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1915.
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QUEENSLAND.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

THE YEAR 1914.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, BRISBANE.

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1915.

C.A. 36—1915.



Types of Bark and Grass Huts, Aboriginal Court—Brisbane Exhibition, 1914.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1914.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aborigines,
Brisbane, 31st March, 1915.

SIR,— I have the honour to submit my report upon the working of this Department for the year ending 31st December, 1914.

My predecessor, Mr. R. B. Howard, retired in January, and I was promoted to the position of Chief Protector on 4th February.

At the end of April I accompanied the Hon. the Minister on a tour of inspection of the aboriginal institutions in the North, taking the opportunity of also visiting the local Protectors and the various camps and islands along the coast between Townsville and Cairns. I spent some time, where possible, with these Protectors, instructing them in a uniform and more simple system of keeping their accounts, with the object, not only of saving them, but also the auditors, a great deal of the unnecessary work often caused through the very varied and laborious systems in vogue.

All the aboriginal institutions on the east and west coast of the Peninsula, with the exception of Mitchell River and Mornington Island, and all the native schools established in Torres Strait, were visited by the Hon. the Minister, or by myself at his direction, and copies of the notes and comments made were afterwards referred to the controlling bodies for any necessary attention. Except for a few minor faults easily adjusted, the majority of these institutions were favourably reported upon, and I feel sure the Hon. the Minister felt satisfied, in most cases, with the general progress shown.

I must emphasise again the very great importance of doing everything possible to collect and preserve the fast disappearing relics of the native races of our portion of this continent. Acting in conjunction with the Director of the Museum, an effort has been made in this direction by enlisting the sympathy and assistance of the various Protectors, teachers, and missionaries. As a result, a few specimens have been received, but the response has been disappointing. As evidence that such specimens are still in existence, they may be found, often in large quantities,

and, of course, at almost prohibitive prices, in any second-hand dealer's shop. One private collection, which included also curios from New Britain and New Ireland, was secured and presented to the Museum.

EXHIBITION AND PATRIOTIC CARNIVAL.

A larger space, 40 feet by 64 feet, with even better situation than that of the previous year, was allotted us, in the National Association's Exhibition, for our Aboriginal Court. Practically every institution under the control or supervision of the Department forwarded displays of work. Local supporters of the Church Missions gave great assistance in arranging and looking after the exhibits, and, by explaining to interested sightseers and selling surplus stock of native-made articles, did valuable propaganda work for these institutions. With the object of encouraging emulation, small prizes and certificates were given by the Department, after the 1913 Exhibition, to those native exhibitors whose work showed real merit, for they could not fairly be expected to compete with their more civilised and better equipped white neighbours. The result was noticeable this year in the increased number of entries and better quality of work shown, and, as further encouragement, prizes were again given.

From the various schools were shown some very creditable samples of sewing, needlework, writing, freehand and crayon drawing, quite equal in many cases to that found in a white school. The men in the Church Missions on the east coast and on the Peninsula forwarded a fine collection of native-made products, such as rope, string, fishing lines, nets, &c., made of fibre, sun-dried bricks, native-made arrowroot, plaited mats and baskets, wood-carving and home-made leather harness, models of outrigger canoes and grass houses, all displaying a standard of excellence truly remarkable. A genuine native bark canoe with wooden paddles was also displayed, and it is gratifying to know that many of these interesting exhibits afterwards found their home in the Brisbane Museum.

An interesting collection of samples of native-made fabrics, implements, dresses, and utensils was also sent with other Government exhibits to the Panama Exhibition.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

The demand for all classes of aboriginal labour has been keen, and very little difficulty has been experienced in finding suitable and remunerative employment for any man or woman willing to work. A firm but just attitude is adopted towards both employer and employee, to suppress, as much as possible, any tendencies on either hand to evade the responsibilities of the agreement. Very little trouble is experienced, generally, but much of that could be avoided if employers would make more use of the redress provided for them in the Masters and Servants Acts for breaches of agreement by the natives employed. The circulation of the information that aboriginal workers are entitled to benefits of the Workers' Compensation Acts has had good effect in making employers more careful in their treatment of servants, and causing them to protect themselves by insurance in accident corporations. Several cases have occurred where aboriginal workmen have benefited, and, in one case, a poor old gin, whose only supporting relative was killed in a tree-felling accident, died before her right to the insurance money could be established.

In previous reports I have pointed out the great disparity in the rates of wages paid to aboriginals employed in the various districts and the great injustice and hardship often, as a consequence, inflicted upon such workers where too low a value had been placed upon their services.

For a native in one district to be paid only 2s. 6d. a week for work which his brother in a neighbouring district, where conditions were in every way similar, received 15s. or £1 a week for, was absurd and unfair, and when, as frequently shown, he had to support a wife and family in the camp on his earnings, it became positive hardship.

To remedy this, towards the end of the year, a graduated minimum wage scale, based on the average payments in the majority of fair wages districts, was instituted, and, though a few employers selfishly demurred, it was gratifying to find that the Protectors, as a whole, approved of the action; in fact, many of them had previously strongly recommended such a course. As proof that fair-minded employers were also satisfied, the Protectors of the districts affected all reported, when questioned, that the increased rates had not in any way diminished the demand for the labour.

The recent establishment of the settlement at Hull River, by absorbing practically the whole of the native population of that and neighbouring districts, will place the employment of natives there, which, owing to dense scrubs, bad roads, and distance, has always been an impossible task for the local police, under proper control, with better facilities for regulating and collecting wages and enforcing the provisions of Acts as to employment.

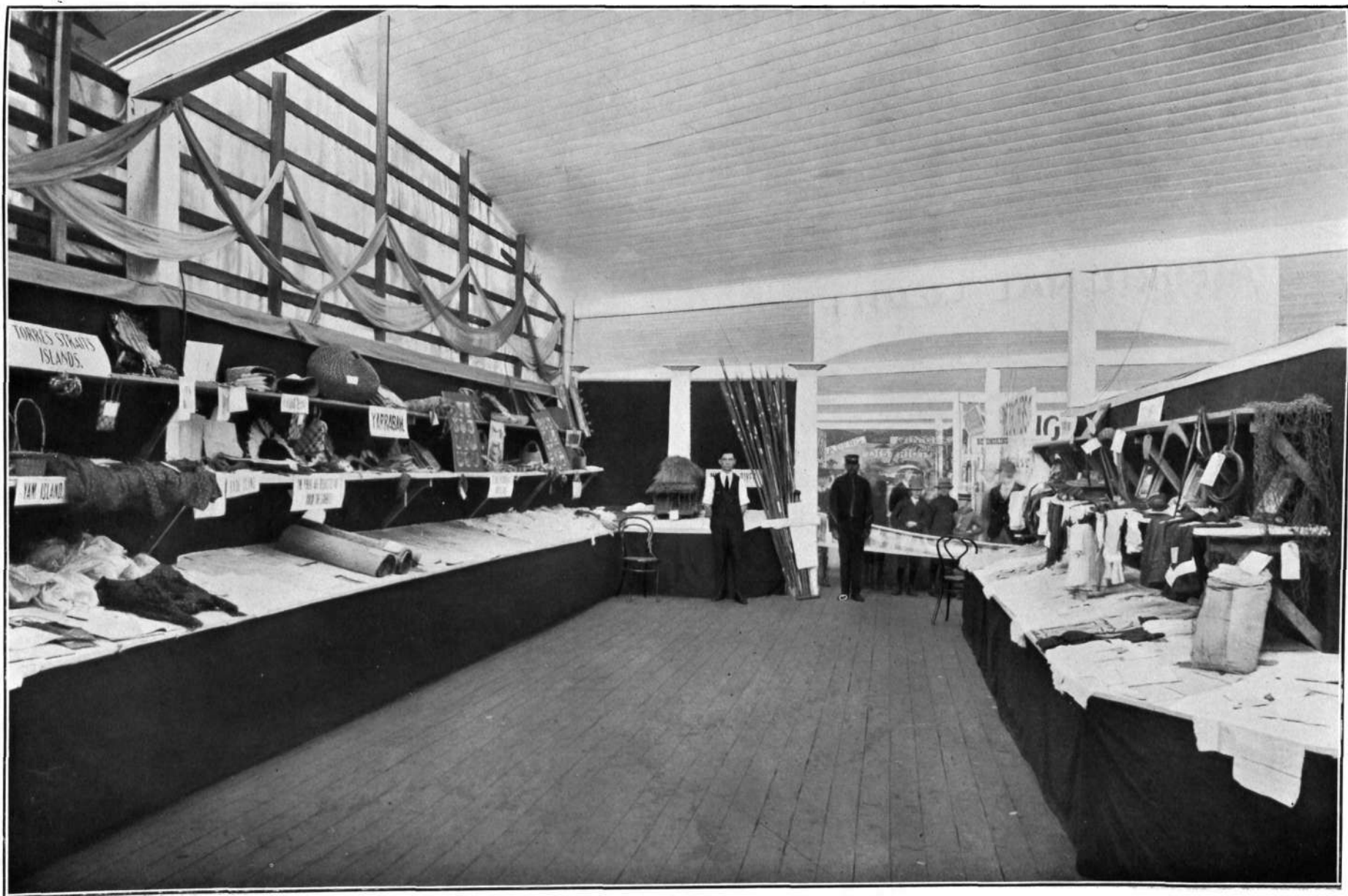
The Police Department have provided congenial and regular employment, at wages from £1 10s. to £2 a month and all supplied, for about one hundred able-bodied natives, most of them with wives accompanying them, and the Police Department in Victoria are also regularly supplied with two competent Northern trackers, who are well paid.

