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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Commissioner of Native Affairs

for the

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1952

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Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

The Hon. Minister for Native Welfare.

In conformity with Section 73 (6) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947 (as reprinted) I submit herewith my report on the condition and welfare of such aboriginal natives as come within the scope of the duties and responsibilities of the Department for the year ended 30th June, 1952,

Before going on to discuss these matters in greater detail, however, it is perhaps worthwhile to point out that the vast majority of aborigines in this State, of both full and mixed blood descent, seldom if ever require the special treatment which the Department is authorised by its legislation to give them. A safe estimate of those who do would be not more than twenty per cent. There are approximately 21,000 aboriginal natives in Western Australia at the present time and of these 2,700 mostly children, are cared for and maintained in Mission and Government Institutions at part or whole Government expense respectively. One hundred and fifty others are provided with food, clothing and blankets by the Department through ration depots and other centres. The remainder are either independent or, willy nilly so far as they are concerned, dependent upon their employers. Under existing legislation it is an offence to employ an aborigine excepting under permit issued by an officer of the Department. The inconvenience of this system to employers, particularly those resident in the more remote localities, is immediately obvious and because of this aboriginal workers are sometimes deprived of the opportunity to work because the employer is unable or unwilling to comply with the statutory requirement. Aboriginal workers detest the system; to them it connotes a state of inferiority and discrimination against them merely because of their colour and legal classification and not because of inefficiency on their part.

Employers are also required by legislative direction to pay a contribution to the Department's Native Medical Fund in respect to native employees. At first sight this provision may appear to be a wise and beneficial one where natives are concerned, particularly because of the fact that the contribution insures the native worker and his family against illness or accident; in some cases it is, but in general practice it is confusing to all concerned with it and most difficult to administer. Because it absolves an employer from liability under the Workers' Compensation Act a native who is permanently injured or incapacitated in the course of his employment is entitled only to free medical treatment and hospitalisation whilst under treatment; compensation for loss of life, limb, sensory organ, etc., is not payable. The Fund would thus appear to be of greater security value to the employer than to the native employee. Doctors are seldom able to determine whether the native patient is covered by the Medical Fund, is able to pay the prescribed fee or is destitute, and therefore a statutory charge on the Department. Consequently they usually take the line of least resistance and send all accounts to the Department, sometimes weeks or even months after the service was rendered and the debt incurred, and the task of categorising the accounts at such time and under such circumstances may well be imagined. Probably the worst feature of the whole system, however, is its effect upon the natives themselves. Some of them have manifested a surprising degree of self-dependency and insist on paying their way under every circumstance, even to the point of objecting to the medical accounts incurred on their behalf being paid from the Medical Fund. But the vast majority have long since come to regard their medical and dental treatment and hospitalisation as being an entitlement available to them because

they are "natives" and whether they are employed at the time or not. It may not be altogether inconsistent for them to invoke this form of discrimination in their own interests but the point is that they are not legally entitled to a free health scheme when they are in a position to pay for such services rendered on their behalf and the Department has not statutory authority in such circumstances to pay on their behalf. Strenuous efforts are being made by the Department's Field Officers to combat this attitude and to encourage those living in daily contact with whites to accept the same responsibilities and liabilities as are accepted by the whites in respect to themselves and their families, the results have been more encouraging than we had expected and that many people who "know all about natives" may be prepared to believe.

These are examples of legislative measures which are in urgent need of revision; there are many others which have the effect of retarding rather than advancing natives towards their assimilation into the white community and their acceptance of the duties and liabilities as well as the rights and privileges of citizenship. The year in report did not produce any administrative development of major significance, a fact which does not imply that there were no avenues or opportunities for progress; there were, but without a firm declaration of policy to guide it and provide a basis for its administrative development, the Department has been obliged to "mark time" in many respects. Ratification of the Canberra conference resolutions passed in September, 1951, might well have provided that urgent need.

The Canberra Conference.

In July, 1951, the Prime Minister advised that the Commonwealth Government had been giving consideration to the question of the welfare and advancement of the native peoples of Australia. Although, under the Constitution, the administration of native affairs was divided between the Commonwealth and the States within the boundaries of their respective territories, he believed it was their common desire, in view of international obligations, that they should do their very best for native peoples and, as far as possible, work to common aims and uniform policies. The Prime Minister believed that this best could be achieved by close Commonwealth-State collaboration and regular consultation and exchange of views on common problems, whilst still leaving local administration to function at the Territory or State level. On behalf of the Commonwealth Government he invited the State Governments concerned to be represented at a conference, to be held in Canberra, of Federal and State Ministers responsible for native welfare, for the purpose of discussing the question generally and considering proposals for Commonwealth-States co-operation in this field. This is believed to be the first occasion in the history of the Commonwealth that representation at a conference on native welfare matters has been at Ministerial level. The conference eventually took place on the 3rd and 4th September, 1951, and this State was represented by the Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs (Hon. V. Doney) and the writer. Before leaving the State the following statement on the important subject of citizenship for natives was prepared and read by me at the conference:—

This (Citizenship status) is probably the most important item on the agenda for our consideration, because it deals with certain aspects of our administration which do not

appear to be clearly understood, even by ourselves. This is clearly evidenced on page 1 of agenda 1, wherein it is seen that the term "aborigine" does not appear ever to have been satisfactorily defined in existing legislation. In Western Australia any person possessing more than a quarter degree of aboriginal blood is classified as a *native* (not as an aborigine) for the purposes of the Native Administration Act, but in some circumstances a quadroon may be classed as a native—on application or by order of a Magistrate.

I discussed this subject briefly with the Solicitor General last week, and he quoted a lengthy judgment in a case involving the definition of an aboriginal resident of a State; it ruled that an aboriginal native may be a person who is *in any part* a descendant of the original inhabitants of a country, in Australia the "original inhabitants" would be those who inhabited the continent at the time of the arrival of the first white navigators and settlers. The South Australian definition appears to conform with this ruling.

Under the provisions of the Nationality and Citizenship Act, 1948, all Australian aboriginal natives are the subjects of Her Majesty. They are citizens of Australia and may exercise such rights *as are not denied them as natives by special references in other legislation (State or Commonwealth)*. Whilst these references are to natives, that is, aborigines, and their descendants generally and not particularly to the natives of any one State, such a condition does not contravene the Commonwealth Constitution.

From this fact emerges the conclusion that the only bar to full citizenship rights for aboriginal natives is the discriminatory clauses contained in some legislation, such as, for example: The Commonwealth Social Service Benefits Consolidation Act in respect to aboriginal natives having a preponderance of aboriginal blood; the State Electoral Act of Western Australia in respect to full-blood aboriginals and aboriginal natives of the half blood or with a preponderance of aboriginal blood; and the Native Administration Act, the Licensing Act, the Dog Act, and other pieces of legislation in the case of *all* people classified as natives.

In Western Australia we have the largest aboriginal population in Australia, ranging in caste from the primitive nomad to the very near white. We consider it is impossible to cater satisfactorily for them all by any one Act and we feel therefore that the obstacles *must* be removed, particularly in respect to the native residents of the south of the State, who in every material way now live after the manner of whites and not as aborigines.

There are two methods of removing these obstacles. The first is by the amendment of all legislation which discriminates for or against natives, and the second is by the passage of a single piece of legislation which will automatically supersede the discriminatory clauses in other legislation.

In Western Australia the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act of 1944 attempts to execute the second method, but there are unsatisfactory and limiting features of this Act. The method used is to declare the successful applicant for citizenship rights to be deemed to be no longer a native. This is obviously unjust and quite wrong in principle since it implies that black is made white by an Act of Parliament. It requires that a successful applicant shall no longer associate with members of his own race, and it therefore tends to emphasise the implied inferiority of natives, and so destroys pride of race. The qualifications as laid down by the Citizenship Rights Act are unsatisfactory, and the granting of citizenship rights under this Act seldom if ever improves a native's status in the white community but—and this is a very

important point—it *denies him the advantages of special legislation enacted for his benefit*. Whatever the original intention of the legislators may have been the effect of this Act has been to leave the successful applicant suspended, as it were, between two communities, that of the white man on the one side and of the aboriginal native on the other. Naturally, the conditions under which citizenship rights are granted are in the vast majority of cases more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

There can be no more powerful argument for a thorough overhaul of our native policy than the fact that Australia, as a signatory to the United Nations Charter, approved the Declaration of Human Rights, and accepted as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost the well-being of its native dependants, and to this end to ensure their political, economic, social and educational advancement. Obviously we are not fulfilling that obligation whilst we continue to discriminate against aboriginal natives in the way that I have mentioned.

It seems to me, therefore, that this conference should press for the removal of all discriminatory legislation, and insist on the recognition of all aboriginal natives as native citizens of Australia having full citizenship rights. If this is approved, then the way would be open for the introduction of special native welfare legislation which may apply at the discretion of the State Native Affairs authorities only to natives who, though possessing full citizenship rights in respect to other legislation, may still stand in need of its benefits.

The task is now to discover the means of effecting these requirements. Care must be taken that legislation to remove the discriminatory clauses of other legislation does not also preclude natives from the provisions of the proposed native welfare legislation which is of a discriminatory nature in that it discriminates in favour of an under-privileged and retarded class of citizens constituting a special social problem.

The matter was fully discussed at the conference and the following statement was subsequently issued:—

The Commonwealth and States, having assimilation as the objective of native welfare measures, desire to see all persons born in Australia enjoying full citizenship. It is also desirable that there should be uniformity throughout Australia in the enjoyment of the privileges of citizenship, and in any limits which may be set on these privileges, by necessity, in the interests of the individual and of the community.

There are at the present time in Australia many persons of aboriginal or part-aboriginal blood who are prepared for and capable of accepting full responsibilities of citizenship. In the future, as the measures for the advancement of native welfare show results, the number of persons so qualified will increase. At the present, and for many years to come, there are also a number of persons, particularly in the northern parts of Australia, who require the benefits of special legislation in order that their own interests may be safeguarded and in order that their advancement in civilisation may be assisted.

At the present time some anomalies are created by reason of the various definitions given to the terms "native" and "aboriginal" in such special legislation and by reason of the difference in the application of the system of exemption from such legislation. It is recognised that a system of exemption is open to objection in as much as it suggests, to some people, that all persons who are defined as "aborigines" or "natives" in the respective Federal and State legislation are regarded as

constituting a different class of citizens by their very nature. The more correct statement of our view is that those persons to whom the special legislation applies are wards of the State, who, for the time being, stand in need of guardianship and who should automatically cease to be wards when they are able to assume the full citizenship to which they are entitled. This view could be given clear expression by amendments of existing legislation where necessary, so that, in place of attempts to define a native or an aboriginal, the legislation would be made to apply only to those persons deemed to stand in need of the provisions of such legislation for their guardianship and tutelage.

Each of the representatives at this conference will make recommendations to his Government in order to give the effect to this view in the manner best suited to the State or territory under its jurisdiction.

We recognise that some of the barriers against the enjoyment of all privileges of citizenship today are not legal but social barriers. These citizens will only enjoy the privileges of citizenship if they can live and work as accepted members of the community. Therefore it behoves all sections of the community to co-operate in the ultimate assimilation of our native people.

The seeds of progress and recognition of the rights, dignity and worth of our native people as members of the human race appear to have fallen on barren soil because up till the time this report was written there has been no evidence of the conference resolution having been adopted by the participating States.

The whole concept of our present day legislation and the administration of natives throughout Australia is basically, fundamentally and entirely wrong in my opinion because they undoubtedly tend to inculcate in natives generally a sense of inferiority in themselves and shame of their own race and colour. I am referring, of course, to those who are in close contact with whites and consequently are more frequently affected by legislation and administration. Welfare officers of the Department are frequently informed by natives in a manner that is forthright and revealing: "I am not under the Native Act; I come under the White Act," meaning that they have been either exempted or granted citizenship rights. The vehemence manifested does not carry the pride of achievement but a pathetic aggressiveness bordering on defiance that is distressing to hear. With caste aborigines this emphasis on their "whiteness" instead of acknowledgment of their aboriginal inheritance (of which they have every good reason to be proud) postulates in my opinion that we have helped to destroy in them a pride of origin which should have been our Christian duty to protect and preserve. Even at this stage it is not too late to make some amends and preserve something of what is left of centuries old culture and the fine personal attributes of one of the most interesting races of people in the world today. Are we big and mature enough to do it?

Visit of Dr. Margaret Mead.

During October, 1951, Dr. Margaret Mead, Ph.D., D.Sc., Associate Curator of Ethnology, Department of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, visited this State. I had the pleasure and privilege of taking part in a symposium arranged by the Adult Education Department of the Perth University in Winthrop Hall as an associate speaker with Dr. Mead and the Hon. Paul Hasluck, M.H.R., and of personally conducting Dr. Mead on a tour of part of the

South-West and the Department's metropolitan establishments. Subsequent to her return to the United States I received the following letter:—

I want to take the occasion of my return to the United States to thank you again, in writing, for all the courtesy you and members of your staff extended to me during my visit to Western Australia. As you know, I had waited until I reached Western Australia to investigate the current conditions and government policy toward the aborigines. I did this because I had been informed, most reliably as it turned out, that under your direction a set of vigorous and worthwhile measures were being undertaken. I was most impressed by what I saw—by the recognition in your office of the hierarchy of problems (with housing at the head) and of the urgent need for providing more advanced education with suitable living conditions for both boys and girls.

It should encourage you to know that the current state of the world and Australia's role in the Pacific make it possible for every constructive invention made in Western Australia to be translated into terms that will affect not only the reputation of Western Australia and of the whole Commonwealth but also the fate of the native peoples everywhere, and that may bring about an increased ethical clarity for all English-speaking peoples in their dealings with native people.

My heartiest congratulations on what you have already been able to accomplish and my best wishes for the development of your programme.

W.A. NATIVE WELFARE COUNCIL.

Quietly and unobtrusively a few unofficial, non-denominational welfare organisations have been actively engaged in promoting the welfare of natives in the metropolitan area for some years. More recently they have been joined by others until at the end of 1951, there were 14 of them. Their aims and objectives were similar and parallel, generally speaking, but their activities were singular of purpose and therefore unco-ordinated and much of their valuable work, especially that of intercession, was dissipated in a welter of voices and opinions and frequently, as a consequence, overlooked or ignored. With a view to bringing these bodies together so that their efforts could be co-ordinated, I invited them to send representatives to a meeting which took place in my office on 30th January, 1952. As a result the West Australian Native Welfare Council was formed and immediately became an active representative body. Subsequently it was recognised by the Hon. Minister for Native Affairs on behalf of the Government as the body authorised to speak on behalf of the affiliated welfare organisations other than those controlled by the Government and the Churches or Missions. In May, 1952, Mr. E. H. B. Lefroy accepted the position of President of the Council. Since its inauguration the Council has taken an active interest and participation in such important matters as housing, education, subsidisation of Missions, social services discrimination, native welfare conferences, visiting of prisons, confessions in Courts by natives, hostels for natives and many other worthy projects and movements. Generally the Council has played an important part in educating the public on the question of native welfare and has been of considerable assistance to the Government, the Department and to the natives themselves.

The essence of the Department's work lies, of course, in the activities of its officers in the field and, in another sphere, the missionaries who work under departmental administrative supervision and benevolent control. The reports received from them up to the date of writing are as follow:—

Section "A."

DISTRICT REPORTS.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

District.—Comprises the East and West Kimberleys, and referred to as the Northern District.

Headquarters.—District Officer and District Office at Derby.

Staff.—Assistant District Officer at Wyndham, in charge of the East Kimberley sub-district, (Mr. I. W. Andrews). Euporean Clerk, Mr. F. Dodd, who carries out clerical duties at District Office. Native Assistants, Edmund, at Wyndham, Bobbie and Freddie at District Office, Derby.

It should be the ambition of all District Officers at the end of each year to unfold the activities of their Districts in an interesting and fulsome annual report. There is pleasure to be derived from showing what progress has been achieved during the 12 months, but it is hardly possible to do justice to such a report when the necessity to write it comes before one has had the opportunity to study one's District.

On the 18th April, 1952, I took over my duties as District Officer, Northern, from the then acting District Officer, Mr. N. Hawke. My staff at that time consisted of Patrol Officer (later promoted to A.D.O.), Mr. I. W. Andrews, stationed at Wyndham, one European Clerk, Mr. F. Dodd, at District Office, Derby, and two native Assistants, Bobbie and Freddie, both at Derby.

I consider the attitude of the employer most important and I do not mean always the manager, for though some of these appear decent enough fellows, they act merely as puppets to do the bidding of someone often far away. In many of these cases the man with his family live in conditions difficult to imagine. It is a wonder that in such instances the native gets anything, and it does not amount to anything much at times.

There are two classes of stations, (1) the established concern, often part of a large company, and (2) the smaller man who is battling to stabilise his position. With the latter, one can be tolerant, for I have seen natives on this type of property better off than the owner. The fact that they stick to this man is good proof they are satisfied. The former owner has no excuse for tolerance to be shown. His ruthlessness and penny-pinching, in regard to his native labour, reduces them to the point of being slaves. Such are the conditions relating to my District at present.

Within the boundaries of the Northern District are found the following:—

Missions.—Beagle Bay Mission; Lombadina Mission; Sunday Island Mission; Wotjulum Mission; United Aborigines Mission, Fitzroy Crossing; Pallottine Mission, Balco; Forrest River Mission; Drysdale Mission; Holy Child Orphanage, Broome.

Government Institutions.—Moola Bulla Native Reserve and Cattle Station, La Grange Native Reserve.

Cattle and Sheep Stations.—Approximately seventy (70) in this area.

Missions.

As yet I have only visited a few Missions, but realise that their part in the shaping of the natives' future here is gigantic, and, from a study of those with which I have not come into contact, I can say with assurance that without exception there is a keen desire for progress, and an understanding, second to none, of the native's requirements to help him in his assimilation process.

Many of these Missions are working under severe handicaps due to shortage of funds, and inaccessibility of transport to procure materials, goods, etc. In these cases much initiative has been shown in the use of local materials for buildings.

In all cases, except one (and this one is only becoming established) school is being conducted for all children of school age, and it is indeed a pleasure to see the progress which has been attained with their pupils. It is only with education that the young aboriginal will have a fighting chance to survive.

Industry.

The employment of natives in this district appears to be mainly connected with the cattle and sheep industries, although not a few find employment in the towns, and on luggers connected with the pearling industry.

The native appears to have little interest in agriculture, and the opportunity here for that type of employment is not great. In the cattle and sheep industries he shines in stock work, for he has a natural aptitude for it.

Education.

This is a most important aspect of the young native's chance for his assimilation into our way of living. At present excellent work is being done by Missions, and the school at Moola Bulla, but there are many hundreds of young children on stations who have no opportunity to receive school education.

There is also at these stations a strong resentment to allow these children to leave the station to attend the nearest school, for they are selfishly looking to them to provide the station with future labour as stockboys, etc., and think that once they receive education they may not desire that form of employment. In my opinion it will be a long time before there may be such a reaction.

I sincerely feel that the provision of education for natives can be more vigorously attacked, and with the placement of schools in strategic positions throughout the district, no upset in the present labour position should be experienced by the compelling of children of school age to attend school.

Medical.

Most stations are equipped with a good supply of medical requirements for normal use, and all are able to send sick natives to hospital by road or air.

The Flying Doctor serves a great need for all at outlying stations, and even though a station may not receive regular visits, it can in cases of illness request a visit to be made.

From my small experience, however, many stations have not had a thorough check of their natives made by a doctor for some time, and this is considered a matter of urgent importance.

Much can be accomplished by the building of suitable quarters to house and segregate sick natives at stations.

The hygiene at many native camps I have visited was deplorable. This reflects directly on the person in charge. No attempt in many instances is made to supply the employee with any sanitary or washing facilities, nor is he supervised in the cleansing of his camp area. The exceptions that I found were an indication of what all could be if proper facilities were provided and supervision maintained.

The health of the natives seen appeared quite good, but only a medical inspection of all natives at the stations would give a true picture.

Accommodation.

What a vast variance of opinion station owners have regarding *suitable* accommodation for their native employees. A good attempt by many to provide their natives with individual housing for each family is being made, but one is sometimes shocked by the apathetic attitude of some to provide anything. I have witnessed such disgusting sights as natives crawling in and out of self-made spinifex and old rags shelters, with perhaps an odd piece of iron scrounged from a dump for added protection against the weather.

In my opinion, the excuse that material is unobtainable has been worn out. It is long past time when such a state of apathy can be tolerated.

Census.

During my short term of office, prior to the end of the year, I was able to take a census of Broome native population. Four hundred and three names were obtained, and although not complete, it will be of considerable use for years to come.

Patrols.

Several patrols were carried out in the East and West Kimberleys during the 12 months, although many areas were not inspected.

Patrolling is very important for one can do more by personal inspection and contact than could be accomplished by means of correspondence. It will be my aim to carry out a vigorous patrol programme, both by myself and my junior officers.

CONCLUSION.

On the whole, not a very bright picture. There are, however, many compensating and encouraging features which make me hopeful for improvement in the forthcoming twelve months.

(Sgd.) J. S. BEHARELL,
District Officer,
Northern.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

For purposes of administration this district is divided into two sub-districts termed the Gascoyne and the Pilbara. When considering native welfare, however, a further division is necessary, resulting in four areas, the Gascoyne, Ashburton, Roebourne-Tableland and Pilbara.

EMPLOYMENT.

Speaking very broadly, and from the natives' point of view, conditions of employment are satisfactory in the Gascoyne and Pilbara, reasonably good in the Ashburton, and fair only in the Roebourne-Tableland area. Each is discussed separately below.

Gascoyne.

This area has been settled a long time, and has generally been reasonably prosperous. There is very little rough country, and communications by both road and telephone are good. Improvement in the conditions of native employment has therefore been a process of steady evolution, and is still going on.

When considering native welfare in the pastoral areas it is usual to inquire into four aspects—food supplied, quarters provided, rates paid, and the personal attitude of the management. Food in the Gascoyne is good, probably without exception. Quarters are generally satisfactory, some being excellent, with separate kitchen and dining room, septic system and other such refinements. Those few stations with poor quarters have difficulty in retaining labour. Pay varies from £4 per week with keep, to award rates, averaging probably between £6 and £7 per week. The personal attitude of the management is more important than may be realised, and seems to be the main factor in holding a native labour force together. The popularity of a manager will sometimes outweigh poor pay and indifferent quarters provided by the owners.

A fifth factor is now impinging on the native mind—that of education for his children. Happily the Gascoyne is well served in this regard by the Churches of Christ Mission at Carnarvon. This institution at present caters for children drawn from a wide area, and, as it grows, will probably be adequate for all native children in the Ashburton and Gascoyne districts.

Most natives in the Gascoyne visit Carnarvon at least once a year—notably for the annual races. The Carnarvon reserve is gradually being improved, and during the year under review a Nissen hut for hospital out-patients has been erected. Ablution and sanitary facilities have also been made available, wastage being disposed of in a dry well and septic tank. These septic systems have received absolutely no abuse.

Ashburton.

In most respects employment conditions here resemble those in the Gascoyne, but generally are not quite as good. On the average, wages are lower, and in some cases there is room for improvement in housing. The old Onslow reserve has recently been taken over by an Army Unit connected with the Montebello experiments, and a new reserve has been gazetted. At present it has a water supply, but no other facilities.

At present very few native children from this area are being educated, but I understand that the Churches of Christ Mission at Carnarvon hopes to expand sufficiently in the near future to accommodate all who wish to attend. The Mission is assured of the fullest co-operation of this office in this regard.

Roebourne-Tableland.

Although I have not patrolled this area extensively I have seen enough to form the opinion that there is room for considerable improvement in native employment conditions. Cash wages are generally too low to enable married natives to clothe their families adequately and at the same time purchase the small extras which add pleasure to life. I was also surprised to find that the old "boiled meat and bread" diet is still in evidence. Luckily for employers, these natives have a particularly strong feeling for their own country, and are reluctant to leave the area, even though they have usually heard that better wages are obtainable elsewhere. However, there is evidence that the employers are reasonable in their outlook, and in the coming year I am confident that considerable improvement will be effected. Now that there is a field officer of this Department stationed at Port Hedland it will be possible to patrol this area thoroughly, and I anticipate that his efforts at mediation will be successful.

