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QUEENSLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1906.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aboriginals,
Brisbane, 27th May, 1907.

SIR,—In accordance with the usual practice, I do myself the honour to submit to you the report of the results of the operations of "*The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

The Government were pleased to appoint me Chief Protector of Aboriginals on the 1st of July, 1906, and the duties were taken up by me on the 9th of July, 1906.

On the 15th September, under instructions from the Honourable the Home Secretary, I left Brisbane on an extended tour, visiting most of the islands in Torres Straits, the mission stations on the mainland, and many other centres, besides interviewing and camping with many parties of aboriginals roaming about on the Cape York Peninsula and other places. As I have already furnished a report on this trip, it will not now be necessary to make more than passing reference to it.

It will, I think, be admitted that it is our bounden duty to the aboriginals to not only protect them from abuse or interference by whites, but also to provide some means by which their condition will be ameliorated, and to make an honest and sincere effort to raise them to a higher social plane than that at present in evidence. A conscientious effort is being made by the churches to, in a measure, accomplish this object, but to the impartial observer it is doubtful whether the results, so far, are in any way commensurate with the self-denial and earnestness shown by those engaged in the good work, although when spoken to on the subject they one and all express the conviction that their teachings will be more apparent as time passes on.

After a life-long experience—forty years of which has been spent in Queensland—of the aborigines, in whose conditions and surroundings I have always taken a keen interest, I have come to the conclusion that the idea of entirely isolating these people from contact with the white population is not altogether desirable, as it is found that when aboriginals have free intercourse with the right class of whites they become more quickly civilised, learn to be clean in their habits, more obedient and useful, are well fed and clothed, and are apt pupils in following out the modes of living of the superior race. At the same time, care must be taken to place them under the control of a desirable class of employer—to those who will take some interest in their welfare, not to those who treat them as animals, and are unscrupulous in their dealings with them. The aborigines, I feel sure, are capable of being gradually brought into a sphere of usefulness, and the oft-heard remark that these people are incapable of all the higher attainments of the human mind, and the want of intelligence so generally attributed to them, is quite a mistaken idea. As a matter of fact, their intellectual capabilities are quite equal, if not superior, to most of the so-called savage races. The progress made by the children in the several schools is ample evidence of this fact, and the rapidity with which the elder people adapt themselves to work on stations, &c., also points to that conclusion. Are the aborigines of Australia to be set down as a radically and hopelessly inferior race merely because they have not only managed to subsist, it may be, for some thousands of years, but to rear an infinity of tribes, speaking an infinity of languages, where the boasted civilised

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white man, in precisely similar circumstances, uniformly perishes of exposure and hunger? It is, to my mind, unjust in every sense of the word to measure the unfortunate Australian black by a European standard of civilisation; for what, I ask, would the European have been for the last few thousand years without those fruits, roots, vegetables, and grain, without those domesticated animals upon the possession of which, humanly speaking, the whole superstructure of his boasted civilisation depends? The criterion by which to estimate the intellectual capacity and the resources of the aboriginal of Australia is to ascertain what he has done in the very peculiar circumstances in which Nature has placed him. I maintain that the blackfellow, in his natural state, is hospitable, and not devoid of kindly feeling, and that he shows marked intelligence in the means taken by him to manufacture necessary weapons, selecting the materials with quite as much care as a European artist. Again, in procuring food of all sorts, his ingenuity and skill in supplying his wants is surprising, which we, with all our science, could not hope to attain. What an inept clown the average white man would appear under such circumstances, and yet we brand the aboriginal natives of Queensland as a stupid and irreclaimable race!

I trust, however, many will agree with me in thinking that this subject is too important to be passed over lightly, and that the considerations involved in the question whether the aboriginal is or is not a radically inferior species of the genus man (as is so often arrogantly asserted by individuals who have a direct interest in vilifying these people and in keeping them down), does not so deeply affect the rights of humanity as not to warrant still further investigation, and steps being taken likely to result in the preservation and uplifting of a fast disappearing race. It appears to me that there is a passive resistance to every attempt at the social elevation of these people, and a rapid, visible, and gloomy progress towards their ultimate annihilation. In short, it is unfair to presuppose an original inferiority of intellect on the part of the aboriginal, or credit him with a greater capacity for sinking in the scale of humanity than other tribes of men.

As a result of my tour up North, and with a view of once and for all solving the vexed question of native labour on boats engaged in the fishing industries, the recruiting of which has been, and is at present, carried on in a most undesirable, pernicious, and demoralising manner, I have submitted for your consideration a scheme to form a settlement or centrally situated depôt, from which labour could be recruited under proper supervision, and I sincerely trust this matter will receive the serious consideration it deserves, and become *un fait accompli* at an early date.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

A good deal of opposition still exists, both from the employer and employee, in respect to putting the natives on agreement, and more particularly to the payment of wages to the Protector, the boys being educated to the idea by some employers that once their wages are paid to a Protector the money is lost to them. Gradually, however, this erroneous impression is being removed, and after a little time I hope to see it has entirely disappeared.

The payment through a Protector of wages due to females is strictly enforced, with the result that many of the girls are possessed of Savings Bank accounts representing fair sums; in consequence, it has been found unnecessary to continue the Aboriginal Girls' Home at West End, which has been abandoned as from the 31st of December last, the girls now paying for their own keep whilst unemployed or while taking a rest. Arrangements have been made with the Salvation Army authorities by which the comfort and welfare of the girls is assured, and, so far, this scheme has worked satisfactorily.

The demand for aboriginal girls as domestic servants is so much in excess of the supply that, although the settlement at Barambah and the Deebing Creek Mission have been drawn upon to their utmost extent, places could be found for quite double the number. The several mistresses generally report favourably of the girls' demeanour and conduct. Of course, there are many complaints, most of which are trivial, and now and then the "walk-about instinct" of the race asserts itself, and the girl promptly absconds. The Protector (females) is then called upon to expostulate with the girl, and also to put the matter in the best light possible to the employer; and I must say Mrs. McKeown has shown considerable tact in matters of this kind, and apparently has the confidence of both the employers and the girls. The Protector (females) reports as follows:—"There are 121 native girls out at service in and around Brisbane; 12 of these are full-blooded aboriginals, and the remainder half-castes. All of the girls at service have separate accounts in the Government Savings Bank; those earning 5s. a week and over are clothed by the Department, the Protector purchasing the necessary clothes and paying for them out of the girls' banking accounts; those who are receiving less than 5s. per week are provided with clothes by their employer. Of 129 banking accounts, 121 belong to girls at service, two in trust for half-caste children, five to married women now on the settlement at Barambah, and one to a girl whose whereabouts has not yet been ascertained."

The amount to the credit of aboriginal girls is over £576. In speaking of the pocket money allowed to the girls, Mrs. McKeown is of opinion that the amount is too little, and suggests that when the girls are receiving a higher wage than that prescribed by the Act the pocket money should be increased to 1s. per week. I am of opinion that the suggestion is a good one, and would tend to make the girls more contented. Experience proves that the scale laid down by the Regulations for this purpose is too small to be of any use to the recipients.

The settlement of Barambah has been largely availed of by employers, the demand being such that the wages have risen from 4s. to 10s. per week for general hoe and axe work, and from 10s. to 15s. for station work, and the reports from employers concerning the work of the boys are generally favourable.

Permits.—Appended a comparative table will be found, giving the numbers of permits issued in the several districts during the years 1905 and 1906.

TABLE 1.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1905 AND 1906).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector—	Stationed at—	1905.		1906.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Somerset	Brett, George, Sub-Inspector	Thursday Island	291	...	308	2
Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Mareeba, Mourilyan, Thornborough	Malone, H., Sub-Inspector	Cairns	82	40	107	46
Cook, Palmer	Keogh, Jas. Acting Sergeant	Cooktown	251	60	234	45
Coen	Whiteford, James, Senior Sergeant	Coen	26	5	20	5
Norman, Burke	Lamond, Jas., Inspector	Normanton	225	42	134	26
Croydon, Ebridge	Balsam, T. J., Acting Sergeant	Georgetown	38	9	30	4
Cloncurry, Camooweal	McGrath, J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	61	15	42	15
Mackay	Martin, Edward, Sub-Inspector	Mackay	12	3	19	3
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Galbraith, Percy Dumas Fead, Inspector	Townsville	46	6	38	6
Ingham	Connolly, Patrick, Acting Sergeant	Ingham	...	...	70	...
Charters Towers, Cape River	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	...	...	63	9
Hughenden, Richmond	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden	33	6	42	5
Winton	Bronan, Michael, Acting Sergeant	Winton	12	6	14	5
Boulia	Guckian, M., Constable	Boulia	33	12	60	25
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	Nethercote, James, Inspector	Charleville	115	27	88	18
Alpha, Aramac, Barcardine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaborra, Tambo, Windorah	Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector	Longreach	48	9	25	7
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Sranthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Toowoomba	9	4	9	4
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Teningering, Tiaro	Marrett, Charles Beauchamp, Inspector	Maryborough	60	11	*254	137
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton	40	22	60	22
Bellon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Savage, Charles, Inspector	Roma	11	2	13	3
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dogandah, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	White, John Warren, Inspector	Brisbane	...	...	...	...
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	McKeown, Mrs. Mary Evelyn	Brisbane	...	63	...	129
		Total	1,393	342	1,630	516

* Including Aboriginal Settlement, Barambah.