Where opportunity has offered, the districts which for some time have complained of scarcity of marriageable females were supplied with women willing to go there to service, and by this means it is hoped to gradually relieve this condition, which for some time has given the officers there some cause for anxiety.

To better cope with the increase in the work of supervising the employment of the natives, and to save the loss of time and inconvenience caused to officers and employers by the difficulties of communication, the large districts of Charleville and Cairns were subdivided and six more Protectors appointed, who can each deal direct with this office on matters of administration.



Section Aboriginal Court—Brisbane Exhibition, 1914.



Section Aboriginal Court—Brisbane Exhibition, 1914.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

TABLE I.—RETURN OF ABORIGINALS EMPLOYED UNDER AGREEMENT OR PERMIT DURING 1913 AND 1914.

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector stationed at—	1913.				1914.			
		MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.	
		Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.
Part of Herberton comprising the Licensing District of Atherton	Atherton .. ..	..	..	..	..	161	4	20	..
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	Brisbane*	44	..	147	..	33	50	131	..
Boulia	Boulia	80	7	..	..	64	17	15	..
Burke	Burketown	42	..	..	..	66	3	4	..
Diamantina	Birdsville	17	1	10	..	10	1	10	..
Coen	Coen	43	10	7	40	101	11	..	..
Cardwell	Cardwell	27	2	1	..	55	3	4	..
Charters Towers, Cape River	Charters Towers	122	7	16	..	137	..	31	..
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville	Charleville	131	20	28	..	35	3	8	..
Cloncurry, Camooweal	Cloncurry	68	6	9	..	13	..	..	..
Croydon	Croydon	14	..	2	..	..	12	..	..
Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Wooroorooka ..	Cunnamulla .. ..	..	..	..	..	16	15	16	..
Cairns, Mareeba	Cairns	150	59	27	..	263	..	78	..
Cook, Palmer	Cooktown	229	13	13	..	288	15	26	..
Chillagoe	Chillagoe .. ..	..	..	..	..	6	4	1	2
Etheridge	Georgetown .. ..	..	3	..	..	60	4	6	2
Part of Herberton, Licensing District of Herberton	Herberton	235	33	46	..	272	46	40	..
Hughenden, Richmond	Hughenden	101	11	15	..	95	10	8	..
Ingham	Ingham	100	..	3	..	68	15	7	..
Mourilyan	Innisfail	152	..	10	..	147	..	12	..
Part of Herberton, Licensing District of Irvinebank	Irvinebank .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Mackay	Mackay	56	8	7	..	44	..	4	..
Norman	Normanton .. ..	..	..	..	..	84	..	9	..
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenninger, Tiara	Maryborough	58	3	10	..	45	1	9	..
Aboriginal Settlement, Barambah	Barambah	355	54	32	5	308	84	23	17
Port Douglas	Port Douglas	22	145	7	..	19	102	5	..
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure, Alpha	Rockhampton	115	11	20	..	95	13	27	..
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Roma	4	25	..	..	8	16	3	..
Aboriginal Settlement, Taroom	Taroom .. ..	..	..	..	..	37	..	13	..
Somerset	Thursday Island	576	..	19	..	408	7	30	..
Ayr, Bowen, Ravenswood, Townsville	Townsville	172	6	35	..	167	10	28	..
Burke (west of 130° east long.), Turnoff Lagoon	Turnoff Lagoon .. ..	..	..	..	..	28	..	2	..
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Toowoomba	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Chillagoe, Etheridge, and Norman, comprising the Licensing District of Thornborough	Thornborough .. ..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..
Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaborra, Tambo	Longreach	57	37	10	..	50	..	7	..
Thargomindah, Noeundra, Eromanga	Thargomindah .. ..	..	..	..	..	63	3	16	..
Winton	Winton	10	34	6	..	12	36	4	..
Windorah	Windorah	31	..	9	..	31	..	10	..
		3,013	495	489	45	3,297	498	610	21

* Engaged from Chief Protector's office.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

At Thursday Island, the principal centre of the pearlshell and hêche-de-mer industries, 408 agreements were entered into for the employment of aboriginals as seamen, and a small number, not specified, were engaged from Cooktown in the trading and sandalwood vessels.

Wages amounting to £4,096 were earned by the Torres Strait Islanders, which, with £2,795 worth of produce won by the "company" boats, makes a total of £6,891 for the year.

The mainlanders earned £1,644, the greater portion of which was expended by the boys under supervision, and the balance paid to their accounts in the Savings Bank. The Protector states that few complaints as to conduct were

received, except in regard to desertions from ships, which it is always difficult to prevent or inquire into, owing to the limited intelligence of the men and the unreliable nature of their statements, but there is a strong suspicion that the fault often lies in the treatment received from the coloured men in charge of the boats.

Under existing conditions, it is impossible to exercise any satisfactory supervision over the recruiting or returning of boys employed, as it is mostly entrusted to coloured men, and there is a doubt often as to whether boys are faithfully returned home or their goods honestly delivered to them on departure. The Protector is of opinion that the only satisfactory solution of this difficulty would be the establishment of a Government settlement for the complete control

and supervision of the recruiting, and, by abolishing the present system, effectually suppress many of the abuses now known to be practised, not the least being the introduction of drink and venereal diseases.

ABORIGINALS' TRUST ACCOUNTS.

As the following table will show, a further substantial increase has been made in the money now held in trust for the natives. The average amount to credit of 4,529 accounts is £9 16s., sufficient to provide each native worker with an allowance of 3s. 9d. a week for twelve months. This speaks volumes for the zeal of the local Protectors, and if, when comparing the figures shown in deposits and withdrawals, it is remembered that the former seldom represents more than 50 per cent. of the earnings, and that more than half of the amount saved has been returned again in various ways to the owners, the complaint frequently made by certain people, with sordid motives for objecting to the system of controlling aboriginals' wages, that such money is wrongfully retained and withheld from them, will be seen to be groundless. For instance, if the average wage earned is taken at 7s. 6d. a week—a low estimate—it will be seen that, from

a total earnings of £20 a year, the compulsory saving for the same period has really been less than £2, or 10 per cent.

In all cases where owners of such accounts have died, the money to credit has been utilised for the benefit of any close relatives who were either members of deceased's own family or dependent upon him at the time of his death, and, in the absence of these, can, by Act of Parliament, only be devoted to any purpose which may be for the benefit of aboriginals generally.

But the steady growth of these funds and the large amount now held to credit gives matter for serious consideration as to in what directions these moneys can best be utilised for the benefit, if not always for the pleasure, of the owners. If we yielded to the clamouring of a certain class of employer, the money would be handed over to him to squander, even at the risk of becoming a tax on the community when ill or out of work, and for no other reason but that such would keep him more content in their service. I intend shortly to lay before you a scheme which will, I feel certain, effectively deal with this problem. All these trust accounts have been regularly audited and, except for the need for a uniform system, practically every report upon the books and accounts kept has been satisfactory.

TABLE 2.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1913 AND 1914, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Banks.	Estimated Population.	Credit Balance, 1913.	1914.			
			Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Atherton	280	*	221	270 6 6	27 18 0	547 1 9
Brisbane	378	1,334 5 7	18	757 4 3	810 3 6	1,281 6 4
Brisbane (Aboriginal girls) .. .. .	..	2,357 18 2	164	1,929 19 5	1,435 15 8	2,852 1 11
Barambah (Abor. Settlement)	320	2,144 18 11	484	2,242 3 4	1,794 3 5	2,638 2 0
Boulia	200	1,611 4 4	120	564 4 9	170 7 6	2,005 1 7
Burketown	200	1,065 15 8	177	293 18 9	183 17 10	1,167 5 1
Birdsville	120	494 11 4	38	263 5 3	68 0 0	689 16 7
Coen	1,000	787 19 7	120	272 15 0	12 15 0	1,075 8 0
Cardwell	400	200 3 0	75	119 0 4	13 7 2	295 6 2
Charters Towers	200	3,018 3 3	172	1,395 0 0	454 5 3	4,029 9 6
Charleville	100	320 13 2	43	121 1 10	37 9 2	387 2 0
Cloneuray	150	1,523 4 0	194	1,083 19 8	313 0 9	2,158 3 9
Croydon	96	186 12 10	27	142 8 4	44 10 0	253 18 2
Cunnamulla	166	82 7 10	11	55 11 10	53 8 4	88 9 1
Cairns	570	538 13 1	400	1,136 3 10	110 0 8	1,674 16 11
Cooktown	430	766 18 6	242	394 4 1	70 7 8	1,068 13 2
Chillagoe	50	*	80	95 1 1	41 10 8	622 2 3
Georgetown	150	1,017 0 8	65	519 17 0	360 0 0	1,195 12 6
Herberton	270	1,125 16 11	123	438 12 8	985 19 9	547 7 1
Hughenden	150	2,006 0 1	139	1,248 12 0	663 11 5	2,156 11 9
Hull River	41	..	..	..	..	..
Ingham	121	1,069 10 1	142	631 19 8	202 10 4	2,153 16 0
Irvinebank	30	*	4	34 13 6	7 0 0	39 1 8
Innisfail	400	1,033 12 1	241	392 13 11	51 5 1	1,301 16 5
Longreach	102	2,128 0 4	93	490 19 10	376 14 5	2,252 5 9
Mackay	170	355 7 0	71	387 0 1	118 0 0	517 15 7
Maryborough	500	202 11 3	27	136 18 0	43 6 3	244 14 8
Normanton	200	727 13 1	171	256 16 0	98 8 6	844 15 11
Port Douglas	250	648 4 10	95	54 14 0	23 10 0	715 11 1
Rockhampton	593	874 14 2	90	287 16 7	149 10 4	1,162 10 9
Roma	354	187 16 4	20	109 5 3	39 15 3	247 9 2
Turnoff Lagoon†	250	..	..	..	..	..
Thursday Island	5,014	1,877 1 3	152	1,692 0 0	1,137 0 0	2,411 0 0
Thornborough	75	*	9	8 10 3	3 10 0	12 19 4
Townsville	500	2,229 18 9	249	1,804 13 4	915 3 0	3,035 6 9
Toowoomba	63	37 18 11	9	45 15 9	14 0 0	69 14 8
Thargomindah	200	312 8 11	35	176 0 0	52 18 0	428 7 7
Taroona (Aboriginal Settlement)	246	192 0 0	115	419 12 8	168 1 5	443 11 3
Windsorah	90	943 1 5	58	209 1 7	16 0 0	1,093 19 1
Winton	45	675 16 5	35	281 12 3	340 4 7	672 4 1
	14,474	34,078 1 9	4,529	20,763 12 7	11,407 8 11	44,380 15 4