Conditions on the two Roebourne reserves are not good. Each has a somewhat primitive water supply, but no other facilities. It is hoped to remedy this position to some extent in the coming year.

Perhaps the most unsatisfactory feature of this area is the complete absence of educational opportunities for native children. With the anticipated improvement in the housing and living conditions of township natives, there will soon be absolutely no justification for the exclusion of these children from the Roebourne State School. The District Superintendent for the Education Department has already expressed his willingness to co-operate to this end.

The alternative, if an alternative is desired, is the establishment of a Mission at, or near, Roebourne. Although this encourages segregation to some extent, I believe it desirable, as it could accommodate children from outlying stations, as well as from the township. It could also exercise a benevolent supervision over the old and infirm natives in the ration camp.

Pilbara.

During the past year native employment in this area has been the subject of much controversy and a Committee appointed by the Government has made exhaustive inquiries into many aspects

of this question. At the time of writing the Government has not made any announcement resulting from the inquiry, and the subject is therefore hardly open to discussion at the moment. It is possible that some finding will have been published before this report is printed, in which case a full account of the activities of the Pilbara Group may be included under a separate heading.

Port Hedland itself is notable for the number of coloured people who have qualified for the full rights of citizenship. These people have amply demonstrated their ability to hold their own in our society. This progress towards assimilation is also apparent in other small communities—notably at Marble Bar and at Shark Bay.

Education.

Next to conditions of employment, that is, day to day welfare, I regard educational opportunity of paramount importance. At the moment the Gascoyne is the only area which can be regarded as satisfactory in this regard although the needs of the Ashburton will probably be met when the Carnarvon Mission is able to extend its dormitory accommodation. I understand that plans are already in hand for these extensions and, in its building programme, the Mission is deserving of the fullest support from the Government.

Regarding Roebourne, I endorse the remarks made by my predecessor in his report last year. I urge that every effort be made to interest some mission body in this field. During the past year much of the local opposition to the establishment of a mission has been overcome and I believe that suitable land would be readily available.

Education facilities also are urgently required in the Pilbara, but this subject will probably be covered by the Committee inquiring into native affairs there. The recent closing of the White Springs Mission adds to the difficulty.

An interesting fact has emerged from the State School attached to the Carnarvon Mission, and no doubt from other such schools where native children are segregated from whites. In most schools where co-education exists school teachers notice a falling off in the natives' ability after the fourth standard is reached, that is, after the child reaches his tenth year. There is absolutely no sign of this tendency at the Carnarvon Mission school. The obvious inference is that in the average school a native child becomes aware of his social disabilities at about the age of ten. As a result his will to learn must inevitably suffer. At the Mission school, where the children have little or no contact with white society, they do not become aware of the disadvantages of possessing a coloured skin, and their outlook is not warped. The solution to this problem can only come from an enlightened white society. Segregation of all native children is manifestly impossible, and in any case, would only delay the impact. Sooner or later the young native must take his place in society.

Another fact, already well recognised by authorities, is evident at this Mission school, namely, that ability to learn is not related to the degree of skin pigmentation.

Opportunities for Natives.

As mentioned earlier, in some smaller communities North of the 26th parallel full assimilation is almost an accomplished fact. In the larger centres there is still a great deal of prejudice against coloured people and good positions in commercial firms are generally closed to them. However, there are exceptions, and it is probable that their number will increase. In Carnarvon a half-caste youth is apprenticed to the "Northern Times" and is proving quite suitable. An older brother is employed in the Carnarvon Office of this Department, and is a competent typist and office assistant. A number of coloured girls are employed in hospitals in this District, and are giving satisfactory service. Unfortunately, blind prejudice creeps in even here. At the Carnarvon Hospital a patient has been known to refuse a cup of tea from a coloured wardmaid!

The demand for native labour on stations still exceeds the supply, and while wool prices remain satisfactory this situation is likely to continue. Apart from routine stock work there appears to be ample contract work offering, particularly fencing and well sinking.

Medical Services.

With the exception of inadequate accommodation at Onslow and Roebourne, medical facilities in this District are roughly the same as for white residents, that is, reasonably satisfactory. The Pilbara is well served by the Native Hospital at Port Hedland, and in all other hospitals too the attitude of the staffs is sympathetic and helpful.

Justice.

During the year there have been the usual minor prosecutions of natives. The vast majority of these have been for receiving liquor. The question of amending W.A.'s legislation to permit natives to drink is a fiercely controversial subject, but one which cannot be shelved indefinitely. Undoubtedly there are some natives who would abuse the right to drink, just as there are whites who do precisely the same thing. Some protective legislation for this class would obviously be necessary.

There are many other privileges denied to natives, simply because they are natives. This surely makes a mockery of the term assimilation, the avowed policy of the Government of this State. During the year under review Supreme Court rulings have indicated that particular legislation for natives should be interpreted in a protective, rather than a restrictive sense. There can be no doubt that the strict enforcement of many parts of the Native Administration Act, and of parts of other Acts relating to natives, is oppressive in character.

Administration.

The stationing of Mr. H. R. Tilbrook at Port Hedland as Assistant District Officer for the Pilbara District is a forward step. With field officers at Port Hedland and Carnarvon it will be possible to patrol the whole District adequately.

Offices are under construction at both Port Hedland and Marble Bar, and a patrol vehicle is on order for Carnarvon.

A great deal remains to be done in the promotion of native welfare in the North-West District, and the present staff looks forward to a year of endeavour, and it is hoped worthwhile achievement.

(Sgd.) F. E. GARE,
District Officer, North-West District.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Introduction.

If a report of substantial improvement in the general welfare of natives in the Central District during the past financial year is looked for in these pages it will not be found; unless abandonment of some of the more archaic administrative measures embodied in native administration legislation can be taken as evidence of progress. A more realistic view is to regard such administrative readjustment as oiling the creaking joints of an outmoded machine.

The district administration is still set in the framework of legislation which, for the most part, was designed to cope with a situation existent in 1905 and now, although amended in 1936 and 1947, bears little realistic relation to conditions as they exist or as they may develop in the future. The Native Administration Act still places more restrictions on the personal liberty of natives and still places more limitations on their exercise of citizenship privileges than any other piece of legislation. The Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, although some of its procedural clauses were amended during the year, is still based on the erroneous conception that to be fit to be a citizen of Australia a native must legally be classed as a non-native, must pass a qualifying personal examination and

must refrain from associating with his own kind. To gain this privilege he must be cut off from assistance by the Department set up to promote his welfare.

In 12 months not one native was assisted to procure a house for his family although nine applications to the housing authority had been made. The installation of necessary facilities on native reserves was postponed through lack of finance and only work which had been commenced in the previous year was completed.

Contact with natives, so essential to any welfare measures, fell well below the minimum requirement, principally because of staff changes and preoccupation with multitudinous clerical matters.

To counterbalance these gloomy reflections and to avoid the charge of undue pessimism some of the brighter aspects of the year's developments may be mentioned.

Christian missions continued to make their considerable contribution to native welfare and were helped to improve the scope of the services they render by increased financial assistance.

There is good evidence of a growing public sympathy with the native cause and a definite indication that a section of public opinion is becoming informed, organised, and effective.

Greater native interest in enhanced educational and vocation opportunity for their children is indicated by the fact that Alvan House was packed to capacity during the year and considerable interest has been shown in the establishment of its counterpart in McDonald House, the hostel for boys.

In October, 1951, Perth was visited by Dr. Margaret Mead, of the Department of Anthropology, New York, who manifested a close interest in the work of this Department. It was encouraging to receive her good opinion of what was being attempted.

Part I.—Administration.

1.—Staff.

Death of Mr. L. O'Neill.

It is a melancholy necessity to open this section of the report by recording the death on 31st August, 1951, of Mr. L. O'Neill, Assistant District Officer of Native Affairs at Kalgoorlie. Mr. O'Neill was of such genial nature and friendly manner that he was well liked by all who made his acquaintance, both natives and others. His sudden death broke a long association with the Department, and was deeply regretted by his many friends.

The many changes of staff in this district throughout the year, though dictated by unavoidable circumstances, have had an extremely limiting effect on progress, particularly in essential field work, and have, more than anything else, retarded the smooth development of policy for which the basis had been set by the close of the previous year. One death, two resignations, one termination of service, and 11 transfers all had a telling effect. There were two complete changes of staff in the Murchison Sub-district which necessitated two officers starting afresh in this area. There were two changes of staff in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district and in addition this Sub-district was manned for a total of only five months of the year. Whilst there was an officer in charge of the Central Sub-district throughout the whole year, there were under his direction a total of seven officers receiving training or instruction. All of them at some time or another had dealings with natives of the Sub-district, who, coming into contact with a succession of new officers, became thoroughly confused and wondered whom they would meet next. It is essential for a welfare officer to know thoroughly the people he is working amongst; it is equally essential for the people to know and place their confidence in him, and in this respect little advance can be expected under the circumstances that have applied during these 12 months.

The following staff postings and appointments were held:—

District Headquarters.

District Officer—Mr. B. A. McLarty from 10/3/52 (acting until that date).

Assistant to District Officer—Mr. H. H. Knight.
Typist (attached from head office)—Miss M. Watt.
Junior Clerical Assistant (female)—Miss G. Brockman from 29/8/51.

Central Sub-district.

Assistant District Officer—Mr. A. G. McCrae from 6/6/52 (until then Acting Patrol Officer).

Acting Patrol Officer—Mr. P. K. O'Dea, 8/1/52 to 6/3/52. Mr. A. O. Day (awaiting transfer to Port Hedland) 13/3/52 to 4/4/52; 12/4/52 to 1/5/52.

Cadet Patrol Officer—Mr. A. O. Day, 1/7/51 to 18/1/52. Mr. W. C. J. Grafen, 9/7/51 to 21/9/51 (transferred to Southern District). Mr. L. R. Marchant, 15/11/51 to 21/3/52 (leave without pay). Mr. A. C. Hammond 18/2/52 to 25/2/52 (resigned). Mr. A. G. Down, from 18/6/52.

From December, 1951, to March, 1952, Mr. I. W. Andrews, Patrol Officer, East Kimberleys, was attached to this office for general experience.

Murchison Sub-District.

Assistant District Officer—Mr. R. H. Brand, until 6/8/51 (resigned).

Acting Assistant District Officer—Mr. H. R. Tilbrook, 1/8/51 to 2/5/52 (transferred to Port Hedland).

Acting Patrol Officer—Mr. A. O. Day, 2/5/52, to 30/6/52.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

Assistant District Officer—Mr. L. O'Neill, until 31/8/51 (deceased).

Acting Patrol Officer—Mr. A. O. Day, 19/1/52, to 12/3/52, and 5/4/52 to 11/4/52 (office closed). Mr. P. K. O'Dea, 7/3/52, to 2/4/52 (terminated).

2.—Missions and Institutions.

A brief description of the eight Missions and four Departmental institutions in the district was embodied in the last report and, as each institution submits its own report, mention need only be made of items of special significance.

As far as Missions are concerned the most significant administrative feature was the increase of the subsidy scale and the grading of missions for subsidy purposes. These were accompanied by an emphasis on voluntary admission of children in lieu of the past method of Departmental direction. The weekly inmate subsidy had been at the grossly inadequate rate of 4s. per head for a stipulated maximum number of inmates for each Mission. This naturally imposed a heavy and unfair financial burden upon institutions undertaking a disproportionately large share of field welfare work in comparison with the State and an increase of subsidy was sought to bring it to parity with that paid by the State in respect of institutions under the control of the Child Welfare Department. This was not granted, but the rates were increased to 12s. 6d., 10s. 6d., and 9s. per week for Missions graded according to the services they provided and assistance to Missions in marginal areas continued to be in the form of issues of bulk rations, blankets and clothing. Cash subsidies are accompanied by blanket and clothing issues and medical and dental treatment of subsidised inmates is paid for from Departmental funds. The increased rate is still insufficient for full maintenance of even a child and it is felt that Missions should not have to suffer this financial handicap in addition to the cost of building, staffing and maintaining their establishments.

The change from compulsory to voluntary admission was greeted in some quarters with scepticism and the argument has been intermittently raised that the only hope for the future lies in completely removing native children from all their associations with family and camp life. Apart from its flavour of inhumanity I am opposed to this view for practical reasons. The first is that it is a fallacy to expect any real advance in the welfare of natives without their co-operation and participation; they are quite as strongly anti-pathetic to being "done good to" as anyone else and enforced separation of children from parents does little more than arouse the bitterness of adults and children alike. Secondly, it is no less important to realise the future role of missions in

all but the most remote areas. The days when they functioned as harbours for a displaced, unwanted and industrially incapable people have long passed and they have now to make (and are making) a positive, more specialised contribution to native advancement. With the gradual improvement in the civic, social and economic status of natives, particularly caste natives in settled areas, this tendency for missions to specialise becomes more marked and the time can be envisaged when they will become native boarding schools for educational and technical training purposes. They can never function effectively in this role whilst there is any savour of detention about them.

That natives can give their full support to missions by voluntarily handing over their children for education and training is amply demonstrated by two successful examples. The United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret, holds such a high place in the esteem of natives of the North-Eastern Goldfields area that it has become the social and cultural centre for natives of that district and children in the homes are in excess of 120. The Methodist Mission, Mogumber, which took over the old Departmental Moore River Native Settlement at the beginning of the financial year had at its close 61 inmates; and this in spite of the intense dis-favour with which the old settlement was regarded by natives generally.

Only in those cases where the welfare of children is endangered by palpable neglect or in cases of minor delinquency are compulsory measures taken to have native children admitted to institutions and then only by application to a Children's Court Magistrate. All other admissions are by written agreement between parents and Mission authorities, ratified by the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

With respect to Departmental establishments the principal matter of interest is McDonald House, a hostel for native boys in West Perth, which was established early in 1952. The first admission was made on the 2nd February and at the end of the year there were four inmates. The functions of this hostel are similar to those of Alvan House and it fills a long-felt need. The necessity for structural alteration and renovation limits the number of boys who can be accommodated.

Alvan House accommodated eight girls at the beginning of the year and this number grew to a total of 18. There were 13 girls resident at the end of the year.

Cosmo Newbery Native Station has been functioning in the dual role of feeding centre for bush natives and reformatory for delinquent native children. Its function in this latter role was watched with interest. It was found advisable not to retain girls at this institution and no such committals are now being made. It has, however, had a very salutary effect on delinquent boys and one very notable result has been that not one native boy was before the courts for commission of an offence in this district throughout the whole year.

All Missions and Departmental institutions were visited during the year.

3.—Protectors of Natives.

Little change occurred in the protectorship system and the district policy in force last year remained in operation. No effective change can be brought about without a fundamental alteration of native welfare legislation. There was a slight increase in the number of "lay" appointments and the total number of protectors in the district is 66, made up as follows:—

Honorary protectors	3
Mission superintendents	9
Non-official persons	10
Police	44
	<hr/>
	66
	<hr/>

4.—Patrols.

Although there was a greater total number of officers who served in this district this year, frequent staff changes, lack of transport, and a greater

volume of administrative duties contributed to a lessening of effort in this vital sphere of activity, with a noticeable deterioration in personal contact with natives. This was most noticeable of course in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district, which was unstaffed for more than half of the year. A regular patrol programme was not maintained in the Central Sub-district but some lost ground was regained in a patrol of wide scope and intensity at the end of the year. The number of patrols in the Murchison Sub-district was less than in the previous year, but the quality of the patrol work done was of better standard and the tendency to "inspect" gave way to a more thorough and sympathetic system of visiting natives. Some useful information was obtained and the field officers established a closer personal relationship with natives.

General surveys of the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields Sub-districts were carried out by the District Officer to gain first hand knowledge of their special problems and to guide the officers directly in charge.

Details—

District Officer's Inspections.			
No.	Miles. Approx.	Area.	Duration. Days.
1.	2,500	Eastern Goldfields (all missions, Departmental institutions, etc.)	24
2.	2,047	Upper Murchison (including Jigalong)	17
3.	660	Central Sub-district and Lower Murchison	4
4.	784	Kalgoorlie (special duty)	9
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	5,991		54
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Central Sub-district.			
1.	726	Eastern Wheatbelt	22
2.	700	Moora Area	10
3.	355	Pinjarra Area	4
4.	1,139	Eastern Wheatbelt and Moora Area	21
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2,920		46
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Murchison Sub-district.			
1.	1,542	North-Eastern Area	18
2.	939	Northern Murchison	14
3.	316	Lower Murchison	5
4.	433	Geraldton - Northampton	21
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	3,230		58
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Eastern Goldfields Sub-district.			
1.	637	Southern Area	5
2.	397	East (Trans. Line)	6
3.	525	North-Eastern (incomplete)	4
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	1,559		15
	<hr/>		<hr/>
		Total.	
15.	<hr/>		<hr/>
	13,700		173
	<hr/>		<hr/>

5.—Reserves.

Records pertaining to native reserves have always been of a rather sketchy and incomplete nature and without accurate records (particularly in the absence of lithographs) it had been difficult to determine just what reserves existed in the Central District. From what information has been gathered, however, there appear to be 53 reserves gazetted for a variety of purposes, including mission sites, Government institutions, camping sites, native reservations (tribal country), native cemeteries and reserves for the use of individual natives (agricultural purposes), etc.

Some of these reserves urgently needed the installation of hygiene and ablution facilities, but apart from work begun in the previous year (at York, Pinjarra and Northam) no new work was initiated. Installation of facilities or improvement of existing facilities had been requested in respect of several reserves but approval for expenditure was not given by the Treasury.

6.—Buildings.

There has been no change in the position of offices since last year. Further attempts were made to locate more suitable quarters for the District office, but with no success, and the cramped situation was only eased by the cessation of the natives' waiting room to function as such. This was converted into the Central Sub-district office.

Outstation offices are still located at Mullewa and Kalgoorlie.

7.—Vehicles and Mechanical Equipment.

The only vehicle on charge is WAG 2052 Dodge Utility which was taken over by Mr. A. O. Day on the 16th May, 1952, for use in the Murchison Sub-district.

8.—General Administrative Functions.

In continuation of the policy of decentralised administration a larger volume of purely administrative functions has descended on the district field staff, to some extent to the detriment of personal field contact. Much of this is due to the requirements laid on the Department by outmoded legislation which enjoins a policy of almost individual administration of natives' affairs. A change to legislative authority for bolder measures would render unnecessary many of these minor routine desk duties and release time and energy for more constructive work.

9.—Public Relations.

Even the most casual reader of the Press should be aware that the public is becoming increasingly interested in (and sometimes vehemently vocal on) what is known as the Native Problem. Talks, addresses and participation (when requested) at meetings of interested organisations have helped to inform public opinion on a matter which was one of public indifference only a few years ago. There is a growing section of the public which is demanding for natives a greater share in the country's civic life and opportunities. With the formation of the Western Australian Native Welfare Council this section of the community, as represented by various organisations and societies, was given authoritative and unanimous voice.

Part II.—Natives.

1.—Vital Statistics.

Native population returns as compiled by Police Officers indicate a total of 4,815 natives of whom 2,670 are caste natives and 2,145 are fullbloods. Details for the sub-districts are as follow:—

	Fullbloods.			Others.		
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Male.	Female.	Children.
Central	43	20	36	310	261	591
Murchison	320	228	139	355	307	500
E. Goldfields	347	292	220	102	77	165
Totals	710	540	395	767	645	1,256
	2,145			2,670		

These figures are relevant only to natives in or near towns and take no cognisance of those on pastoral properties or living a tribal existence. Patrols have indicated that the native population is far in excess of the estimates above, as evidenced by a patrol of the Northern Murchison which recorded 175 natives on 24 stations who had not been included on population returns. The total number of natives in the Central sub-district according to these returns is 1,261 which is far below the number recorded by name in the sub-district census book.

The Central Sub-district census, with 1,596 names entered, is now almost complete. Little progress was made with the detailed census in the Murchison area, however, only 200 additional entries having been made bringing the recorded total to 830. As the latest knowledgeable estimate for this sub-district is 2,600, two thirds of the work remains to be done. Previously no start had been made with the Eastern Goldfields census and this was commenced in February, 1952. In the brief period the office was staffed 298 names were recorded.

Information from the Registrar General's Department shows that registration was effected of 17 marriages, 148 births and 61 deaths, in the Central District for the period 1/7/51 to 30/6/52. Whilst these are not the actual figures of births and deaths, they give a fair indication of the preponderance of births over deaths, more than 2 to 1, which is probably true of the native population as a whole.

2. Health.

Again no attempt is made to discourse on a subject on which I and my officers are not competent to form a qualified opinion. Almost the only guide I have to the health of natives in my district is the volume of accounts of doctors and hospitals for treatment of native patients which pass through my office (1,468 have been dealt with). These, together with observation of the more obvious ills, indicate that the natives' health is poor and the chief contributing factors are most probably poor living conditions and bad diet.

The following extract of a patrol report is fairly typical of the district as a whole—at least of natives in settled areas:—

Although there has been no outbreak of disease or sickness to any serious degree, the general standard of health, particularly among the children, is very poor. Parents invariably claim that the health of the children is good and gives no cause for concern. This, however, is not confirmed, but rather refuted, by the appearance of children actually sighted, by teachers' reports and the opinion of the medical authority.

The common ailments are:—

1. Digestive, including malnutrition, enteritis and diarrhoea.
2. Bronchial, including pneumonia, colds.
3. Scabies.
4. Eye infections.

3. Education.

No statistics are available as to the number of native children in schools. A State School education is available to those who live within range of the schools and attendances are enforced. In remote areas, the education of natives is in the hands of Missions which are tending to come under the direction of the Education Department in this respect. Attendance reports vary, but absenteeism, where it does exist, is usually found to be the result of itinerant family life.

Schools are visited on each patrol, bad attendance reports are investigated and the progress of promising students is watched. A number of prospective admissions to Alvan and McDonald Houses are in view for final consideration before the opening school term in 1953.

4. Native Labour and Employment.

A detailed study of this subject was presented in the last annual report and there has been little change in the over-all position during the year under review. Towards the end of the year there was a noticeable falling off in the demand for native labour and unskilled work (for which most, unfortunately, are only fitted) was difficult to find. At the same time there had been an increase in wages, following the general trend. Shearing rates, of course, were higher than the previous year and so were contract rates for clearing and fencing. Reports from the Murchison sub-district intimated that working conditions, wages and quarters on pastoral stations had improved.

A good opportunity for useful employment was presented to natives at the Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Zanthus, by the Australasian Sandalwood Company when it arranged for the cutting and dressing of sandalwood on the native reserve there. The primary function of this Mission was to draw off from the Trans. line the groups of natives who were accustomed to beg food and money, to the degradation of themselves and the embarrassment of this Department. They were successful in this and had succeeded in inculcating a sense of self respect in the natives. It was essential, however, that they be engaged in some useful activity before they became dependant on Government rations. The Mission authorities were fully preoccupied with the task of locating water supplies and were not in a position to organise any economic activity. A few natives were intermittently employed on wood cutting contracts but not sufficient work was available to absorb many.

The sandalwood contract was therefore timely and was seized upon with such enthusiasm that they were pulling the sandalwood by hand due to lack of suitable vehicle. By all reports they did a competent job of cleaning.

5.—Crime.

The attached appendices set out details of natives convicted of offences throughout the year. Figures for the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields Sub-districts, however are probably incomplete as these records are dependant on reports from Police Officers. The Central Sub-district figures are reasonably accurate and again show the tendency so evident last year—apart from offences connected with liquor native misdemeanours were negligible. Of a total 532 convictions, drunkenness heads the list with 246, followed by receiving liquor (an offence only a native can commit), 158, and stealing 16. Twenty-four other types of offence are represented by 112 convictions.

