and supply of labour, where the demand is greatly in excess of the supply. This shortage of labour in the secondary industries is encouraging many natives to seek other than rural work, and instances are recorded where natives are proving as adept at their jobs as their white brothers. Such jobs as maintenance work on railways, road building, and local authority work, are attracting natives, and the rural industry is in some respects forced to compete with the wages paid by secondary industry, with the result that natives generally are receiving a wage equal to that of white workers.

In some employment, such as shearing and the accompanying occupations, and also wood cutting, fruit picking, and crop digging, the native receives the same wage as that of the white; in many cases their ability being greater, their cheque is greater.

Whilst in the main, employment as a whole at the present time does not constitute a very grave problem, full consideration is given to the employment of natives in positions in which they feel they will be happier. Any natives who have the desire to pursue a particular occupation, which in the past by virtue of the labour supply factor, were unable to compete with the white worker, are now, with higher education available to natives, able to occupy positions in secondary industry, providing they have the required educational standard, and in which they may be eminently suitable and far happier.

The policy of the Department is to encourage natives to take positions in which they are most happy, and no sense of coercion is exercised over their decision of occupation. In other words, it is desired to give them equality of opportunity in this field.

Reserves.

The total acreage of Native Reserves is now 34,200,476 acres. This represents an increase of 1,115,075 acres over the previous total, due mainly to the reservation of 1,115,000 acres at Camden Harbour for the Kunmunya Mission. This large tract of land represented open country between the Munja Native Station and the Kunmunya Mission, and with the taking over of Munja by the Kunmunya Mission authorities, the request for the intervening lands to be declared as a reserve was approved to ensure immunity from possible outside interference.

The other additions and deletions concerned small reserves throughout the country.

The policy in regard to Native Reserves remains as previous, in that reserves are inviolable to other than natives. This is naturally of greater importance in the areas peopled by tribal natives than that of the Southern Districts, where reserves are habited mainly by transient caste natives. The Southern reserves are invariably situated near the proximity of the town, and in many cases are not being used in the manner originally intended, *i.e.*, for the use of transient natives. Large numbers of semi-permanent native residents are being encouraged to settle permanently in particular districts on their own blocks of land, and the necessity of many such reserves in the future may be obviated.

Citizenship Rights.

During the year 136 applications were received for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications received to 30th June, 1950, 571 ; 415 Certificates have been issued to the natives and 80 have been dismissed by Magistrates ; 14 cases have been withdrawn for various reasons and 23 cases have been adjourned by the Magistrates for varying reasons ; 39 applications were to be heard at the close of the year.

The dismissed cases over the whole period of legislation would average one case dismissed to every five granted, but the cases under adjournment by the Magistrate would indicate that he is not satisfied with either the living conditions, or manner and habits of the applicant, and it is considered that most of the 23 cases which have been adjourned are eventually unlikely to be granted. This would bring the ratio of dismissed applications to one for every four applications granted.

The Citizenship Rights Act was introduced in 1944 as trial legislation, and after a period of six years in which 415 applicants have been granted Citizenship Rights, there have been only three cancellations of Certificates by Magistrates. Admittedly, there are a number of border-line cases where Certificates would be better cancelled, also there are other cases where successful applicants would be better off without Certificates and still under the jurisdiction of this Department, but in the main, the majority of Citizenship holders have attempted in all ways to live up to the tenets of the Act and prove themselves to be worthy citizens. With the trial legislation it is most apparent that certain amendments are necessary to the parent Act to obviate anomalies, and impending amendments are under consideration to rectify these anomalies.

Citizenship Rights have proved attractive to the natives as this is shown in the number of applications made for Citizenship over the short period that it has been in operation, and compared with the number of Certificates of Exemption over the long period that it has been in operation.

Certificates of Exemption.

The close of the year revealed that 293 Certificates of Exemption were in existence. Thirty-three Certificates were issued during the year and 40 were cancelled, 31 of these cancellations being due to the granting to the recipient of a Certificate of Citizenship. It is to be pointed out that on the granting of a Certificate of Citizenship, the Exemption Certificate is of no further value and action is taken to have the Certificate withdrawn and cancelled.