* Previously included in Cairns District.

† Turnoff Lagoon accounts operated upon at Burketown.

Deposits and withdrawals are exclusive of interest added or balances transferred to, or received from, other districts or paid into the Aboriginal Protection Property Account.

AUXILIARY KETCH "MELBIDIR."

At the commencement of the year the vessel spent over three months in Brisbane, undergoing complete overhaul and refitting, and left for the North again in time to convey me from Townsville on a trip of inspection along the coast to Cairns, from where she proceeded direct to Thursday Island to be in time to convey me, with representatives of the various Gulf Missions, on a visit of inspection to these places. Patrol trips round Torres Strait and to Cairns were made, but, on the outbreak of the war, the vessel was commandeered by the Naval authorities, and has been employed since then in patrol work under them in Torres Strait waters.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Certificates of exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Acts were granted to 25 half-castes—19 males and 6 females—after careful inquiries into the circumstances of each case. One such certificate, previously given, was revoked, the holder having, in the Protector's opinion, forfeited the right to the privilege.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

Twenty-four permits to remove were issued, and recognisances were entered into in 19 cases by employers wishing to convey natives to other districts or States, in one instance the half-caste servant accompanying her mistress on a trip to England. All conditions were satisfactorily carried out, and no occasion arose for enforcing any such undertakings.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

The following are the various centres from which relief rations were issued during the year and the average monthly amount spent:—

Station.	Amount per month.		
	£	s.	d.
Annandale	2	10	0
Ayr	1	16	5
Badu Islands	0	7	9
Bedourie	2	16	9
Beetoota	4	0	0
Birdsville	4	10	6
Boulia	5	0	0
Bowen	1	0	0
Buckingham Downs	2	0	0
Burketown	6	10	0
Byromine Station	4	5	0
Cape Bedford	7	0	0
Chatsworth	3	6	8
Childers	1	0	0
Coen	3	0	0
Croydon	10	0	0
Diamantina	8	3	0
Duaringa	0	13	4
Ehagoola	0	15	0
Emerald	0	13	0
Georgetown	2	10	0
Keeroongooloo	3	6	8
Kuranda	0	10	0
Laura	3	13	6
Maytown	2	0	0
McDonnell	3	10	0
Miriam Vale	0	15	0
Moroton	1	0	0
Mt. Carbine	5	0	0
Musgrave	0	7	0
Normanton	2	0	0
Poreyville	0	15	0
Pipon Islands	1	0	0
Roxburgh Downs	1	10	0
St. George	5	0	0
Durham Downs	11	0	0
Thorborough	2	10	0
Tinnenburra	5	0	0

Station.	Amount per month.		
	£	s.	d.
Townsville	2	0	0
Urundangio	3	0	0
Valley of Lagoons	3	15	0
Winton	1	5	0

Four centres were closed where the need for the issue lapsed, and six new centres were opened. A number of the recipients were removed to reserves, and, in some places, the extra cost of rations since the commencement of the war has necessitated a slight increase in the allowance.

BLANKETS.

The work of distribution of blankets was, as usual, superintended by Mr. G. G. McLennan, Government Storekeeper, whose report is given herewith:—

"The apportionment of the blankets at each distributing centre was made by the Chief Protector of Aboriginals and myself (as approved by the Hon. the Home Secretary) on the basis of last year's distribution, and, as very little, or no, complaint was received regarding shortness of supply, it is reasonable to assume that the allotment was satisfactory.

"The instructions regarding distribution have, in the majority of cases, been closely followed.

"At the request of the master of the Claremont Island Lightship a number of tomahawks, butchers' knives, snapper lines and hooks, also a quantity of Turkey twill, Scotch twill, calico, and tobacco were supplied for distribution in the neighbourhood of the Claremont Islands.

"No reasonable request for blankets for the blacks has been refused. At the same time, every care was taken to prevent duplication of supply in the case of individual blacks.

"The recipients this year were 2,550 men, 2,384 women, 1,294 children, and 92 unspecified persons; total, 6,320. The number of centres of distribution was 125. The total number of blankets distributed was 4,944½ pairs.

"As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution this year and the attendant expenses were:—

	£	s.	d.
2,420 pairs, at 11s. 2½d.	1,360	5	5
2,524 pairs, at 9s. 11d.	1,251	9	8
Forwarding charges, &c., say	120	0	0
	£2,731	15	1

"The following comparative table shows the number of blankets issued and the persons benefited during the last fifteen years, viz.:—

Year.	Pairs.	Persons.
1900	7,308½	8,193
1901	7,444	9,101
1902	6,858½	8,341
1903	4,914	6,072
1904	4,296½	5,466
1905	4,652½	5,594
1906	5,391	6,704
1907	5,011	6,155
1908	5,622	6,947
1909	5,180½	6,335
1910	5,607½	7,091
1911	5,196½	6,297
1912	5,386	6,962
1913	4,958½	6,186
1914	4,944½	6,320

"The distributors were mostly police officers, and the work of distribution was discharged by them in a very satisfactory manner."

DRINK AND OPIUM.

The returns show a marked decrease in the number of convictions for breaches of the Acts relating to drink and opium traffic, though, as regards supplying opium, the difference was more than made up by the number of prosecutions for supplying hypnotic drugs, which brought the offenders into conflict with the Sale and Use of Poisons Acts.

The establishment of the Settlement at Hull River, right in the heart of the worst opium traffic district, has done much to minimise this evil, by removing many of the old slaves to the drug habit from its influence and placing them out of the way of temptation. The Mission at Kuranda, by willingly receiving numbers of natives from similar surroundings, has earned our gratitude and admiration for the patience exercised, and excellent results achieved, in the reformation of many of these unfortunates.

The decrease in the number of arrests of aboriginals for drunkenness, from 105 in 1913 to 49 last year, is most marked, and will no doubt be accounted for by the vigilance of the police and the practice followed of removing natives addicted to drink to Settlements where the opportunities for indulging are reduced to a minimum.

Most natives, however, will take drink if they get the chance, and occasionally it finds its way on to the reserves, but it is practically impossible to trace the source from which they obtain it.

Until, however, we have amended legislation, extending the powers of officers and the application of the Acts, there will always be difficulty and disappointment in the efforts of the Department for the suppression of these two evils.

The following is a list of prosecutions successfully undertaken during the year:—Supplying opium, 12 convictions, fines and costs £66 13s. 6d.; illegal sale of poisons, 17 convictions, fines and costs £124 7s. 6d.; unlawful possession or travelling with opium, 99 convictions, fines and costs £810 0s. 6d.; supplying liquor, 37 convictions, fines and costs £382 17s. 6d.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The operations of the Department for the rescue and care of the young women and children are, I might say, more extensive than any other branch of our work. Every effort has been made by this office, through the Protectors in the various districts, to get into touch with such unfortunates as might need protection or removal from unhealthy surroundings. Suitable employment was readily found for all young girls of sufficient age, and any others were sent to homes or reserves.

The Missions at Monamona, Mapoon, Yarrabah, Cape Bedford, and Deebing Creek have assisted greatly, by readily receiving such cases from the neighbouring districts, thus materially easing the strain upon the Government Settlements, to where there is always a steady stream of destitute and infirm of all sexes and ages being directed.

During the year the numbers of women and children removed to the above institutions were

as follows:—Monamona, 24 women and 16 children; Mapoon, 3 women, 1 infant; Yarrabah, 27 women, 13 children; Cape Bedford, 6 women, 4 children; Deebing Creek, 4 women, 17 children; Barambah, 25 women, 7 children; Taroom, 16 women, 15 children; Hull River, 13 women.

Permits, under section 9 of the *Aboriginals' Protection Act of 1901*, were issued for 43 aboriginal and half-caste women to marry men of other races, the circumstances of each case being first carefully inquired into in the interests of the women. Twenty-one of these marriages were to Pacific Islanders, in almost every instance the reports showing that the woman had lived for some time as the man's wife and borne children to him. The men were in regular employment and seemed attached to the women. Eleven half-castes married Europeans, and three Chinese half-castes were allowed to marry Chinese, the remainder being mostly crossbreeds who desired to mate with other coloured aliens.