From this it will be seen 2,146 permits have been issued during 1906, being 411 more than for the previous year, the number of males in employment showing an increase on last year of 237 and the females 174. The table does not include those who obtain casual work, of which there are large numbers.

The wages of all females, and, in some cases, those of the males, are paid into the Government Savings Bank, to the credit of each individual, the local Protector acting as trustee, and, when requested by any of the natives owning accounts, draws small sums for clothing, &c. Great care is taken to exercise proper supervision over these withdrawals, as it is difficult to make aboriginals understand the necessity of being prudent in the expenditure of money, and, if left to themselves, would waste their hard-earned wages in the most reckless fashion.

The statement hereunder will show the amounts held by the Protectors in the several districts as trustees for the natives:—

TABLE 2.—ABORIGINALS' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1905 AND 1906.

Government Savings Bank at—	Wages held in Trust by Local Protector.		Government Savings Bank at—	Wages held in Trust by Local Protector.	
	1905.	1906.		1905.	1906.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Thursday Island	18 7 11	55 4 11	Mackay	20 3 1	32 9 0
Cooktown	136 19 0	240 14 5	Rockhampton	67 9 4	116 16 1
Coen	17 11 3	17 13 3	Longreach	...	25 0 0
Cairns	327 15 3	240 14 5	Charleville	12 1 6	19 8 0
Normanton	106 12 9	4 6 2 9	Maryborough	24 7 5	61 19 11
Georgetown	102 10 3	99 17 9	Barambah (Ab. Settlement)	...	100 3 3
Cloncurry	79 12 0	118 14 6	Roma	...	3 18 0
Ingham	...	...	Toowoomba	22 3 0	9 4 11
Townsville	4 1 0	...	Brisbane (Protector White)	...	...
Charters Towers	25 1 8	70 11 1	Brisbane (Mrs. McKeown)	408 10 1	576 0 4
Hughenden	...	4 0 0			
Winton	103 5 9	110 15 9			
Boulia	89 17 10	201 4 8	Total	£1,561 9 1	£2,570 13 0

It is evident from this table the practice of having a Savings Bank account is growing, and points to the conclusion that the natives are beginning to recognise how desirable it is to have a little money of their own at their disposal. The increase on the figures of the preceding year—viz., £1,009 3s. 11d.—must be considered gratifying, and it is sincerely hoped a still larger increase will be shown at the expiration of the present year.

Casual Employment.—Hitherto it has not been considered desirable to interfere with natives obtaining casual work in and around the small townships in the West and North. They are thus enabled to procure food and clothing, and, so long as opium and drink are not given to them, I can see no reason why this mode of life should not be permitted. In some cases, however, they have congregated in large numbers about some of the towns, and it has been found necessary to move them.

In two or three instances I have lost an opportunity of placing boys in good situations, where they would learn trades and other callings, owing to the Act limiting the term of agreement to twelve months. Employers of this class contend that as soon as the boy has learnt a little of his business and become useful he is in danger of losing his services, and the time spent in teaching him the trade would be lost to the employer.

In my opinion, it would be desirable to amend this particular section of the Act so as to allow native boys to enter into an apprenticeship in the same way as white lads. It would, of course, be necessary to exercise care in selecting a suitable class of employer, which duty could be safely left in the hands of the officers of the Department.

The following table gives a record of prosecutions during 1906 for illegally employing natives:—

TABLE 3.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING (MAINLAND).

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
1906.			
26 February ...	Thornborough	Jimmy Ah Bow	Fined £10, or 3 months.
29 May ...	Port Douglas	Gun Kee	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months.
19 June ...	Barron River	Bob Baine (Malay)	Convicted, but not punished.
5 September ...	Atherton	Ah San	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs.
15 October ...	Atherton	Ah Day	Fined £7 and 4s. 6d. costs.
20 November ...	Mareeba	Ah Poy	Fined £5, or 1 month's imprisonment.
7 December ...	Atherton	Ah Lum	Fined £2 2s and 4s. 6d. costs.
7 December ...	Atherton	Wong Fong	Fined £5 and 4s 6d. costs.
21 December ...	Atheron	Ah Sun	Sentenced to 2 months.
3 November ...	Adavale	F. G. Seaton	Fined 5s. and costs.
26 June ...	Powlathanga Siding, Q.N. Railway	John Michael Dwyer	Fined £5.
30 July ...	Hillgrove Station	Bert Allingham	Fined £5 and 5s. 4d. costs.
19 October ...	Byerstown	Ah Kow	Dismissed.
19 October ...	Byerstown	Chong Choy	Dismissed.
27 September ...	Blackall	H. D. Robertson	1 month's imprisonment.
4 January ...	Tully River	Sam Siam, alias Joe Shem	Fined £50, or 6 months.
20 July ...	Winton	Henry Everingham	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs.
1 September ...	Winton	Henry Afford	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs.
1 September ...	Winton	John E. Parks	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs.
21 September ...	Adavale	H. Scholes	Fined 5s. and 3s. 6d. costs.

LABOUR CONDITIONS (ON BOATS).

Somerset Petty Sessions District.—In this district a large proportion of the natives are employed on the boats connected with the pearl-shelling and bêche-de-mer industries, and hitherto the district has been under the immediate supervision of Mr. C. D. O'Brien as local Protector, who has carried out his duties in a most excellent manner. In his annual report Mr. O'Brien says:—"308 permits for the employment of aboriginals were issued during the year, 270 of these being from the mainland and 38 Torres Strait Islanders; 2 were females signed on for housework. All the males were engaged to work on boats. I have every reason to believe fewer aborigines are unlawfully employed on boats now than at any time previously. This has been brought about by the fact that several prosecutions, followed by terms of imprisonment, were instituted during the latter months of the year 1905, also by the summary revocation of permits of several persons in charge of boats for irregularities, and by the patrolling of the coast by the Government ketch 'Melbidir.' I am convinced this much-to-be-desired state of affairs will be continued only by the exercise of the keenest vigilance at this and other ports, as experience has shown that the slightest relaxation of any of the provisions of the Act or Regulations is immediately followed by complaints from the natives." In regard to wages, Mr. O'Brien says:—"The average rate of wages paid to the natives has increased considerably during the year, a large number of men having been signed on at £1 per month, the usual amount hitherto paid being 10s. per month. No cases of supplying opium to aboriginals have been reported, and I am glad to say I have every reason to feel satisfied that this evil does not exist in this district.

"The work of supervising the twenty boats owned by natives has increased to such an extent that practically the whole of my spare time has been occupied in this duty. Although in some instances the results have been disappointing, there has been, nevertheless, many gratifying and encouraging features in connection with this work." Eleven of the twenty boats purchased by the natives have now been cleared, and are absolutely the property of the natives of various islands. Eight other boats are in course of purchase, three of which have only small amounts to be paid to clear them. The sum total of the year's work will, therefore, I think, be admitted to be satisfactory, proving that these people are quite capable of being educated to better themselves and their surroundings. As previously indicated, abuses

still exist in the matter of the treatment of the aborigines on the east coast of the Peninsula by persons in charge of bêche-de-mer fishing boats. A frequent patrol of the coast by a stranger would, I am sure, have a beneficial effect, and it is to be hoped that in the near future it will be found possible to have some improvement in this direction. The total receipts on account of sales of produce amounted to £2,992 18s. 3d. for the past year. A few days before the close of the year the total was £2,920 2s. 1d., which had been disbursed as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Purchase money of boats	1,479	18	4
Cash to natives	282	5	11
Stores, repairs, insurance, and food	1,157	17	10

Cook Petty Sessions District.—The local Protector reports 279 permits were issued during the year for employment of natives—234 males and 45 females. Nearly all the men were engaged to work on boats, and the women for housework. There were 35 warrants issued for deserters, 19 of which were cancelled and 16 executed, the boys being punished and returned to their boats. The estimated number of aboriginals in Cook district is 300 males and 200 females, a total of 500 souls, amongst whom there are 8 half-caste children.

TABLE 4.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING, &c. (ON THE BOATS).

Date,	Situation.	Defendant.	For Harboursing, Etc.	Result.
1906.				
2 April	Haggerstone Island	Alick Williams ...	Females	6 months' hard labour.
14 July	Thursday Island ..	Fukushima Sangoro ...	Unsigned crew ...	3 months' imprisonment.
2 August	Thursday Island ...	Husen Malaya, <i>alias</i> Osen	Female	6 months' imprisonment.
24 August	Saibai Island ...	Asa	Female	6 months' imprisonment.

"MELBIDIR."

The ketch "Melbidir" has rendered valuable assistance to the Department by regularly and frequently patrolling the fishing grounds, boarding the numerous boats, perusing their articles, and otherwise generally watching the interests of the natives.

No doubt the presence of such a boat has the effect of stopping many irregularities in the treatment of the aborigines, and prevents attempts being made to evade the Act.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Only one certificate of exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Acts has been granted—viz., to Sally Woods, a half-caste woman, about twenty-four years of age, on the recommendation of the Chief Protector (Dr. Roth). This certificate has since been revoked.

RECOGNISANCES.