More emphasis is placed by the native on a Certificate of Citizenship as a goal for which to strive, and Exemption Certificates are sought after mainly by those who are under the age of 21 years and who are, by virtue of their age, ineligible for a Certificate of Citizenship.

Legislative amendments have been suggested to further increase the value of a Certificate of Exemption.

Native Courts.

Under Section 64 of the Native Administration Act, seven " courts of native affairs " were constituted by the Governor during the year to hear the undermentioned charges for offences by a native against another native. This Section of the Act provides for a Court to be constituted with a nominated Special Magistrate as Chairman of the Court and the Commissioner, or Protector nominated by the Commission, as the other party. Such Court has exclusive jurisdiction in connection with the trial of the offence, but shall take into consideration any tribal custom which may mitigate the offence. The headman of the tribe is called for any required assistance.

The charges brought before the Courts were as follows :—

1. 18-7-49 at Wyndham, Goodroo, @ Stormy was charged with the murder of Calagee, @ Jura. The charge was proven and Goodroo, @ Stormy was sentenced to two years imprisonment in the Broome Gaol.
2. 21-7-49 at Hall's Creek, Saladada, @ Sloper was charged with inflicting unlawful grievous bodily harm on Bill Bernard. The charge was proven and Sloper was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

3. 8-9-49 at Fitzroy Crossing, Joogette, @ Bluey was charged with unlawfully killing Naanatee. Bluey was proven guilty of a charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to six months imprisonment.
4. 3-12-49 at Hall's Creek, Karragarry, @ Stiff Earhole Jack was charged with unlawfully killing the native Kalgoyne. Karragarry was found guilty and sentenced to death in accordance with Section 657 of the Criminal Code. The Court, however, recommended Royal Mercy to be extended to the accused, and the Governor commuted the sentence to five years imprisonment at the Moola Bulla Native Station.
5. 3-12-49 at Hall's Creek, the accused Jack Carey was charged with unlawfully killing the native Chuckeye. The defendant was found guilty, but in passing sentence, the Court feeling strongly in the circumstances of the case, suggested recommendations should be made for Royal Mercy, abstained from passing the sentence of death and ordered that judgment of death be recorded, pursuant to Section 657 of the Criminal Code. The Governor reduced the sentence to five years imprisonment at the Moola Bulla Native Station.
6. 11-2-50 at Broome, Kanangie, @ George was charged with the wilful murder of the woman Quoona-nye, @ Yarrolie, @ Judy. George was sentenced to death for the proven crime, but sentence was commuted by Executive Council to life imprisonment with hard labour.
7. 18-4-50 at Marble Bar, Moonya, @ Willie was charged with the murder of the native Coojimme. The charge was dismissed by the Court on the grounds that the accused had reasonably resisted actual and unlawful violence by the deceased and had acted, therefore, in self defence.

Warrants.

At the 30th June, 1950, 97 natives were held in Missions or Departmental Institutions or were in supervised employment under the provision of Ministerial warrants, issued under authority of section 13 of the Native Administration Act, or of the authority of Court Committal Orders. The number held under warrant at the end of the year under review is an increase on the number similarly held for the previous year.

A change of policy in respect to warrants has now resulted, and it is expected that future warrant cases will be at a minimum and will be seldom used unless in the exceptional cases, *e.g.*, tuberculosis patients absconding from sanatoria and delinquents requiring to be moved to a place of detention after trial in a Court of Law. The previous liberal application of warrants is not favoured by the present administration and the Ministerial warrant under section 13 of the Act will in future be only most sparingly used.

Offences by Natives.

During the year, reports were received of 604 cases of offences by natives against law and order. This figure represents a decrease of 160 offences compared with the previous year. With the exception of 75 offences committed by full-bloods the remainder were committed by natives of mixed castes. It is pleasing to note that juvenile offenders numbered only 23 cases.

The major type of offence was attributable to liquor and represented a percentage of 59.6 of all native shortcomings. This is an increase over the 54.6 per cent. of the previous year. There were 230 recorded convictions for drunkenness and 130 convictions for receiving liquor. Other major offences include 80 cases of disorderly conduct, 27 for assault and 34 for stealing.