No registration of the marriage of aboriginals is necessary, but, at the request of the parties concerned, the legal ceremony was performed on Barambah Settlement, for ten couples, by the visiting clergy. The Mission Stations keep their own records of any marriages between the inmates, combining the tribal ceremony with an appropriate church service.

In a few cases, neglected children are committed, by the benches, to terms in the under-mentioned Aboriginal Industrial Schools, the Government paying 2s. 6d. a week per head for any such children, except where the school is run in connection with a Government Settlement. The numbers of such inmates at the end of the year were:—Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island, 15; Mapoon, 3; Yarrabah, 1; Deebing Creek, 6; Barambah, 9.

A few quadron infants of half-caste women are quartered at orphan homes at a higher rate, it being undesirable that they should be brought up in the atmosphere of an aboriginal institution. Of these, seven are in the Salvation Army homes at Breakfast Creek, Yeronga, and Riverview, and one at the Roman Catholic Orphanage at Nudgee.

A few applications have been received from people desiring to adopt young aboriginal or half-caste children, but, as the Acts make no provision for the adoption of children, it could not be allowed without following the absurd, but only, course so far sanctioned by the Acts, that of engaging them under agreement as for employment. As, however, the motives of such people are probably often open to suspicion, no such applications have been granted.

Numbers of women and girls, principally from the various camps, are hired out to employment from the offices of the various local Protectors, and as much supervision as possible kept over them by the local police when on patrol. All agree that regular inspections, by a reliable and experienced female Protector, would be for the benefit of many of these women and girls, but long distances and scattered situations prove a formidable obstacle. In addition to the inspection of the girls sent out to the Southern and Central districts by this office, the visiting female Protector has, during last year, inspected the women engaged by the local Protectors in the Southern, Western, and Central districts, as far

as Charleville on one line and Longreach on the other. Her reports on their condition enabled the Protectors to make necessary alterations and improvements in a number of cases.

Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.

The aboriginal and half-caste girls engaged from this office numbered as follows:—Aboriginals, 29; half-castes, 108; of whom 45 were employed in the city and 92 in the country.

There is a great demand for this labour, 152 applications being registered from intending employers. The wages collected and banked for them amounted to £1,929 19s. 5d., and withdrawals, for advances and expenditure of various kinds, amounting to £1,435 15s. 8d., were made, leaving a balance in the bank, to the credit of 164 accounts, of £2,852 1s. 11d.

The arrangement of these employments and the control of the girls while in service necessitated 365 interviews with employers and 705 with girls, and, in the supervision of their expenditure upon clothing, dentistry, &c., 846 orders were issued and a similar number of vouchers checked and paid. The inward correspondence of this portion of the Department totalled 709 letters, and the outward letters in reply amounted to 839.

The reports of the visiting female Protector show that the general conduct of the girls has been good and their condition and treatment, in most cases, have been satisfactory. Altogether 287 inspections were made and each reported upon, the following being the principal causes where complaints were made, viz. :—

- Insufficient clothing,
- Unsuitable accommodation,
- Girl employed cutting prickly-pear,
- Ill-treatment by thrashing, &c.,
- Dirty condition of clothing and accommodation,
- Frequenting streets at night,
- Failure to pay pocket-money,
- Wages too low, &c.

Action was taken in each case to improve the girl's condition or remove her.

It became necessary to remove 20 of these girls to the Settlement for various reasons, in 13 cases for care and confinement with illegitimate children. The majority of these girls married or mated with men of their own colour on the reserve, and went to employment with their husbands. A few have returned to service, taking their children with them, and 10 such girls at present are in situations, at reduced wages, where the child is allowed to be with them. It is very seldom any complaints have to be made as to how such children are cared for, the mistress undoubtedly often assisting in the training. A few girls, earning better wages, are paying for the maintenance of the children in various homes. Where possible, payments towards maintenance are secured from the fathers, but it is often difficult to obtain corroborative evidence. Gradual, but decided, improvement is being made in the conditions of aboriginal females of all ages throughout the State, and fair wages and decent treatment while in employment insisted upon.

HEALTH.

The health of the natives on the mainland generally has been good, but serious epidemics of dengue, whooping cough, dysentery, colic, and chickenpox made their appearance on the islands in Torres Strait, resulting fatally in a number of cases. Fuller information is given in the separate report for that district. Early in the year, each of these islands was supplied with a well-equipped medicine chest, and, with the aid of these, the teachers have been able to effectively deal with the sickness occurring. A medicine chest was also installed on the patrol boat "Mel-bidir" for use, where required, when visiting tribes and camps along the coast. Copies of the "Ship Captain's Medical Guide" have also been supplied to all schools, Mission Stations, and Settlements and have proved very useful, but an additional work, dealing exclusively with diseases of children, is badly needed and will, as soon as possible, be supplied. The question of health on the Mission Stations is dealt with separately in the various reports quoted.

The following table gives the particulars of the diseases for which aboriginals have been treated throughout the State and deaths reported :—

Diseases.	Deaths.
Abscess .. .. .	..
Accidents	1
Blood poisoning .. .. .	..
Bright's disease	2
Bronchitis	2
Burns	1
Cancer .. .. .	..
Chickenpox .. .. .	..
Chronic rheumatism	1
Colic .. .. .	..
Constipation .. .. .	..
Convulsions, gastritis, severe cold, premature birth (infants), dysentery	8
Dengue .. .. .	..
Dropsy	1
Drowning	1
Dysentery	8
Enteritis	1
Eye troubles .. .. .	..
Female troubles .. .. .	..
Gastritis .. .. .	..
General diseases	3
Gout	1
Heart disease	7
Heat apoplexy	1
Hydatids .. .. .	..
Influenza	4
Insanity	1
Malnutrition	1
Meningitis	3
Nephritis	1
Ophthalmia .. .. .	..
Paralysis .. .. .	..
Peritonitis	3
Phthisis	22
Pleurisy .. .. .	..
Pneumonia	13
Rupture .. .. .	..
Senile decay	20
Septicæmia	3
Suicide	1
Unknown causes	8
Venereal	19
Whooping Cough	19
Total Deaths	155

Venereal disease, principally gonorrhœa and syphilis, is still prevalent in some districts, particularly in the Gulf country and the coastal districts, and in the far West. Odd cases are, of course, reported from most districts, and, as soon as discovered, are treated at local hospitals, where such are available, even at some expense for travelling, isolation tents, blankets, &c. Some far Western Protectors, where medical advice is

not available, have also been supplied with medicines for the treatment of this disease, and simple directions as to diagnosis of cases and use of the drugs.

At several centres advantage was taken of the blanket distribution to have a medical inspection of the natives assembled, resulting in the treatment of a number of cases in the local hospitals.

During the early part of the year, preparations were made for the establishment of a lock hospital for aboriginals, the site chosen on Fitzroy Island being inspected and approved by the Hon. the Minister. This island is an excellent situation, having natural facilities for water supply, agriculture, cattle-rearing, fishing, and harbour anchorage, and is within easy launch voyage of Cairns, which will really be the most central and convenient port for concentration of cases for treatment. Unfortunately, the sudden outbreak of war caused the proposal to be further deferred, but the congestion of these cases on the Settlements and the great difficulty, in fact impossibility, of carrying out effective treatment at the camps, or even local hospitals, indicates urgent need for the early establishment of this institution.

CRIME.

The following comparison of the records of crime committed by aboriginals during last and the previous year shows a marked decrease, particularly in drunkenness and stealing, due no doubt to the salutary effect of the Department's practice of promptly deporting offenders or troublesome characters to the reserves:—

Offence.	1913.	1914.
Drunkenness	105	49
Deserting from hired service ..	33	37
Ship desertion	11	19
Illegally on premises	3	2
Illegally on enclosed property	1	..
Cattle stealing	1	..
Unsound mind	1	2
Aggravated assault	1	..
Found in gaming house	1	..
Wilful destruction of property	1	..
Grievous bodily harm	1	..
Stealing	31	12
Boat stealing	3	..
Murder	1	2
Rape .. .. .	..	3
Indecent assault .. .. .	..	1
Common assault	18	13
Creating disturbance	3	2
Disorderly conduct .. .. .	..	..
Resisting arrest .. .. .	..	..
Obscene language	10	12

Complaints are still regularly received of the desertion of aboriginal seamen from the pearlshelling and bêche-de-mer vessels working in Torres Strait. The Protector attributes this to the employment of coloured aliens in the recruiting and the suspected ill-treatment and abuse of the natives by them, and again emphasises the need for a Government-controlled recruiting station.

In addition to the women and children already mentioned, the following male adults were also removed to reserves for disciplinary and other reasons:—

Barambah, 38; Taroom, 16; Yarrabah, 29; Hull River, 38; Monamona, 20; Deebing Creek, 3.

Serious crime on any of the reserves is practically unknown, but more legislative authority is required to deal with minor offences and breaches of discipline.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

The following is taken from the report of Mr. W. M. Lee-Bryce, Government Resident and Protector of Aboriginals at Thursday Island:—

“*Population.*—A complete census of Torres Strait Islanders has at last been obtained.

“There are nineteen centres of population, showing a total of 2,314, comprising 1,230 adults and 1,084 children under the age of 16. The natural increase is 46.67 per 1,000, an increase of 15.16 on the figures for 1913. In common with all other centres of aboriginal population, the male births greatly exceed those of females, the figures being 64 and 44 respectively. The adult male population is 693 and the females number 537.