Where aboriginals are taken away from their own districts, such as on droving trips, &c., the employer is required to enter into a recognisance of not less than £10 to return the native to the district from which he was taken within a given time. During the year 77 of these bonds were entered into, an increase of 21 on the numbers for last year—viz., 56. The Protectors in the several districts have been asked to see that these conditions are carried out, and the danger of natives being left long distances from their own country is thus obviated.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

It is to be expected that in many localities there are old, infirm, and diseased natives, besides children, who are unable to procure food for themselves, and arrangements are made to relieve any cases of distress or sickness that may be brought under the notice of the Protectors.

A table has been prepared showing the principal or permanent centres from which relief in the way of food and medicine is distributed. In addition to the places mentioned, relief is afforded to any cases of distress brought under the notice of the Department from time to time by the local Protectors, graziers, and others.

TABLE 5.—PERMANENT CENTRES OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTION, APPROXIMATE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Atherton	2	0	0	Coomrith	1	10	0	Tavoom	1	0	0
Birdsville	4	10	0	Eidsvold	1	0	0	Thornborough ...	2	10	0
Bowen	1	0	0	Goondiwindi ...	2	10	0	St. George	3	0	0
Burketown	6	10	0	McDonnell	5	0	0	Surat	0	10	0
Cape Bedford ...	7	0	0	Maytown	2	0	0	Tallwood	2	10	0
Childers	1	0	0	Moreton	1	0	0	Thylungra	2	10	0
Coen	1	10	0	Mt. Perry	0	15	0	Welltown	3	0	0
Cook	1	0	0	Mungundi	3	0	0				

BLANKETS.

As on previous occasions, so on this, the Government Storekeeper has kindly undertaken the somewhat onerous duty of procuring blankets of good quality at reasonable prices, and has also supervised the despatch and distribution of the goods. In his report, Mr. McLennan says in 1904, on the recommendation of Dr. Roth, it was decided, for climatic reasons, to substitute other goods for blankets

in the Northern and Central parts of the State, such as print dresses, tomahawks, knives, pipes, tobacco, fishing-lines, and fishing-hooks, as it was then considered these articles would be more acceptable to the recipient than blankets. In 1905 the same course was followed, but in a lesser degree, as the distributors reported that in most cases the blacks preferred the blankets. This year there was a general falling off in the demand for substitute articles, in that only three centres were supplied with them—viz., Laura, Maytown, and Turn-off Lagoon. The blacks will take the substituted articles, provided they receive a blanket also; but I had issued instructions to the distributors that no aboriginal was to receive both blankets and substitute articles; that he could have his choice of either one or the other, but not to receive both together. With your concurrence, I propose in future to discontinue the issue of the substitute articles, as, after giving these articles a three years' trial, I am convinced the aborigines prefer the blankets.

In almost every instance I have supplied blankets when asked for on application recommended by the Chief Protector of Aborigines, police officer in charge of centres, or other responsible person.

The recipients this year were 3,019 men, 2,418 women, 1,236 children, and 31 unspecified persons; total, 6,704. The number of centres of distribution was 148, and the total number of blankets issued was 5,391 pairs.

As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution and the attendant expenses are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
5,391 pairs of blankets at 8s. 1½d.	2,190	1	10
Value of substitute articles	27	13	0
Forwarding charges, say... ..	95	0	0
Total	£2,312	14	10

The following comparative statement shows the number of blankets issued and the persons benefited during the last ten years:—

Year.	Pairs.	Persons.	Year.	Pairs.	Persons.
1897 ...	7,404	9,479	1902 ...	6,858½	8,341
1898 ...	7,296	9,047	1903 ...	4,914	6,072
1899 ...	7,888	9,403	1904 ...	4,296½	5,466
1900 ...	7,308½	8,193	1905 ...	4,652½	5,594
1901 ...	7,444	9,101	1906 ...	5,391	6,704

SUPPLY OF LIQUOR TO BLACKS.

With the exception of two or three districts not much complaint is made in the direction of giving intoxicating liquor to the aborigines. Protector O'Brien, of Thursday Island, however, reports as follows:—"The open and unblushing manner in which aborigines are supplied with liquor at the hotels at Thursday Island is only characteristic of the supreme indifference and disregard for the law on this subject for which these institutions have always been noted." On the other hand, Protector Carfoot, of Cooktown, remarks: "The blacks around this district seem to be fairly well contented; there is very little drinking amongst them."

From many of the other districts the Protectors report little inebriety on the part of the natives.

The following statement gives the number of convictions for drunkenness on the part of the aborigines during 1906:—Thursday Island, 2; Townsville, 6; Mackay, 3; Charleville, 4; Normanton, 3; Maryborough, 3; Toowoomba, 1; a total of 22, or 18 less than the previous year.

The following table gives the number of convictions for supplying liquor to the natives:—

TABLE 6.—CONVICTIONS FOR SUPPLYING LIQUOR TO ABORIGINES.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1905-6.			1906.	
Beandesert ...	28 September	John Cusack	Childers ...	6 April	Punter Singh
Thursday Island ...	8 January	Malge Ryan	Duaringa ...	20 March	Thos. Richd. Fellows
Thursday Island ...	17 August	Gilbert Saunders	Mitchell ...	26 October	Hugh McWalters
Mareeba ...	17 December	Cecelia Stratman (lied victualler)	Glenelg ...	23 January	Eward Tickle
Charters Towers ...	30 April	Wrio Thesly	Toowoomba ...	29 March	Win. Wilkinson
Cooktown ...	18 February	G. Symons	Toowoomba ...	29 March	F. J. Fogarty
Seymour River ...	20 July	Washman	Ayr ...	19 February	Graciana (South American)
Mackay ...	7 July	Ah Sue	Ayr ...	1 March	James Ryan, <i>alias</i> Walter E. Prince
Mirani ...	25 July	J. Cunningham	South Townsville ...	29 June	Annie Rowe
Nebo ...	30 July	J. Bolton	Ayr ...	16 October	Ah Sing
Mirani ...	18 August	Ah Hing	Ayr ...	16 October	Ah Sam
Walkerston ...	19 October	John Bradford	Ayr ...	29 December	Johnny
Mackay ...	29 November	George Gibson	Henley (near Ayr)	6 April	Mary Finn
Nebo ...	6 December	Wm. Johnson	Townsville ...	20 April	David Milne
North Bundaberg ...	28 February	Carl Heidke	Ayr ...	25 May	Johnny
Maryborough ...	2 March	Patrick Hogan	Brighton Downs ...	17 September	Denis McGrath
Childers ...	28 March	S. Doollard			
Childers ...	26 March	I. Brilly			

It will be observed that, as in the previous year, Europeans were largely responsible for providing the natives with grog.

OPIUM TRAFFIC.

It is very pleasing to be able to say, in relation to the traffic of this vile and pernicious drug, that since the Legislature has prohibited the importation of opium, except in very limited quantities, and then only to qualified persons, a marked decrease in the opium habit is noticeable amongst the natives, and many of the Protectors express the belief that in a short period little or no opium will be found in use by the blacks.

On the other hand, in many districts the aboriginals, being unable to obtain opium, have taken to alcohol in one form or another, and will resort to all sorts of tactics or subterfuge to obtain the liquor. The vigilance of the police, and the heavy fines imposed on those providing the grog, will, I think, have a beneficial and deterrent effect in this direction.

Appended a return is published showing the prosecutions for supplying opium to aboriginals.

TABLE 7.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR SUPPLYING OPIUM TO ABORIGINALS—1906.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1906.			1906.	
Kamilaroi	6 November	F. Hughes	Ingham	20 September	Ah Que
Kamilaroi	6 November	G. Foster	Ingham	20 September	Ah Sam
Cloncurry	11 December	Charley Ah Sing	Blackall	21 February	Jimmy Young
Alpha	26 April ...	Charley Ah Doy	Tambo	11 September	Ah Chow
Mount Molloy ...	13 December	Ah Fooey	Tambo	2 October ...	Bertring White
Ingham	23 April ...	Ah Sin	Alpha	26 April ...	Charley Ah Doy
Ingham	23 April ...	Ah Tin	Mackay	18 June ...	Ah Foo and Hang Fie
Ingham	23 April ...	Ah Lin	Mackay	6 June ...	Ah Lum
Ingham	1 May ...	Ah Yee	Mackay	27 June ...	Su Poo
Ingham	3 May ...	Ah Loong	Mount Perry ...	27 September	Jimmy Wing
Ingham	4 May ...	Ah Sam	Townsville... ..	22 April ...	Ah Gee
Ingham	20 September	Ah Lin			

The following table gives the number of prosecutions for illegal possession of opium: —