One hundred and two cases of the 604 were recorded against females.

Offences against Natives.

Offences against natives increased to a total of 67 for the year as compared with 52 for the previous year.

Once again the supplying of liquor to natives comprised a very high proportion of this total, there being 54 convictions as against 39 for the previous year. There were also 11 breaches of section 47 of the Native Administration Act (cohabitation) compared with seven for the previous year.

Maternity Allowances.

No change has as yet resulted in the Social Service legislation whereby the caste restriction clause precludes native mothers with a preponderance of native blood from receiving maternity allowance, unless such mother is exempted or has a Certificate of Citizenship. This unfair class restriction clause embitters a proportion of native mothers who feel that the often very slight degree of preponderance of native blood should not make the vital difference between receiving or not receiving a maternity bonus. It is again emphasised in this report that this unfair caste restriction, especially in respect to maternity bonuses, should be repealed and the benefit extended to such mothers.

It is a very difficult pill to swallow for the native whose wife is debarred from receiving a maternity allowance, and they themselves are ineligible for old age and invalid pensions because of their preponderance of native blood, and yet at the same time they are forced by the law of the country to contribute to taxation. Surely this is a most iniquitous and inequitable deal, and one of which the Governments of Australia can hardly be proud.

Whilst certain members of Parliament show interest and sympathy towards the welfare and uplift of natives, it is only through the actions of the people of Australia that natives can be given that new deal for which this 20th century demands,

Child Endowment.

At the 30th June, 1950, Child Endowment was being paid to 645 native endowees and of this number 51 cases were being paid to this Department for supervision payment in kind rather than in cash. Six Departmental Institutions also received Child Endowment for 234 children under the age of 16 years, amounting to £7,772 9s. 4d. During the year under review the Cosmo Newbery Native Depot was recognised as an Institution within the meaning of the Social Services Act, and from the 7th February, 1950, endowment has been received for the children at that Institution.

The money received by this Department for children for whom it is caring is expended on the direct additional amelioration of each child. This is arranged by the purchase of additional foodstuffs that their diet would scarcely contain, such as an abundance of fruit, ice cream, and other nutritional food, additional clothing, and recreation and educational requirements. A certain proportion of these grants are held in reserve for capital item expenditures which will be of direct benefit to the children.

Missions also benefited from the payment of Child Endowment. Twenty Mission Institutions with a total of 1,024 children were in receipt of endowment. This sum has been the saving of Mission activity in this State when it is considered that the Departmental subsidy, not for each inmate but only for certain inmates nominated by this Department, is at the ridiculously low figure of 4s. per week. Child Endowment has immeasurably assisted these Missions to carry out their functions.

It is intended in the very near future to discontinue the supervision of Child Endowment to the 51 cases. This action will be brought about in the light that this Department is not equipped to adequately supervise the cases in question, and also that these 51 cases are, perhaps, only a fraction of the cases, who if supervision is to be maintained, should be supervised. General reports from Field Officers, however, indicate that Child Endowment is in the main being spent for the purpose for which it is granted, that is, for the benefit of the children, and whilst in some cases it has not immeasurably improved the living conditions from a housing point of view, it has improved the welfare of the child and that the child is better clothed and better nourished than was previously the case. These children are now able to take their place side by side with white children in attendance at country State Schools, when previously the cry against native pupils was that they were ill-equipped and poorly dressed.

One Doctor in this State, some little time ago, remarked that since the advent of Child Endowment to native mothers, the health of native children has improved beyond expectation.

In retrospect, it would appear that Child Endowment supervision could be said to have been a measure to control parents' indulgence towards their children, rather than the neglect of the children by the mis-spending of money by the parents.

Old Age Pensions.

Six applications for Old Age Pensions on behalf of natives were brought to the notice of this Department during the year. All six applications were granted.

There are now 77 natives recorded as being recipients of the Old Age Pension.

Widows' Pensions.

Only one application for a Widow's Pension came to the notice of this Department during the year under review, and this claim was granted by the Social Services Department.

There are now 24 known cases where female natives are receiving the Widow's Pension.

Invalid Pensions.

During the year ten applications for Invalid Pensions were submitted through the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, and all applications were successful.