“The continual increase of males is a very serious problem, and, if it cannot be successfully solved, will inevitably lead to an increase of immorality and, probably, to the destruction of male children at birth. Many of the islanders are related to Western Papuans, and if arrangements could be made with the Papuan Government to permit a number of their native women to marry our boys and settle in Torres Strait, it would, I believe, prove a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. The adoption of this suggestion would, in all probability, result in the marriage of many young men who should be married but are unable to find partners among their own people, promote a greater interest between races who have a great deal in common, and, by the infusion of new blood into a healthy race, dispel any fear of the evil results which, in future years, may reasonably be expected from the “inbreeding” of our own natives.

“*Health.*—Epidemics of tropical dysentery and whooping cough visited several of the islands and exacted a heavy toll. At Yam and Yorke Islands, dysentery was more severe than elsewhere; the teachers took immediate steps to isolate the patients, and their unceasing efforts to prevent the administering of unsuitable food, to insist upon regular supplies of medicine, and to compel the observance of sanitary conditions, effectually stayed the spread of disease and saved many lives, which, under other conditions, would have been lost. Whooping cough was general throughout the islands, but a more virulent type appeared at Badu, Adam, and Saibai; many adults suffered severely and were in a weak state for some weeks. The younger children were less able to withstand the attacks, and 21 fatal cases are reported, 9 at Saibai, 7 at Adam, 3 at Badu, and 2 at Murray. Ample supplies of medicine are stocked at all stations, and the teachers have been wonderfully successful in affording relief, but the medical guides supplied do not deal fully with complaints peculiar to children, and I trust it may be found possible to supply a text-book dealing with tropical diseases and infantile troubles.

“The building of new houses continues on all islands. The erection of grass houses is a very slow process, and, as they have to be replaced at least every third year, a great deal of time is lost, to say nothing of the worry teachers experience in persuading the men to repair their dwellings. It is questionable whether it would not be wiser to gradually replace the existing picturesque dwellings by galvanised iron buildings, which would be more easily cleansed after sickness and not call for so much attention.



Native Village—Badu Island, Torres Strait.

" In most places, the general sanitary conditions continue to improve, and cases of wilful neglect are rigorously dealt with. On all stations the old humpy built on the soil is rapidly disappearing and being replaced by a structure permitting a free current of air under and through the dwellings. This desirable change is not effected without considerable trouble, and the teachers are to be commended for their patience and tact in dealing with this question.

" It is still a difficult matter to get the people to report sickness in the early stage and so give the patient a fair chance to pull through; at some centres the influence of the old men still dominates the younger people, and, at times, fatalities are not attributed to disease, but to puri-puri.

" The death rate in Torres Strait has risen from 16.21 to 29.38 per 1,000. The total number of deaths reported is 68, of these 30 were adults and 38 children under 16 years of age. The principal causes of death were:—Whooping cough, 21 children; tropical dysentery, 6 adults and 5 children; pneumonia, 2 children; phthisis, 3 adults; and old age, 4.

" *Schools.*—At Badu, Saibai, Yam, and Yorke Islands it was necessary to close the schools during the epidemics previously mentioned; the Darnley School was also closed for several weeks consequent on the transfer of the teacher and the delay in obtaining transport for his successor. Generally speaking, the attendance has been good, and the progress made is satisfactory. The children are eager to learn, and, at many centres, their accomplishments are a surprise to visitors from Southern towns. There are 1,084 children under 16, of whom 440 were attending school last year, so, at the present, we have 644 to fill up the vacancies which will occur during the next five years.

" At Adam and Coconut Islands the native missionaries are conducting schools, and thus laying a foundation for European teachers who may follow in the future. Unfortunately, their services will not be available after March next, as the London Missionary Society, after about forty years' labour in Torres Strait, are withdrawing, and handing over their spiritual work to the Church of England. It will be some time before the latter body settle down to the new work, and, as they propose to carry on with European clergymen, their time will be fully occupied in church work.

" At Badu the natives are erecting a commodious schoolroom, which, when completed, will prove of great service for meetings and other general purposes. The Darnley School has been straightened up and repaired, but I fear it will not be long before a more substantial structure is required.

" An inspector from the Education Department visited the Aboriginal School at Thursday Island and expressed himself as well satisfied with the progress made by the children and the general conduct of the school. The building blown down in December last was re-erected in August, and immediately taken over by the Military Authorities as temporary headquarters.

" There is very little room in the school at Yorke Island, which was originally erected by the residents as quarters for a teacher, and, when funds permit, it would be well to erect a more suitable building.

" Another room was added to the teacher's

quarters at Yam Island, and the narrow verandas were replaced by others suitable for a tropical climate. Extensions to the quarters at Darnley and Mabuiag have been authorised and will be effected early this year. The type of house erected for the teachers is quite unsuitable for this climate, and, if it is at all possible to do so, it would be better to construct new buildings than extend those which, in the course of a few years, will be quite worn out.

" *Island Boats.*—There is a very serious reduction in the returns of shell won this year, owing to the cessation of purchases in London after July. Last year the sum of £5,373 was paid to islanders for advances and surpluses; this year the total is £1,558. As a rule, the catch for the first six months just covers working costs, the profitable season being the months of October, November, and December. On small parcels, advances of 6d. per lb. have been made from the respective island funds, but as this only provides bare tucker, and there is no certainty of a fair price being obtained in the near future, I have arranged for some of the boats to work bêche-de-mer while others obtain fish, turtle, and dugong to keep up a food supply for the islands. It was anticipated that all boats would be clear of debt by the end of 1914, but, unfortunately, this could not be accomplished; however, it is satisfactory to note that this account has been reduced from £489 to £329, inclusive of £86 for a small cutter I supplied to enable the older men at Badu to work in shallow water near their homes.

" The small boats trading to Badu with bêche-de-mer and turtle-shell earned £418, as against £509 during the preceding period, their indebtedness increasing from £100 to £170. In August and September the natives were afraid to venture far from their islands, and this in a large measure accounts for the reduced earnings.

" As compared with the returns for 1913, there is a considerable shrinkage in the value of produce obtained by the boats in the Eastern groups. To some extent this was occasioned by the temporary cessation of work after the proclamation of war, but, in a much greater degree, to the laziness and indifference of the Murray and Darnley people, to which I make reference under general remarks.

" *Island Funds.*—The collections were less than would be received in a normal year, and the expenditure includes over £460 for repairs to boats, but, notwithstanding the unusual conditions, the year closed with a credit of £1,042. The fund was inaugurated to provide, among other things, for unforeseen contingencies, and its existence is fully justified by enabling us to effect repairs to boats and provide food for the islands without running into debt or obtaining a grant from the Government. It is gratifying to note that the natives are realising the benefit of the fund, and, when normal conditions again exist, I feel confident there will be little, if any, opposition to its continuance.

" *Boat Insurance Fund.*—In last report the initiation of this fund was mentioned; it came into operation during the period under review, and, at the close of the year, amounted to £128. Owing to the reduced earning power of the boats for the reasons before mentioned, it will probably remain in abeyance until the middle of this year, when I may be in a position to resume the collection of premiums without detriment to the boats' crews.

General Remarks.—Apart from the difficulties consequent on the closure of the shell market, which reduced the number of wage-earners, the past year was marked by a strong feeling of unrest among the people, which manifested itself in refusals to work when good employment was offering, and, in a few places, by open disregard of departmental authority. Every method of persuasion was adopted to bring them to a more reasonable frame of mind, and in some instances the councillors exerted all their influence to further our efforts, but it was frequently found that some strong influence was at work against us, probably that of the old men and South Sea Islanders married to native women, and the desired end was not gained, or, if so, in a very grudging way. It is often impossible to find out who is the instigator of trouble, as natives rarely give each other away, and, although admitting there is something wrong, protest they are unable to say how it is caused. They have a very good idea of the limits of our authority, and, while willing to obey all directions that can be supported by the Acts and Regulations, strenuously oppose attempts to improve their condition which are not within the four corners of legislation relating to aboriginals. Inability to deal with Pacific Islanders and men other than Torres Strait Islanders, who are married to native women and reside on the islands, is a great source of trouble; they are subtle-minded, have a greater knowledge of the position than natives, and, I feel sure, are frequently the cause of little troubles which so easily unsettle the people and are difficult to remedy. The fact of their exemption from rules which govern natives raises a feeling of inequality which is strongly resented by our own people.

For many years officials and others interested in the welfare of the islanders have endeavoured to persuade all able-bodied men to engage in congenial employment, or work their own boats in a systematic manner. In a few instances these efforts have been successful, but, unfortunately, in most places results are not encouraging, particularly so in the eastern group. It is frequently argued that where Nature provides a fairly bountiful supply of food at a minimum expenditure of labour, there is no reason why a native should work if he is not inclined to do so. If it were the policy of the Department merely to protect native reserves, such as exist in Torres Strait, from intrusion by all other races, and permit the people to revert to the primitive life, the argument may be good; but, as we are endeavouring to gradually raise a strong healthy race to a higher plane, it is the duty of these people to take the utmost advantage

of the facilities provided for them. If this is done, they may supply an excellent argument for the occupation of these fertile lands by other races who would make them serviceable to the community.