TABLE 8.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1906.			1906.	
Millchester	1 November	Tie Kong	Hambledon	10 December	Ah See
Atherton	12 September	John See	Hambledon	10 December	Ah You
Normanton	9 May ...	Bynoe	Hambledon	10 December	Nip Chong
Normanton	11 September	Ah Sam	Hambledon	10 December	Ah Sam
Atherton	10 August ...	Lee Gum Sing	Cairns	10 December	Chong See
Atherton	12 September	Ah Oum	Cairns	13 December	Ah Tin
Atherton	22 October ...	Ah Long	Cairns	13 December	See Lee Chow
Atherton	22 October ...	Kee Yet	Augathella	7 February	Tai Hinga Ah Mong
Mossman	23 October ...	Ah Sam	Augathella	28 March ...	Mrs. Cunningham
Geraldton	2 October ...	Ah Woo	Augathella	15 April ...	See Wah
Maree a	20 November	Young Oy	Augathella	16 June ...	Goon Bow
Atherton	12 November	Chuck Hing	Muttaborra	12 January ...	Wah Sung
Atherton	23 November	Ah Young	Muttaborra	12 January ...	Ah Sing
Thornborough ...	26 November	Ah Gow	Blackall	21 February	Jimmy Young
Thornborough ...	26 November	Wong Way	Blackall	19 February	John Scottie
Chillagoe	3 November	Lee See	Blackall	4 February	Sam Kin
Chillagoe	3 November	Ah Chong	Blackall	1 February	Ling Chong, <i>alias</i>
Chillagoe	3 November	Lee Yee			Charley Ling
Chillagoe	3 November	Ah Sam	Mackay	30 June ...	Ah Muck
Chillagoe	3 November	Lee Buck	Clermont	22 December	Foo Sue
Chillagoe	3 November	Tin Joe	Clermont	19 March ...	Willie Que Sang
Nelson	6 December	Charlie	St George	15 August ...	James McKenzie
Cairns	6 December	Lee On Kee	Ravenswood	7 March ...	Marra Mortan

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION *RE* CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

The condition of the half-caste and quadroon children is receiving earnest attention, and although the problem of in some way bettering their state in life by raising them to a higher plane is a difficult one, and the objections by the benevolent institutions to treat them in the same manner as white children renders it still more difficult, yet, I am in hopes of devising some means by which they may be brought into a sphere of usefulness and self-help that cannot do otherwise than benefit them in after life. These people are full of energy and life, and, once started in the proper groove, almost invariably become smart, active, and trustworthy servants.

Application was made by the father for the release of four children who had been committed to Yarrabah Industrial School, but on the matter being put to the children they refused to leave Yarrabah.

Minnie, a half-caste child, who was discovered living with a Chinaman near Bowen Downs Station, was sent to her brother at Uanda Station, the expense of which was borne by the reputed father of Minnie.

Dinah Cum Wai, about nine years of age, was arrested at a kanaka's camp on the Boyne River, near Gladstone, and committed to the Industrial School at Barambah.

Kitty and her two children were sent from Cooktown to Yarrabah Mission. She was out of employment, and living in the Chinese quarters.

Victor Johnston, a half-caste boy, aged six years, who was committed to the Industrial School, Barambah, was, on the application of his father, transferred to the Tufnell Home, Nundah, the parent paying all expenses.

Rosie Phillips, a half-caste, of Fossilbrook, whose removal was ordered by the late Protector, disappeared, and her capture has not yet been effected.

Lily, a neglected child, about eleven years of age, was sent from Woombie Bank Station to Barambah.

Jessie and Moses, two half-caste children, aged twelve and six years respectively, were sent from Mitchell to Barambah.

Mick, an aboriginal, who was blind and destitute, was also sent from Mitchell to Barambah.

Norah, a half-caste woman, of Morestone Downs, was to be removed to Yarrabah, but consent has since been given to her marriage to a white man.

Kitty, half-caste girl, who was at service in Brisbane, could not be kept off the streets at night, and was sent to Barambah.

Mabel McCullough, aged six years, was removed from the Aboriginals Girls' Home at West End to St. Vincent's Orphanage, the mother contributing a portion of her maintenance.

Rosie and her baby were removed from Toowoomba to Brisbane, and placed under the care of the Protectress.

Jennie and Rosie, of Cooktown, both prostitutes, were, on the order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, sent to Yarrabah Mission.

Dolly and Tommy, aged seven and three years respectively, were found in a camp, very much neglected, the mother of the two children having died. They were sent to Yarrabah Mission.

Two half-caste children, a boy aged six years and a girl two years of age, were motherless and unprotected. Temporary arrangements have been made with the manager of Magoura Station, near Normanton, to look after them.

Carrie and Charlie, half-castes, both about twelve years of age, and living with the blacks about Burketown, were taken from the camp and placed under the surveillance of the police, as it was reported they were in danger of being eaten by the natives. These children will ultimately be sent to a mission station.

Jessie Nicholls, aged about ten years, a quadroon, was reported to be a white child in the blacks' camp at Wonga, near Dalby. Instructions were given to the Protectress to proceed to Wonga, and, if desirable, to remove the girl. Subsequently she was sent to the Industrial School at Yeronga.

MIXED MARRIAGES.

The Aboriginals Protection Act provides that before a native woman can be married to a man other than an aboriginal, the written consent of the Chief Protector must be obtained. In following out the provisions of the Act in this respect, permission has been given to the several marriages set forth hereunder:—

Emily Graham, a half-caste woman, to a South Sea Islander. Childers.

Rosie Ann, an aboriginal woman about thirty years of age, to a white man. Duaringa.

Beena, a half-caste girl, nineteen years, to a Tanna man. Bundaberg.

Latta, a half-caste girl, about seventeen years, to a Rotuma man. Thursday Island.

Baill, a native of Murray Island, about twenty-three years of age, to a native of Lifu, South Sea Islands. Thursday Island.

Mary Ann, a half-caste girl, twenty-two years of age, to a Manila man. Atherton.

Millie, an aboriginal woman, to a South Sea Islander. Mackay.

Lavinia, a native of Yam Island, to a Manila man. Thursday Island.

Lucy, an aboriginal girl, about twenty-five years of age, to a white man. Springsure.

Nelmarinda, an aboriginal girl, twenty-four years of age, to a white man. Ingham.

Iiszie, a half-caste girl, to a Chinaman. Boulia.

Annie Morton, a half-caste woman, to a white man. Mackay.
 Nida Huggins, a half-caste, to a South Sea Islander. Townsville.
 Maude Harvey, a half-caste woman, to a white man. Croydon.
 Rosey Harper, an aboriginal girl of twenty years of age, to a white man. Cairns.
 Julia Heria, an aboriginal girl of about twenty-five years of age, to a native of France. Cairns.
 Fanny White, a half-caste woman, to a white man. Brisbane.
 Rosie Homarlee, an aboriginal woman, to a South Sea Islander. Cairns.
 Taom Tierna, a Mabuiag Island woman, to a Samoan. Thursday Island.
 Alice, an aboriginal aged twenty-five years, to a white man. Mitchell.
 Kitty, an aboriginal, to a South Sea Islander. Townsville.
 Nellie, an aboriginal, to a South Sea Islander. Townsville.
 Daisy, a half-caste girl, to a South Sea Islander. Cairns.
 Eva, an aboriginal girl, to a native of Malay. Normanton.
 Alice, an aboriginal, about twenty years of age, to a half-caste native of Queensland. Springsure.
 Sidie Jerry, an aboriginal woman, about twenty-five years of age, to a South Sea Islander. Charters Towers.

Permission to marry was refused in the case of—

Maggie, an aboriginal girl, to a Chinaman. Normanton.
 Katie, an aboriginal, to a South Sea Islander. Ingham.

GENERAL HEALTH.

Although several of the hospitals admit aboriginals to their institutions, yet in many cases objection is taken to having them as inmates, unless paid for by the Government. Objection has been taken to this, both by the late Chief Protector and myself, it being, of course, understood that an aboriginal in employment would be maintained whilst under treatment by the employer, who, in terms of the agreement, is liable for such payments.

From the reports from the several local Protectors, it would appear the health of the natives as a whole is fairly good, but it is only to be expected many of the aged blacks and children suffer from sickness of one sort or another, and now and then an accident happens which calls for medical attention, which I am pleased to say is readily and willingly afforded by the medical gentlemen in the several districts.

ABORIGINAL CRIME.

The following is a summary of crimes reported to have been committed by aborigines. Serious crimes have not been very prevalent, and the majority of the natives are orderly and law-abiding.

Disorderly Conduct.—1 Charleville, 4 Thursday Island, 1 Hughenden, 1 Townsville.

Obscene Language.—2 Charleville, 1 Normanton, 2 Thursday Island, 1 Maryborough.

Stealing.—2 Cairns, 3 Thursday Island, 5 Charters Towers, 4 Coen, 1 Ingham, 1 Cooktown, 3 Longreach, 3 Maryborough, 2 Roma, 3 Townsville.

Illegally on Premises.—1 Longreach, 1 Maryborough.

Breaking and Entering.—1 Normanton.

Deserting Hired Service.—5 Thursday Island, 16 Cooktown.

Assault.—1 Cairns, 3 Normanton, 6 Thursday Island, 1 Coen, 2 Cooktown, 2 Longreach, 2 Mackay, 1 Maryborough, 2 Roma.

Four aboriginals—Alpin, Tommy, Charlie, and Jock—were charged at Townsville with the murder of Conway Willie, also an aboriginal, and each received a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment with hard labour.

At Cairns, Jack, an aboriginal, was charged with the murder of Billy, another aboriginal, and was sent to gaol for three years.

One case of attempted rape on a little girl was reported, and the offender was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

MISSION RESERVES, REFORMATORIES, SCHOOLS, HOMES.

Appended will be found a table giving the daily average number of natives connected with the various mission reserves, &c., distinguishing between those who are permanent inmates and those who only visit the reserves occasionally. Those who are permanent residents are, of course, wholly provided for by the missions.

TABLE 9.—AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS ON MISSION RESERVES, &c.