Four Courts of Native Affairs were held during the year:—

- (1) *Rex v. Lilburra*: 5/7/51 at Laverton; charge, Murder. The Court comprised Mr. T. A. Draper, R.M. (Chairman) and Mr. H. J. Coate, representing the Commissioner of Native Affairs. Mr. L. O'Neill appeared for the defence. Result, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to four months' imprisonment.
- (2) *Rex v. Yeendeen*: 5/7/51 at Laverton; charge, unlawful wounding. The Court was constituted as above. Result, convicted and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.
- (3) *Rex v. Frank Dixon*: 29/10/51 at Meekatharra; charge unlawful carnal knowledge. Mr. T. Ansell, R.M., was Chairman of the Court and the Rev. D. McCaskill represented the Commissioner of Native Affairs. The defence was undertaken by Mr. H. R. Tilbrook. Result, convicted and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment.
- (4) *Rex v. Tony Yungoojee*: 24/1/52 and 13/2/52 at Kalgoorlie; charge, wilful murder. The Court comprised Mr. M. Harwood, R.M. (Chairman) and Mr. A. O. Day, representing the Commissioner of Native Affairs. The defence was undertaken by Messrs. Cowle, Macoboy and Vincent. Result, Yungoojee was acquitted.

6.—Native Welfare.

The introduction to this report is in reality an introduction to this section of it, since native welfare should be the chief concern of the Department and the goal of all field activity. It is an all-embracing phrase which can be narrowed down to comprise these two principal aspects, civil status and physical well-being. Regarded in that light, it is difficult to point to any single advance or even general improvement in native welfare during the past 12 months as the basic disabilities still remain. It is less difficult to show cause why notable progress has not been made and an examination of these causes may be appropriate. "Civil status"

contains the twin considerations of citizenship and legislation; physical welfare includes health and housing.

Citizenship.

In September, 1951, at Canberra, the Commonwealth and States Conference on Native Welfare, which was attended by State Ministers and departmental heads under the chairmanship of the Minister for Territories, included in a resolution on citizenship the ideal that "the Commonwealth and States, having assimilation as the objective of native welfare measures, desire to see all persons born in Australia enjoying full citizenship. It is also desirable that there should be uniformity throughout Australia in the enjoyment of the privileges of citizenship, and in any limits which may be set on these privileges, by necessity, in the interests of the individual and of the community.

One has to look very closely to find any evidence of the implementation of this resolution in this State and so far as results here are concerned the conference, in this aspect at least, appears to have been abortive. It did have the effect of stimulating some discussion on the subject, much of which, though genuinely well intentioned, has been exceedingly ill-informed.

On a natural born Australian, native or white, citizenship is not something which can be conferred; though it can be limited and in some respects, denied. Natives are natural born inhabitants of Australia and in most respects they do exercise, according to their intellectual, social and economic capabilities, the rights, privileges and immunities of citizenship, and are subject to its duties and liabilities. They are entitled to receive a free education in the State Schools, to receive remuneration for their labours, to expect from the State protection of their persons and their property, to seek employment where they desire; they are required to contribute to taxation, are subject to the penal codes and must abide by any of the laws enacted for the preservation and safety of society generally. They are not expressly classified as non-citizens; but have been singled out for the imposition of special limitations in several sets of legislation of which the Native Administration Act is the worst offender; others include the Electoral Act (recently amended to provide a more rigid exclusion) the Social Services Consolidation Act, the Liquor Act, and the Criminal Code. All of these contain specific discrimination against natives which has the effect of denying them some of the privileges enjoyed by white citizens and of imposing on them additional liabilities which they alone must bear.

A review of all legislation which makes reference to natives indicates that it must have been the view of legislators that natives formed a separate and distinct section of the community, racially, physically, morally and intellectually apart from the rest, and all legislation seems to have been designed to emphasise this segregation. Thus to be classified as a native automatically infers belonging to an inferior class; to be granted equal status with white citizens a native must be legally classified as a non-native and heritage, racial pride and individual self respect must be suppressed.

This misconception has resulted in the complete failure of such measures as the Natives' (Citizenship Rights) Act which requires a natural born Australian to undergo the humiliating process of exposing his private life to a public court in order to receive some benefits which should have been his by birthright. The time is well overdue when a new concept should be the basis of legislation having reference to natives. Prohibitions and limitations should be removed and welfare legislation should contain measures of positive benefit designed to recognise natives as native citizens of Australia.

Because of the apathy and neglect of the white population towards their welfare and advancement in the past, which have left them at a disadvantage socially, educationally, financially and economically, natives do, as a group, still require guidance and assistance until they have achieved

complete self-dependence and are allowed to participate fully in the country's activities as recognised members of the community. Such guidance and assistance should be provided by a Governmental welfare agency and should be available to any persons of aboriginal heritage in addition to such benefits as they receive from the exercise of full citizenship. The fact that they may require such help does not make them unfit for full citizenship. The Child Welfare Department exists to provide assistance of a specialised nature for underprivileged or neglected children and to parents who require it through physical, financial or other inability to provide a proper upbringing for their children. Because a mother may have recourse to the help of this Department she is not disqualified for the exercise of citizenship rights and responsibilities; no more is a man who requires the aid of the State to provide a home for his family. Why, then, should natives be so disqualified en masse when some of them from time to time need guidance or aid in the difficult business of ordinary living?

Housing.

Nothing but the most gloomy view can be taken of the complete lack of progress in this important and basic aspect of physical welfare. The first tangible result of repeated representations on the subject of native housing was the advice that six or eight selected natives could apply for assistance to the State Housing Commission for homes to be erected under the terms of the Tenancy Agreement. Five applications were forwarded on behalf of natives in this district in April, 1951.

The result of these applications was never conveyed to me; but from personal observation I can say that not one of the applicants has been housed.

In October, 1951, the State Housing Commission advised me that applications for Workers' Dwellings would be accepted from six selected applicants, sponsored by this Department, provided they owned blocks of land and could pay a deposit and from 25s. to 40s. a week as hire purchase. Four applications were forwarded between 26th November, 1951, and 15th May, 1952. By the end of 1951-52 construction on any of these dwellings had not commenced.

The effect of poor living conditions on native welfare has been too often expressed to require any further emphasis and any attempt to review the position again would be only useless reiteration. I must emphasise, however, that the continued absence of any concrete evidence of a desire to see native people properly housed is having an adverse effect on field officers' relations with them and is contributing largely to the bitter cynicism they exhibit whenever the matter of housing is discussed.

The efforts of such men as Mr. C. Spence, who is contributing both his finances and his knowledge of real estate business to assist individual natives to acquire blocks on which to build, serve to emphasise that the responsibility is a State and not an individual one—and this applies to the whole matter of native welfare.

(Sgd.) B. A. McLARTY,
District Officer, Central District.

Appendix A.

CRIME STATISTICS, 1951-52—CENTRAL SUB-DISTRICT.

	Drunk.	Receiving Liquor.	Escaping from custody.	Stealing.	Breaking and Entering.	Fighting.	Assault.	Traffic Offences.	Unlawfully on Premises.	Disorderly Conduct.	Obscene Language .	Soliciting Liquor.	Indecent Assault.	Attempted Bribery.	On Licensed Premises.	Resisting Arrest.	Unlawful wounding.	Failing to Appear when Called.	Wifful Exposure.	Habitual Drunkard	Unlawful Possession.	Attempted Arson.	In Possession of Firearms.	Delivering Firearms.	Hindering Police.	Miscellaneous Offences.	Wifful Murder.	Totals.
July	28	27	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	62
Aug.	13	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Sept.	22	16	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Oct.	16	15	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
Nov.	10	10	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	24
Dec.	21	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	33
Jan.	23	22	...	2	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Feb.	28	27	1	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Mar.	24	21	1	2	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
April	17	17	1	4	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
May	24	17	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
June	20	15	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	60
Totals	246	158	6	16	4	3	9	4	1	26	10	6	1	1	12	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	1	532

Appendix B.

CRIME STATISTICS, 1951-52—MURCHISON SUB-DISTRICT.

	Drunk.	Receiving Liquor.	Lottery.	Assault.	Drunken Driving.	Negligent Driving.	Failing to Stop after Accident.	Stealing.	Allowing Horses to Stray.	Creating a Disturbance.	Unlawful Carnal Knowledge.	Refusing Name.	Disorderly by Fighting.	On Licensed Premises.	Threatening Language.	Obscene Language.	Wanton Damage.	Violent in Liquor.	Possession of Firearms at Night.	Supplying Liquor to Native.	Abusive Language.	Totals.
July	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
August	2	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
September	2	1	...	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
October	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
November	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	5
January	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
February	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
April	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
May	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
June	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals	16	15	3	3	1	1	1	9	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	65

Appendix C.

CRIME STATISTICS, 1951-52—EASTERN GOLDFIELDS—SUB-DISTRICT.

	Drunk.	Receiving Liquor.	Stealing.	Wifful Damage.	Disorderly Conduct.	Supplying Liquor.	Totals.
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
September	...	...	1	2	1	...	4
October	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
November	1	5	3	...	...	2	11
December	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
January	2	2	...	...	...	...	4
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
June	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
Totals	6	8	11	2	1	2	30

SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Introduction.

This is the third Annual Report to be submitted since the District was constituted as a result of the present decentralised system of administration introduced by the present Commissioner.

I assumed charge as District Officer of the Southern District on 14th May, 1949.

My previous two Annual Reports contained much detail which it is unnecessary to repeat, hence this, my third Annual Report, will be considerably briefer than the two earlier reports.

Extent and Population.

The extent of the Southern District remains unaltered since my last Annual Report and comprises the Great Southern below Beverley and the South-West below Yarloop in the Harvey Road District.

The population figures for the Southern District for the year under report are 2,057 natives, comprising 1,830 caste natives and 227 full bloods, the latter all detribalised. Of this number 558 are males, 470 females, and 1,049 children. These figures are still computed on annual police returns submitted from each police station in my jurisdiction.

The detailed census being prepared by the District Field Staff is not yet complete. It is expected that this census will be completed by the time the next Annual Report is due. When complete this census will provide a reliable estimate of the native population of the district.

Staff.

The District Staff comprises one Field Officer, myself, and two Office Staff, namely, the Assistant to the District Officer and an Assistant who is the shorthand-typist. All three are permanent positions and classified in the latest Public Service List.

The field staff has decreased by one following the closing down on the 6th June, 1952, of the South-West Sub-district Office at Bunbury and the transfer of the Cadet Patrol Officer, Mr. W. Grafen, from Bunbury to the Perth Office.

The clerical work of this District Office has increased considerably due to the decentralisation of administration under which system everything pertaining to the District is handled by the District Office staff. This increase in the handling of clerical work by District Office staffs will undoubtedly take a big load off the Headquarters clerical staff.

I must express my appreciation of the co-operation and whole-hearted assistance received during the year from both Mr. Beall, the Assistant to the District Officer, and Miss Jarrett, shorthand-typist and office assistant.

Patrols.

The District is divided into three patrol areas, the Northern, the Southern, and the South-Western. Each patrol area is visited in turn by the District Officer who makes a monthly patrol.

In the year under report 67½ days were spent on patrol and a total of 10,590 miles travelled during the 67½ days.

Patrols, being the only means of contacting the native population in outlying areas of the District, are the most important part of the field officer's functions. Not only do patrols bring the field officer in contact with natives but also with whites of every walk of life and every shade of opinion. These contacts provide a valuable means of correcting misinformed opinion among non-natives.

Living Conditions.

The biggest single factor which militates against the acceptance of the native by the white community is the native's living conditions. This matter of native living conditions is a real problem and there are many angles to the problem.

There is no doubt that there is little chance of uplift for the hybrid native of the South as long as he continues to live as he does in the squalid camp so well known to field officers of this Department. Earlier in the year under report there was a proposed scheme whereby the State Housing Commission would provide, in the cases of selected native families, modest prefabricated timber frame cottages. Suitable families were to be recommended by this Department. This proposed scheme has fallen through and now natives have to take their place with whites and await their turn under the existing State Housing Commission housing schemes. I feel that in view of the years of failure to provide homes for natives, a special scheme which would provide modest homes for native families could not be construed as showing undue favours to natives and would be in keeping with this Department's policy to provide for the welfare of the native.

However, even if such a scheme were adopted it would benefit only a very few of the best type of caste native families. The bulk of the native people would continue to live on reserves and in camps in the deplorable conditions which have existed for so long and which seem to be their accepted lot. It is these persons who are in need of assistance to improve their lot.

The mixed blood natives of the South for the most part live either in small group communities such as are found on native reserves or in camps or accommodation provided by employers in rural occupations. If some sort of provision could be made for improving the living conditions of those who live in these small group communities, mostly on reserves, an important step forward will have been taken to assist the majority of the Southern natives. I feel that if small structures of simple design, providing one room and verandah, or two rooms, could replace the tin humpy or bag tent that one sees on reserves there will be an immediate incentive for cleaner living. Such quarters could be sold or rented—preferably sold—to the native occupant. Of course, adequate ablution, laundry and sanitary facilities on a community basis are an essential of such a scheme.

With Government finances as they are at present the implementation of such a scheme at Government cost is remote. However, if the rural communities of the South where there are native populations followed in the footsteps of the community at Narrogin in the Great Southern the problem will be part of the way to solution. At Narrogin, where a strong District Native Council comprising local citizens exists, a local lady who monthly arranges sale of good second-hand clothing to natives gave £100 from the proceeds of the sales to the Native Council. With this money the members of this welfare body intend to build three or four small structures of timber and iron on the native reserve to be sold or rented to natives. The timber will be obtained from the local sawmill cut to required lengths and the framework for each structure prefabricated by one of the members of the Welfare Committee, a carpenter. A busy bee of members will then put up the structures. In this way two such structures can be completed in a day. Already this same organisation has put in on the new reserves a water supply and laundry, ablution and sanitary facilities (material supplied by Government) by entirely voluntary effort out of a desire only to assist the more unfortunate coloured community. As each little structure or cottage is sold the proceeds will be used to construct another. In this way it is expected that ten or a dozen neat and permanent residences will grow up to serve the small group community of natives at Narrogin. Admittedly these huts will be small, but they will be a considerable improvement on what at present suffices for residences for natives.

On the other side of the picture of native living conditions in this District there are certain unpalatable truths. It is true that some natives given good accommodation on farms have, with everything in their favour, failed to come up to expectations. Cottages have been left filthy and

grimy by them, floor boards and even furniture used as firewood, and in a couple of cases tent flies rigged up inside rooms. Other natives met have clearly demonstrated that they do not possess even the elements of a sanitary sense. The pessimists maintain that, for the majority of natives, efforts to provide better living conditions will not be justified in the results. The answer to these is that without making the attempt how can one forecast failure. An even better answer is that surely human beings deserve better living conditions than is the unfortunate lot of the native today.

In my view the nearer the native is brought to assimilation the better his chances of improving his living conditions, for by then his attitude will have changed and there will be present the incentive to improve, the will to do better, particularly in regard to mode and standard of living and housing.

This important matter of improved living conditions for natives can only be tackled by bold planning and resolute action on the part of the Government supported by the general public anxious to see justice done to a section of the community whose interests in this important sphere have so long been overlooked.

Meanwhile actual conditions are no different since my last Annual Report was submitted. A few more natives have purchased their own blocks, two from this District have applied for their own homes to be built thereon by the State Housing Commission, with no result; at Collie the voluntary effort of an earnest group led by a local Doctor has resulted in a house being built for a local native family and some improvements have been effected on a number of native reserves. Otherwise the problem of native living conditions in the South, as indeed throughout the State, stands as a challenge to present and future Governments to provide the answer.

Education.

Progress in this important aspect of Native Welfare is being maintained. The attendance of native children at State Schools throughout the District is consistently good. Some parents, awake to the possibilities, are continuing their children at school even after the age of 14 years.

Field staff are constantly on the look-out for promising children for Alvan House and McDonald House, Perth, where they can further pursue their studies with a view to acquiring the necessary qualifications to fit them for careers.

The teachers of the Education Department continue, without exception, to give this Department full co-operation. In many of the smaller schools the headteachers take a keen personal interest in their native charges in many cases even getting to know the parents on whom they are exercising their influence for the good of the native children.

The attitude of the teachers in most schools is responsible for the absence of colour prejudice among the white children, though unfortunately in certain schools this monster rears its head from time to time. From what I am told by teachers in these cases parents undo the good work done by the teachers at school.

Apart from the State Schools in my District, the four Missions also provide for the education of native children.

There are four Missions, namely—

- (1) The Native Mission Farm, Roelands, W.A. (Inc.).
- (2) United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.
- (3) St. Francis Xavier's Native Mission, Wandering.
- (4) Baptist Aborigines Mission, Marribank.

The last named is of very recent origin having taken over from this Department Marribank Farm School and re-opened it as a Mission. I will deal with these Missions under a separate heading.

Missions.

The Native Mission Farm, Roelands (Inc.).—There are 78 children in the Mission which provides education up to Class VI at present. For these children who will shortly require Secondary School education the Superintendent is arranging for them to attend daily at Harvey State School using the School bus service to go and come from the Mission.

The standard of education and training imparted at the Mission is high and most satisfactory results have been achieved with boys and girls who have passed out from the Mission and for whom the Mission has found employment. There is an Annual Reunion in January of each year at the Mission attended by old boys and girls of the Mission which enables the Mission authorities to keep in touch with ex-students and so still to further guide them and watch over their interests.

Boys are taught practical farming including tractor and vehicle driving and maintenance. Several of the boys who have passed through this Mission are doing well for themselves. One at Yallingup is now share farming on a dairy property.

Girls are trained in domestic science and encouraged to continue with their general education to the point where they can qualify for nursing and other avocations of life. Four girls at present in the Mission are preparing for nursing careers. An ex-pupil who went East for her training has already passed the Preliminary Examinations at the Bethesda Hospital in Victoria. Those girls who do not show ability for career jobs are placed in domestic employment in suitable homes selected in the first instance by the Mission Superintendent.

An ex-Roelands girl is at present employed as a domestic in Government House, Perth.

Medical attention for inmates of this Mission is provided by conveying them to Bunbury 17 miles distant.

There are no adult natives at the Mission which caters for children only.

The United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.—There are 28 children at this Mission, but because there are adults and native families living on the Mission property the number of children attending the school varies from 34 to 40. Of the 28 boarders at the Mission, five are infants under the care of a trained mothercraft nurse who with her husband are members of the staff.

The school at this Mission consists of a corrugated iron building of two rooms and quite unsuited for use as a school. In fact all buildings at this Mission are of poor standard. The girls' and boys' dormitories are particular examples of poor workmanship. They were constructed by the Superintendent, assisted by a Mission worker. The boys' dormitory collapsed during the course of construction.

Lack of funds is, of course, the reason for poor standards at this Mission. The Superintendent and staff are doing the best they can with what they have. Poor location, an unsympathetic and indifferent district and, in my opinion, choice of unsuitable persons to manage the Mission are no doubt reasons why this Mission has not been able to achieve anything so far. There are no boys and girls who, as a result of their stay in the Mission, have been fitted for careers and better types of employment—as is the case of Roelands Mission. A few girls only, not more than three that I know of, have been placed in domestic employment from this Mission. It is to be hoped that now that several parents have signed consent agreement forms to leave their children at the Mission till 16 years of age, the Mission will be able to provide better results than in the past.

The Education Department has materially assisted this Mission by providing a qualified teacher for the Mission school and supplying blackboards, library, stationery, etc., for school use. This Department has provided some items of sporting gear for boys and girls. What the Mission really needs, namely, a new school building and teacher's quarters is, however, a remote possibility.

This Mission has a one-bed Maternity Ward in the charge of an experienced midwife. But for this facility native expectant mothers would experience great difficulty as the Gnowangerup Board Hospital refuses to take native maternity cases on the ground of shortage of staff.

St. Francis Xavier's Native Mission, Wandering Brook.—This Mission has been functioning since the first term of 1950.

There are 31 children at the Mission, all girls, as only the girls' block has been completed; work on the boys' block is not expected to start in the near future.

This Mission has been planned on a grand scale and includes provision for a Convent, Monastery, Infirmary, girls' and boys' blocks, a Church, and plenty of playground space. At present the Convent and girls' block only are complete and the male staff occupy a temporary building.

Of the 31 children at the Mission only 21 attend school and of the remaining ten, four are infants under school age and six are working and training as domestics.

The Mission is faced with a teaching staff problem as the Italian Nuns there at present are not English speaking, being refugees from China. Four new Nuns are expected from Germany in approximately April, 1953. They are English speaking and this should solve the difficulty as they will replace the Italians.

The Mission provides education up to Class 2 only. I would like to see this Mission teach up to Class IV or V in view of the ages of the girls at the Mission; this will come, however, as doubtless being only 2½ years old the Mission is having its teething troubles, greatest of which is shortage of adequate teaching staff.

The health record of the Wandering Mission is particularly good and the very rare abscondings would indicate that the children are happy in their surroundings.

Baptist Aborigines' Mission, Marribank.—During the financial year under review this Institution was Marribank Farm School and administered by the Department. Since November, 1952, however, it has been taken over by the Baptist Church as a Church Mission and will be dealt with in the next Annual Report.

Employment and Wages.

The position has altered somewhat since my last report. No longer does native labour dominate the labour market in the Southern Districts as it did formerly. The influx of New Australians is responsible for this. Nearly all Great Southern towns have their quota of New Australians. Keenly appreciative of the value of money as they are, both men and women are prepared to work not only the normal hours but, in many cases, on week-ends too. The presence in the labour field of competition provided by white labour, prepared, in most cases, to give full value for money paid, is affecting availability of work for natives. I know of several farmers who have turned from native labour to New Australian labour. This, however, only applies to labouring jobs proper such as chopping down, clearing, burning off, cutting fence posts and fencing. Crutching and shearing, however, are not jobs that the New Australian has taken to yet, and most natives being good shearers, still dominate the market for this type of work.

Again, farmers who formerly employed native couples are turning to New Australian couples and, of course, jobs on Road Board labour gangs now are rarely available to natives, being filled from the ranks of New Australians.

Even amongst domestics the position is becoming difficult. At Cranbrook a native woman complained to me she could not get casual employment as previously, as the New Australian women were being given the work instead. The complainant woman is within my knowledge unreliable and obviously employers wanted the more reliable labour.

Perhaps this competition in the labour market might produce good results. The unreliable native, and there are many in both sexes, might be compelled, under pain of finding himself regularly unemployed, to give of his best on those occasions when he does secure employment. The many reliable workers, both male and female, amongst the natives are much in demand; former employers are always inquiring if they are available at different times of the year. Generally these natives always know where to find work.

I am somewhat apprehensive of the time when with more and more New Australians completing their contracts, they really begin to compete with the native in the Southern Districts for the lucrative forms of employment, including shearing, now largely monopolised by native labour.

Wages are good. The Southern native is too astute to allow himself to be underpaid, although the odd case does come to light. Natives in the South generally command the basic wage and at shearing time good shearers are paid well over the basic wage. At this time of the year a good shearer has no difficulty in earning £35 a week.

There is still much demand throughout the South-West and in parts of the Great Southern for female domestics as living-in employees. The trained native domestics now in employment throughout my district are highly regarded by their employers. It is a pity there are not more facilities for training of young girls for domestic service. Throughout this district year after year the number of young girls leaving school increases thus providing an increase to the numbers living in camps on the outskirts of the various Great Southern towns. Amoral by nature, it is not long before many of them are in trouble. If Government finance was forthcoming for the establishment of a domestic training centre in the South at one of the prominent towns, such as Narrogin, many young girls could be converted to a useful way of life and some hope in the future.

Health and Medical.

The native of the Southern Districts continues to maintain a high average standard of health. This is surprising in view of the poor living conditions of the greater majority of the natives, particularly during the wet winter months.

Children comprise by far the greatest percentage of patients, quite understandably because of the variety of illnesses to which children are susceptible. A satisfactory feature is that parents are making full use of the medical facilities available to them and their families. Doctors' accounts for medical attention are guaranteed by the Department which undertakes after meeting the Doctors' accounts, to try and recoup from those natives who are not covered by the Medical Fund.

Regrettably, however, natives generally are not attempting to repay the Department as expected and in many cases resort is being had to Courts to make the native pay—an unsatisfactory expedient in a welfare Department as it tends to destroy the native's confidence in the Department. A better arrangement would be to make natives liable for meeting the doctor's expenses direct where they are not covered by the Medical Fund and for the Department to pay the doctors only in those cases in which the native is so covered by the Medical Fund or is indigent. (This has since been implemented).