I also desire to point out that, as the Government provide teachers to educate the children and train them in habits of industry and discipline, this work will be absolutely valueless if, on the completion of their school term, they are released to live a life of idleness. The difficulty in obtaining suitable labour from the islands compelled boatowners to obtain permission to import seamen from Papua, but these men are not of any direct value to the community, as they do not pay shipping office fees or receive any portion of their wages in Queensland. I am convinced that persuasive methods have failed to produce the desired result, and the only alternative is legislative authority to insist upon every able-bodied man doing a fair day's work. In some quarters this procedure would be termed 'slavery,' but any person who possesses an intimate knowledge of the people and the subject will think otherwise. The islanders have not yet reached the stage when they are competent to think and provide for themselves; they are really overgrown children, and can best be managed, for their own welfare, as a prudent parent would discipline his family.

In conclusion, I gratefully record the valuable assistance rendered by all the teachers. Under conditions which were not always pleasant, they have cheerfully and zealously seconded my efforts to promote the welfare of the people, and their care and kindness to the natives in times of sickness is worthy of the highest commendation."

The returns show that 26 company boats, working from the Papuan Industries store at Badu, obtained 6 tons 1 cwt. of pearlshell, valued at £1,558 9s., and bêche-de-mer and turtle-shell valued at £417 12s. 5d., and, in addition to maintaining themselves and their vessels, managed to reduce the debt on the boats by over £90. Seven other boats also brought produce to Thursday Island for sale, which brought £580 11s. 9d.

The following table shows the transactions and position of the various island funds which have been inaugurated as provident funds and are composed of percentage deductions from all wages and earnings. As already mentioned, these funds have proved of great benefit and assistance to the islanders during the time since the war closed the markets for shell and the source from which these vessels had previously drawn the greater part of their income.

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND FUNDS, 1914.

Island.	Credit Balance, 31-12-13.			Collections, 1914.			Expenditure, 1914.			Credit Balance, 31-12-14.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Adam	29	10	2	64	6	7	8	17	4	84	19	5
Aureed	1	18	3	3	2	2	..	..	..	5	0	5
Badu	124	0	7	98	4	6	152	12	9	69	12	4
Boigu	54	19	2	28	14	0	44	16	4	38	16	10
Cocoonut	43	1	9	21	2	1	46	12	9	17	11	1
Darnley	52	0	6	43	13	5	10	10	6	85	3	5
Dauan	7	2	10	8	16	2	5	18	9	10	0	3
Hammond	17	19	3	66	3	1	2	10	0	81	12	4
Mabuag	115	11	0	68	2	0	43	8	7	140	14	5
Murray	137	0	3	156	12	4	125	7	11	168	4	8
Naghir	16	1	0	6	17	4	..	..	..	22	18	4
Saibai	136	5	2	97	5	1	79	17	0	153	13	3
Stephens	34	12	0	4	13	4	35	6	3	3	19	1
Three Sisters	6	12	11	17	18	9	..	..	..	24	11	8
Yam	30	0	4	21	9	9	3	19	5	47	10	8
Yorke	61	13	9	38	15	1	12	18	1	87	10	9
	£868	8	11	£746	5	8	£572	15	8	£1,042	18	11

ABORIGINAL MISSION STATIONS.

TABLE 3.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABORIGINES RATIONED AT EACH RESERVE IN THE STATE DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1914.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR.	NAME OF STATION.																																						
	TARRABAH.			MAYPOON.			WEIPA.			CAPE BEDFORD.			DEEBING CREEK.			BARAMBAR.			ARCHER RIVER.			MITCHELL RIVER.			TAROOM.			MONA MONA.			MORNINGTON ISLAND.			ST. PAUL'S, MOA ISLAND.			HULL RIVER.		
	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.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	230	...	230	110	120	230	57	4	61	125	20	145	30	2	32	499	...	499	...	...	110	...	110	140	...	140	28	2	30	...	...	...	135	2	137	...	...	...
February	235	...	235	110	120	230	66	4	70	125	20	145	24	...	24	437	...	437	...	...	110	...	110	152	...	152	30	1	31	...	...	...	135	2	137	...	...	...
March	235	...	235	110	125	235	66	4	70	125	20	145	28	...	28	411	...	411	...	...	55	...	55	151	...	151	30	2	32	...	...	...	135	2	137	...	...	...
April	240	...	240	110	80	190	70	5	75	130	15	145	39	1	40	411	...	411	...	...	64	...	64	156	...	156	32	...	32	4	...	4	135	2	137	...	...	...
May	230	...	230	110	75	185	73	6	79	130	15	145	46	...	40	417	...	417	...	...	111	25	136	157	...	157	34	...	34	6	...	6	135	2	137	...	...	...
June	235	...	235	110	80	190	71	5	76	130	15	145	40	...	40	415	...	415	...	...	126	30	156	191	...	191	53	...	53	6	...	6	135	2	137	...	...	...
July	240	...	240	110	80	190	66	3	69	130	18	148	40	...	40	436	...	436	...	...	126	24	150	200	...	200	82	...	82	6	50	56	135	2	137	...	...	...
August	245	...	245	110	80	190	58	3	61	130	18	148	53	2	55	435	...	435	...	...	102	7	109	224	1	225	90	...	90	6	...	6	135	2	137	...	...	...
September	240	...	240	110	60	170	50	4	54	130	18	148	53	2	55	368	...	368	...	...	93	...	93	234	4	238	91	...	91	4	...	4	135	2	137	7	...	7
October	294	...	294	110	...	110	80	5	85	135	18	153	63	...	63	353	...	353	...	...	110	7	117	237	...	237	92	...	92	8	6	14	135	2	137	7	...	7
November	295	...	295	110	60	170	66	5	71	135	18	153	63	...	63	348	...	348	...	...	115	...	115	240	1	241	93	2	95	8	22	30	135	2	137	8	...	8
December	296	...	296	110	100	210	68	20	88	135	18	153	70	...	70	440	...	440	...	...	122	...	122	246	...	246	93	...	93	8	16	24	135	2	137	8	...	8

Average number drawing daily rations, 45.
No return to hand.

TABLE 5.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABOIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOL DURING THE YEAR 1914 (TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS).

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter of the Year.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										No. of School Days.	ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.				Girls.				TOTAL.			AVERAGE.				
					Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
Badu Island (£110)	March	27	42	31	73	...	12	12	10	8	...	11	12	2	6	35	1,305	920	37.28	26.28
	June	26	45	34	79	...	14	12	6	13	...	12	11	2	9	61	2,463	1,835	40	30
	S-pt.	26	41	35	76	...	13	12	7	9	...	13	13	2	7	39	1,443	1,216	37	31.17
	Dec.	16	41	38	79	...	11	14	7	9	...	15	12	3	8	46	1,857	1,606	40.34	34.95
Darnley Island (£150)	March	31	47	33	80	26	12	5	4	...	16	18	2	7	...	45	1,966	1,274	44	28.2
	June	30	48	34	82	27	12	5	4	...	16	8	3	7	...	50	2,503	1,692	42.4	28.7
	Sept.	30	40	25	65	...	27	9	4	...	...	13	8	4	...	27	1,080	676	40	25
	Dec.	31	42	26	68	...	25	13	4	...	...	13	8	5	...	41	1,731	1,035	42.2	25
Mabuiag Island (£150)	March	27	28	33	61	...	23	5	...	...	...	24	9	...	...	43	1,151	1,367	26.8	31.8
	June	26	29	34	63	...	24	5	...	...	...	25	9	...	...	60	1,621	1,862	27.1	31.3
	Sept.	25	29	31	60	...	19	10	...	...	...	22	9	...	...	50	1,355	1,360	27	27
	Dec.	11	29	31	60	...	19	10	...	...	...	22	9	...	...	53	1,418	1,504	26.8	28
Murray Island (£200)	March	27	52	57	109	...	25	16	11	...	...	28	16	13	...	42	1,672	2,022	39.8	48.1
	June	26	51	56	107	...	24	16	11	...	...	28	15	13	...	61	2,277	2,520	37.4	42
	S-pt.	25	51	52	103	...	25	15	11	...	...	27	15	10	...	58	1,120	2,330	36	40
	Dec.	11	53	57	110	...	30	14	9	...	...	34	15	8	...	48	1,767	2,178	36.6	45.4
Saibai Island (£110)	March	27	42	39	82	25	13	5	...	...	20	10	9	...	...	29	1,176	1,123	40.55	38.73
	June	26	42	43	85	32	7	3	...	...	24	10	9	...	...	54	2,169	2,239	40.17	41.46
	Sept.	25	35	39	74	25	7	3	...	...	20	10	9	...	...	25	741	830	29.64	33.20
	Dec.	25	35	39	74	25	8	2	...	...	20	10	9	...	...	58	1,940	2,179	33.45	37.57
Thursday Island (£100)	June	26	12	16	28	...	9	3	...	...	...	10	5	1	...	63	631	831	10	13.2
	Sept.	30	12	16	28	4	5	3	...	...	4	6	5	1	...	62	709	877	11.48	14.12
	Dec.	11	12	16	28	4	5	3	...	...	4	6	5	1	...	46	522	586	11.3	12.7
Yam Island (£120)	March	31	12	12	24	...	7	3	1	1	...	6	2	2	2	33	335	321	10.15	9.72
	June	30	12	10	22	...	7	3	1	1	...	4	2	2	2	62	684	597	11.3	9.62
	Sept.	30	12	10	22	...	7	3	1	1	...	4	2	2	2	58	674	546	11.62	9.41
	Dec.	31	12	9	21	...	7	3	1	1	...	4	2	2	1	46	535	396	11.63	8.60
York Island (£110)	March	27	10	12	22	...	7	3	...	...	...	9	3	...	...	34	258	286	7.58	8.41
	June	26	9	12	21	...	7	2	...	...	...	9	3	...	...	60	443	701	7.88	11.68
	Sept.	25	11	13	24	...	9	2	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	59	637	715	10.8	12.12
	Dec.	25	11	13	24	...	9	2	...	...	...	10	3	...	...	35	384	431	10.97	12.31

TABLE 6.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABOIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOL DURING THE YEAR 1914 (ABORIGINAL RESERVES).