—	YARRAHAH (Vid Cairns).			MAPOON (Batavia River).			WEIPA (Embley River).			CAPE BEDFORD (Vid Cooktown).			DEEBING CREEK (Vid Ipswich).			BARAMBAH (Vid Murgon).			AURUKUN (Archer River).			ABORIGINAL GIRLS' HOME (Brisbane).			TRUBANAMAN CREEK (Mitchell River).					
	Government Aid			£450.			£250.			£120.			£250.			£200.			£*			£150.			£*			£150.		
1906.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	325	...	325	88	17	105	51	10	61	95	...	95	140	3	143	270	9	279	3	28	31	4	4	8	+	+	...	+	+	...
February	320	...	320	80	20	100	50	9	59	100	...	100	135	4	139	250	4	254	11	30	41	4	5	9	+	+	...	+	+	...
March	323	...	323	80	22	102	34	3	37	100	30	130	135	5	140	255	...	255	13	35	48	4	2	6	+	+	...	+	+	...
April	320	...	320	80	24	104	45	10	55	100	30	130	135	6	141	240	...	240	5	20	25	4	2	6	+	+	...	+	+	...
May	+	+	...	80	25	105	50	20	70	100	...	100	135	6	141	236	...	236	1	8	9	4	3	7	32	...	32	...	32	...
June	+	+	...	80	24	104	35	30	65	100	...	100	140	3	143	238	...	238	2	10	12	1	3	4	33	...	33	...	33	...
July	+	+	...	80	24	104	+	+	...	100	...	100	150	12	162	235	...	235	25	...	25	...	3	3	33	...	33	...	33	...
August	+	+	...	80	27	107	+	+	...	100	...	100	162	1	163	220	...	220	38	...	38	...	2	2	35	...	35	...	35	...
September	+	+	...	80	25	105	+	+	...	104	70	174	148	...	148	223	...	223	76	...	76	...	...	Nil	36	...	36	...	36	...
October	+	+	...	80	35	115	+	+	...	104	70	174	148	7	155	207	...	207	104	...	104	...	...	Nil	36	...	36	...	36	...
November	+	+	...	80	39	119	+	+	...	104	70	174	140	11	151	217	...	217	68	...	68	...	Nil	Nil	36	...	36	...	36	...
December	+	+	...	80	48	128	+	+	...	104	70	174	130	10	140	250	...	250	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	41	...	41	...	41	...

* Entire cost provided by the Department.

Not obtainable.

Tables Nos. 10 and 11 are school returns showing the total and average attendance of children during each quarter of the year.

TABLE 10.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES, &C., MAINLAND)—1906.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.						ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.			Girls.			No. of School Days.	Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Mapoon. £100.	31 March ...	25	51	76	20	2	3	24	8	19	48	1,066	2,361	22	49
	30 June ...	28	52	80	17	3	8	27	19	6	52	1,063	2,560	20	49
	30 September ...	27	54	81	3	12	12	19	8	27	52	991	2,538	19	48
	31 December ...	33	55	88	3	12	18	19	8	28	48	1,158	2,322	24	48
Weipa.* £80.	31 March ...	30	27	57	9	7	14	17	8	2	48	679	1,265	14	26
	30 June ...	39	34	73	11	7	21	17	8	9	34	651	949	19	28
	30 September ...	40	35	75	11	7	22	17	8	10	52	1,115	1,617	21	31
	31 December ...	46	36	82	11	7	28	17	8	11	48	1,378	1,615	29	34
Cape Bedford. £100.	31 March ...	18	13	31	6	6	6	4	0	9	49	882	637	18	13
	30 June ...	18	13	31	6	6	6	4	0	9	55	990	715	18	13
	30 September ...	18	13	31	5	6	7	4	0	9	63	1,124	816	17.8	12.9
	31 December ...	18	13	31	5	6	7	4	0	9	54	972	702	18	13
Deebing Creek. £52.	31 March ...	16	33	49	12	2	2	17	9	7	50	625	1,500	12.5	30
	30 June ...	18	33	51	12	2	4	16	10	7	58	885	1,743	15.2	30
	30 September ...	18	32	50	12	2	4	16	9	7	57	910	1,618	15.9	28.3
	31 December ...	17	27	44	12	1	4	15	9	3	51	766	1,112	15	21.8
Barambah. £52.	31 March ...	16	40	56	14	2	...	32	8	...	49	366	1,784	7.23	36.3
	30 June ...	21	45	66	19	2	...	30	15	...	52	832	1,891	16	36.19
	30 September ...	28	42	70	27	1	...	29	13	...	59	1,323	2,355	22.25	39.54
	31 December ...	27	43	70	26	1	...	29	14	...	52	1,145	1,996	22.1	38.20
Archer River. £100.	31 March ...	28	12	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	313	203	8	5
	30 June ...	6	8	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	47	65	4	5
	30 September ...	19	8	27	19	...	...	8	...	...	16	261	98	16	6
	31 December ...	37	25	62	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	465	293	15	9
Michell River. £100.	31 March ...	30	4	34	30	...	...	4	...	...	52	1,490	188	28	3
	30 June ...	31	4	35	31	...	...	4	...	...	25	790	104	31	4
	30 September ...	35	2	37	35	...	...	2	...	...	31	1,026	105	33	3
	31 December ...	30	4	34	30	...	...	4	...	...	52	1,490	188	28	3
Yarrabah.† £70.	31 March ...	71	73	144	17	19	18†	23	15	16§	24	1,428	1,113	59	46
	30 June ...	72	70	142	17	18	17†	21	14	14§	44	2,546	2,273	58	51
	30 September ...	69	63	132	16	18	17†	23	14	10§	41	2,498	2,049	61	49
	31 December ...	68	64	132	14	15	20†	21	14	10§	39	2,764	2,149	70	55

* School closed for one month.

† Closed for six weeks owing to cyclone.

‡ March—Boys.—IV., 14; V., 3.
 ‡ June— " IV., 14; V., 8.
 ‡ Sept.— " IV., 14; V., 4.
 ‡ Dec.— " IV., 14; V., 5.

§ Girls.—IV., 11; V., 8.
 ‡ " IV., 17; V., 4.
 ‡ " IV., 18; V., 3.
 ‡ " IV., 18; V., 3.

TABLE 11.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (DEPARTMENTAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1906.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.						ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.			Girls.			No. of School Days.	Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Murray Island. £200.	31 March ...	54	49	103	28	17	9	26	10	13	44	1,851	1,738	42	39
	30 June ...	56	55	111	31	17	8	30	12	13	62	2,715	2,871	43	46
	30 September ...	54	55	109	30	16	8	30	12	13	59	2,315	2,668	39	45
	31 December ...	53	52	105	32	15	6	29	11	12	58	2,107	2,367	36	40
Darnley Island. £100.	31 March ...	41	29	70	12	5	24	6	9	14	25	881	667	35	26
	30 June ...	33	27	60	10	5	18	6	9	12	24	730	633	30	26
	30 September ...	35	35	70	11	7	17	6	12	17	46	1,525	1,421	33	30
	31 December ...	40	36	76	14	8	18	9	10	17	42	1,522	1,430	36	34
Mabuiag Island. £130.	31 March ...	41	50	91	22	6	13	36	11	3	53	1,725	2,213	32	41
	30 June ...	32	43	75	18	7	7	30	10	3	49	1,466	1,949	30	39
	30 September ...	35	49	84	20	7	8	37	10	2	71	2,128	2,815	30	39
	31 December ...	34	46	80	19	6	9	36	8	2	61	1,919	2,592	31	42
Badu Island. £84.	31 March ...	23	15	38	14	3	6	11	2	2	10	217	146	21	14
	30 June ...	23	18	41	14	3	6	13	2	3	60	1,343	989	22	16
	30 September ...	26	21	47	17	3	6	16	2	3	55	1,344	1,069	24	19
	31 December ...	28	22	50	18	4	6	17	2	3	44	1,208	890	27	20
Saibai Island. £84.	31 March ...	35	27	62	18	8	9	17	5	5	50	1,582	1,243	31	24
	30 June ...	34	27	61	19	8	3	17	5	5	53	1,673	1,237	31	23
	30 September ...	26	24	50	12	8	6	15	4	5	55	1,411	1,283	25	23
	31 December ...	26	24	50	13	7	6	15	4	5	49	1,254	981	25	20
Yam Island. £96.	31 March* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 June* ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 September ...	16	16	32	3	6	7	5	2	9	65	769	771	11	13
	31 December ...	16	15	31	2	6	8	5	2	8	55	714	770	13	14

* School opened in June, 1906.

Trubanaman Mission (Mitchell River).—This settlement has only been started some two years, and has a permanent population of thirty-eight natives, but numbers of nomadic blacks visit the place from time to time. Good progress has been made in the erection of buildings, and good results may be looked for in the near future.