The Natives.

The native people of the South are keen followers of press and radio references to themselves, their problems and the suggested solutions. Keenly discussed amongst themselves is the prospect of their acquiring a civic or national status in the not too distant future. Citizenship Rights—magic words to the native—the open sesame to a brave new world to their way of thinking, if granted as a birth right is not going to make a great deal of difference other than conferring on the native a status which should be his by right. The native will still need guidance and tutelage and a considerable amount of prodding towards acquiring a better standard of living and all that goes with it.

The awakened interest of the native in his lot in life, including as it does the serious attempts by many to lift themselves to a higher level, has produced some pathetic features. The most noticeable of these is the attempt by many who are neither educationally nor psychologically equipped, who have known no other abode than the bush camp or who have never had the benefit of an upbringing, to try to attain to something they have no proper conception of.

I have seen cases of natives provided with good accommodation by employers, just not knowing how to live in the accommodation provided. One family pitched a tent inside the main room of a house provided. Another used the pine wood wall lining for firewood. Education and closer contact with white standards such as is being provided the rising generation today should be a means to overcoming this very real difficulty.

Generally speaking natives in the Southern Districts are receiving more consideration at the hands of the Police than was formally the case. This is due chiefly to the Department's field staff. It used to be the practice in the major Great Southern towns for natives to be ordered off the streets after 6 p.m. and even during the day to be "chatted" by police officers re their presence in town. As a result of the stand taken by this Department's officers during visits to country centres this attitude to the natives has considerably diminished.

Recreational facilities for natives have increased to a certain extent. At some country centres cinemas are now thrown open to natives and in the field of sport there are several teams in country football associations which field one or two natives in their sides. At Narrogin one team fielded as many as 10 natives on one occasion and usually plays six or seven natives in its side. One association, however, in the Great Southern continues to specifically ban coloured players.

At Narrogin cricket for natives has been started by the Narrogin District Native Council and attempts are being made to arrange intertown matches amongst the coloured folk.

This advantage of participating in sport and recreational facilities—even to a limited extent—seems to make the native more dress-conscious than hitherto. Good wages, satisfactory employment opportunities and the factors referred to immediately above are tending to produce a better dressed native than two years ago. This is very apparent in any country town on a weekend when natives are in town doing their weekend shopping and then stay over for "the pictures."

The standard of turnout of native children at the State School has also improved. This may be attributed to visits of the field staff to schools and camps inquiring how native mothers make use of their Child Endowment. Native parents generally seem to be taking a genuine interest in their children's education, not for fear of what will happen should they be found not sending their

children to school, but mainly because of the opportunities afforded those who can qualify academically.

Public Relations.

This aspect of the field staff's duties is being most assiduously pursued. I have long since realised that the general public is notoriously lacking in the knowledge of what constitutes "the native problem" so often and so glibly referred to. It behoves us to ensure that public opinion is of the "informed" type as an informed public opinion could prove a very valuable asset in the Department's work for the amelioration of the lot of the native people of the State.

During the year under review meetings have been addressed by me by invitation at Kojonup, Mount Barker, Wagin and Bunbury, and also at my Headquarters at Narrogin. This has resulted in the formation of Native Welfare bodies at Narrogin and Wagin and at Kojonup and Mount Barker interested persons are working to this end, too.

At smaller gatherings where informal discussions ensue on the vexed question of "natives," it is not long before one can convince the reasonable-minded that the native is more sinned against than sinning. People however are too prone to the view that the welfare of the native people is no concern of theirs, there being a Government Department handling the matter. As a result however of our Public relations work the impression is gradually gaining ground amongst the public that the uplift of the native people is the responsibility of the people generally and not only the function of one Government Department.

A pleasing feature of my contact with the public in this district is that it is now being increasingly realised by them that there are limitations on what the Department can attempt, apart from what it would like to attempt, and that these limitations are not entirely financial ones. It is generally conceded that the Department is admirably attempting a most difficult task in the face of most adverse conditions.

There are, of course, those who blinded by prejudice and intolerance cannot excuse the present condition and standards of the native people of the South. These persons cannot accept the relation of cause and effect as applying in this question. Such persons, however, are fortunately in the minority and as time goes on and our public relations work progresses, it is, perhaps, not too much to hope that the bulk of thinking people will not only be solidly behind the Department in the responsible task assigned to it but even become more vociferous in insisting that the work of native uplift and assimilation be assigned its rightful place amongst the important and immediate commitments of the Government of the day.

(Sgd.) C. R. WRIGHT WEBSTER,
District Officer, Southern District.

Section "B."

DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND HOMES.

MARRIBANK FARM SCHOOL.

In the Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1951, it was stated that it was too early to predict how successful the Farm School would be. During the year under review it became obvious that the scheme was a failure. At the beginning of the year a staff of 14 was employed to care for 26 inmates, maintain the farm and tend the stock. In March the staff had been reduced to 11 and the inmates 16, with a further reduction of staff to seven in June. The only new inmates were State Wards and it became clear that the native people would not give their support to the school. In fact, they opposed any suggestion of sending their children there whilst youths would not volunteer for enrolment. The acceptance of State Wards at the school kept alive in the native's minds the idea that the place was only a reformatory. The results attained in farm training were negative. Thus, the cost of maintaining the Farm School did not warrant its continuance and a decision was made to abandon it.

As soon as this decision was made, three Missions made application to establish a Mission there. The success of the Mogumber Methodist Mission, which had taken over the abandoned Moore River Settlement, had become apparent during this year and favourable consideration was given to the handing over of the Marribank Farm School to the Baptist Mission.

During the year considerable capital improvement was made at the Farm School. The most important was the excavation of three 2,000 cubic yard dams, which have been filled and now provide a sure water supply. All fences and gates have been renewed and repaired. A sheep dip has been built and stock yards made. A cool chamber, engine and compressor, have been installed. Twenty bales of wool were produced, and 2,190 dozen eggs were sold.

The Superintendent, Mr. K. A. Hall, ceased duty on the 30th June, 1952, handing over to Mr. G. Haughan, who is to remain in charge of the caretaking staff until the Mission takes over.

MOOLA BULLA NATIVE STATION.

On this station we have our largest concentration of natives in the State. There is much activity at the institution and in the pastoral pursuits. Over the years the property has been allowed to become run down but during the year under review a programme of improvement has been commenced. The following is extracted from the report submitted by Mr. C. L. McBeath, the Manager-Superintendent:—

Education.

As in past years this phase of the Institution's activities is given priority, and again I am very pleased to report a most successful 12 months in this field. All the children attending the Moola Bulla Native Station School have shown keenness to an extraordinary degree in their desire for knowledge over the past 12 months. This state of affairs is most heartening as education coupled with post school training will undoubtedly prove the salvation of the native residents of this State, and their future rests in the hands of the children of today as they can accomplish the spade work if their efforts are guided into the right channels.

At the 30th of June, 1952, attendance was seventy-three (73), as against sixty (60) at the 1st of July, 1951, an increase of thirteen (13). Twelve children were admitted from outside sources, and one of station parentage, seven being caste and six fullblood. All except two were admitted at the request of the parents concerned. Three girls, all sisters, were brought in from the Northern Territory by their mother as she originally came from this State.

Mr. and Mrs. Gill, the teachers, continue to spare no effort to secure the success of the Station School, and in this regard they also have the full co-operation of all the pupils. Personally I have never seen such a large number of coloured kiddies so completely fond of school study and this of course reflects great credit upon the work being performed by Mr. and Mrs. Gill in their capacity of teachers. These kiddies love their school.

A sewing class operates on-half day per week and tuition is imparted by Mrs. Ivy Carter, who is a young half-caste woman married to a half-caste employed as mechanic on the station. The majority of the older girls show aptitude for general sewing, and also fancy work. They eventually become very keen dressmakers and designers. Mrs. Ivy Carter is particularly good in this latter regard.

To date no attempt has been made to include any form of technical education for the boys but this will be arranged in the future when a suitable building can be constructed to house the equipment which will be required.

Evening classes continue to be held by Mr. Gill, mostly two nights each week. Such classes are well attended by the young people here at the main station and the majority of the school children also. I am very grateful indeed to Mr. Gill for the interest he displays in this avenue of education, and have little need to mention that this is a voluntary contribution to native welfare.

Some parents are pathetically eager to have their children educated and display such attitude when requesting admission.

School recreation takes the form of organised games, singing and square dancing, all being held during school hours and greatly enjoyed by the children.

Health.

No visits were received from Government Medical Officers during the year past, and therefore examination has only been possible by transporting natives into Hall's Creek on such occasions when the Government Medical Officer from Derby has visited that centre by plane. Although this procedure is not as satisfactory as a general inspection, and examination at the station, at least doubtful or urgent cases can be handled in this manner. The fact that the Medical Officers at both Derby and Wyndham can be contacted by pedal wireless and advice received, is a factor which provides a feeling of security which would be entirely absent otherwise.

During mid-September, 1951, Doctor Lee of Sydney passed through and remained at this Station for several days as a guest. The doctor very kindly examined the majority of the inmates requiring this attention and the advice and assistance rendered in this regard was greatly appreciated. The resumption of such medical inspections would be welcomed by all.

Following are some particulars of treatment given by the Station Sister at this institution over the past twelve months. Numerous minor treatments are not recorded.

Diseases:

Herpes Zoster	3
Infective Hepatitis	1
Anaemia	3
Boils	15
Abscesses	2
Cellulitis	11
Common Colds (approx.)	150
Ear Infections	40
Eye Infections (approx.)	100
Nasal sepsis	20
Tonsillitis	18
Ringworm	4
Pyelitis	4
Dermatitis	2
Enteritis (mainly children, approx.)	100
Swollen glands	12
Cardiac failure	1
Rheumatic fever	1
Centipede bites	3
Croup	1
Abdominal pain	3
Intestinal colic	1
Ulcerated mouths	10
Pneumonia	6
Bronchitis	2

Accidents:

Lacerations requiring sutures	14
Burns	8
Sprains of wrists and ankles	11
Concussion	2
Apoplexy	1
Fluid on the knee	2
Multiple bruising	8
Miscarriages	2
Lacerations too numerous to record.	

Despite this imposing record of complaints enumerated, the general health of the inmates has been really quite good throughout the year under review, but this information indicates the necessity for the presence of a fully trained nurse at the Institution at all times.

During the twelve months there were two serious outbreaks of influenza, the first affecting approximately 75 per cent. of the population, and the second 25 per cent., and following occasional cases cropping up throughout the entire year.

Sister Fleming who commenced a six months period of duty at this Station on the 7th May, 1951, resigned and left on the 11th December, 1951. The vacancy thus created was filled by the appointment of Sister M. Ward, previously Tutor Sister at the Busselton District Hospital, who commenced duty here on the 23rd February, 1952. Sister Fleming gave good service here at Moola Bulla but only took the position as it assisted her in a plan to circle the continent and reaching her home town by May, 1952. Sister Ward is very earnest, and an excellent nurse, who is very well liked by all the inmates and I will be very sorry to see her go in February next when her period of engagement expires, this being twelve months.

As yet I have been unable to erect a hospital and am still using an old building for this purpose. After this coming wet season it may be possible to erect a pise type of structure for hospital, clinic and nurse's quarters.

Natives Generally.

During the year past the inmate average has been approximately two hundred and twenty (220). This figure is lower than the previous year due to the fact that a number have been placed in outside employment. The population of this Institution and Station is made up of both caste and full-bloods, the latter naturally predominating. The number of indigent types in receipt of bulk rations is relatively small

because of my practice of providing employment where possible in order to avoid indigency which I consider results in a definite loss of prestige amongst these old people. There are twenty (20) very old natives classed as indigents, and completely unemployable.

At the 30th June, 1952, the native population of this station and institution was as follows:—

Caste.—Male adult 19, female adult 14, children 46, total 79.

Full-blood.—Male adult 54, female adult 48, children 44, total 146.

Grand total 225.

Out of the total of thirty-three adult castes all are employed in some capacity with the exception of three (3) they being engaged fully in home duties.

All nineteen (19) adult male castes are employed in the various sections of the Institution, or Station side as stockmen, mechanics, carpenters, yard builders, fencers or trainees, the rate of remuneration being according to ability and aptitude, and all are very satisfactory in their particular branch of employment. This is particularly gratifying when one stops to consider that prior to my taking over, the caste person was treated in a similar manner to the bush type of native.

As in the past the male full-bloods are mostly engaged on stock work, the balance performing such duties as pumping, gardening, fencing, yard building, general labouring, hygiene, etc., and the younger ones as trainees in the various sections. During the past twelve months I have endeavoured to place both caste and full-blood youths in employment for which they appear best suited, and not allocate according to rule of thumb methods. This action is already showing very good results. During the coming year at least five or six children of both sexes will complete their education and they too will be placed in the particular training field for which they are considered best suited, and with due regard to their own wishes. The old view of stock work for boys, and domestic service for the girls without any exception has been well and truly exploded, and many now realise all too well that the native can be very capable if only given the opportunity and training when young enough to absorb instruction.

In August last a general wages scale was implemented at Moola Bulla and at the close of this year 45 were listed on the station wages sheets, the rate ranging from ten shillings per week for trainees to award wages. All wages are paid in cash or cheque, and the employee is paid the full amount at all times. This is very important as the worker then has the opportunity of handling all the money and thus learns monetary values more quickly. From what I can gather some employers of native labour follow the practice of extending credit through the station store and the employee permitted to make purchases in excess of wages, which simply means that he or she is always in debt and never consequently actually handle any money. Such methods are also very confusing to the native mind. At this station it is noticed that the coloured people are now showing a greater sense of monetary values than hitherto. This is pleasing because I regret to state that there are many only too willing to take advantage of the lack of knowledge of these people.

I am pleased to report that as in the past the inmates here at Moola Bulla have been well behaved and also industrious. There have been no offences requiring police action during the past 12 months. This is actually a great record, and I sincerely hope continues. I am very proud of the people here for their high standard of general behaviour since I took over the management, and it gives me great pleasure to record this fact.

*Warrant and Committal Cases.**Admittances.*

Christina Wright and child, H/c.—
31/12/51.
Teresa Pauline Archill and child—
16/6/52.

Discharges.

Mollie Stainton and 3 children, H/c.—
8/10/51.
Goonabuda @ Trimmer, F/b.—April, 1952.
Joe Dinker, F/b.—March, 1952.

Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Following are the births for the year ending 30/6/52:—

<i>Caste.</i>				
Males	....	....	....	3
Females	....	....	....	3
			Total	6
<i>Full-blood.</i>				
Males	....	....	....	3
Females	....	....	....	1
			Total	4
			Grand Total	10

Deaths.

Two of the caste births shown above were premature and passed away within a few days after being born. Every care was taken, and in addition excellent nursing, but only the most modern equipment and specialist attention could have possibly given these two babies a chance of life. This is most regrettable.

In all there were five (5) deaths for the year, and all were interred in the institutional cemetery and the graves neatly stoned in.

Three (3) aged full-bloods passed away during the year, death resulting from natural causes, particulars as follows:—

Doo-wana-gee @ Dickie, aged approx.
70 years, 11/9/51.
Bar-li-nign @ Shivery, aged approx. 83
years, 13/9/51.
Perera @ Nana, aged approx. 60 years,
4/3/52.

Marriages.

One marriage only was performed for the year, the contracting parties being Jack Trust, half-caste, Moola Bulla Station store assistant, and Bidy Callaghan, half-caste domestic of this station also. The ceremony was performed by the District Registrar, Hall's Creek, Constable Purkiss, on the 19/3/52. A wedding breakfast was provided and arranged at the manager's residence the following evening and presided over by myself. As many friends as possible were invited, and this little celebration was enjoyed by all present. Special quarters were built by the manager with native assistants, and were ready to be occupied immediately after the ceremony and the arrival back on the station of the newly married couple.

Institutional Accommodation and Facilities.

The shortage of institutional accommodation still remains a major problem and can only be overcome by the course of time, plus energy, and materials. As the engagement of qualified tradesmen has proved a failure in the past this phase of the work continues to be carried on by myself assisted by two excellent type half-castes, and native labour. During the year the following work was completed:—

- (1) Cool chamber building and saddler's shop combined, also cool chamber erected. Tubular steel, wood and iron, louvred and shuttered four sides, and concrete floored through-out.

- (2) Portion of temporary hospital partitioned, and floors concreted, also verandah enclosed with spinifex packed walls to provide quarters for half-caste family. Also verandah shuttered.
- (3) Room floors and back and front verandah floors of teachers' cottage replaced with concrete.
- (4) Nissen hut erected on concrete foundations, with similar floor, raised eight inches to provide spaces for flat iron louvres. Cane-ite partitioned to provide ample accommodation for up to ten better type girls, and one third of the rear section for a married couple. Addition of a fly proof structure attached to rear of this building for this married couple plus built-in furniture.

- (5) Three large spinifex shade sheds built.

As the majority of the buildings at this Institution are very old, and in some cases built of bush timber, much repair work has been necessary to keep these structures standing and in part serviceable. Also many small building jobs have been carried out over the 12 months, but time will not permit mention. Good progress is being made with this section of the work and it is worthy of mention that this station still continues to supply all requirements in sawn timber although milling logs are becoming more difficult to obtain as each year passes. Still much expense is saved in this manner.

General Improvements—Stock.

A new four-rail stockyard was completed at Gnewing Well during the year, its estimated value being between £750 and £800. Trooper Bedford, a half-caste station employee, was in charge of this job and he is to be complimented on the standard of the work. In this case it was necessary to travel up to 20 miles by truck to secure suitable yard timber for posts and rails.

Turner Bore was equipped with a 5,000-gallon squatter type tank removed from a dry bore nearby and placed on a stone stand built of local materials, concrete bottom. Pump jack and engine installed, and troughing erected. Timbers for trough and well enclosure secured locally being bloodwood.

Paddock fence deviated from original paddock and new line of fencing erected to enclose bore and in order to fence out bush cattle as the supply is not sufficient for a large body of stock. Approximately two miles of fencing erected.

New goat yard erected at station for Saanen flock, also shed with concrete floor, and in addition a raised type of milking bail. This yard has three partitions for the segregation of the sexes, and kids.

New fencing erected at station found necessary to include improvements. This also includes fencing enclosure of Nissen hut.

Existing stockyards repaired where necessary.

Certain amount of station paddock fencing repaired throughout the years.

Caste cottages securely fenced and netted.

Many other small jobs were carried out as is usual on a pastoral property.

Stock—Cattle.

At the 1st July, 1951, the records of this station showed a cattle grand total of 30,988 head of cattle, this total being after 15 per cent. for mortality had been written off. At the 30th June, 1952, grand total figures were 33,835 head but after mortality at the rate of 25 per cent. was written off the reduction reduced the total to 25,079 head of cattle. The high mortality rate for the year 1951-52 is caused by the severe drought, which conditions have

prevailed since before December, 1951. This property only recorded slightly over six inches for the 1951-52 wet season and owing to the long breaks between falls of rain the natural grasses failed to germinate. To make matters worse extreme heat was experienced. This is indicated by the fact that for one hundred consecutive days centuries or over were recorded at this station. Only several of the creeks on this station ran and consequently surface waters began to fail quite early in the year. This factor resulted in the herd being forced on to the bores and wells almost immediately after the close of the wet season, or five or six months earlier than would be usual in a normal season. The country surrounding the made waters was then quickly eaten out and losses, more particularly in aged females and calves, became very heavy. The 1951-52 season is regarded as the worst ever experienced in the Kimberleys, and certainly within the knowledge of white men. I am sorry to report that heavy losses will continue until such time as relief comes in the form of rain-falls, and even then losses will be heavy through the boggy conditions that will naturally prevail, and added to this will be the weakening effect which young green feed usually has on very low stock. This is not a very bright picture but nevertheless a very true one, and a situation that is being faced today by most of the stations located in this district.

During my absence on leave the Relieving Manager was only able to get one mob of bullocks away for delivery to the Wyndham Meatworks and I arrived back a little too late to rectify the position. In addition only a little over two thousand calves were branded for the season to that date.

Over the past 12 months efforts have been made to improve and augment the natural pastures by the broadcasting of Buffell grass seed, some of which has been obtained from local sources, and a further quantity which was purchased from Wallal Station in the Port Hedland District. This type of seed has been broadcasted in all the station paddocks, and portions of the open country also, but owing to the extreme lack of rain no germination has been observed. This type of grass has been established on the main station creek for some years and each season since I have been in charge the seed has been gathered and broadcasted. In my opinion the formation of small fenced plots situated at suitable intervals throughout the run and the seed sown after the soil has been slightly cultivated is the most efficient way of establishing this type of imported pasture grass. I have proved that a slight cultivation will result in almost 100 per cent. germination, and the grass will thrive if protected in its early growing stage.

During the year 208 head of cattle were slaughtered for station, institutional and indigent requirements, and 78 head were killed to provide for the Hall's Creek town supply for which this station caters. Local beef sales returned this station £800 odd in revenue for the past 12 months.

Very limited use has been made of the stud bulls purchased late in 1949 as seasonal conditions have been completely unfavourable since the arrival of these animals at the station. Providing the 1952-53 wet is good these bulls will be turned out with a number of selected female stock so that herd bulls may be bred for the general improvement of the station cattle.

Water Exploration.

Nothing has been attempted in the way of water exploration for the past year owing to the impossibility of securing contractors for this class of work, and this station does not possess its own equipment.

Most of the Moola Bulla country is excellent pastoral quality, but the run is very badly served by surface and made waters. It is also difficult and expensive to explore. Like most other stations many big water holes have vanished over the past years through overstocking and the fact that improvements in water and fencing have not kept pace with the increase in cattle. The cattle are now centred in limited areas and can only roam ad lib during the wet if favourable with the result that large sections of the run are now in an eroded state, and unfavourable for the germination of the natural grasses. Valuable top feed is also being gradually destroyed by necessity. Many billabongs and other holes on this run could be deepened and widened to increase holding capacity considerably if equipment was available, but it is not. A good class secondhand crawler tractor with a blade attachment would be required, and I feel certain that a good deal of water could be provided in this manner, and in country where it has been found difficult to secure underground supplies by boring.

Horses, Mules and Donkeys.

At the 1st July, 1951, a grand total of 598 head of horses, 30 mules and 120 head of donkeys were recorded on the station stock returns. At the 30th June, 1952, horses were increased to a total of 764, two deaths reduced the numbers in the mule section to 28, and donkeys remained the same being 120. The big increase in horses resulted from trapping activities in late 1952 when a total of 67 head of wild horses were secured by the station plant. This is the type of horse which was trapped and sold privately before I took over the management of this station, and from which the station derived no benefit whatever. Unfortunately owing to adverse seasonal conditions quite a few of these wild horses will die but nevertheless those that survive will be useful as brood mares, or workers, and in any case they are better off the open country. A total of 117 head were also branded from paddock stock. However, as in the case of cattle, losses in horses will also be heavier than usual as time passes and until such time as the season breaks. The horse position on this station appeared to be very bright prior to last wet, and it will not be possible to ascertain the true position until a complete muster can be made later on in the year.

Religious Services.

Messrs. Faulkner and Walker of the United Aborigines Mission visited this station during my absence on leave, and also two members of a religious society from Darwin earlier in the year. Both held services which were greatly appreciated by the inmates and well attended. This type of visitor is always very welcome here at Moola Bulla as the people here look forward eagerly to Church services.

Institutional Recreation.

Throughout the year sound pictures were shown almost weekly, and greatly appreciated by all. A M.G.M. programme is received fortnightly, and likewise one from the Visual Education Department, and thus constitutes a weekly show. In addition I conduct mixed basket ball games on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, also cricket matches for the youths and men over weekends. I also conducted Sport Evenings at which darts, quoits and community singing are the entertainment. All these sports and functions are greatly enjoyed by the people here.

(Sgd.) C. L. McBEATH,
Manager, Superintendent.

FITZROY CROSSING NATIVE SETTLEMENT.

At the beginning of the year under review Mr. G. Arnold was in charge of this new Institution. His main work was the erection of buildings. On 23rd August, 1951, he resigned to take another post and handed over the management of the institution to Mr. Preston Walker. On the 30th June, 1952 Departmental control of this institution ceased and the United Aborigines Mission took over the property to establish a Native Mission. In February, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Smoker joined the staff of the institution.