There are now 37 native invalid pensioners and in nine cases the wives of the recipients receive the statutory wife's allowance.

Commonwealth Unemployment and Sickness Benefits.

Of the four applications which had come to the notice of this Department for this type of social benefit, three of the applications were successful.

Difficulty in securing this benefit is usually experienced by native applicants in that they are not able to fulfil the full conditions of the requirements to receive this benefit. This benefit is more applicable to permanent workers rather than seasonal and casual workers, as one of the requirements of the Act is to declare the previous four weeks' employment and the amounts received therefrom.

Appreciation.

I would like to record my thanks to the Hon. Minister for Native Affairs, Mr. V. Doney, for his assistance and help to me, and for the year under review his endeavours on behalf of natives. Although it was a period of difficulties, definite progress was achieved. District Administration lifted certain responsibilities from my shoulders and allowed me to carry out policy matters without the burden of every administrative duty.

To officers of Headquarters, of Field Administration, and of Institutions, I extend my thanks for their work, co-operation and loyalty over the year. To the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. S. A. Taylor, I.S.O.), and his Officers in other Departments who have been most helpful throughout the year, I extend my thanks for their every co-operation.

To Missions and Mission workers must go a special vote of appreciation for their services to the natives. They have at all times fully co-operated with the Department. The Protectors of Natives, both Police and Civil, worked in the interests of natives generally, and are deserving of the highest praise.

And, last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the metropolitan press and the Australian Broadcasting Commission for the generous space and time they have allotted my Department in its attempt to inform the public of its views and activities throughout the year.

S. G. MIDDLETON,
Commissioner of Native Affairs.

7th June, 1951.

SECTION "E"

APPENDIX I.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1949-50, under Section 73
of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47 (Reprinted).

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance carried forward—							
Ex General Loan Fund	....				23,425	0	11
Transferred from General Loan Fund	....				10,000	0	0
Grant under Section 5 of Native Administration Act, 1905-47	....				10,000	0	0
Amount provided from Consolidated Revenue Fund	....	105,402	0	0			
Treasurer's Advance	....	23,606	5	9			
					129,008	5	9

Note.—Revenue collections are not credited to the Trust Fund but to Consolidated Revenue Fund. Revenue collections for the year were :—

	£	s.	d.
Generally	8,411	4	3
Moola Bulla	17,333	5	2
	£25,744	9	5

PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Salaries—Departmental—</i>							
Commissioner of Native Affairs, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Native Affairs and Head Office Staff				14,937	14	5
General Assistance (includes Inspector)				574	6	9
District Offices				7,475	13	11

Relief to Natives—

Provisions	3,176	8	2
Freight and Cartage	799	19	1
Medical Treatment and Supplies	1,186	8	3
Blankets and Clothing	5,300	18	7
Improvements to Reserves	432	15	4
Transport of Natives	2,029	10	6
Burials	976	17	8
Defence of Prisoners	11	0	0
Education and Sports Equipment	9	0	0
			13,922 17 7

*General—**Travelling Expenses :*

	£	s.	d.
Staff	3,470	17	10
Other	1,068	0	9
	4,538	18	7
District Offices—General Expenses	960	17	5
Miscellaneous	2,745	5	3
	8,245	1	3

Moola Bulla Native Cattle Station—

Salaries and Wages	4,295	2	3
Stores, Provisions and Meat	3,873	19	2
Purchase of Livestock	874	0	3
Freight and Cartage	3,677	9	5
Medical Supplies, etc.	52	8	5
Blankets and Clothing	987	4	3
Maintenance and Improvements to Buildings	1,783	0	11
Furniture and Utensils	503	18	7
Hardware and Tools	378	6	10
Farm Implements and Operations	569	12	7
Motor Vehicles, etc.	2,232	10	0
Miscellaneous	951	0	7
	20,178	13	3
Less Child Endowment Recoup	720	11	4
	19,458	1	11

APPENDIX I—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1949-50, under Section 73
of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47 (Reprinted).

RECEIPTS—continued.

PAYMENTS—continued.