Aurukun Mission (Archer River).—Rev. A. Richter, who is in charge of the station, writes as follows:—"The blacks as a whole are still wild, and only a little more civilised than when we commenced the work. Care has been taken not to force civilisation upon them too rapidly, as civilisation without christianity will do more harm than good; but we are endeavouring to teach them the difference between right and wrong. The school we regard as a very important part of our work. The teaching has made little progress during the past year, as both Mrs. Richter (who teaches the children) and myself have suffered much from fever. The manual work, however, has not been interrupted, and I am glad to be able to report that the mission house has been finished. The frame of a large building has been erected, which, when completed, will serve as church and school, and we consider that the first and roughest portion of the pioneer work is finished, and the place is looking more like a station. In April and May, immediately following the rainy season of the year, malarial and dengue fever make their appearance in epidemic form, and this year was no exception to the rule; there were many to attend to and nurse, but I am pleased to say those who were under our care all recovered, but a great number of those who spent their time of sickness in the bush died. The natives have full confidence in our medical treatment, and appear often with trivial, small injuries to be attended to. I am sorry to report that venereal disease has made its appearance, especially amongst the tribes to the north, but the health of the people is noticeably improving. The old neglected wounds which were so apparent during the first year have disappeared, an indication that the Mission is helping to alleviate the suffering and prolong the lives of the people. The behaviour of the blacks has, on the whole, been good, and at Christmas time games were held at the Mission, and were much enjoyed. Representatives of most of the wild tribes were present, and took part in the festival. Again we had to face a serious want of water. It seems as if the amount of water in the large lagoon on which the station depends for its supply is becoming less year by year, and the digging of a well has, I am sorry to say, not been successful. Another attempt in this direction will be made, and it is to be hoped the result will be more satisfactory."

Weipa Mission (Embley River) like Aurukun, is controlled by the Presbyterian Church, and is under the immediate care of the Rev. Mr. Brown, who has about 100 people permanently resident on the station. The school, with an attendance of 59 children, of whom 27 are boys and 32 girls, is under the management of Miss Schick. The ordinary primary school books are used, and the pupils take an intelligent interest in their lessons. At the time of my visit some 40 camp blacks were at the station. About 8 acres have been put under cultivation, chiefly sweet potatoes, some arrowroot, and cassava. There are also some exceptionally well-grown mango-trees. Two or three very creditable buildings have been erected by the natives, who also do a little pit-sawing.

The health of the people is good, and they have the appearance of being happy and contented. More land is being gradually brought under cultivation, and, no doubt, in the near future a good food supply will be produced.

Mapoon Mission (Batavia River).—In his annual report, the Rev. Mr. Hey, who is in charge, says:—"The total number of aborigines under my supervision is between 400 and 500, all of whom receive assistance when required. The able-bodied men who are provided with food have to work according to their capabilities. Nearly 200 natives have permanently settled down at the station—the children and young men in their separate quarters, and the married couples housed in small cottages. The neighbouring tribes make periodical visits to the Mission, and I am of opinion this somewhat retards the improvement of the station, as their influence is not good. Yet, we do not consider it advisable to close the station to any native visitors, but rather bid them welcome. The general health of our people has been very satisfactory, the death rate being the lowest on record since the commencement of the Mission, fifteen years since. I attribute this change for the better to the closing of the reserve for recruiting purposes. We are not averse to our young people finding occasional employment outside the reserve if responsible and trustworthy employers are to be found. The life on the 'swimming diving' boats is, I think, detrimental, physically and morally, to the natives. A considerable number of natives have been regularly employed at the station, and much improvement has resulted. With much labour, the use of seaweed as manure, and continually watering, a fair quantity of vegetables have been raised. A cocanot plantation started some years ago, and extended year by year, has provided a good food supply, and appreciably augmenting other foodstuffs. Two 40-acre paddocks, fenced, with milking-shed and drafting-yards, have been renewed and repaired. A large workshop, with saw-bench and other modern improvements, has been completed. All the station buildings, numbering forty-three, have been kept in good repair. The latest improvement is the completion of a commodious and substantial mission hall, with dressing-rooms, music-room, and a small library. This building is used for church and school purposes. Nearly all the timber needed for the structure was obtained on the reserve, and sawn and adzed into the required shape by the natives themselves, under our supervision. The reserve is stocked with eighty-five head of cattle, which not only afford a meat supply, but also provide milk for the station. Seven horses, a number of fowls, and goats have proved useful, and beneficial in the training of our young people. No trouble has been experienced in maintaining discipline. Work for the people has been a valuable auxiliary in this direction.

"Under the direction of Mrs. Ward, the school results are gratifying; the daily attendance of the children was excellent, and their general attention, good conduct, intelligence, and obedience, praiseworthy.

"At the out-station mentioned in a previous report, some further progress has been made; several acres of land are now under cultivation, and the outlook is promising."

Hope Valley Mission (Cape Bedford).—On my recent tour of inspection I visited this station, and take the following from my report to the Hon. the Home Secretary:—"The station is a model of cleanliness and good behaviour. The population consists of 102 souls—55 males and 47 females; there are 15 married couples, 2 children over one year of age, and 9 infants, one of whom was born during my visit. The population has increased during the last fifteen years, only one death having occurred in nineteen years. Pastor Schwarz is in charge of the Mission, and speaks the local aboriginal dialect fluently. The area of land allotted to the station is of the most sterile description, and quite unsuitable for agricultural purposes, and only a small portion even for grazing. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, Mr. Schwarz has succeeded in draining a pandanus swamp of some 8 acres in extent, which produces excellent sweet potatoes, bananas, and pineapples. A fair number of cocoanuts are also grown a short distance from the station. The school roll shows a total of 31 children—15 boys and 16 girls; the school is under the charge of Mrs. Schwarz, and the work of the children is very good, the sewing of the girls being excellent. Mr. Schwarz is a practical agriculturist, and it is to be deplored that he has not an opportunity of working under more favourable conditions as regards soil. Both Mr. and Mrs. Schwarz have the entire confidence of the natives; and, in fact, the place is conducted on lines which cannot help being productive of good results. About twenty-one camp blacks regularly visit the Mission, where they are supplied with a little food and otherwise attended to. In his annual report Mr. Schwarz says there has been but little change in the number of aboriginal inmates of the station; the natural increase during fifteen years has been ten, against one death. The health of the people is good. The first really good crop of sweet potatoes was taken off our ground during the year, and averaged about 10 tons to the acre, certainly a very good return. I do not, however, expect to have such good results again from the same piece of ground, but we have cleared and drained another 5 acres of similar soil, and now have it partly planted with sweet potatoes, bananas, and pineapples. As we do not expect the surface soil to keep good for many years, the whole area of our plantation has been put under cocoanuts, which are expected to bear fruit by the time the soil becomes worked out for other crops. Six hundred trees have been planted, and they are doing well. The coconut grove on the north side of the Cape has been kept in order, and some time, of course, is spent in repairing fences, buildings, &c. During the dry weather we made a dray road to a piece of scrub land some 13 miles distant from headquarters, and intend forming an out-station there, as the soil appears to be good for agricultural purposes. Unfortunately, since this report was written, Cape Bedford has been visited by a severe cyclone, which played sad havoc with the buildings, and destroyed the most part of the crops."

Yarrabah Mission.—The Rev. E. R. Gribble, who superintends the working of this station, reports as follows:—

"In making a report on the working of the Mission for 1906, I have to begin with the cyclone which in January wrought such damage. In one day buildings and the work of fifteen years were wrecked and destroyed. When it is remembered that during the whole history of the Mission to that date no carpenters or skilled labour of any kind had been employed whatever, the greatness of the disaster will in a measure be somewhat realised. A few days after the storm my colleague, William Reeves, passed away, after twelve years' work here. He worked eleven years without leave of absence. His loss is still felt greatly. Owing to his death, and for other reasons, it was considered imperatively necessary that a carpenter should be engaged in the work of re-erection, but, before his advent, many of the buildings had been re-erected or repaired, including church, school, store, engine-shed, boys' dormitory, girls' home, and eight married people's homes. The carpenter remained several months at work in the mission house, cottage, and a new building near the hospital, which serves as a residence for the trained nurse, and includes a dispensary. In every case the buildings have been improved, strengthened, and enlarged. Besides the above, buildings have been erected at the various settlements, all being substantial, permanent buildings.

"**FARMING AND GARDENING** has been greatly extended, both at Yarrabah and at the different settlements. At Yarrabah 10 acres of land have been ploughed and planted with cotton. Land has also been ploughed and planted with sweet potatoes, yams, maize, and pumpkins. The vegetable garden at Yarrabah has been extended, pumps erected for irrigating, and potatoes, taro, cassava, cotton, and pumpkins planted during the year. The yield of vegetables, such as cabbage, carrots, turnips, beans, &c., has been the largest we have had. Yarrabah has a plantation of 30 acres, as well as the vegetable garden. Several of the boys do well as ploughmen. For the last year I have taken up the supervision and direction of all farm work, as I had done up to four years ago. During the year a trip was made up the Barron River in the launch, with thirty of our young boys. Thanks to the kindness of the manager there, the trip was a great success, and we brought back for planting bread-fruit trees, rubber-trees, cocoa plants, and many other useful and ornamental trees and plants, and all are thriving. The girls have been keenly interested in flower gardening, and their garden beds add much to the beauty of the place. The mango crop this season was, owing to the cyclone, a very poor one. The coconut palms are doing well, and have yielded well; over 1,000 palms have now been planted about the reserve, and we are continually planting out young trees from our own nurseries.

"**EPIDEMIC.**—Just after the cyclone, we passed through a very trying time with a severe epidemic of dengue fever; not one resident escaped, even those on the settlements being attacked. At the present time the general health is good. When it is remembered that our people have been for the most part gathered from all parts of the State, more especially from the old settled centres, and that we have admitted many sickly, diseased, and depraved waifs and strays, it may be seen that our work has not been easy or free from great anxieties and cares. The deaths during the year were principally among the sickly and poorly constituted portion from abroad. The natives in the reserve have always proved vigorous and healthy, but they number only forty odd.