The following is extracted from the report submitted by Mr. Walker, the Superintendent:—

Progress Remarks.

In the 10 months we have been here we have seen a spinifex covered sandstone ridge gradually become changed. Today, in addition to three black Nissen huts, two being without ends and all with antbed floors, the bare tubular steel frame-work of a station house, and one unequipped bore, we have the Superintendent's cottage and fencing, a second bore and both equipped, one being with a diesel engine. One 6,000 gallon tank erected on a stone stand on a hill with G.I. pipes connected to four fenced blocks and goat trough. Two gardens fenced and irrigated. A new and enlarged goat yard with shelter, a new fowlhouse, a Nissen hut bulk store, a meat house and shade house under construction. Foundation of No. 2 staff cottage poured. Nissen residence completed and flagstoned.

Sufficient materials are not yet to hand for the first dormitory and No. 2 cottage. We have no equipment for the school as yet. We still need materials for No. 2 dormitory, a dining room, and general storehouse, with many outhouses besides.

Inmates.

At the time of writing we have 25 inmates at this Mission, comprising 18 indigents, one baby and six workers. Their health has been good, apart from minor ailments and bad colds. Five language groups are here represented. Our aim is to have these suitably housed with ablution blocks and septic systems.

The people are fed at a feed kitchen with native women attending to the cooking, etc. This fact has contributed to the improved health of the people.

Stock.

We are very grateful to the managers of Gogo and Quanbun Stations for a donation of goats which provide us with milk and meat. We also wish to place on record the help of the cattle men with donations of beef from time to time since Christmas last.

LA GRANGE BAY RATION DEPOT.

The Superintendent, Mr. W. de Grys, reports the following improvements made during the year. Thirteen huts have been erected for the indigent natives and two have been erected for the school boys. A laundry and two shower rooms for the natives have been completed. A new sickroom has been built and the old surgery converted into a recreation and night class room. A Nissen hut has been erected and divided into a surgery and store-rooms. A new windmill has been installed. General maintenance work on buildings and equipment has been carried out.

Three deaths and two births occurred at the Depot during the year.

The number of children attending the kindergarten school conducted by Mrs. de Grys has increased from 13 last year to 18 this year. The children exhibit an intense interest in their education.

Mr. de Grys remarks, "Although progress is never in step with anticipation . . . we feel fairly satisfied with the year's work. The natives are supplied with reasonable living quarters and the camps present a comparatively neat and tidy appearance. That in itself is cause for satisfaction. Most of the natives seem to be contented with the new order of things."

COSMO NEWBERY NATIVE SETTLEMENT.

For the first part of this year Mr. H. H. Coate was in charge of this Settlement but handed over to Mr. R. H. Tilbrook on 24th January, 1952.

During the first part of the year two air strips had been cleared by the inmates and later graded by the Laverton Road Board. An old windmill at the homestead had been replaced by a new mill.

In the latter part of the year a 20,000 gallon tank was mounted on a 6ft. high stone and earth stand, alongside which was erected a 14ft. windmill. A seven acre paddock has been cleared in this vicinity and two and a half acres have been prepared for the growing of lucerne, which will be irrigated from this tank. Work on this project has been delayed because of the difficulty in obtaining cement.

A complete muster in February showed that there was a total of 197 cattle, five horses, and twelve goats on the property. Thirty 6-weeks old chickens purchased brought the total of poultry to 65. Eggs produced throughout the year were ample for the consumption of the staff and inmates.

No sheep were located during the muster and the loss of the flock has been attributed to straying and the depredations of dingoes.

At the end of the year six juvenile and one adult male natives were under detention at the Settlement. At the same time there were 150 tribal natives camped on the property. Of this number, which includes children, 130 were receiving rations. The health of all natives has been good.

ALVAN HOUSE.

Mrs. L. Pullen has been officer-in-charge of this Home throughout the year under review.

Towards the end of 1951 the number of girls living at the Home increased from 8 to 11, and at the beginning of 1952 rose to 17. During the final half-year five girls left the Home and one was admitted, leaving a total of 13 in residence at the end of the year.

On the whole the girls have done well scholastically, socially, and in the field of sport. In this regard Mrs. Pullen reports as follows:

Four girls have been attending Perth Girls' School and have worked very well indeed. They are commended for their behaviour by their teachers and are popular with their school-mates. One girl was chosen by popular vote to be a class prefect. The other four girls attend Girdlestone High School. One girl works conscientiously and willingly and should be a successful nurse. She, also, was a class prefect during 1951. The other three are younger and somewhat irresponsible, but, with more concentration, should progress. Two of these would like to be nurses and the other a typist.

Of the eight girls, three are in "A" Softball teams, one in "A" Basketball team, and one in "B" Hockey team.

The three girls who are learning dressmaking at the Technical School are progressing and are respected and trusted by their teacher.

The younger girls have joined a Guide Company and the older ones a Ranger Company. They all regularly attend their respective Churches and some of the Church social functions. All are keen tennis players and make the most of the court at Alvan House.

Improvements include the allocation of a piano, additional bathing and toilet facilities and improved laundry and kitchen equipment.

Without doubt Alvan House has been an unqualified success. The girls are responsive to treatment designed to assist their betterment and as their standard improves native boys will automatically be induced to improve themselves.

MCDONALD HOUSE.

This Home for Boys at 11 Carr Street, West Perth, was opened on the 1st February, when Mrs. D. Stewart was appointed Officer-in-Charge.

The first boy was admitted on 3rd February. This boy, who attends Perth Boys' High School, had won a District Superintendent's Scholarship in the country. At the end of the year there were altogether five boys at the Home, three of whom attend the Perth Boys' High School, one an apprentice glass-blower, and the other studying motor mechanics.

All have done well at their studies and all excel at sport, particularly football, some winning trophies for "fairest and best."

The house itself is an old dilapidated building in neglected grounds. Extensive repairs and improvements are necessary before the poor existing conditions can be remedied and pride in the place instilled into the boys.

BENNETT HOUSE.

Matron H. E. Markey has been in charge of this Home throughout the year under review. This Home was previously called the "East Perth Girls' Home." The average number of inmates was three, on occasion as many as eight girls lived at the Home.

This Home caters for country women and girls sent to the city for medical treatment, and women in transit or awaiting employment. If accommodation is available working girls holidaying in the city are given board and lodging.

Section "C."

MISSIONS.

The work of the Missions has been stimulated by increased financial assistance. Grants-in-aid have enabled a number of them to improve their properties. The less financial Missions could not avail themselves of such opportunities as the aid given is on a pound for pound basis and in many cases they are unable to obtain the money necessary for the original outlay.

Throughout the year relationship between all Missions and the Department has been good. The contribution made by Missions to the welfare, education and social adjustment of natives has a very high value with the Department. On the other hand, the Missions are in accord with the Departmental policy and attitude towards natives.

If improvements made during the year are continued, it will not be many years before the majority of Missions are operating at a high standard. A number of Missions have been quick to register their schools thus gaining the full support of the Education Department.

Extracts from Mission reports follow hereunder:—

METHODIST MISSION, MOGUMBER.

Superintendent: Rev. E. A. Clarke.

The Department of Overseas Missions of the Methodist Church took over the Old Moore River Native Settlement from the Department of Native Affairs on August 13, 1951. After twenty years in the fertile islands of Papua and three months in the Adelaide Hills my only feelings as we were driven across the sand-plains and then as we saw the condition of the buildings were that I wished "I hadn't." Although I can honestly say that it is the hardest twelve months that both Mrs. Clarke and myself have experienced, we both feel that we are here because of a definite call and both look forward to long service on behalf of the native peoples entrusted to our care.

Staff.

The success of any venture such as this depends almost entirely on the staff. I wish to pay tribute to the people who have been work-

ing with me. Mr. and Mrs. Allvar joined us from the beginning and helped, as have every member of the staff, wherever the need was greatest. Mr. Allvar has used his training as an engineer to help us and it is to him that we are looking to give our engineering training. Mrs. Allvar has given splendid service as a cottage mother. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell helped us for five months, but then returned to private life. Sister Bales had the heavy work of reorganising the hospital and commencing our creche. Our present staff consists of the Assistant Superintendent and Builder, Rev. P. C. and Mrs. Danger; Mr. and Mrs. Allvar the Engineer; Mr. Frank Green the Farm Manager; Mr. Lionel Lovell, Refrigerator Fitter; Miss Whitehouse, Matron of the creche at the Hospital; and Miss Henriksen, Cottage Mother. We are looking forward to the appointment of a second sister at the Hospital. Our part-European staff consists of Mrs. Mary Morden in charge of a cottage with six children; Laurie Mogridge and his wife in charge of the farm; Ivan Miller, labourer; Peter Douglas on light duties; and seven domestic staff. Horrie Morden, labourer, is also in the staff, and we have been trying to train him to run the tractor. I have found the part-European staff good—they are excellent workers but the only trouble is that one never knows when they will leave.

Children.

We started off with four children who had been inmates of the Moore River Native Settlement. At June 30, 1952, we had 52 children on the station; of these there are 29 attending school. In the creche at the Hospital there are 17 children three years and under. Of these the toddlers sleep at the hospital but spend the day with Mrs. Allvar. Mrs. Morden has six children under her care and she is doing very well with them. There are 17 girls in the girls' cottage and 11 boys in the boys' home. Of these 11 boys six eat at the Superintendent's home and are cared for by Mrs. Clarke, and five eat at the Assistant Superintendent's home, with Mrs. Danger looking

after their clothes. Because the number of boys has increased so much it has been decided the old station kitchen be renovated and until our cottages are built the boys and visiting people will eat there under the supervision of the Superintendent.

Health.

Except for the babies with a background of malnutrition the health of the children has been excellent. But the small babies have caused sister a lot of worry and sleepless nights and several have had to go to hospital. Unfortunately Darriel Ugle died at the St. Margaret Hospital from a germ picked up at the hospital itself. But there is an urgent need for dental treatment for nearly all the children.

Behaviour.

I have been very pleased with the behaviour and character of the children. I feel that it has been equally as good as that of any children whether white or aboriginal stock. There has been no serious offences with which I have had to deal and there has been a marked absence of quarrelling among them. Like all children they show a distinct dislike for continued labour but even in this they have improved. I feel that if we can keep them in the right environment we shall achieve a big improvement in their outlook and behaviour.

Schooling.

We are very fortunate that we have Mr. John Ingram as school teacher. He is not only giving the children good training in school but also gives a big help outside the school. His experience and advice are always at our disposal. Mrs. Ingram also has been a great help to us.

As we are only in our second term it is too early to say whether we shall have many children who will be able to do further study but we are hoping some will eventually be able to do so. We are looking to the time when some of our children will warrant the opportunities of secondary education.

We have commenced to improve the boys' dormitory near the ablution blocks so that it can be used as a school. The building was never completed and needs a ceiling, windows, covering for the floor, verandahs, tanks and divisions for an office and store and two class rooms. Unfortunately the repair work elsewhere has been so heavy that we have been unable to proceed as fast as we desire.

Rehabilitation.

I have been dismayed at the condition of the existing buildings on the station. Even the newest block—the kindergarten block—was undesirably filthy and needed extensive repairs. There is not much point in enumerating the repair and cleaning work that has been done but the multitude of necessary small repairs in all the buildings has been an irritation to the building staff and has kept us from really advancing as we should have done. But one keen disappointment has been that in every building drainage and sanitation has been faulty and has had to be replaced. We are at present renovating the old station kitchen and dining saloon. Minor additions are necessary to the hospital building to enable it to be registered as a maternity hospital. We will then complete the alterations to the boys' dormitory to make it our school. I then propose, whilst maintaining general repairs, to collect material for the building of our cottages and the establishment of our family homes. We are already collecting material so that we can convert all our lavatories to the septic system. This is essential in the early summer with the flies that abound in the country.

Plans have been drawn for the layout of the station by Mr. A. Camerer (architect) and the

houses are to be modelled on the modern methods of the cottage system in this type of work.

Water.

I am amazed that there is so little storage capacity for water. Even the tanks that are here have needed major repairs. Two Hume pipes 5,000 gallon capacity have been purchased and one will be placed at the hospital and the other at the kindergarten to take the winter supply of rainwater. The services of a water diviner have been obtained and his advice has been that the well at the western side be cleared and the one over the river deepened, and a bore put down on the sandhill at the back of the tennis court. If these operations are successful I am hoping that our summer supply of water will be assured for both station and gardening purposes.

Gardening.

A new site has been selected for the gardens beyond the well west of the house. We have tapped the pipeline up the hill and from this we shall irrigate the vegetables. Lettuces, cabbage, cauliflowers, peas, beans and root vegetables have all been grown and potatoes are thriving. This will help us to meet the needs of our families.

Agriculture.

An advisory committee has been formed to direct us in our agricultural development. This committee has on it some of our leading farmers in the State, including Mr. R. Haeusler of Koojan. The help of the Department of Agriculture was also obtained, and Mr. G. Neil, the agricultural adviser for the Moora District examined the reserve and laid out a policy for our development work. A copy of this is in the hands of the Department. Rev. Mr. Gribble, Rev. Mr. Hull and myself waited upon Mr. Byfield, the Acting Under Treasurer, and the Government has made a promise to pay half of the £6,000 to be paid out on machinery. We have bought a T.D.9 tractor, a Shearer plough, and a 16-run drill, and fencing material. Unfortunately the tractor arrived too late for us to do much this year, but we were able to sow 100 acres around the head station with oats, clover and wimmera rye grass.

Our committee inspected the property in June and it was decided to fallow 700 acres. This consists of all the arable land enclosed by the fences at the western end of the property and about 400 acres of sand plain country east of the pines. This is being done. I have been assured that the soil on the property is equal to any nearby and after I have seen what farmers are doing on the sandplain I am assured that we cannot fail.

The development of the property will entail considerable expense. Unfortunately there is not a fence around the station. Buildings for machinery and shearing will have to be constructed eventually and present plans are that our farming activities will be centred about two miles down the river where there is a wide gravel ridge that will not be cut up by the hooves of the stock.

I am hoping that some of the young people whom we train will eventually be settled in homes with a portion of the property to look after.

We have been greatly encouraged by the support of the people of the State. One of the committee has made himself responsible to obtain for us 200 sheep, free of cost, in October. This will be the beginning of our pastoral work.

Future Policy

As our buildings are put in order and constructed I hope that we shall have an increasing number of children to care for and train. We desire that on the property we shall develop

an environment that will inculcate moral rectitude among the children and where those who train with us will find a home which will be able to give them moral and spiritual strength to go out into the larger community and make their contribution to the development and well being of the State. From time to time we would like them to visit us and so then make the Mission their spiritual home. As we are able I hope that we shall be able to employ many of our own trainees and I look forward to the time when we shall have at Mogumber a co-operative movement controlled by the natives themselves—a movement that will make our station self-supporting and provide a centre from which teams of workers will be able to go to assist in the district—teams that will find incentive and control from the centre itself.

To do this will mean that our people will need proficient training. Any who are qualified to do so I hope will be enabled to do secondary education. I am sure the Church will make itself responsible for that. I have the staff that will enable us to give the boys training in carpentry and building, engineering, gardening and farming. Our girls will be trained so that they will be able to become good wives and mothers.

I believe that we shall never advance very far with these people until they themselves accept the responsibility of leadership. To this end we are working and already Mrs. Norden has been placed in charge of a cottage and Laurie Mogridge has been put in charge of the farm at the Western end of the property. This means that we must also accept any weakness due to their ignorance or weakness of character but I believe that the benefits far outweigh the risks.

Finally, we are all agreed that our work will succeed or fail as we succeed or fail in giving these people a new spiritual outlook. All our work and training centres around giving them an understanding of spiritual values by which they may be led to accept the "transforming friendship" of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. On Sundays in our services and Sunday School, at our mid-week meetings and at the family altar we are endeavouring to build up a spiritual environment and give spiritual instruction so that our people may be led into that friendship. We shall fail or succeed as we fail or succeed her.

KALUMBURU MISSION.

Superintendent: Fr. Basil Noseda, O.S.B.

This year has been the driest in the memory of the natives. Only 26 inches of rain instead of the usual 41 inches is too big a margin not to adversely affect the pastures. In consequence the cattle, horses, pigs and goats have all suffered.

Steps have been taken to purchase more head of cattle. Besides bringing new blood into the present mobs it will afford an opportunity for more boys to learn stock work. A half-Arab stallion has been procured to improve and give greater stamina to the offspring of the brood mares.

Thanks to irrigation the garden still gave an excellent yield. With the installation of more efficient pumping equipment (already installed) a larger area of the garden will be brought under irrigation.

A fairly large sawmill has been purchased and will provide another avenue of labour for the boys. The mill will mainly handle cypress pine which will be used for repairing the ravages of the white ants, and the expansion of the Mission.

With the new heavy duty engine installed in the "Myrtle Olga," the Mission lugger, trips have been made to the outlying reefs off Jones and Troughton Islands which abound in turtles (edible). Turtles, literally by the truck load,

have been brought to the camps. Turtles, a nutritious food, are always in great demand by the natives.

This year has been an excellent one in regard to the health of the natives. The birth-rate is the highest on record. Hookworm and leprosy are on the wane.

Here a protest against indiscriminate classification of all natives in Derby Leprosarium as Drysdale boys because they passed through this Mission in transit to Derby is not out of place. Many natives not under the influence of the Mission were either taken by plane from the Mission aerodrome or passed through here as Police patrol captives. In the Leprosarium books these natives are classified as "Drysdale Boys" when they are not. It is regrettable that the Leprosarium authorities do not use the new name for the Mission, Kalumburu, instead of the old name of Drysdale. It is not for lack of notification.

The cattle station holding of Carson River on the border of the reserve is now definitely taking shape. The original holder, Jack Eagle-son, has been joined by Tom Wilson and his half-caste wife and large family, and "Cammy" Clarey, who has a slight infusion of native blood. The treatment of the natives especially the women will be watched, though to date reports are good.

FORREST RIVER MISSION.

Priest-Superintendent: Rev. K. J. Coaldrake.

Progressive Steps.

The outstanding event of the past 12 months has been the installation of a large plant to provide water at the Mission village for domestic and garden purposes. Four and a half miles of piping was laid in February and March, and a storage tank was built in April, all with native labour under the supervision of two white men. We now have a good supply of pure water at the village and vegetable gardening has been commenced on a large scale.

The provision of an adequate water supply marks an important step in the development of this Mission, as hitherto the annual shortage of water has disrupted considerably the life of the Mission.

We have also been presented with a 6 h.p. rotary hoe which will make possible the farming of many useful acres for crops such as peanuts, beans and peas, maize, etc.

Health.

A recent test-survey for hookworm has revealed that this unwelcome parasite has been eradicated from this Mission by means of rigid controls and careful dosage with the proper medicines. The general health of the natives is good but the advent of green vegetables in the next few weeks should make it better.

Building.

A new two-roomed fibro-cement cottage has been built to provide quarters for the dormitory matron, and another is to be erected for the teacher's quarters.

The communal kitchen building in which is prepared the food for the old bush people who come and go to the camp near the Mission has been moved and renovated. A new bread baking oven has been erected in it and new boiler stands have been erected for porridge and tea and stews.

Materials are coming to hand for the erection of a new hospital block, and it is hoped to have this completed by the end of 1952.

School.

A good start was made last year on the programme of increased hours and more intensified schooling for the children but with the departure in May of the teacher, the school work had to be cut down again to the former curriculum under the care of a part-time teacher. There are at present 37 children from five to fifteen attending school in the various grades.

Stock.

With drought conditions threatening early in the year, arrangements again had to be cancelled for the procuring of some store bulls and breeding heifers to boost our beef production. We still manage to find one killer each week but this only provides about 50 per cent. of the beef needed here. Horses are unobtainable and we have only four with which to work the stock.

Notwithstanding the shortage of staff and insufficient finance we are able to make some progress in our work of caring for and training the natives here. It must, however, be obvious that the uncertain and meagre flow of finance resulting from appeals to the generosity of a largely disinterested public leaves many obstacles in the way of a full and progressive programme.

PALLOTTINE MISSION.

Superintendent: Fr. A. Bleischwitz.

The District Officer of Native Affairs visited the Mission in October last. Towards the end of the same month a double-certificated nurse from Victoria arrived by plane at the Mission. Sister is now in need of a suitable place in which to treat the natives and look after midwifery cases. We hope to do something about this in the near future.

Sister opened also a school for native children. Twenty-five children are attending regularly.

Electric light has been installed. An underground tank has been built to conserve rain-water.

The dining hall was completed and a small dormitory for boys is under construction.

Health has been good throughout the year.

The conduct of the resident natives has been satisfactory. Employment has been offered to and accepted by natives.

SUNDAY ISLAND MISSION.

Superintendent: Roy H. Nash.

Staff.

The Sunday Island staff has undergone a change as from November, 1951. Mr. and Mrs. Lupton have returned to Perth and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Nash, formerly of Warburton Ranges, are now superintending the work. Mr. and Mrs. P. Devenish also joined the staff at this time.

School.

Good progress has been made by the 41 pupils attending the Mission school. A recent Essay Competition arranged by the teacher for the higher standards was highly successful. Sewing and sport have recently been recommenced. The recent supply of Government school equipment was greatly appreciated. There are two teachers in the school.

Work.

Undertaken by natives. We have undertaken to improve the transport problem on the island with road building. Our native men have co-operated loyally and in addition to this we have almost completed a jetty to assist in the handling of our boat cargo.

Health.

General health has been good, with a few winter colds. Four natives required dental treatment, and one visited the Native Hospital for chest x-ray. We are pleased to report the birth of five babies.

Religious Activities.

Church gatherings have been well attended and additional meetings for young men, young women and children have been commenced. One Scripture competition was held with four successful entrants.

Extension Programme.

Mr. Devenish, our carpenter, has partly erected one cottage, and the children's dining room has been commenced. Timber is brought from an Island 20 miles away in our lugger, and we are milling the logs into required sizes.

Transport.

Our old lugger is requiring a great amount of repair work but is still the main transport craft. We have recently purchased a 26-foot sailing sloop as an auxiliary. This boat is being used for shelling, mail and other inter-island trips.

BEAGLE BAY MISSION.

Superintendent, Fr. R. McGinley.

Staff.

In this matter we are still handicapped. On 6th March another of our old brothers died, and we have not been able to receive any extra help to replace the loss. The present staff consists of three priests, four brothers and five sisters.

Work.

The vegetable gardens have yielded gratifying crops of pumpkins, onions, cabbages and other vegetables, despite the severe drought. An experimental plot has been cleared for the planting of grain sorghum to catch the rains.

A new blacksmith's shop has been erected; the school and girls' dormitories have been completely re-roofed with new timber and corrugated iron, insulated with paper-bark.

A new bore has been sunk for the boys' washing facilities and a concrete well 10ft x 9ft. has been built over the bore mentioned in the last annual report. The tanks will soon be erected for the new water supply.

Our stock has not suffered as much as was expected from the poor season.

School.

One sister teaches 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades, and a young intelligent native woman teaches the little ones. Fifty children have been attending every day and the general conduct has been very good. A marked improvement has been notice by the sister in charge.

Health.

A trained nurse attends to the health of the staff and natives. Apart from the deaths of several old people there has been no serious sickness or epidemic between July 1951 and June 1952. The general health of the children has been very good. The doctor from Broome makes regular visits to the Mission to examine the people and attend special cases.

LOMBADINA MISSION.

Superintendent, Fr. J. Herold, S.C.A.

In this peaceful and remote surroundings you find some 80 or 90 people, young and old, happily and busily engaged in their simple and (yet in their eyes) so necessary tasks to make their little Mission a very beautiful place. Gardening, carpentering, butchering, plastering and stock work are the main occupations of the men, while the women do the cooking, washing, sewing, mending and any outdoor work such as gardening and cutting paper-bark for repairing roofs.