Aurukun *	March	31	9	25	34	4	3	...	...	13	5	7	...	...	49	202	1,129	4.5	23
	June	30	18	27	45	13	3	...	2	...	14	6	7	474	292	1,075	6	22.5
	Sept.	30	18	26	44	14	3	2	2	...	12	6	7	48	216	1,151	4.5	23.5
	Dec.	31	21	26	47	16	...	3	2	...	8	5	6	7	...	45	334	1,106	7.5	24
Barambah (£100)	March	31	61	52	113	...	51	10	...	...	43	9	...	...	45	2,419	2,021	63.75	41.91
	June	30	59	50	109	...	51	8	...	...	43	7	...	...	48	3,619	2,121	54.56	44.18
	Sept.	30	57	48	105	...	40	11	6	...	34	7	7	...	604	3,077	2,483	50.85	41.04	
	Dec.	31	52	46	98	...	38	11	3	...	33	8	5	...	48	2,269	1,892	47.29	39.41	
Cape Bedford *	March	27	18	11	29	...	18	...	...	...	9	...	2	...	46	823	488	17.8	10.6
	June	26	19	11	30	...	19	...	...	...	9	...	2	...	56	1,058	616	18.8	11
	Sept.	25	17	21	38	...	17	...	...	...	19	...	2	...	61	1,027	1,265	16.8	20.7
	Dec.	18	18	22	40	...	18	...	...	...	20	...	2	...	36	648	789	18	21.9
Deebing Creek *	March	27	15	5	20	...	7	7	...	1	...	3	2	...	31	391	120	12.6	3.8	
	June	26	17	5	22	...	9	8	...	...	3	2	...	...	54	814	262	15.4	4.8
	Sept.	25	14	6	20	...	8	...	6	...	4	...	2	...	50	636	236	12.6	4.6	
	Dec.	31	16	7	23	...	9	...	7	...	6	...	1	...	514	648	242	12.6	4.7	
Mapoon *	March	31	28	38	66	...	11	8	7	2	...	5	8	9	16	45	1,119	1,686	25	37
	June	30	25	37	62	...	9	8	7	1	...	4	8	9	16	52	1,233	1,856	24	36
	S-pt.	30	24	36	60	...	8	8	7	1	...	3	8	9	16	54	1,080	1,921	20	36
	Dec.	31	23	37	60	...	7	8	7	1	...	4	8	9	16	48	1,053	1,685	22	35
Mitchell River *	March	31	18	9	27	6	4	6	2	...	2	4	3	...	16	256	136	16	8.5	
	June	30	19	12	31	6	3	8	2	...	3	6	3	...	31	484	333	15.5	10.75	
	Sept.	30	20	13	33	2	8	8	2	...	5	3	5	...	40	755	489	18.8	12.2	
	Dec.	31	20	13	33	6	4	8	2	...	5	3	5	...	40	706	453	17.26	11.13	
Weipa *	March	31	25	25	50	...	19	6	...	...	12	5	8	...	46	788	1,109	17	24
	June	30	30	26	56	...	24	6	...	...	13	5	8	...	50	1,246	1,257	24	25
	Sept.	30	27	26	53	...	24	3	...	...	14	5	7	...	52	714	1,263	14	24
	Dec.	31	23	26	49	...	20	3	...	...	15	5	6	...	48	815	1,207	17	25
Yarrabah *	March	31	24	33	57	...	11	13	...	...	9	24	...	...	23	348	585	15	25
	June	30	24	33	57	...	11	13	...	...	9	24	...	...	23	255	279	11	12
	S-pt.	30	28	31	59	...	16	12	...	...	8	23	...	...	40	642	698	16	18
	Dec.	31	31	33	64	...	25	6	...	...	27	6	...	...	584	1,687	1,686	30	30
Taroom (£70)	March	31	26	22	48	...	26	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	45	1,177	823	26	18
	June	30	25	20	45	...	25	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	19	452	359	25	19
	Sept.	30	30	23	53	...	30	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	23	642	455	28	19
	Dec.	31	30	23	53	...	30	...	...	...	23	...	...	...	52	1,406	864	28	17
Mornington Island*	Dec.	31	18	4	22	...	18	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	37	274	36	7	1

* Teacher's salary paid by Mission.

RESERVES, GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

There are now three Government-controlled Settlements in existence, the one at Hull River, provided for in 1913-14 Estimates, being established towards the end of that year under the management of Mr. J. M. Kenny. Owing to unforeseen difficulties in selection of a site, the proposed Torres Strait Settlement has not yet been started, the Superintendent being occupied, for the present, as teacher of the aboriginal school at Thursday Island.

I give herewith a brief resumé of the operations at these Settlements, taken from the progress reports received.

Barambah (Superintendent, B. J. T. Lipscombe).

The population, including many at work outside, is approximately 580, but the highest roll-call was 430, and the average number drawing rations daily 320. The total number of full rations issued was 104,857, consisting of flour, beef, sugar, tea, oatmeal, rice, sago, and cultivation produce.

Health has been fairly good, with the exception of the usual epidemics, which always must be prevalent until the native can be induced to improve his living and sanitary conditions. The hospital has been taxed to its utmost, and although three capable coloured women have been trained to assist, the provision for an assistant white nurse is gratefully regarded. The number of in-patients received and attended to was 213, and from thirty to forty out-patients are treated daily. Great assistance has been received from the Brisbane General and Gympie Hospitals, which have willingly received serious cases sent to them. The death roll is 51, of which 13 died of venereal and 14 of consumption, the need for separate establishments for the treatment of these diseases being greatly felt owing to the impossibility of effective isolation. There were 10 marriages and 20 births.

Conduct has been generally good. Gambling is largely practised in spite of efforts to suppress it. Three cases of assault were punished in the local Police Court, and one man had to be removed for insubordination. Very little drink finds its way on to the reserve. Eighty-two persons of all ages were received from other districts, under Minister's order, and many have shown noticeable improvement.

The demand for labour by outside employers was keen, and 308 males and 23 females were hired out for terms of over a month, necessitating 207 agreements; and 68 males, 1 female, and 16 married couples engaged casually for shorter terms. Naturally, the behaviour in employment was steadiest where wives were able to accompany their husbands. The wages received ranged from 3s. 6d. for young girls and 5s. for boys to from 15s. to 30s. a week for adult males, and these rates are always willingly paid. The native is also showing more intelligence in the collection of that portion of the wages paid direct to him.

The work done on the Settlement has been, principally, fencing in new cultivations, building girls' dormitory, erecting bridge over the creek, repairing roads for Shire Council, building old men's quarters and cottage, carting fire-

wood and stores. Cultivation was carried on, though at great disadvantage owing to the scarcity of suitable plough horses. The result was 240 bushels of maize, 10 tons of pumpkins, and 1 acre of garden vegetables. The weather was dry and the sweet potato crop was again a failure. The disc plough has proved of great value. The school has shown good progress, though it had to be closed for a while owing to an epidemic of sore throat. The number of children attending—over 100—makes an assistant necessary if any real work is to be done.

The retail store is now an institution and more than justifies its existence. The expenditure on goods for the twelve months was £1,028 0s. 11d., and the return from sales amounted to £1,413 14s. 9d., exclusive of a little over £150 which was issued free, in clothing for destitute and extras, such as bread, butter, white sugar, &c., for hospital convalescents.

The last muster showed 416 head of cattle. A good year's supply of store cattle was procured at the commencement of the war to avoid the heavy increases in prices expected, for few of our own beasts were mature enough for beef. The Superintendent considers that the appointment of a practical herdsman would more than repay the outlay, as the aboriginals, without supervision, are not satisfactory as stockmen, and he is confident stock is often lost, or dies, that with proper care would have been saved. Skilled and careful breeding and nurturing should make us independent of outside sources for our beef supply. A good deal of trespassing and illicit agistment is also carried on.

The collections from all sources amounted to £3,452 14s. 4d., and the expenditure, not including salaries, £4,223 16s. 3d.

Taroom (Superintendent, C. A. Maxwell).

The population at the end of the year was 246, including 83 children, and another 28 adults were out at employment. During the year 57 deportees were received. There were 16 deaths, but only 3 births, and 2 marriages were legally celebrated.

The total number of full rations issued was 59,051, the number drawing rations daily being about 200.

The general health of the natives has been good. Influenza was prevalent for a period, but, owing to the skilful care and treatment of the medical officer and nurse, there were no serious results. The soup kitchen supplies properly prepared meals to 20 old people, and the diet, though plain, is liberal and varied, and the improvement in their health is most noticeable.

Fifty agreements were entered into, by 37 males and 13 females, for employment in the district, and the wages received ranged from 5s. to 27s. 6d. a week, the demand being strong and the behaviour of the employees steady, only one or two cases of desertion being reported. The work done on the Settlement has been principally pear-clearing and ringbarking, about 500 acres being prepared, on which it would be an advantage to sow artificial grasses. Clearing ground for settlement village, carting water, repairing fences, shearing and shepherding sheep, milking, &c., also provided employment for a number of others. The stores have to be carried by bullock

wagon from the nearest railway, 50 miles away, about eleven or twelve days being taken for the round trip.