"**MEDICAL INSPECTION.**—Dr. O'Brien, the Government Medical Officer for Cairns, has made a visit of inspection and examined most of the people; he expressed his surprise at the general health and condition of the people and place. In his opinion, the cleanliness and sanitary condition of the place could not be much improved upon.

"**SANITARY SYSTEM.**—The sanitary arrangements have been a very expensive piece of work, the last expenditure being £30 for a nightcart, but the system is proving most satisfactory and beneficial.

"**SCHOOL.**—In the school there are 131 scholars—boys, 67; girls, 64. Mrs. W. Reeves is the teacher, and is assisted by six aboriginal teachers—three males and three females—four being half-castes and two full-bloods. During the year valuable assistance has been given in the school by Miss Gribble.

"**GYMNASTIC CLASSES, DRILLS, &c.**, are carried out regularly; all school boys, as well as the younger men, attend these classes. The girls also have weekly physical drill classes. The Church Lads' Brigade has been increased by the enrolment of thirty, thus bringing the strength up to sixty. The Yarrabah company is affiliated with the Church Lads' Brigade in London, from whence we receive commissions, warrants, equipments, &c. The drills are held every Friday afternoon. We owe to our weekly drills the good discipline which always prevails here. Drills have been quite a feature of the Mission since 1893, and are never left out of the week's routine. The men as well as the boys take great interest in them.

"**WORK.**—We do not aim at keeping our people steadily at work so much as to keep them with something to think about; work forms part only of our scheme. Amusement forms also a very important part, and consists of periodical picnics, in parties or divisions; two weekly half-holidays; monthly corroborees in the hall; cricket; football; tennis; croquet; and concerts. Annual sports are also held. Every day, for all, there is as much time for amusement as for work—the one balances the other. The work during the year has been well done; in fact, more has been done during 1906, and greater material progress made, than ever before in our history.

"**KOBABRA, OR FITZROY ISLAND.**—The only men at all chary of work are the incorrigibles from Fraser Island, now living in a settlement by themselves on Fitzroy Island; but even they have done better than I expected, and their settlement, called Kobabra (which is the native name for Fitzroy Island), consists of a cottage for the missionary in charge, five homes of slab and iron, three dwellings of grass thatch, and a concrete church, the latter being constructed of lime and coral, the lime being obtained from coral by burning. They have also cleared 3 acres of land up the mountain, and are growing bananas, yams, sweet potatoes, sugar-cane, peanuts, taro, maize, cotton, and pawpaws. On the whole, I am more than pleased with the results made with the incorrigible portion of the Fraser Island contingent.

"**SETTLEMENTS.**—I have already alluded to Kobabra, the settlement on Fitzroy Island. We do not believe in herding our people together at one centre, hence the formation of settlements on permanent and running streams, and near good scrub land. In addition to the settlements, we are forming separate farms at suitable places. There are now in existence five village settlements and four farms, the nearest being a farm a mile and a-half from Yarrabah.

"**Reeves Creek.**—A little over two miles away was the first settlement formed some three years ago. The village consists of a street of ten buildings, including church, store, and dwellings. An aboriginal (full blood) has been in charge here, and in the community there is only one half-caste—a woman from Fraser Island. Over 20 acres have been cleared, and at present the land is planted with bananas, pine-apples, papaws, yams, maize, sweet potatoes, peanuts, cassava, coffee, cotton, and sugar-cane. Over 300 pines were sent in to Yarrabah during the year, besides the very large number consumed by the villagers themselves, for they only send in their surplus products.

"**Buckie Creek.**—This settlement is now two years old. The distance from Yarrabah is 6 miles. Homes have been put up, consisting of slabs, split palms, and iron roofing. A church is in course of erection, also a residence for Mr. Woolrych, who, with Mrs. Woolrych, lately arrived from England, and is to reside there. Six acres of land are under bananas, maize, sweet potatoes, yams, cotton, &c. This settlement has experienced great difficulty in getting its produce into Yarrabah. When the creeks are crossable pack-horses are used; at other times the men act as porters, and carry the stuff in on their shoulders. Before long we hope to overcome the difficulty. Over one large creek a fine substantial bridge has been erected, and, with another over a larger creek near by the drays will be able to travel right through. The most of the residents are from Fraser Island, and take a keen interest in their settlement. There is only one half-caste at this settlement—a man who ranks as chief of the settlement.

"**Girrayah** is a settlement near Cape Grafton, right on the beach, and consists of five huts and a little chapel. The land near the beach has been planted with cocoanut palms, and 3 acres of scrub land have been cleared a short distance away, and have been planted with bananas, pines, maize, yams, sweet potatoes, cotton, and sugar-cane. As the settlement is away from the plantation, poultry are kept, and do well.

"**Balambah** is now a settlement two miles from Yarrabah, and at present only three married couples reside there. Land has been cleared and planted with bananas, maize, &c. This will develop, I hope, into a very good settlement, as the land is good.

"**FARMS.**—Karpa Creek Farm is in the hands of a married couple (a full-blooded Palmer River native and a half-caste woman). Here over 200 cocoanut palms have been planted during the last two years, and fowls and ducks are kept. The house of two rooms with detached kitchen is built of weather-boards and iron.

"**Jarraway** is the native name for the small island right in the Mission Bay, almost opposite Yarrabah. Here a married couple live, and have a very comfortable home of two rooms, built of iron. Poultry is the leading feature here, but cocoanut palms, cotton, and rubber have been planted on the island.

"**Myro** is the farm nearest to Yarrabah. The land here during the year has been ploughed and planted with maize, rubber, orange, and mandarin trees and cocoa. Sugar-cane and sweet potatoes have also been planted in large quantities. This farm is in the hands of two married couples.

"*Murragin* is a farm situated four miles from Yarrabah, and beyond the Reeves Creek settlement. The couple living here are natives of Yarrabah, having spent all their lives on the reserve. The wife was a child of about eight years of age at the commencement of the Mission in 1892, that being the age I entered against her name that year. They are both full-bloods, and are doing remarkably well with poultry. Two acres of scrub land have been cleared and planted. Maize, cotton, and fruit trees are to be seen all around the little home, which is well built, and a picture of neatness.

"INDUSTRIES.—All visitors to Yarrabah at once remark the many different occupations engaged in. Our great aim is to make life pleasant, and at the same time to turn out useful men and women; not with the view of benefiting Europeans, but primarily to benefit themselves. Hence, we strive to get everything into the hands of aboriginals as much as possible. The school has six aboriginal teachers. The daily services of the church are conducted by Europeans and aboriginals in turn. Boys are appointed to the store.

"The steam mill is in the hands of a native of Yarrabah (full-blood), who has had it for four years. A glance at the list of aboriginal officers, &c., for 1907, will show the extent to which we carry this idea.

"We have a barber's shop, and a printing office, where a monthly newspaper is turned out and all our job printing is done. Four boys are in the office, the fireman being fourteen years of age, the rest younger.

"A workshop, 60 feet by 20 feet, is being erected. In this a new 5-h.p. Union oil engine, which has just arrived from Sydney, is to be installed. When the building is complete, all work connected with the gas plant and water system, such as pipe-threading, &c., will be done here, also woodcarving, saddlery, carpentry, joinery, and tinsmithing will be taught.

"ORGANISATIONS.—In addition to the Church Lads' Brigade already referred to, we have a Fire Brigade of three companies, with three stations, the settlement being divided into three wards, each having its own alarm. Practices are held at least once a week, at any hour and on any day.

"The band is making good progress, and at present consists of sixteen members, all of whom play from music, ordinary notation. The great feature of the band is the fact that, with the exception of four, all are full-bloods. They play both secular and sacred music. Four of the members are from Fraser Island, five are natives of Yarrabah, while the remainder come from all parts of the State. One is a pure-blooded native of Normanton, where the blacks present such a miserable and degraded appearance.

"FISHING.—We had hoped to have made during the year an attempt to help the funds of the Mission, and to help on the work of development by net-fishing and also by *bêche-de-mer* fishing on the reef, and we obtained from the Government a loan of £30 for boats and nets, but, owing to the cyclone, we were not able to do more than use the nets in supplying fish for the settlement. We hope, however, to make a start later.

"HOSPITAL has been enlarged by the addition of an open-air ward and an isolated room for infectious cases. A residence of five rooms has been built close by. The buildings in the hospital grounds now number five.

"GAS PLANT.—The school, church, girls' home, boys' dormitory, married people's dining-room, store, mission house, mission cottage, and hospital are lighted by acetylene gas from one large generator in the centre of the settlement.

"WATER SUPPLY.—From the waterfalls up the mountain sides water is brought by gravitation, through galvanised pipe (1 inch), right through the entire settlement. Taps at the hospital, in the gardens, at the cottage, girls' home, bathrooms, and one in the centre of the settlement, supply water to all. It is intended to form, up above the falls, a small reservoir, in order to ensure a permanent supply. The pipes have been down nine years. In dry years the falls are dry for about six or eight weeks; at the present time the pipes have been supplying water since January, 1906, to January, 1907, without a stoppage, and we are now in the wet season. The cost of the reservoir would be but small, and the place chosen is especially fitted for it.

"STAFF.—During the year several additions have been made to the Mission staff. Miss Thompson, A.T.N.A., joined just after the cyclone, but after a few months, not being strong, and her health completely failing, she has just relinquished her post and returned to Sydney.