In past years our garden produce has been very satisfactory. There was always a plentiful supply of vegetables and fruits for children and people. Unfortunately the last two seasons, owing to the very low rainfall we have had and the shortage of water, it has not been quite up to the mark. Continual invasions of wild birds and fowls have done an amount of harm to our garden—destroying the young plants and eating the fruit. While ants are our greatest enemies here and they are worse this year than the years past. Our school has just been pulled down (which was easily done) after being eaten by white ants. And now satisfactory progress is being made in the erection of a new one. Of course this presents a number of difficulties also, spending weeks in the bush, cutting timber and paper bark, furthermore trying to get other materials needed such as cement, which is very dear and very difficult to get.

The children's dining hall and back house are being cemented and white-washed and will look quite new when finished.

There are 24 children attending school. Some of them are quite intelligent and can learn very quickly. In the afternoons when they come out from school each one runs to his or her appointed task and work for an hour or so. As you know it is by organised and consistent occupation that contentment and happiness will be found among these people.

ABORIGINES RESCUE MISSION, JIGALONG.

Superintendent, Rev. Norman W.
Melville.

School.

It was decided by the Missionary Board to bring the school under the direct supervision of the Education Department. Although this has only been in effect for a very short period, already there is a marked improvement in the children's education. The children are much more interested in their lessons and their attendances much improved.

Hospital.

The Hospital also has been brought under the direct supervision of the Public Health Department and has been declared a public hospital. After much effort, we are gradually winning the confidence of the natives, and as a result they are more willing to accept medical treatment than previously. The mothers and the babies are fed daily at the hospital and expectant mothers receive pre-natal attention at the hospital.

Buildings.

It is proposed to commence immediately (the supplies are available) an additional house to house a male school teacher and his family. All the buildings on the Mission have been renovated.

Shortly before Christmas a garden was commenced at "Old Jigalong" which is approximately three miles from the present Mission site. On this site there is a very good supply of gardening water, and up to the present time the garden has proven to be very successful. It is proposed to test out the garden for a period of two years, and if at the end of this time the project proves satisfactory, it is proposed to shift the entire Mission to this site. It is also proposed to enlarge the garden to produce sufficient vegetables to supply the entire Mission.

Spiritual Activities.

An open air meeting is held every ration day and also a camp meeting is held on Sundays. Every Sunday morning the children attend Sunday School where they are given various forms of religious instruction. Their attendances up to the present have been very good.

Other Activities.

A new mail road has been opened up to Murra-munda, a distance of 38 miles.

Last year a small number of cattle were purchased in an effort to build up a herd and make it possible in the future to supply our own meat. The stock are looking very well. The season has been reasonably good.

CUNDEELEE MISSION.

Superintendent: Rev. Robert Stewart.

The staff and people of Cundeelee are glad for the progress made in every department of the work this past year. There has been improvement as well as growth as a result of financial assistance and advice from our Mission Board and from the Department of Native Affairs.

We all enjoyed the profitable visits of friends new and old. Messrs. Andersen, McLarty, and Redfern from the Department won the confidence of the people as a whole, and they later welcomed Mr. Day during his brief stay. We can see that a lot of bitterness and prejudice has been overcome and we are truly thankful for this, for the people's own sake. We see more willingness to co-operate with the Department as well as the Mission.

During the second week of May, one of the Board members of this Mission with his wife spent a few happy days with us and helpful suggestions given are now being acted upon.

Water conservation is still being concentrated upon to the extent of enlarging rock holes and dams as well as constructing some new ones. There is one 10,000 gallon tank erected at the catchment area which we believe holds enough to warrant the erection of four more, of which the first has already arrived.

The building programme advances with another house for missionaries being built. A number of buildings are needed yet, among them a boys' dormitory. A good sum has been contributed for this from America. We expect to commence work on it as materials are available, and as time allows.

Worthy of note is the sandalwood pulling project. Mr. Donovan and Mr. Brennan from the Forestry Department came out and fully instructed the men in the pulling and cleaning of the wood, and they have been working steady ever since. Four ton is already at the siding and a good many families are eagerly awaiting the reward of their labour. We trust that soon some will realise their desire of having a home with better living conditions.

Mrs. Bennett's labours with the native women young and old have brought much satisfaction and seems to be the beginning of a profitable project for the women. Several have done real well weaving bags and spinning wool, and with the gift of two looms to hand there will be more done as well as future opportunities to make useful articles for sale.

The Children's Home now houses 16 children, 15 of which attend school. They are doing well, using the W.A. Correspondence Classes lessons as a guide.

The total average of people rationed weekly is 51 adults and 14 children.

To all who have assisted us in this work we express heartfelt thanks on behalf of the people as well as the staff.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST ABORIGINES MISSION, NORSEMAN.

Superintendent: E. H. PARK.

This year has been one of further progress at Norseman. We now have forty-two children and young people, including two girls who work at the Mission, and one boy who is working at a garage in Norseman. We also have as a boarder a girl of eight, whose parents are holders of citizenship rights, that she may receive her education.

Some staff changes have occurred during the year. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson had to leave us because of Mrs. Pearson's health. Mr. Allan Johnston left us after twelve months' service mainly in the carpentry line. Miss Schurmann, who has been in charge of the kitchen is on the eve of her departure after five years' valuable service. Her position is to be filled by Mrs. Arnold who arrived this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Barnett, who arrived in April to take charge of the girls, are proving well adapted to the task, and providing their health keeps good, we are sure that much improvement will be felt in that quarter.

Mr. and Mrs. Felton are still looking after the boys, and with Mr. Felton released from the school teaching, much more time is given to the boys' needs, with gratifying results.

The school was taken over last February by Miss Miller, a Government Teacher, whose heart is in the job, and much improvement is noticeable in the children. Three of the higher class children go in to Norseman School with the Missionaries' children. This we trust is a good step in their training, for it enables them to mix with many other people.

Since February six of our elder girls, including the two girls who help in the Mission, go to the Norseman Domestic Science Centre for training in cookery, laundry and housewifery and sewing.

The children again competed in the Inter-schools' Sports, and carried off three championships and the shield.

Craft work was again carried on as best we could with time available. Mr. Barnett will be taking this work over when Miss Schurmann leaves.

All the children were taken to Esperance during December for three weeks. In the May holidays the boys went with Mr. and Mrs. Felton for a four-day camp at some rock holes fifteen miles from the Mission. This was much enjoyed.

During the early summer we had a severe epidemic of enteritis, also a mild epidemic of measles.

Two babies are being cared for. Both are in need of attention that the mothers could not give them.

A start was made with dividing and lining the dormitories, and the material is on hand to finish this. A room for the big girls and boys has been completed in each dormitory. Alterations were also carried out on the quarters the Barnetts now occupy.

The poultry again proved a great asset to the Mission, both in finance and with eggs for use.

PALLOTTINE MISSION SCHOOL, TARDUN.

Superintendent: Rev. Fr. F. Girke, S.C.A.

Policy.

The Pallottine Mission School is a school for coloured children, built on the property of the Pallottine Fathers, or Society of the Catholic Apostolate. Its aim is to accept children of such parents as value a good education for their children, and are willing to leave them at the School until their education is completed. Though no compulsion is in force, no child is accepted unless the parents sign the Contract of the Native Department, in which they agree to leave their children until they are 16 years of age.

The children are educated in Primary Classes, according to the curriculum set out for State Schools. The new curriculum for coloured schools is also considered, but for children in these parts it seems an admission of inferiority from the start to lower the standard of education as required by the State for normal white children.

When they are 14 years old, unless they show special aptitude for study the boys are introduced to farm machinery and farm work. The girls take a two years' course in Domestic Science.

All the time the children are at Tardun they are living in an atmosphere of kindness and good example. Here perhaps above all lies the value of our plan. The children get used to high standards of living and conduct, and if they come here early enough they can count perhaps nine or ten years lived in ideal surroundings. They are fairly moulded by then, and feel the need of continuing the same pattern of life when they leave us. They are given very high ideals, especially as regards future family life, and as well have the strong foundation of religious convictions to give meaning and sanction to their lives. The same work has been done for white children for ages, and we aim to give the coloured children similar opportunities.

Staff.

Since the last Report one priest, two brothers and four sisters have been brought out from Europe at our own expense. The Superioress, a trained nurse, died after some 15 months of wonderful work. One sister is a trained cook, while the others are trained school teachers, one for kindergarten work. Of course these latter were a little handicapped at first in their new roles in Australia, but have learned our educational requirements remarkably well.

At the moment the full staff consists of three priests, five brothers, three sisters and five workers on wages. The religious of course receive no wages for the work of charity to which they have given their lives.

Property, Improvements.

A good deal of clearing has been done in the past twelve months, but the greatest improvements are these—

A 35 h.p. Ruston Hornsby Engine was bought second-hand to provide Alternating Current. It drives a new 30 KVA. A new 28 h.p. Ruston Hornsby Engine was bought to drive a 20 KVA also new. A 7 h.p. pump jack was installed to operate on A.C.

Eight large street lamps, 500 watt, were placed among the buildings on the main play area. These provide ample light for night play, which is almost always in the open as we are in a very dry area. They have a good psychological effect of brightness and happiness. It is quite noticeable how these children are depressed in cloudy or dark weather.

A new 16mm Walkie Projector was purchased and provides educational and recreational films once or twice weekly at night.

At rather high cost an electric dough mixer was bought for the bakery, which has been built since last report. Due to change in staff, our bread is now being made by a lad just out of school, and stands very good comparison with any local bread. Bread and yeast buns were entered in the local Show.

A hammer mill was bought for making porridge and stock food, etc.

Four bores were successfully sunken and four windmills have been erected.

A new Fargo utility was purchased for work around the place and transport of children to the doctor, and for picnics, etc.

Two new sewing machines were added to the sewing room for the benefit of the senior girls.

Ninety tubular steel chairs were purchased for the children's dining hall, as those previously acquired were found to be too old for further use.

Two stainless steel sinks, and one of terrazo, were installed in the kitchen. The kitchen was lined out with masonite; the store was fitted with many useful cupboards and large containers for flour, sugar, etc.

Livestock.

Fifteen high grade dairy cows were purchased and also a young bull. This brings our herd to 40 beasts, some of course are for killing.

Two hundred pullets were bought last year and are doing well. Surplus eggs are preserved for the off-period. Our policy is that milk and eggs are cheaper than doctors' bills.

We have bred quite a few pigs and vary the diet of mutton with beef and pork.

New pig yards were built of local stone to house the growing pig population.

Through the kind co-operation of the State Forestry Department, 250 gum trees of different varieties suitable for the wheat belt were planted, mostly by the children.

A good deal of clothing materials, etc., was purchased for children's clothing.

Cement bricks were made, and the engine-room built several feet higher.

The visitors' rooms for parents, etc., were repaired and very tastefully painted and decorated. Two sets of double shower and W.C. blocks were built of local stone and cement brick.

Health.

Since last report we have had two visits from the doctor. The first showed that several children had to go to Mullewa to have tonsils removed. One lad had to receive regular treatment with ear drops.

There were two cases of pneumonia; the same lad each year. The doctor informs us that the whole family have a weakness in this regard.

There has been one case of jaundice.

Otherwise the health of the children has been remarkably good, more especially this year, which has been so very dry. The last doctor's report spoke highly of the state of health of our children. The school dentist stayed for about a week and did some very good work for our children. We are grateful to Mr. P. Lee for his work and interest.

The most annoying thing here is the stone blister. The children run on the coarse gravel and often have sore feet.

Recreation.

The children play the usual games after school when their chores are done, and have a longer game period during school hours once weekly.

Two football matches were played with neighbouring schools. Some players show great promise.

One Sunday a month the girls go for a picnic in the utility, and the boys on another Sunday. Now and then a longer picnic is arranged for all on special occasions. In summer there is swimming in the lake.

The children go to Mullewa for the Show, and this year for the first time entered in many sections. They won seven first prizes and five seconds.

Education.

At the moment there are some 38 children in the school which is divided into two rooms. One is for infants, etc., up to Grade III, the other goes from Grade III to Grade IV.

The School Inspector paid us two visits, and wrote satisfactory reports. The children generally are weakest in arithmetic. They excel at memory work, and manage the spelling with an average of something like 85 per cent. using the same spelling curriculum as for white children. Their writing on the whole

is fair to good. They are shy in expressing themselves when asked, but if they wish to express themselves spontaneously words and sentences flow as with any other child. Special attention has been given to letter writing, and the children have pen friends at Beagle Bay Mission, Lombadina and Melbourne.

Australian history has received more than usual attention. The older children have been taught how to find information for themselves. Practical handling of money was taught over a period when the children bought and sold actual goods in the class rooms.

The children have been taught many songs. They enjoy music and were taken to Mullewa, at least the older ones, for the visit of the A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra. They were prepared beforehand, and knew a good deal about the various instruments, but were a little shy in speaking up when questions were asked at large by the conductor.

We have a good collection of the usual cowboy records for the pick-up but mingle these with good classical records, which we are buying slowly.

Last Christmas the children took part in a rather long play with dialogue and plenty of solo singing. Perhaps we will prepare another this year and invite the parents.

After school a few lads spend an hour in the vegetable garden, which helps provide fresh vegetables, but more especially teaches them how to grow things for themselves.

Our children are well-behaved on the whole, and to date we have been proud of them when they have appeared in public. We find that a few good ones have a tremendous effect for good on the others, and our general policy is to send them back home to act as a leaven amongst their less fortunate relatives.

One drawback is that our children often come too late. Those who come early are much the same as white children, the others, again I suppose like white children, are retarded.

Our general policy of providing the same or similar standards of living customary in boarding schools for white children is beginning to bear fruit.

In conclusion I wish to think our staff, without whose wholehearted co-operation our work would be impossible.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S NATIVE MISSION.

Superintendent: Rev. Fr. Anthony Wellesms.

There is very little to add to previous reports, except to say that the children are well and happy. There are 31 in residence and they attend daily classes at which they are progressing satisfactorily.

The crops are doing well, and approximately 1,100 acres are now cleared. There has been much expenditure on improvements at the Mission, also the purchase of equipment, machinery, stock, etc. General maintenance has increased considerably, but we see that the children have everything they need. A good supply of water is now assured, since the expenditure of £2,000 on boring and wind-mills.

I would like to mention that the Mission has progressed considerably in the past 12 months, due to the hard work, the sympathetic co-operation, and common-sense practical experience of Father Anthony Wellesms, the Superintendent at the Mission.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Management, Rev. Father Stinson, this report is being submitted by the Secretary.

**NATIVE MISSION FARM, ROELANDS, W.A.
(Inc.).**

Superintendent: Mr. K. G. Cross.

The Roelands Mission Council has appointed Mr. A. Le Cras as Assistant Superintendent.

Two further missionaries have joined the staff, in the persons of Miss A. Forrest and Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, who have greatly assisted in the work of relieving the missionaries due for holidays, clerical work and farm duties.

Children.

During the year two girls and five boys have been admitted to the Mission Home, while five girls and three boys have left for the purpose of taking up employment. The year closed with a total of 83 children being maintained.

Health.

The happy and healthy appearance of the children gives evidence of the maintenance of a healthy life and this has been the position right through the year except for an outbreak of measles developed in October and November of last year, and also a severe form of influenza during February, 1952.

Education.

Although many of the scholars only commenced schooling at a late age encouraging results have been achieved through the efforts of the four teachers. Of the other scholars, two girls are studying with a view to taking the Nurses' Entrance Examination. Arrangements and preparations are being made for three girls to take a secondary education with either the Bunbury or Harvey High School.

The children again did well at the inter School sports at Harvey, winning the shield in competition with the smaller schools. Individual trophies were also won, including the Senior District Girl Champion.

In hockey three of the girls were selected to represent the Harvey District in the South-West Tournament at Collie. It was pleasing to note that one of the girls was appointed by the players to be their captain. Later two of the girls were included in the South-West Team which competed successfully in Perth.

Recreation.

Organised sport, including football and hockey, were arranged during the year. Holidays at the Beach Home at Dunsborough during the Christmas and Easter vacations proved a great delight to the children.

A boy scout troop has been formed and registered with the association as Troop No. 73. The first group are busy training to obtain their tenderfoot badge. A similar group is being formed for the girls under the auspices of the Girl Guide Association

Farm.

Products from the farm have again assisted in the supply of Mission requirements such as milk, cream, butter, eggs, meat and vegetables, fruit, walnuts and honey. Through the planting of various varieties of fruit trees, together with gifts of apples and oranges, we were able to have a continuous supply of fruit right through the year. Export sales of grapefruit and local sales again assisted in making a valuable contribution to the Mission finance. Although the farm work is mostly carried out by the missionaries and also assists in the supply of products for the well being of the community, it does provide a valuable source of training for the boys.

Improvements.

In the past an annual camp has been arranged for the boys and girls at Dunsborough Beach. In considering the future number of children to be accommodated and realising that our camping equipment was inadequate, a move was made to provide a more permanent

building. A lease of land comprising $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre facing the ocean was procured and a Nissen hut 42ft. x 16ft. plus a kitchen 12ft. x 12ft. were erected.

Owing to the need of a more efficient form of transport a new three ton Bedford motor truck was purchased.

We are grateful to the Native Affairs Department for assistance in the purchase of the above improvements.

An office building 20ft. x 14ft. together with an adjoining garage was also erected at Roelands.

Achievements of Past Pupils.

Of the ex-trainees, one girl has commenced a nursing course at the Bethesda Hospital, Melbourne. Another is employed at the Mission Home caring for a group of young children and includes all duties with the exception of preparation of meals. Two girls, while staying at Alvan House, are attending dressmaking courses at the Senior Technical School, Perth. While of a further two girls, one is assisting in duties at McDonald House, and the other is employed at Bennett House. The girls working in the country areas continue to give satisfactory service and encouraging reports are received from their employers.

Of the boys, two are employed in the metropolitan area, one as an apprentice to the State Electricity Commission, while the other is employed by the Native Affairs Department. A number of boys working in the country areas have acquired equipment and plant for the purpose of developing their own business. Two boys have each purchased a shearing plant, engine and a recent model utility to assist in the continuation of their shearing contracts. In the Yallingup area, one farmer in recognition of the faithful service of another ex-trainee, and also as a means of encouragement, is making the profits of his dairy farm for this season available to the native lad. Another boy, who has given consistent service for five years in the Fergusson district, has become engaged to the native girl teacher, trained at the Carnarvon Mission and employed at the Roelands Mission. Preparations are being made for the marriage early next year.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the "waste places" have been rebuilt, and from amongst the 33 boys and girls who have finished their training a large percentage have creditably taken their place in the community and are living a consistent Christian life.

General.

Old ideas and prejudices so apparent in the community in days gone by should be expunged. It is pleasing to note a change of attitude as the witness of these young people stir the lethargic into a state of action.

We also note the spirit of camaraderie shown to the Mission children during their inter-school sports and other public functions.

We would like to take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks to you, The Commissioner of Native Affairs, and to your officers, for the assistance and co-operation rendered.

**CHURCHES OF CHRIST NATIVE
MISSION, CARNARVON.**

Superintendent, Mr. S. H. Reeson.

It has been most encouraging, looking back over the year's work to see the continued improvement among the inmates in their personal cleanliness, manners, moral outlook and education, some really good progress being noticeable. The standard of discipline has been maintained satisfactorily, no doubt helped by the Christian atmosphere which the missionaries endeavour to fuse into their work among the inmates.

An encouraging angle of the work is the growing goodwill of the adult natives far and wide toward the work of the Mission. Information has been coming to me that many adults in the Ashburton district are desirous of sending their children to the Carnarvon Mission for training. Also, the parents of the inmates visiting the Mission from time to time show a growing appreciation of what is being done for their children. The future from this angle alone looks most encouraging.

The greatest problem I see facing us in the immediate future is that of accommodation. The number of inmates continues to grow beyond all our expectations so that all sleeping quarters are now greatly overtaxed. The original dormitories built to hold 24 inmates now house 40, the total number of inmates being 96, there being an increase of 18 during the year. The overcrowding has made conditions particularly trying for those in charge, and as a consequence we have had to place the brake on future admissions except very needy cases, and even this type of case is causing us some concern.

The temporary kindergarten section has developed into a major part of the work with 16 little ones from a few weeks to six years of age demanding attention. Here again we are at the limit of accommodation and those in charge are at the limit of their bodily strength. We have been asked from time to time why we keep taking in children while the accommodation and workers are overtaxed. The answer is to be found in our obligation toward these little ones, many of whom are brought to us seriously ill and whose parents in many instances are so helpless in the face of sickness that to refuse admittance would be fatal. There seems to be a growing desire among the parents to bring their children to the Mission at an early age. This of course can be the means of providing us with a heaven-sent opportunity to help fashion young lives. Thus the problem of increased accommodation and additional missionaries to take charge must be faced up to in the immediate future. Already I feel that we are 12 months behind in providing the necessary accommodation that the work might proceed without interruption. Extensions are needed to the girls' and boys' dormitories, and a new kindergarten section is needed, specially constructed to cope with the needs of training little children from the infant stage to six or seven years.

The need for providing manual training for the adolescent boys has been uppermost in my mind for some time, and I dealt with this in the last annual report. Representations were made to the Education Department with a view to having part of this work carried out under their guidance with correspondence lessons, and the practical side of the work under the supervision of one of the missionaries. We are still waiting developments with the Education Department. In the meantime manual training of a very practical nature is carried out among the older boys as each one assists in the many varied jobs that are undertaken each day. Besides participating in the many constructional and agricultural pursuits of the Mission, the older boys are also being instructed one night each week in the use of tools, boot repairing and maintenance of equipment. This they find both instructive and enjoyable. Eight of these older boys were taken to Perth last March for a three weeks' holiday. This was their first visit to a city and they found it very inspiring. While there they were able to visit a number of workshops and factories and other places of interest. The holiday should be regarded as part of their education, for it indeed helped to broaden their outlook. Our aim was to give them some incentive to lift themselves out of the rut into which so many of their race, through force of circumstances, have fallen.

and to encourage them to aim at a higher standard of living. We felt that the trip was well worth while in this respect.

Education is on a much more satisfactory footing this year than previously. The Education Department has provided two men teachers for the school and the assistance of a woman is also provided for the girl's sewing instruction, so that the work is functioning as it should. You will recall that this work was previously in the hands of one teacher, namely Mrs. Brenchley, whose devotion to her major task will live long in our memories.

The completion of our water scheme referred to in the last report has been the means of helping to transform what was once a bare and dusty Mission Station into one of growing beauty. Lawns have been laid out in the compounds, Kikuyu grass being used for the purpose because of its value as stock feed. Trees and shrubs are also being planted for shade and windbreaks. The vegetable garden provides all the green vegetables for the entire Mission inhabitants. Tomatoes are in plentiful supply throughout the greater part of the year, and at times a hundredweight a week is provided. The 500 banana plants are now in bearing and it is hoped to provide two hundredweight weekly from the plantation to vary the Mission diet. Sixty citrus trees have also been planted and are making satisfactory progress. A large area of pumpkins and potatoes is also being tried out this year.

The 150 laying hens are providing over 800 eggs weekly, 500 of which are used on the Mission dining tables. The Mission supplies the Carnarvon Hospital with 300 eggs weekly at twopence a dozen above the prevailing wholesale price.

The health of the community has been generally good. Except for minor ailments the only serious illness was an outbreak of measles towards the close of 1951. This outbreak began in the kindergarten section and eventually, despite all precautions, spread throughout the Mission, practically all inmates being affected, as no means of isolation was possible owing to the cramped conditions. The District Medical Officer was notified and stood ready in case of emergency, but the disease was treated day by day without any complications.

The standard of spiritual instruction is well maintained. Church services and Bible School are held each Sunday. Christian endeavour meetings are held in one evening each week, when adolescent boys and girls take it in turn to perform various duties of the meeting. A growing interest in these meetings is evident. A fifteen minutes' devotional is held each morning at the breakfast table, and the day closes in the dormitories with story-telling and singing.

In conclusion I would say that the year has been one of blessings in many ways, for which we thank God. Progress has been steady, so that I feel we can face the future with confidence. We would like to thank the Native Affairs Department for assistance provided in many ways for the progress of the work.

UNITED ABORIGINES' MISSION, MOUNT MARGARET.

Superintendent: Mr. R. S. Schenk.

It is regretted that the detailed and informative report forwarded by Mr. Schenk cannot be published in full here as space is limited.