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Grants to Missions—</i>				
A.I.M., Fitzroy Crossing	34	5 1		
A.I.M., Hall's Creek	25	0 0		
Drysdale River	417	13 4		
Norseman	223	12 0		
Beagle Bay	1,217	5 0		
Broome Convent School	125	0 0		
Forrest River	1,857	10 5		
Kunmunya	414	18 4		
Munja	1,639	6 9		
Sunday Island	211	7 1		
New Norcia	124	16 0		
Sister Kate's Home	452	14 1		
Roelands	563	3 4		
Lombadina	219	1 6		
Holy Child Orphanage	210	4 6		
Pallottine, Billiluna	312	0 0		
Carnarvon	1,292	9 11		
Mt. Margaret	974	4 5		
Jigalong	1,843	1 4		
Tardun	140	16 8		
White Springs	3,018	15 0		
Cundelee	310	17 6		
Madura	55	12 7		
Miscellaneous	245	5 6		
			15,929	0 4

Moore River Native Settlement—

Salaries and Wages	7,603	18 7		
Stores, Provisions and Meat	9,017	13 4		
Freight and Cartage	617	3 0		
Medical Supplies, etc.	748	6 5		
Blankets and Clothing	1,180	15 7		
Maintenance and Improvements to Buildings	1,911	12 3		
Furniture and Utensils	563	12 5		
Hardware and Tools	229	12 5		
Farm Implements and Operations	598	12 3		
Motor Vehicles, etc.	1,449	13 3		
Miscellaneous	553	12 2		
	24,474	11 8		
Less Child Endowment Recoup	809	4 11		
			23,665	6 9

Carrolup Native Settlement—

Salaries and Wages	5,724	9 7		
Stores, Provisions and Meat	6,781	4 3		
Freight and Cartage	704	15 2		
Medical Supplies, etc.	157	14 4		
Blankets and Clothing	931	2 2		
Maintenance and Improvements to Buildings	1,753	6 4		
Furniture and Utensils	1,928	14 3		
Hardware and Tools	427	16 0		
Farm Implements and Operations	1,062	9 5		
Motor Vehicles, etc.	2,312	4 4		
Miscellaneous	89	7 2		
	21,873	3 0		
Less Child Endowment Recoup	750	2 7		
			21,123	0 5

APPENDIX I—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1949-50, under Section 73
of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47 (Reprinted).

RECEIPTS—continued.				PAYMENTS—continued.				
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
						<i>Cosmo Newbery Detention and Rationing Depot—</i>		
						Salaries and Wages	1,868	13 8
						Stores, Provisions and Meat	1,031	10 8
						Freight and Cartage	283	12 2
						Medical Supplies	11	13 11
						Blankets and Clothing	57	18 5
						Maintenance and Improvements to Buildings	469	11 0
						Furniture and Utensils	244	1 6
						Hardware and Tools	122	2 6
						Farm Implements and Operations	243	7 8
						Motor Vehicles	490	6 4
						Miscellaneous	279	14 8
							5,102	12 6
						Less Child Endowment Recoup	30	6 8
							5,072	5 10
						<i>North-West Mobile Unit—</i>		
						Salaries	265	11 10
						Contingencies	95	16 9
							361	8 7
						<i>South-West Mobile Unit—</i>		
						Salaries	401	1 1
						Contingencies	538	9 2
							939	10 3
						<i>Relief Depots—</i>		
						<i>East Perth Native Girls' Home :</i>		
						Salaries and Wages	545	13 9
						Contingencies	612	12 1
							1,158	5 10
						<i>La Grange Bay :</i>		
						Salaries and Wages	1,504	9 0
						Stores, Provisions and Meat	2,923	8 10
						Freight and Cartage	795	8 6
						Medical Supplies	21	19 2
						Blankets and Clothing	210	19 8
						Maintenance and Improvements to Buildings	224	18 6
						Motor Vehicles	144	15 4
						Miscellaneous	561	15 1
							6,387	14 1
						Less Child Endowment Recoup	242	2 2
							6,145	11 11
						<i>Loan Works—Item 42—</i>		
						Carrolup Lighting Plant	1,688	12 6
						Carrolup Clearing	208	2 5
						Carrolup Water Supply	228	19 1
						Carrolup Water Reticulation	280	14 0
						Wyndham Native Hospital Compound	18	1 5
						Maternity Ward	386	4 8
						Derby Native Hospital Electric Lighting Plant	331	7 11
						Moore River Native Settlement Septic Tanks	512	19 9
						Conversion Electric Light	78	16 5
						General—Purchase of Nissen Huts	4,000	0 0
							7,733	18 2
						Balance on hand 30th June, 1950, ex		
						General Loan Fund	25,691	2 9
							£172,433	6 8
							£172,433	6 8

APPENDIX No. 2.