"Mr. D. Gosper came from New South Wales about the middle of the year to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Reeves in January. Miss Mullins arrived from England at the end of the year, and was married to Mr. Woolrych, who has been connected with the Mission for five years. Mrs. Gribble, senior, had to enter Cairns Hospital during the earlier part of the year, owing to a severe attack of dengue fever. My wife returned from Sydney, after a year's absence on account of ill-health, but is still delicate, and will shortly return to a cooler climate for her own health as well as for the sake of schooling for my three sons.

"CONDUCT.—The conduct of the residents during the year may be judged from the fact that we have no lock-up and no police officers. There being no necessity for a lock-up, the one previously used (a small room in the school) has been turned into a room for the brass instruments belonging to the band. The settlement is ruled by a court. The King of Yarrabah is assisted by a chief resident at Yarrabah, and by chiefs chosen at each settlement.

"At each settlement the aborigines have their own head, who is responsible to the missionary or aboriginal lay-reader in charge of the settlement. The chiefs report to the king, whom they represent, and are elected for life, but can be deprived for misconduct.

"The Mission staff, the king, and the chiefs form the court, which meets monthly at Yarrabah. A public meeting is held on the same day that the court meets, to hear the decisions, &c. At the public meeting the rules are read, the total amounts of products grown and produced at each settlement and farm are read out, and all misconduct reported. Plans for future work are also announced, and also approaching weddings.

"Stock.—Horses, 20; cattle, 10; Angora goats, 80; pigs, 8. Poultry at five centres consists of fowls; geese, 13; Muscovy ducks, 60; Pekin ducks, 20."

Barambah Aboriginal Settlement (*vid* Murgon).—This is a *depôt* controlled entirely by the Department, with Mr. Lipscombe as Superintendent. The following information is gleaned from reports received from time to time from the Superintendent:—The average number of natives on the settlement during last year totalled 226 souls—107 males and 119 females. The work on the place consisted of the erection of two miles of fencing, repairing old fences, building stockyard, forming and repairing road, clearing land for cultivation, additions to Superintendent's house and school, building single girls' quarters, erecting windmill, and making a yard for goats, besides splitting additional material for building purposes. The fieldwork has been carried on regularly, and more land is being brought under cultivation.

In August last, I paid a visit of inspection to Barambah, and made the following report to the Hon. the Home Secretary:—

"At the time of my visit there was 218 souls, consisting of 90 males and 128 females, on the settlement. Of this number about 64 children—*viz.*, 22 boys and 42 girls—ranging from five to thirteen years of age, and attending school, and under the tuition of Miss Kennett, are making really good progress. The exercise-books are clean and neat, and the sewing done by the girls is very creditable. The health of the camp was generally fairly good; a few cases of bad colds and sore throats were in evidence, but nothing serious, and the aboriginals contented and happy. There are some five or six young half-castes and full-blooded girls about fourteen years of age, whom I propose allowing to come to Brisbane to go to domestic service, under the care of Mrs. McKeown, the Protectress. They will then have an opportunity of learning ordinary domestic duties, besides earning a little money, and will be removed from a life of comparative indolence.

"More seating accommodation is required in the school, also a small press to keep books in, and a handbell.

"I find there are 113 head of cattle on the reserve—*viz.*, 44 cows, 14 springers, 15 steers (two years old), 39 calves under six months, and 1 Shorthorn bull. These cattle are looking very well indeed, and are in good condition and health, and no doubt will be profitable in the near future. The brands in use on the settlement are too small for cattle, and it would be expedient to have a larger brand made, also to have the animals ear-marked.

"The area now actually under plough embraces about 13 acres, on which is to be grown English potatoes, sweet potatoes, maize, lucerne, and (at my suggestion) a small quantity of cotton, as an experiment.

"In the vegetable garden cabbages, turnips, carrots, and kohlrabbi are grown successfully.

"Part of the boundary fence of the reserve is not at all satisfactory, in some places there being no fences whatever. I estimate it will take about three miles of barb-wire to make the place secure, and am of opinion this work should be at once undertaken.

"There is a quantity of timber on the reserve suitable for milling purposes, and I would recommend that it be sold, and all inferior timber ringbarked.

"I can see no reason why the settlement at Barambah should not become, in a great measure, self-supporting; but, in order to make it so, some initial expenditure will be necessary, and I would strongly advise that, with a view of reducing the cost of the meat ration, a considerable number (say, 200) of ordinary goats be purchased, or perhaps they could be obtained from some of the local authorities, who at certain periods destroy these animals. By following out this suggestion, I am of opinion the meat bill would be considerably reduced, and if the flaying of the goats was intelligently carried out, the skins would be of some commercial value, and consequently a source of revenue. It would be necessary also to provide strength, in the shape of horses; at present there are three light draught horses, but they are old animals, and have nearly outlived their usefulness, and are not fit to do the work required of them. As a result, the work of ploughing, &c., is retarded. There is only one saddle horse (quite unsuitable) available, and the Superintendent is compelled to borrow a horse when necessary for him to ride, which is often the case. The plough at present in use is an ordinary single-furrow Yankee swing-plough. It is very old, and practically worn out.

"Under these circumstances, and with a view of reaping as much benefit as possible from the settlement, and utilising the time of those natives in the camp, who for various reasons are seldom away, I would strongly recommend that authority be given to purchase horses at a cost of, say, £60; this would procure two good plough horses and two saddle hacks; and that a new plough and plough harness be provided. Also, more shelter is required for the children—boys and girls in separate quarters—and it will be necessary to provide about forty sheets of 7-foot corrugated iron for roofing purposes, as it is now impossible to obtain bark on, or within a reasonable distance of, the settlement. It is desirable that a medium-sized bell should be furnished to call boys to and from their work.

"Hitherto the practice of distributing the daily rations of flour has been to give each individual the quantity prescribed to make it into bread. I am of opinion a good saving would be effected if bread was substituted for the raw material; with this end in view, it would be desirable to provide, say, four or five large camp ovens, and employ two or three of the women to do the baking; the bread could be then weighed out to those entitled to it.

"With the excellent advantages of a permanent and practically inexhaustible supply of good water existing at the settlement, it would be most desirable that some steps be taken to provide means by which the water could be raised from the creek and used in a small way for irrigation purposes; the expense of putting a pump and oil engine or windmill on the place would not be great, and the probable benefits inestimable, as under any ordinary conditions the crop of root food, such as potatoes and also maize, would then be assured, which would mean a considerable saving to the Department and an education to the young people.

"As I have already remarked, I can see no reason whatever why Barambah should not be nearly, if not wholly, self-supporting, and I feel confident that, with the sympathy and assistance of those in authority, combined with intelligent and practical supervision, the settlement can be made to produce large quantities of food, and those residing on it made comfortable and happy. It is, however, imperative that the necessary strength and implements to attain this end must be provided, and I trust the Hon. the Minister will be justified in approving of the several recommendations I have made, in order that my ideas may be carried out to, I hope, a successful issue."

Since the above report was submitted, the Hon. the Home Secretary has given his approval to my recommendations.

Deebing Creek (via Ipswich).—The report from this station is to the effect that no children had been admitted to the school during the year. Nine children have been discharged—viz., two boys completed their sentence, six girls and one boy had their sentence remitted to allow of their going into service, and one died of consumption. There are twenty-five children at present at the school. The health and behaviour of the children have been good, with one or two exceptions. Some nice letters have been received from young people who have left the Mission to go to service.

Aboriginals Girls' Home (West End).—During the past year this institution provided shelter and food for the women out of employment or taking a rest; but the demand for domestic servants having increased to such an extent, it was seldom required for out-of-employment girls, and the fact of the native women having money of their own in the Savings Bank rendered the continuance of such an institution unnecessary. It was, therefore, decided to close the home as from the 31st December last.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

At the end of the year 1905 the amount to the credit of this fund was £223 15s. 7d., as against a credit of only £61 5s. 11d. at the end of last year. The difference in the amounts is accounted for by the fact of large withdrawals having been made for the purchase of boats loaned to the natives of Darnley and Badu Islands, amounting to £245, also small sums advanced for procuring boats for the Moe, Stephens, and Hammond Islanders—viz., £20—making a total of £265. A considerable proportion of this money has been repaid, and I anticipate the whole sum will be in hand before the expiration of the present year.

EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINALS BY DIFFERENT STATES—YEAR 1906.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.
		£ s. d.
Queensland	20,000 *	9,086 15 0
South Australia	3,745	4,210 0 0
Victoria	365	4,300 0 0
Western Australia	30,000 *	15,099 0 0
New South Wales	6,910	18,136 0 0

* Approximate only.

OFFICE WORK.

The office correspondence numbered 4,037 letters—2,111 inward and 1,926 letters outward.

Mr. J. M. Costin has had to take charge of the office during my absence, which is at times somewhat extended, and has carried out the duties intelligently and with every satisfaction. To the Commissioner of Police and his officers I owe sincere thanks for the kind assistance afforded me when journeying through the State; indeed, without their kind help my work would be of a most trying nature. To the several local Protectors my thanks are also due for the intelligent interest taken by them in the work of my Department, thus lightening to a considerable extent the duties of the head office, and assisting generally in the efficiency of the work.

I have, &c.,

RICHD. B. HOWARD,

Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

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