The staff of this Mission is mainly comprised of Mr. and Mrs. Schenk, their daughters and their sons-in-law. This "big family" aspect is an immense contributing factor in the success of the Mission which has become the social, cultural and religious centre for the native people throughout the whole of that area. The people treat it as their home, going away to work or to seek higher education, but they return sooner or later to enjoy a period with the big family.

Arts and Crafts.

Mrs. Schenk reports—

Many of those who previously worked daily in the workrooms are now often away with their husbands who are working. Some of these women had become very proficient, and enjoyed the work, and requested work to take away with them to do. All work being paid by piece work suits them very well.

During the past year 40 shopping bags, 56 brooches, 5 work baskets, 420 promise baskets and 198 pokered and handpainted texts and mottoes were made and sent away, leaving some goods on hand for further orders.

Graham Homes

Mrs. Jackson reports—

During the year we have had five new girls added to our number, making a total of 55. How we long that they may all be won for the Lord. Two of our girls were married during the year. What a joy that they can now choose the boy they love. One had to wait quite a time before she was able to marry because her boy had a great fear of the native men, but, praise the Lord, they are happily married.

The Junior Endeavourers have been busy this year working for the Sister Edie Shield, and you can guess the joy of the children when they heard that they had won it. Now they are doing their best to win it again this year. Also, twenty of the juniors went in for the Question Box Examination, and all passed. Seventeen gained "Honours" and two "Excellent." Please pray on that the Junior Endeavour may help them all to stand firm upon the Rock, Christ Jesus. At one of the meetings eight stood up for the Lord.

Boys' Home.

Mr. Miller reports on his 36 boys as follows:—

"These lads, the oldest 16 and the youngest three years, are kept very busy during the day with duties—the milking of the goats and the supply of eight homes with sufficient wood to meet requirements. In spare moments, and periods when duties are finished, work is provided in many ways whereby pocket money can be obtained. At present, all are saving hard for sandshoes and sox, etc., for the fast approaching sports at Leonora. Banking is encouraged and a number have Savings Bank accounts.

On Saturdays it is a case of down tools and enjoy ourselves. There is ample sport in kangaroo hunting, and tracking, etc., to stimulate the art long practised by their ancestors. The writer has witnessed a number of remarkable pieces of tracking done on these outings. Day and night are all the same, and on moonlight nights hikes and bonfires make up in relaxation for the sameness of the duties.

Much there is during the week that interests the boys. There are the Scouts and Cubs taken by Miss Ball; band practice by Mrs. Morgan, and sport by their school teachers. All are practising very hard just now and hoping to be picked as representatives in this year's inter-school sports.

Mr. Milne reports on "school and "sport" as follows:—

With the financial assistance of the Education Department this last 12 months has been a time of improvement in school equipment. It is a fundamental educational principle that clean, tidy classrooms tend to make children that way, and our aim is to have our school comparable with city standards. We now have a sound projector, dual desks, teachers' tables and chairs, and the infant classroom is being improved with new flooring, new lining and louvre windows.

The children, with the help of Aural Music Classes, Domestic Science Classes, Manual Training and Sewing Classes, are being given much useful training for later life.

This year a milestone has been reached, as it is the first time we have had a class in Standard 6. Individual pupils have reached Standard 6 before, but this year there is a class of four, three girls and a boy.

A general improvement has taken place in reading comprehension which is a most important matter, as reading is a basic skill in education. What is the use of reading if we do not get any meaning from it? We have now a carefully selected and graded library which is greatly enjoyed by the children.

Dux of the year, in December, was Maisie Graham. This year the honoured place is being very closely contested between her and two other pupils.

The top marks for the half-yearly examinations are as follows:—

Class 6—Maisie Graham—63 out of a possible 80; Ronnie Bonney—63 out of a possible 80; Muriel Brennan—62 out of a possible 80.

Class 5—June Cable—63 out of a possible 80.

Class 4—Ernie Shaw—66 out of a possible 80.

Class 3—Myrtle Anderson—59½ out of a possible 80.

Class 2—Stan Elliott—65½ out of a possible 80.

In August our school was well represented at the Northern Goldfields Inter-school Sports. Once again they gained second place in the aggregate points, and brought home three silver cups.

From the District Youth Tennis Tournament at Leonora last December, which was open to all comers including children home on holiday from colleges, our young people came home with nine trophies. Eric Thomas entered for both under 16 and under 18 singles championship and carried off both, and with his partner also won the under 18 boys' doubles. His sister, Bertha Thomas, won the under 18 girls' championship. We felt very proud of them.

Once again we visited Leonora for inter-school matches in football and basketball. This time we were victorious. At present we are preparing for the inter-school sports to be held in September.

Manual training has commenced but all the needs are not yet available. The kindergarten, which was so successful, had to be closed for a time because of the shortage of teachers. Twelve of the sixteen children there last year have gone into infant class but 15 pre-school children are missing the kindergarten. Their early introduction to music will be missed.

Mrs. Morgan reports on Aural Music Classes as follows:—

The Senior Class of last year (three boys and 10 girls—Class IV in school) has had new work introduced this year through individual charts with the staff and keyboard drawn on them. Through this activity they have been doing "word notes" on the staff and scales (C and F). Solfa singing and ear work continue also. One lesson a month is devoted to percussion band which is used to teach time and conducting.

The Junior Class (10 boys and 12 girls—Classes 2 and 3 in school) has three-quarters of an hour lesson a week. They have been having short rhythm and learning time and solfa singing. They just love percussion band which, for them also, makes one lesson a month. There is much talent here for the general band later on.

This year a boy has been learning the piano accordeon and made his initial appearance in the band at anniversary time. Five girls are learning the mandoline from Mrs. Milnes, and Miss Ball is teaching the violin to some of the boys.

For Sewing Classes, Miss Hipwell writes:—

We have 45 girls attending. These are divided into seven classes, which range from school age infants to the senior girls. In the classes the girls are taught sewing, knitting, fancywork, crochet and mending. For sewing each girl has a different article or garment in the making. The senior girls are knitting cardigans while the next group are knitting baby dolls' sets. This teaches them to follow the patterns themselves so that later on they will be able to knit for their families. Various kinds of darning and mending are taught according to the standard of the class.

At the beginning of the year five new pupils commenced. They show great enthusiasm in learning to use the needle and to commence knitting.

Under the heading "Domestic Science," Mrs. Milnes reports:—

There are at present two classes of five and six girls respectively. Another class of 11 junior girls has been discontinued since I have been assisting in the school. The girls are keenly interested (especially in the section where they eat their meal).

A lesson takes this general form—

1. Practical.
2. Demonstration.
3. Note-taking and discussion.
4. Serving
5. Dinner.

In the practical section, each girl takes in rotation the soup, meat, vegetables, pudding or sweets, scones, cakes, and housekeeper duties. The girls were very self-conscious on their first day in caps and overalls, but they did look nice, and this added to their pride in their room.

Miss Gray, the State Inspector of Domestic Science Centres, visited us. She was most interested and arranged for me to observe at the Eastern Goldfields' High School's Centre for a week, which was most helpful.

Laundry is included in the syllabus, and the girls are already having sewing lessons under Miss Hipwell's tuition. A short course in mothercraft is to be included during the year also.

"Health" report is as follows—

The health generally of our people has been very good during the year.

Matron Wells came in August, 1951, to take charge of our Christisson Memorial Hospital, but will be leaving the Mission shortly to be married, and we shall miss her. We thank her for her year's service, and wish her God's blessing in her married life.

During the year there were 16 in-patients, including four maternity cases, in addition to a daily out-patients' clinic.

In September the school children were examined by Dr. Anderson of the Education Department who commented on their good health and good physical condition. As a result of her examination, one boy is to be treated in Perth by a specialist, and another is to have his eyes tested by an optician.

In April 17 children were immunised against diphtheria, and 20 were given diphtheria refresher injections by Matron Wells.

Miss Ball writes—

This year I have been able to start a Wolf Cub Pack and a Boy Scout Troop. I have always realised the value of Scouting for boys and Guiding for girls. I will be starting Brownies for the little girls very soon

This is an important development from which the children must gain much benefit.

Mr. Schenk records the following under the heading "Improvements":—

During the year various improvements were made in the school and school equipment. A piano was purchased for the use of the school and kindergarten. A new sound projector was installed, with engine shed and engine and generator bedded down for same. A large new stove was set on the Domestic Science room. The Infant room has new flooring, new louver windows and is being lined. The stove, piano, sound projector, and improvements to the new Infant room were all subsidised by the Education Department on a £ for £ basis.

A new refrigerator was supplied for the Home Kitchen, and one for the hospital.

The foundation has been laid for a new 220 volt electric light plant which we expect to come forward shortly to take the place of our 32 volt plant.

A new diesel engine has been installed to work the two-ton ammonia refrigerating plant.

A new Clothes Changing Room, 20ft. x 20ft., has been built at the Boys' Home, and a wardrobe for each boy is in course of erection.

£110 worth of louver windows have been fitted in different buildings around the Mission. One native cottage, four rooms, has been pulled down, re-modelled, and re-built. Fencing has been erected around one native cottage. Several buildings have been painted and white-washed. Two thousand feet of piping has been laid down around the Mission. Two hundred pounds worth of additions and repairs have been made to the Infant Class-room. Five new tables bought for Infant Class-room. Six dozen pepper trees planted around the Mission.

Besides all the general lines for the Home children, we have had to make some big purchases to supply 90 new towels, 180 sheets, 90 pillowslips, 200 new nightdresses and 80 pairs of pyjamas.

The following are notes on the progress of some of the past pupils:—

Miss Gladys Vincent continues to give splendid service at Roelands Mission.

Miss Sadie Corner has passed her Third Year Nursing at Bethesda Hospital, Melbourne, and is now doing her Maternity course.

Miss Lorraine Atkinson has finished her stenographer's course, and is now working at the Native Affairs Office, Perth.

Our girls at Alvan House, May Miller, Laurel Johnston and Phyllis Polak, are all doing well.

Ben Mason, one of our boys, is at McDonald House, and has gained a splendid report.

We are very grateful to the Native Affairs Department for giving our boys and girls such opportunities.

WOTJULUM PRESBYTERIAN MISSION.

Superintendent: Mr. L. MacMillan.

The complete change of locality and consequent upheaval have made possible a more rapid advancement with the adoption of policy of the Department of Native Affairs of endeavouring to make the native population productive and self-supporting and more readily assimilated into their changed environment.

The move down the coast has placed us near a good market in the white community at Cockatoo Island which will take all the fresh vegetables and eggs within our capacity to produce. As well as growing the bulk of our own stock feed and fodder crops, additional crops such as peanuts, coconuts, bananas, coffee, cocoa, cotton, grain sorghum and maize will be experimented with and those proving suitable to the area will be expanded and established. Similarly a wide variety of tropical fruits and possibly fibre crops will be tried, and if economically suitable will be established.

As the valley is well watered an endeavour will be made to improve the native diet by the introduction from the higher rainfall tropics of suitable varieties of native garden products such as yams, taru, manioc and sweet potato.

During the coming year it is hoped to establish a small cattle herd on suitable land some 20 miles south of the station and outside the impossibly rugged coastal area surrounding the Wotjulum Valley. This, we hope, will make a regular fresh meat supply possible. The failure of the last wet season and the scarcity of game in the rugged country which comprises over 90 per cent. of the native reserve has created a major problem and greatly increased the cost of living to the native. Tinned meats have of necessity been used extensively and the lugger whenever available, has been constantly out hunting dugong and turtle. But such supplies are limited and not dependable and are far from cheap.

Native arts and crafts will not be allowed to die out and natives will be encouraged to continue making curios for sale to residents of Cockatoo Island and to passengers on vessels calling at that port. Natives are also being encouraged and instructed in the manufacture of ornaments and curios and utility articles from turtle and pearl shell procured locally.

During the past 12 months the emphasis has of necessity been directed towards the establishment of the station at the new site and building construction and road-making have occupied the greater part of our time. However, despite these demands, a small garden has been established and though at first only a limited output will be possible it is hoped that fresh vegetables to the value of two to three hundred pounds will be supplied to the white community at Cockatoo Island during the coming year.

Later this year we hope to establish our own saw and planing mill to produce the bulk of our building timber requirements from the stands of local pine, bloodwood and woolly butt which are reasonably abundant in the area.

Carpentry and engineering workshops will be established and with qualified technical men on the staff it is hoped any natives showing ability in these fields will receive a thorough technical training to a high standard. With an extensive building programme ahead and mechanization of transport and agriculture and the installation of an electric power plant there should be ample scope for training and for trained men to put their acquired knowledge to practical use.

During the past 12 months it has been possible for us to assess the possibilities of the new site and wherever possible make plans to take full advantage of the natural features. Consequently it is now possible to visualize the eventual layout of the station. Briefly this will be as follows:—The main settlement will be placed either side of an east-west road on the north bank of the Wotjulum River. Dwellings for white staff together with hospital, day school, office, store, bake-house, vegetable gardens and quarters and kitchens for aged and invalid natives needing special attention will be placed between the road and the river. Across the road will be workshops, power plant, agricultural machinery sheds and poultry runs. On a rocky outcrop overlooking the central area the church will be placed.

Native dwellings will be widely dispersed along radiating lines, approximately one acre per house area, and will be of mud wall construction, hip roofs of local sawn timber and secondhand galvanised iron to the limit of available supplies. Units will be of two rooms for single men or married men without families and three rooms for couples with children. A small all around verandah will afford weather protection for the walls and storage for native gear and one corner section of the verandah

will be enclosed to provide a kitchen fitted with a 44 gallon oil drum type oven and cooking range.

By keeping direct radiating lines for dwellings it will be possible at reasonable cost to eventually couple up all dwellings to the station water system. At the east end of the main road a 20,000 gallon tank will be built on a rocky outcrop giving a minimum of 40 ft. head at shower height to all areas within the settlement. This tank will be filled by a hydraulic ram operating on the river and delivering approximately 10,000 gallons daily. Cultivation areas, including about four acres under channel irrigation will be established on river flats higher up the stream and on flats within the valley to the west of the main settlement.

An inspector for the Department of Public Health (Mr. Britten) has given much valuable advice and the approval of the proposed water scheme and samples of water have been sent to the Department for analysis. Officers of the Department of Agriculture, Irrigation Section (Mr. Gibson), and the District Agricultural Officer (Mr. Fitzgerald), have been most helpful and have given much valuable advice during their visits which we hope will continue. The helpfulness and generosity of these officers is much appreciated and will we feel sure be a big factor in the successful establishment of the station.

Sanitation at present is by drum incinerator and this form of night soil disposal will be continued but will gradually be replaced by small individual house septic tank systems with larger systems in certain localities such as school and workshop areas.

During the past 12 months considerable progress has been made in implementing the Department of Native Affairs' policy of training the natives in handling their own money. Wages are paid to all workers according to their individual ability and those on the lower rates are encouraged to qualify for the higher rates by their own efforts and increased skill. Departmental subsidies and endowments are passed on in actual cash payments to indigent natives and the parents of the children. Recipients then make their purchases and thus learn to establish a weekly budget. We have found the majority show good sense in their purchasing and many of the older indigent natives are surprisingly showing considerable acumen in the handling of their limited resources. A few of the workers are showing considerable thrift and temporary bank accounts have been established and will shortly, we hope, be transformed into Commonwealth Savings Bank accounts. Wise and foolish purchasers alike appear to appreciate handling their own cash and aged and even some blind and infirms all roll up to make their purchases with a verve fully equal to any "bargain hunting" housewife.

During the past 12 months much has been accomplished in re-establishing the station at the new site. Despite shortages of staff and building materials 120 natives have been transported to the new site and housed in temporary dwellings, much of the materials for which had also to be transported. Our difficulties have been greatly increased by our shortage of young able-bodied men as labourers, less than 8 per cent. of our total numbers, nearly 50 per cent. of our people are aged and infirm and over 15 per cent. are children 12 being infants under 15 months old. This latter is a good augury for the future, but we must expect many of the old people to pass on within the next few years. However, despite the unavoidable strain and difficulties associated with such a move there have been only two deaths amongst our people (both aged) or less than 1 per cent. mortality against an increase of 7 per cent. by births. In line with departmental policy, and the long-established policy of the Mission of encouraging natives to be workers and self-supporting

by seeking suitable employment, we have over 15 per cent. of our people working on surrounding stations or in Derby and, so far as we have been able to ascertain, in almost every instance they seem to be giving satisfactory services to their employers.

All children of school age are doing departmental Correspondence lessons under white supervision or are, where old enough, receiving technical training in carpentry, boatwork and engineering or stock work. Unfortunately, shortage of staff and time have made it impossible to make the technical training as thorough as was planned but it is hoped that additions to the staff in the near future will make it possible to intensify this technical training. During the coming year we will have another eight children reaching school age and will be applying for assistance to the Education Department, as we shall then have 14 children in the primary school grades.

Last year we received a visit from Sister Garlick of the Child Welfare Department and on her valued advice and directions a baby clinic was established. The result has been that during the past year the health and progress of the children has been excellent. All children under two years of age have been under daily supervision on the baby clinic which is under the direction of a white supervisor and a part-trained native assistant. All babies are bathed and attended to and checks are made on health, cleanliness of clothing, diets, etc., all of which provides at the same time valuable training in hygiene for the mothers. Much of the credit for the success of the clinic has been due to Matron Howell of Derby District Hospital who, with unflinching patience, is daily available on the "pedal wireless" to give expert advice. Weekly reports of weights and progress are made to her and diet changes or treatments recommended and adopted. She has also visited the station and made additional recommendations wherever such were necessary. Visitors to the Mission all remark on the size and number of family groups and obvious health of the children.

Apart from the usual crops of colds and "flu" the general health of the camp has been excellent despite our large number of aged and infirm inmates. This has been in a large measure due to the pedal radio making possible early treatment of cases by the direction of the medical officers in Derby. Dr. Gregorov of Derby has paid the station a visit and examined all inmates. Where necessary treatments have been prescribed, surgical and more serious cases sent to Derby, others given courses of treatment at the station. We hope by these means we will soon have a 100 per cent. fit community. We hope that it will be possible for the Medical Department to arrange for Dr. Gregorov to visit the station once a month, as an aerodrome being impossible in this area we do not come within the cover of the Air Medical Service.

We are pleased to report that no cases of Hansen's Disease were found and to the best of our knowledge there is only one of our people with the complaint at large, a man whom we have returned to the leprosarium three times after escapes during the past year. We have to report an excellent atmosphere in the camp regarding the attitude to this disease. The natives realise the infective danger to our large infant population of escapees entering the camp and humanely but firmly return all escapees, eight having been returned during the past year. They impress on all such that their duty and their wisest course is to return to Derby and complete their cure. Recent provisionally cured releases of six of our people have done much to strengthen the camp's case and we feel that this attitude of the natives towards the disease will do much to check its

ravages amongst them, especially if backed up by early diagnosis of any new cases which may occur.

Before closing this report we would like to express our appreciation of the kindly assistance we have received from the superintendents, members of staff and the entire community of the Australian Iron and Steel Co. at Cockatoo Island. This has taken numberless forms in kindness, service and actual material supplies at concession rates. The Cockatoo Branch of the C.W.A. have done much in the way of solving our clothing problems by making garments free of labour charge and last Christmas the Yampi Sunday School donated a small present to every native child in the camp. The men of the R.A.O.B. Lodge also gave presents to the children and free services in other ways. We are extremely fortunate in having as neighbours a community who sincerely have the welfare of the native at heart and are prepared to show that interest in such a concrete manner. We trust that by the high level of our return services supplied to them we can in a small measure show our appreciation of their kindness and help.

Looking back over the past year one feels that reasonable progress has been made with the re-establishment of the station despite the many difficulties occasioned by such a move. Excellent progress has been made towards making the natives self-supporting and valuable citizens of Australia with greater confidence in themselves and pride in their community and race.

In short, we aim at establishing at Wotjulum a community built on proven sound Christian foundations.

HOLY CHILD ORPHANGE.

Superintendent, Sister M. Margaret.

The Orphanage was founded in 1941 when the first block was erected to house 22 half-caste and black children. A short time after the opening the sisters and children were evacuated to Beagle Bay Mission and the Orphanage was taken over by the Army at first, and afterwards by the Air Force who remained until December, 1945, when the sisters and children returned. The family had grown then to 52 as Mr. Bray, the Commissioner, had sent a number of small children collected in the Kimberleys. A new block was built in 1946 containing dining room, infirmary, office and rooms for the sisters. A windmill and playground equipment, as well as an underground tank for rainwater, were donated by the Lotteries Commission.

The Lotteries Commission donated a radio and also a projector. The Education Department send films every fortnight free, which are eagerly looked forward to by the children.

The Commissioner of Native Affairs paid a visit and seemed pleased with the arrangements made for the children's welfare. Another visitor, or rather visitors, were the Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, and his suite. They went through the buildings and examined the display of work done by the girls, which included fancywork, crochet, bread, cakes and vegetables grown by the girls.

This orphanage is unique in being the only institution entirely run by women. All the carting of goods and firewood is done by the sisters and girls, who also make the minor repairs to the fences, etc.

The girls grow beans, cabbages, melons, pumpkins, etc., in the gardens and also keep the grounds and lawns in order.

When the girls leave school (about 14 years) they are taught cooking, and laundry work, housekeeping and dressmaking.

Section "D."

HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

Finance.

Departmental expenditure for the year under review was £172,753. Considerable saving was effected by the closure of Moore River Native Settlement. The total amount of subsidy and assistance to Missions showed an increase, whilst Grants-in-Aid to Missions showed a decrease on last year's total. In all, Missions received £14,899 more than last year.

Increased costs are the main contributing causes for increased expenditure in Departmental Institutions. Increased revenue collections result from the increased price for cattle sold from Moola Bulla Native Station.

Loan expenditure, apart from the establishment of an institution at Fitzroy Crossing, was confined to water supply, sanitation, refrigeration and structural improvement.

The increased allocation of funds enabled the Department to meet rising costs and slightly increase its activities in the field. Stringent economy and amended policy allowed the spending of more money on children in Missions and on welfare work. The work of the Department is limited by the funds available, and, during the year, those funds were spent to the best advantage.

The Natives' Medical Fund.

Although the total of contributions received was higher in the previous year it was necessary to obtain a Treasury advance of £2,500 to honour the obligations of the fund.

The number of contributions under the Employers' Permits decreased but the number of natives' voluntary contributions increased. Increased doctors' fees and hospital charges contributed to the insolvency of the fund. Payments to doctors almost doubled that of the previous year.

Approval has been obtained to increase the annual contribution of £1 to £3. This increase comes into effect as from 1st July, 1952.

Relief.

Although expenditure under this item has been reduced considerably, it is only in the Pilbara that relief to natives has been reduced. In this area the rationing centres at Nullagine and Marble Bar were closed as the indigent natives in that area are now supported by their relatives engaged in mining. In some other areas Missions have taken care of indigent natives and in these cases the costs are recorded as assistance to Missions.

During the year ten rationing centres operated. In all, 246 adults and 90 children received relief. An influx of about 150 desert natives visiting Kalgoorlie for about three weeks increased the number expected to be rationed.

The issuing of rations, which reduces the incidence of begging, is essential whilst natives are not eligible for aged and invalid pensions. However, this is only one of the many forms of relief. Other important forms are medical attendance, transport of sick and injured natives, and legal defence.

Pauperisation of natives is opposed and relief is given only when necessary.

Trust Account and Investments.

At the 30th June, 1952, a total of 199 Commonwealth Savings Bank passbooks were held by the Department. The total balance of £3,546 8s. included a sum of £343 8s. 1d. operative under section 65 of the Act, being a fund for the benefit of natives generally.

Although the number of accounts held was 147 less than last year, the total balance was an increase of £9 19s. 1d.

Investments in Commonwealth Bonds and War Savings Certificates on behalf of 49 natives were £6,309, and on behalf of section 65 of the Act, £420. These figures show a drop of nine holders and an amount of £487 since the previous annual report.

Estates.

During the year 12 estates, valued at £143 1s. 9d. were handled.

Maintenance.

At the close of the year 65 maintenance cases were being handled, 13 being against natives and 52 against non-natives. In 56 of these cases court orders for maintenance had been made whilst the remainder were under voluntary agreement.