MOOLA BULLA NATIVE STATION.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year ended 30th June, 1950.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.					
To	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	By—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Sales—					Salaries	2,812	1 2		
Cattle and Beef	16,959	17 8			Wages	1,483	1 1		
Horses, Hides, etc.	91	4 2						4,295	2 3
Stores	141	3 11			Stores and Provisions			3,849	3 4
Wool	66	10 0			Meat			24	15 10
Other	15	4 5			Purchase of Livestock			874	0 3
			17,274	0 2	Travelling Expenses			270	12 9
To Refund—					Freight and Cartage			3,677	9 5
Accommodation			59	5 0	Medical Supplies and Treatment			52	8 5
Balance being Surplus of Expenditure over Receipts			2,845	8 1	Blankets and Clothing			987	4 3
					Miscellaneous			31	2 0
					Lighting, Water, Sanitation			143	4 1
					Maintenance, Improvement to Buildings, etc.			1,783	0 11
					Furniture and Household Utensils			503	18 7
					Hardware and Tools			378	6 10
					Farm Implements and Operations			349	14 3
					Forage Seeds and Manures			219	8 4
					Printing and Stationery			2	15 1
					Insurance			152	10 8
					Advertising			6	9 5
					Motor Vehicles, Petrol and Oils			2,232	10 0
					Education and Sports Equipment			35	1 2
					Wireless, Telephone and Postage			195	1 3
					Droving Expenses			114	14 2
			£20,178	13 3				£20,178	13 3

APPENDIX No. 3.

POPULATION RETURN AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1950.

District and Sub-District.	Full-bloods.				Other Castes.				Sub-District Totals.	District Totals.	Grand Total.
	M.	F.	C.	Totals.	M.	F.	C.	Totals.			
Northern—											
East Kimberley	991	836	254	2,081	79	43	124	246	2,327		
West Kimberley	1,318	1,109	402	2,829	175	187	249	611	3,440		
	2,309	1,945	656	4,910	254	230	373	857		5,767	
NORTH-WEST—											
Pilbara	760	653	355	1,768	79	60	74	213	1,981		
Gascoyne	136	122	150	408	85	74	154	313	721		
	896	775	505	2,176	164	134	228	526		2,702	
Central—											
Central	60	39	74	173	293	303	693	1,289	1,462		
Murchison	454	272	283	1,009	390	325	649	1,364	2,373		
Eastern Goldfields	623	539	339	1,501	123	93	235	451	1,952		
	1,137	850	696	2,683	806	721	1,577	3,104		5,787	
Southern—											
District	60	49	65	174	544	493	922	1,959		2,133	
Unclassified—											
Beyond the confines of civilisation				6,000						6,000	
Totals	4,402	3,619	1,922	15,943	1,768	1,578	3,100	6,446		22,389	

APPENDIX No. 4.

THE NATIVES' MEDICAL FUND.

Statement showing Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 30th June, 1950.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.					
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1st July, 1949—					30th June, 1950—				
To balance brought forward			1,836	1 7	By claims paid—				
from 1948-49					Doctors Accounts	594	16 4		
					Hospital Accounts	2,757	10 11		
					Sundry Accounts	189	13 9		
30th June, 1950—								3,542	1 0
To contributions for 1949-50	4,649	10 6			By balance carried forward to				
Less Refunds		10 15 0			1950-51			2,945	16 1
			4,638	15 6					
To contributions for 1950-51									
paid in advance			13	0 0					
			£6,487	17 1				£6,487	17 1

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1950

Corporate Author: Western Australia. Dept. of Native Affairs

SF 25.6/2

www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/wa_prot_list.html

[r000005704177_1950_a.pdf](#)