Supervised Natives' Wages.

Under Regulation 85 of the Native Administration Regulations the Commissioner may direct that a certain portion, not exceeding 75 per cent. of a native's wages shall be paid by the employer of such native to the Commissioner to be held in trust for that native.

At the 30th June, 1952, the Commissioner was exercising this authority in the cases of seven female and three male natives in employment throughout the State. When received, the wages are placed in interest-bearing Savings Bank Trust Accounts in the names of the respective employees. The funds in these accounts are available to their owners when they require money to purchase articles, such as clothing, etc., or for money when on holidays, etc.

Christmas Cheer.

Through the generosity of the Lotteries Commission, the Economic Stores Ltd., and the "Daily News" Orphans Christmas Cheer Fund, it was again possible to distribute small gifts of food, billycans, toys, etc., amongst the indigent natives and native children throughout the State.

Donations of £600 from the Lotteries Commission, £21 from Economic Stores Ltd., and £20 from the "Daily News" Fund made a total of £641 which was shared between some 3,500 natives. The Department again wishes to record its appreciation of these generous donations.

Lotteries Grants.

Again the Lotteries Commission was most generous in granting financial aid to natives.

A total of £9,105 4s. 4d. was expended as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
Departmental grants (inclusive of £600 Christmas Cheer)	857	17	6	
Denominational Mission grants	8,521	4	4	
Grants to Native Hospitals and Derby Leprosarium	101	2	6	
	9,105	4	4	

It is wished to record appreciation for the valuable assistance afforded both departmental and private institutions.

Population.

Appendix No. 3 shows the native population distribution of Western Australia at the 30th June, 1952.

In previous reports it has been explained that a complete census of natives has not been undertaken. However, through the departmental plan of decentralisation and consequent increased personal contact between natives and field officers, the population figures are more accurately assessed. In the past, reliability has been placed on the submission of statistics from Police Officers for the compilation of district population figures, but it was not possible for these officers to take a physical check or maintain individual records. Thus the figures were often misleading.

The eventual attainment of a complete census in each field district throughout the State will form a basis for arriving at future population figures. In co-operation with the Registrar General's Department encouragement has been given to the registration of all births and deaths of natives, with the ultimate object of maintaining accurate vital statistics. Evidence of increased registrations already exists. All legal marriages of natives, of course, are registered under lawful compulsion by those officiating.

A figure of 6,000 is estimated as the number of full-blood natives in the desert areas of the State. Some of these nomadic groups no doubt spasmodically enter within the influence of the marginal Missions, but in the main their life and activity would be confined to regions unoccupied by the white settlers.

The decrease of full-blood natives, and the increase of caste natives is still noticeable.

Year.	Full-Blood Natives.			Total.
	In Settled Areas.	Outside Confines Civilisation. (Estimate.)	Other Caste Natives.	
1903	Est. 31,150		850	32,000
1908	11,000	20,000	Est. 1,000	32,000
1927	12,815	10,000	2,833	25,648
1952	9,081	6,000	5,970	21,051

Deaths.

Deaths of natives recorded during the year show that 169 occurred. Of this total, 123 were full-blood natives and 46 were other than full-blood natives. Full statistics are passed to the Registrar General for classification.

Health.

An alteration to the Commonwealth Hospital Benefits Act caused an adjustment to the system of charging hospital fees as from the 1st May, 1952. Where patients are members of a Hospital Benefits Fund, the Fund pays 9s. per day for hospital inpatient treatment, and further hospital benefits amounting to 12s. per day would be available from the Commonwealth. However, where patients are not members of a Hospital Benefits Fund the Commonwealth benefit to the extent of only 8s. per day is available.

There is no indication so far of natives having enrolled as members of approved Hospital Benefit Funds but, in keeping with the general community, there may be more enthusiasm now to provide for the health and medical attention of themselves and dependants. The Natives' Medical Fund administered by this Department gives the natives the opportunity for cheaper coverage with wider health and medical benefits than afforded by Friendly Societies.

Employed natives, unless covered by the employer's or their own voluntary contribution to the Natives' Medical Fund, are individually responsible to hospitals for full ordinary hospital charges. This Department is responsible from the financial resources made available by the State for the cost of hospitalisation of only indigent natives.

An agreement existing between the British Medical Association and this Department guarantees doctors' payment of their accounts by this Department for the treatment of natives. Recovery of this expenditure is made by this Department where the individual is covered under the Natives'

Medical Fund, but when not so covered and having the means to pay, recovery action is taken against the native. Again this Department is financially responsible for indigent natives.

Because of these financial arrangements natives continue to receive excellent medical attendance.

The general health of natives is good, and no serious epidemics occurred during the year. Improved drugs now used at the Leprosarium have given great hope to those who have had the misfortune to contract leprosy.

A Commonwealth Nutritional Survey investigated the diets of natives and, in time, it is hoped they will receive some benefit from this research.

Education.

Education continues to be the function of the Education Department, where an officer has been placed in charge of a native education section.

Several schools at Missions and departmental institutions are registered as Government schools where the Education Department provides a qualified salaried teacher. At other Missions, the teaching staff comprises Mission workers, who whilst unqualified academically are willing and usually possess an aptitude to impart an elementary and primary form or education to native children.

The establishments conducted by this department are:—

- A registered Government school with a qualified teacher at Moola Bulla Native Station in the East Kimberley.
- At the La Grange Bay Native Depot south of Broome the Officer-in-Charge and his wife conduct a school for the children of the nomads.
- At the Fitzroy Crossing Native Depot (handed over to the United Aborigines Mission on the 1st July, 1952, no children of school age were resident at the time of handover, but trained teachers are on the Mission staff.
- At Alvan House for girls and McDonald House for boys, students are attending State Secondary schools in the metropolitan area.

With the exception of Roebourne in the North-West, native children are permitted and compelled to attend school in every centre. At Roebourne the local residents and local authority object to native children attending the school.

Recent statistics show that 2,117 native children are receiving education.

Native Courts.

During the year the charges brought before Courts of Native Affairs were:—

- On 5/7/1951 at Laverton, native Dickie Nelson @ Lilburra was charged with murder, by spearing, of Ungynestiburra @ Smiler. Native Ron @ Yeemdeen was charged with unlawful wounding by spearing, of Dickie Nelson. Both charges were proven and Dickie Nelson was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Ron was convicted of unlawful wounding and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.
- On 29/10/1951 at Meekatharra, native Frank Dixon was charged with having unlawful carnal knowledge of Winnie Shay, a native girl under the age of 16 years. The charge was proven and Dixon was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labour.
- On 3/2/1952 at Carnarvon, Henry Milburn was charged with unlawful assault causing bodily harm to the native, Sally Evans. The accused was discharged upon his entering into a bond of £20 to appear and receive judgment at some future sittings of the Court or when called upon, and default was fixed at three months' imprisonment should he fail to enter into such recognisance.

- (4) On 14/2/1952 at Kalgoorlie, native Toni @ Yungoojee was charged with wilful murder of native Jimmy Bulldanoo. The Court found the accused not guilty of the charge and discharged him from custody.
- (5) On 24/4/1952 at Wyndham, native Chua Chua @ Whisky was charged with the murder of Mug Mug @ Danny. The Court found the accused guilty of manslaughter and feeling strongly that the original act of the accused was in conformity with a tribal right and a total absence of evil intent, sentenced the accused to two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

CRIMES AND OFFENCES.

Offences by Natives.

A total of 673 natives were convicted on 822 charges in the Courts throughout the State during the year. Offences connected with the obtaining or consuming of liquor numbered 528 and disorderly offences totalled 121. Offences against the person numbered 49 (including two murder and one manslaughter) convictions; offences against property totalled 102 (including 47 for stealing).

Of the 673 natives convicted—

206 were full-blood natives;
467 were other than full-blood natives.

602 were male natives;
71 were female natives.

658 were over 18 years of age;
15 were under 18 years of age.

Offences against the Native Administration Act by persons not natives in law.

Ninety-five persons were convicted on 99 charges in Courts throughout the State during the year. Of the persons convicted 13 were natives holding Certificates of Citizenship and five natives holding Certificates of Exemption.

Convictions for supplying liquor to natives totalled 75 and 10 convictions were against persons found unlawfully at native camps. Cohabitation with native women accounted for another nine convictions.

Warrants or Committal Orders.

At the 30th June, 1952, 74 orders against natives were in force consisting of 57 issued under the authority of Children's Courts, 15 issued under the authority of section 13 of the Native Administration Act, and two issued by order of the Governor under section 39 of the Native Administration Act. Of the total number of natives covered by these orders 59 were resident in Missions and departmental institutions, four were in employment and 11 under the direct supervision of the Child Welfare Department. (Of this 11, six were lighter coloured children in religious institutions for white children, and five are delinquent native girls.)

Citizenship.

During the year 83 applications were received for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications received to the 30th June, 1952, since the inception of the Act, 728. Of these, 534 certificates have been granted, 103 applications have been dismissed, 22 have been withdrawn for varying reasons, 43 have been adjourned by the Magistrates, and 26 are awaiting hearing.

An amendment to the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act was assented to on the 12th December, 1951, the principal alteration being the constitution of a Board to hear and determine applications by natives for Citizenship Rights. Formerly a Magistrate sitting alone heard applications. The Board is to consist of a Police, Resident or Stipendiary Magistrate, and a person nominated by the Minister, normally the Mayor or the Chairman of the local authority, as a district representative.

Natives still resent this method of giving them the right to exercise the responsibilities of citizenship.

Certificates of Exemption.

At the close of the year, 382 Certificates of Exemption were in existence. Ninety-eight certificates were issued during the year. Of these 41 certificates were issued to children at Sister Kate's Home, Queen's Park, whose inheritance of native blood was more than one-quarter, and as such, would subject them to the jurisdiction of the Native Administration Act unless exempted. Thirteen certificates were cancelled; nine certificates were automatically cancelled on the granting of Certificates of Citizenship Rights.

Maternity Allowances.

Claims referred to this Department by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services where applicants possessed Australian native blood revealed that 163 claims were granted and 52 claims rejected. Rejections were made when the applicants possessed a predominance of native blood and were not in possession of Certificates of Citizenship or Exemption.

Child Endowment.

At the 30th June, 1952, according to information available, child endowment was being paid to 935 native endowees covering 2,980 children. Seven departmental institutions were receiving endowment for 162 children, the yearly payment amounting to £4,449 13s. 3d. Twenty-one denominational Missions were approved for the Child Endowment purposes and were receiving endowment for 1,039 children at the end of the year.

During the year McDonald House for Boys was approved as an Institution to receive Child Endowment. The Moore River Native Settlement, Moggumber, was closed by the Department, and handed over to the Methodist Overseas Mission.

Old Age Pensions.

Nine applications for Old Age Pensions by natives were brought to the notice of the Department during the year. Five were granted and four were rejected on the grounds of the native possessing a predominance of native blood. The Department has now recorded 86 recipients of the Old Age Pension.

Invalid Pension.

During the year two applications for Invalid Pensions were granted to natives. There are now 43 native invalid pensioners recorded.

Widows' Pensions.

Only one application for a Widow's Pension came to the notice of this Department during the year under review, and it was granted. There are now 30 known cases where female natives are receiving the Widow's Pension.

CONCLUSIONS.

In conclusion, I would like to express satisfaction that the work of the Department is receiving in greater measure the appreciation its hard-working and sometimes sorely tried Officers deserve. To all my officers, in the Field and at Head Office, I extend my thanks for their co-operation and loyalty without which I could not possibly continue to function as their head.

I would like particularly to thank the Press of this State and those members and sections of the public who, by their sympathy and understanding of the problem we are trying to contend with, have contributed materially towards the welfare of our native people who stand so much in need of it.

S. G. MIDDLETON,
Commissioner of Native Affairs.

Appendix No. 1—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1951-52—continued.

Receipts—continued.				Payments—continued.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought Forward	204,003	3	3	Brought Forward	95,755	9	8
				<i>Sub-District Office, Mullewa :</i>			
				Contingencies	713	19	5
				Salary and Wages	753	3	2
					1,467	2	7
				<i>District Office—Southern :</i>			
				Contingencies	788	14	8
				Salaries and Wages	2,107	16	2
					2,896	10	10
				<i>Sub-District Office, Bunbury :</i>			
				Contingencies	246	11	10
				Salaries and Wages	691	9	4
					938	1	2
				<i>Senior Administrative Officer, Broome :</i>			
				Contingencies	1,532	9	3
				Salaries and Wages	1,036	5	6
					2,568	14	9
				<i>District Office—Northern :</i>			
				Contingencies	2,385	6	2
				Salaries and Wages	1,902	4	1
					4,287	10	3
				<i>Sub-District Office, West Kim- berley :</i>			
				Salaries and Wages	187	13	1
					187	13	1
				<i>Sub-District Office, East Kim- berley :</i>			
				Contingencies	264	18	2
				Salaries and Wages	888	1	11
					1,153	0	1
				<i>District Office, North-West :</i>			
				Contingencies	698	17	2
				Salaries and Wages	747	10	2
					1,446	7	4
				<i>Sub-District Office, Pilbara :</i>			
				Contingencies	349	16	7
				Salaries and Wages	806	11	3
					1,156	7	10
				<i>Relief :</i>			
				Stores and Provisions	1,352	16	1
				Education and Amenities	14	15	1
				Freight and Cartage	113	7	5
				Medical	2,402	5	10
				Blankets and Clothing	811	10	10
				Defence of Native Prisoners	130	12	6
				Burials	912	16	7
				Advances	43	2	10
				Transport of Natives	1,513	4	9
				Boarding Out	316	14	6
					7,611	6	5
				<i>General Assistance—</i>			
				Protector's Allowance	218	10	0
					218	10	0
				Compassionate Allowance to Mrs. O'Neill	89	11	1
					89	11	1
				<i>Improvements to Reserves—</i>			
				General Expenditure	1,988	12	4
					1,988	12	4
				<i>Special Recoverable to Natives'</i>			
				Medical Fund	2,500	0	0
					2,500	0	0
				<i>Bulk Rationing Centres—</i>			
				Rations, Clothing, etc.	2,583	0	10
					2,583	0	10
Carried Forward	204,003	3	3	Carried Forward	126,847	18	3

Appendix No. 1—*continued.*

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1951-52—continued.

Receipts— <i>continued.</i>				Payments— <i>continued.</i>					
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Brought Forward	204,003	3 3	Brought Forward	....	....	126,847	18 3
<i>Loan Funds.</i>					<i>Assistance to Missions—</i>				
<i>Credit—</i>					Subsidies....	....	....	27,174	7 5
Item 74/49-50	9	3 5	Grants in Aid	....	....	10,587	7 4
					Other	....	....	8,143	12 4
								<u>45,905</u>	7 1
					For further details please refer to Appendix No. 4.				
					<i>Depots and Settlements—</i>				
					Item 160/47-48—Marribank				
					Clearing	....	....	42	0 0
					Item 74/49-50—Marribank				
					Electric Light	....	....	29	4 2
					Item 249/49-50—Marribank				
					Water Supply	....	....	879	2 2
					Item 373/49-50—Marribank				
					Cool Chamber	....	....	411	12 7
					Item 91/48-49—Moore River				
					Septic Tank System	....	....	9	7 3
					Item 84/50-51—Alvan House				
					Furniture, etc.	....	....	158	16 11
					Item 165/50-51—Alvan House				
					Structural Alterations	....	....	790	16 0
					Item 209/51-52—McDonald				
					House Furniture	....	....	322	10 0
					Item 121/50-51—Fitzroy Cross-				
					ing Capital	....	....	3,510	10 9
					<i>Moola Bulla Native Station—</i>				
					Item 2/45-46—Water Supply....			44	10 10
					Item 221/49-50—Cool Chamber			144	19 4
								<u>6,343</u>	10 0
								179,096	15 4
					Balance Carried Forward,				
					1952-53	....	....	24,915	11 4
								<u>£204,012</u>	6 8
								<u>£204,012</u>	6 8
								<u>£204,012</u>	6 8

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the books and documents produced.

4th November, 1952.

(Sgd.) W. NICHOLAS,
Auditor General.

Appendix No. 2.

THE NATIVES' MEDICAL FUND.

Statement showing Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 1952.

Receipts.				Payments.			
1951—				1951—			
July 1—	£	s. d.	£ s. d.	July 1 to June 30, 1952—	£	s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance brought forward			534 15 5	By Payments:			
July 1 to June 30, 1952—				Doctors	3,413	11 10	
To Contributions received	4,529	16 4		Hospitals	3,184	19 6	
Less Refunds		7 10 0		Sundries	759	2 7	
To Treasury Advance			4,522 6 4				7,367 13 11
			2,500 0 0	June 30—			
				By Balance carried forward			189 7 10
			<u>£7,557 1 9</u>				<u>£7,557 1 9</u>

Appendix No. 3.

NATIVE POPULATION AT 30TH JUNE, 1952.

Divisional Return.

District.	Full-bloods.				Other Bloods.				Grand Total.
	M.	F.	C.	Total.	M.	F.	C.	Total.	
Northern—									
East Kimberley	796	650	268	1,714	69	46	125	240	1,954
West Kimberley	1,129	1,039	514	2,682	119	139	238	496	3,178
North-West—									
Pilbara	753	653	400	1,806	106	88	164	358	2,164
Gascoyne	200	156	181	537	103	87	158	348	885
Central—									
Central	43	20	36	99	310	261	591	1,162	1,261
Eastern Goldfields	547	492	320	1,359	102	77	165	344	1,703
Murchison	320	228	139	687	355	307	500	1,162	1,849
Southern	62	48	87	197	521	467	872	1,860	2,057
	<u>3,850</u>	<u>3,286</u>	<u>1,945</u>	<u>9,081</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>2,813</u>	<u>5,970</u>	<u>15,051</u>
Unclassified—Beyond the Confines of Civilisation				6,000					6,000
				<u>15,081</u>					<u>21,051</u>

Appendix 4.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MISSIONS.

Mission.	1949-50.				1950-51.				1951-52.			
	Subsidy.	Grants in Aid.	Other.	Total.	Subsidy.	Grants in Aid.	Other.	Total.	Subsidy.	Grants in Aid.	Other.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong	1,843 1 4	.....	780 13 2	2,623 14 6	2,000 5 3	.....	599 4 0	2,599 9 3	3,956 10 5	2,158 11 6	350 9 8	6,465 11 7
Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cundeelee	66 10 1	300 0 0	214 4 0	580 14 1	1,330 18 2	166 1 5	530 10 10	2,027 10 5	1,573 8 8	.....	743 11 6	2,317 0 2
Beagle Bay Mission	1,217 5 0	.....	346 4 2	1,563 9 2	917 8 5	.....	605 5 0	1,522 13 5	1,485 5 8	6 10	581 6 7	2,066 19 1
Carnarvon	292 9 11	1,000 0 0	218 14 0	1,511 3 11	415 3 0	1,673 0 0	147 17 8	2,236 0 8	2,141 5 10	466 13 9	571 1 3	3,179 0 10
Forrest River	357 10 5	1,500 0 0	179 19 11	2,037 10 4	363 19 1	1,000 0 0	317 8 0	1,681 7 1	391 16 1	1,128 16 9	310 17 5	1,831 10 3
Gnowangerup	.....	.....	.....	.....	20 16 0	.....	21 3 6	101 19 6	311 16 5	.....	25 0 9	336 17 2
Kellerberrin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 10 9	28 10 9	23 8 0	300 0 0	7 12 10	331 0 10
Kalumburu (ex Drysdale)	417 13 4	.....	133 1 0	550 14 4	410 14 6	.....	297 2 4	707 16 10	350 0 0	.....	207 0 11	557 0 11
Kalgoorlie (Kurrawang)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67 12 4	.....	.....	234 3 4	301 15 8
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	210 4 6	.....	67 8 9	277 13 3	278 9 5	393 0 0	138 11 2	810 0 7	952 9 2	250 0 0	269 7 5	1,471 16 7
Lombadina	219 1 6	.....	110 18 4	329 19 10	240 16 3	.....	138 7 9	379 4 0	234 16 0	.....	243 14 11	478 10 11
Mt. Margaret	724 4 5	250 0 0	142 18 1	1,117 2 6	929 8 4	250 0 0	740 19 2	1,920 7 6	2,667 13 10	204 13 8	1,310 14 8	4,183 2 2
Mogumber Methodist Mission	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	431 10 1	.....	2,051 8 0	478 5 1	2,961 3 2
New Norcia	124 16 0	.....	.....	124 16 0	94 9 9	.....	76 2 0	170 11 9	2,365 8 0	.....	552 9 10	2,917 17 10
Norseman	223 12 0	.....	.....	223 12 0	263 9 0	.....	.....	263 9 0	746 8 3	736 16 10	272 18 0	1,756 3 1
Pallottine, Billiluna	312 0 0	.....	159 14 7	471 14 7	242 4 10	.....	186 10 6	428 15 4	610 3 4	1 16 8	432 13 11	1,044 13 11
Pallottine Mission School, Tardun	140 19 8	.....	77 3 6	218 0 2	434 3 5	.....	360 1 0	794 4 5	1,400 0 3	.....	263 7 4	1,663 7 7
Roelands	283 9 6	279 13 10	.....	563 3 4	804 3 9	1,656 0 0	273 9 10	2,733 13 7	3,376 5 0	697 6 1	346 15 8	4,420 6 9
St. Francis Xavier's, Wandering	71 15 3	.....	.....	71 15 3	369 0 9	3,000 0 0	242 16 4	3,611 17 1	756 13 2	.....	346 5 4	1,102 18 6
Sunday Island	211 7 1	.....	109 9 1	320 16 2	169 3 6	.....	352 8 4	521 11 10	254 10 11	18 9	152 19 1	408 8 9
Warburton Range	102 9 3	.....	297 4 4	399 13 7	737 13 3	180 0 0	1,206 12 6	2,124 5 9	1,238 17 1	2,589 18 6	65 3 0	3,893 18 7
White Springs	18 15 0	3,000 0 0	.....	3,018 15 0	1 11 4	4,000 0 0	118 18 2	4,120 9 6	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wotjulung, previously Kunmunya	854 5 1	1,200 0 0	340 13 5	2,394 18 6	698 1 9	.....	820 3 10	1,518 5 7	1,062 4 0	.....	349 2 10	1,411 6 10
Totals	7,691 6 4	7,529 13 10	3,178 6 4	18,399 6 6	10,721 19 9	12,378 1 5	7,202 2 8	30,302 3 10	26,398 2 6	10,587 7 4	8,115 1 4	45,100 11 2

ASSISTANCE TO OTHER PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS ASSISTING NATIVES.

Australian Inland Mission Hospital, Hall's Creek	25 0 0	.....	.....	25 0 0	25 0 0	.....	.....	25 0 0	25 0 0	.....	.....	25 0 0
Australian Inland Mission Hospital, Fitzroy Crossing	34 5 1	.....	.....	34 5 1	53 17 3	.....	.....	53 17 3	25 0 0	.....	.....	25 0 0
Broome Convent School	125 0 0	.....	.....	125 0 0	125 0 0	.....	57 1 6	182 1 6	125 0 0	.....	.....	125 0 0
Deaf and Dumb School	52 0 0	.....	.....	52 0 0	59 3 9	.....	.....	59 3 9	53 17 10	.....	.....	53 17 10
Sister Kate's Home	452 14 1	.....	.....	452 14 1	675 0 1	.....	25 7 4	700 7 5	601 4 11	.....	28 11 0	629 15 11
Boarding Out to Foster Parents	19 1 0	.....	.....	19 1 0	.....	.....	.....	.....	262 16 8	.....	.....	262 16 8
Total	708 0 2	.....	.....	708 0 2	938 1 1	.....	82 8 10	1,020 9 11	1,092 19 5	.....	28 11 0	1,121 10 5
Grand Total	£8,339 6 6	£7,529 13 10	£3,178 6 4	£19,107 6 8	£11,660 0 10	£12,378 1 5	£7,284 11 6	£31,322 13 9	£27,491 1 11	£10,587 7 4	£8,143 12 4	£46,222 1 7

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Corporate Author: Western Australia. Dept. of Native Affairs

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