The result of the year's shearing was 9 bales of wool from 450 sheep, which when sold at auction brought £102. The lambs born last season numbered 244, and they all look healthy and well. Several of the rams were lost in a flood during the year, and fresh blood will be introduced in time for next season.

No cultivation has so far been attempted, though some ground is being prepared, but more light draught horses are required, the present stock being insufficient for working purposes. The wagon and fine team of 18 bullocks has been kept busy carrying stores, and, as the railway now reaches to within 50 miles of the Settlement, it is expected that, with the more systematic despatch and advice of goods being arranged, the team should be able now to deal with all supplies.

More accommodation, both for officials and inmates, is badly needed. It is proposed as soon as possible to provide these buildings and improve the dwellings and conditions of the natives, laying the whole out with regard to proper alignment and model village design.

Christmas was fitly celebrated, arrangements being made to supply extra rations and delicacies, as well as sporting material and toys.

Religious instruction has been regularly given, and church services held, by the visiting clergy of the Bush Brotherhood. No less than 63 children were also baptised. The school has been regularly carried on and has made good progress, but a suitable school building and a separate officer for the duties of teacher are now urgently required. Until a retail store can be established, stores from supplies are sold at reasonable prices to inmates, the receipts from this source being £95 8s. 8d.

The total revenue from all sources was £326 2s. 6d., and the expenditure amounted to £1,300 12s. 7d.

Hull River (Superintendent, J. M. Kenny).

On 15th September the Superintendent arrived on the reserve with one white and two aboriginal assistants and all material for commencing the new Settlement, and the last months of the year were spent in clearing land and erecting quarters. At first the local natives were apparently in great dread of the Settlement, and it is suspected that some unscrupulous white and Asiatic residents are responsible for this. By the end of the year 41 had mustered up courage to join, and, of these, 10 have already signed on at regular work and are contributing, as done at other Settlements, to the maintenance of the institution. A sufficient number were kept on the reserve for development work.

A serviceable bungalow house has been built for the Superintendent and his family, with tanks for adequate fresh water supply, and necessary stores, harness, and tool shed. A motor whaleboat has also been provided, to lighter stores from the passing steamer, and she has proved herself a useful and good sea boat.

Land has also been cleared for a cultivation and orchard.

The conduct of the inmates has so far been excellent, and gambling and drink have not yet been noticed amongst them. Discipline is easily upheld, and they work cheerfully and well.

Health so far has been splendid, and most of those who, some time ago, arrived in a pitiable condition of emaciation and nakedness, have made wonderful improvement in condition and appearance.

The Superintendent writes in strong terms of the terrible effect the opium traffic has had upon the natives of this district. During the few years which have elapsed since the introduction of Asiatic races, what was once a huge population of fine, well-developed men and women has dwindled down to not more than a couple of hundred, the majority of whom are physical wrecks.

It seems to have been a contest between the Asiatic and the low European for the right to exploit the aboriginal financially and morally, and, though the white man descended to the rum bottle and even to morphia, the Asiatic easily won with his deadly opium charcoal or "inchee." The effects of some of these drugs upon the poor aboriginal are appalling, producing aggravated constipation and eventually an agonising death.

Owing to the dense scrubs and bad roads, most of the surrounding districts are practically inaccessible, thus making detection of offenders a difficult, if not almost impossible, task.

RESERVES, CHURCH MISSIONS.

There are now ten reserves under the control of various religious denominations, an additional mission being now established on Mornington Island, in the Wellesley Group, Gulf of Carpentaria. Reports have been received from all these institutions, and I give herewith a brief outline of progress made as shown in each report:—

Mapoon Mission (Superintendent, Rev. N. Hey).

The total population is approximately 300, though only about half of that number are permanent residents or draw rations. The general conduct has been good, and the inmates are steadily advancing to a higher plane of civilisation. Attendance at religious and secular instruction has been good, and the progress made in both has been most gratifying. In school, importance has been given to the practical side of the work, the aim being to equip the scholars for the new conditions without placing them in any false position, and, as most of the children are dormitory boarders, better results have been assured. The average daily attendance of children has been 56.

Health has been generally good, epidemics being practically unknown. Several deaths have occurred from consumption and venereal, a few cases being kindly received into Thursday Island Hospital for treatment. Eight births and six deaths have been recorded.

Good progress has been made in industrial development and maintenance. The cocoanut plantation was extended. The live stock has increased, and 27 fat cattle were sold for profit in addition to 12 killed for food.

One outstation, 5 miles away, comprises 19 native homesteads, each in charge of an



Hull River Settlement—Superintendent's Quarters.



Hull River Settlement—Group of Natives on the Beach.



Hull River Settlement—Portion of Clearing.



View—Mapoon Mission.

aboriginal or half-caste couple who have been previously trained at the Mission. They are nearly all self-supporting, well educated, and self-respecting. Their houses are strongly built and kept clean, and the children are well cared for, and, when five years of age, are sent to the head station to boarding-school.

Another homestead is being established on similar lines, at a place 15 miles away, for a small tribe whom the Mission were not otherwise able to keep in touch with.

The councillors in charge report progress every month. Divine services have been regularly held on these stations, a small motor launch facilitating visiting and inspection.

The revenue from all sources, including Government grant, was £814, and the expenditure £659. The Native Co-operative Store sales amounted to £203, and the store shows a credit balance of £14.

Weipa Mission (Superintendent, Rev. Edwin Brown).

The settlement of the people has steadily progressed, the native learning to appreciate the reward of steady labour. This has increased the facilities for spiritual training, the results of which are manifest in the daily lives of the people, particularly in the growing custom of family prayer.

The school made good progress, first under Mrs. Brown and, after April, under Mrs. Holmes, and the fact that two ex-pupils have enrolled in a Southern correspondence college for instruction in shorthand and bookkeeping, and another has taken up a course of study in elementary agriculture, speaks volumes for the influence exercised. A full staff of teachers has enabled the Sunday school to be more effectively worked.

The health of the people has been good. There has been no epidemic, and only minor complaints have required treatment.

The agricultural work showed fairly good progress and results. A heavy flood destroyed a large plot of cassava and gave a setback at the early part of the year. A new hamlet was formed and several new houses built for the people. Much time and labour were taken up repairing roads and fences.

One gratifying feature was the attempt of some families to cultivate small plots for themselves, and success is possible now that the people are learning to respect private rights in property. The gift of wire-netting from the Government, to enclose the cultivation paddock, has been a boon. The staff has now been increased again to full strength, and the new teacher and industrial assistant promise to be an acquisition to the institution. For already a substantial building has been added to the Mission improvements.

Aurakun Mission (Acting Superintendent, Mr. W. Owens).

Changes in the staff, caused by transfers of some to the newly opened Mornington Island Mission, and the delay in the return of Mr. Richter from Germany, owing to the outbreak of

war, has seriously retarded progress. The increase in cost of stores has also curtailed working expenditure.

The horses lost at the end of last year were fortunately found at a neighbouring cattle station and sent back from Weipa, but the fencing proposed for the purpose of enclosing country for cattle grazing, could not be carried out owing to causes mentioned above.

In extension of the policy of separating the people as much as possible, owing to their quarrelsome nature, areas are being cleared and fenced around the station, and agricultural operations encouraged by supply of seeds. A 2-acre plot has been enclosed by the young single men, and gardening has become popular.

A large dry galvanised iron house, 30 feet by 12 feet, has been erected for the old and sick, and it is intended, if possible, to build more houses of a similar type.

Except for frequent malaria epidemics, health has been good.

Three births and three deaths have been reported, the latter being from spear wound, snakebite, and blood poison.

The number of people daily drawing rations was 45.

School has been regularly carried on, the pupils numbering 24 girls and 7 boys.

Mornington Island (Superintendent, Mr. Robert Hall).

The first part of the year was spent in building a vessel for cargo purposes, and it was not till 10th May that the missionaries landed at Mornington. Some time was spent in exploring the island, selecting a site, and making friends with the natives, and, eventually, the Mission was opened where Appel Channel, which separates Denham Island from Mornington, would serve as a good harbour.

About 200 natives were met, and appeared to be quite friendly. A few more are on Bentinck Island, but it is doubtful if the whole population very much exceeds the number already seen.

Since settling down, the majority of the natives have visited the Mission at intervals, and a number have taken up almost permanent residence and been set to work clearing land, getting timber, &c., and have received food and clothing. School has also been started with 22 children.

A small rough two-roomed cottage has been built for a temporary mission house, and a cultivation patch is being enclosed with half a mile of wire-netting received from the Government.

Trubanaman (Superintendent, Mr. H. Matthews).

Although the apparent results seem poor, in reality real progress has undoubtedly been made, for the Mission considers it has put the finishing touches to its foundation work. A small sawmill has been installed, and it is expected that the facilities this will provide for carrying out long-cherished schemes for the improvement of the natives' social condition will advance them

a step further towards civilisation and the settled life. There is evidence that the majority of the inmates prefer their new life, in its ordered routine, to the uncertainty of bush life.

A powerful centrifugal pump has also been installed for water supply and irrigation purposes. The cultivation has been increased by 5 acres, all the work of fencing and clearing being done by natives under supervision of the assistant, who has charge of the agricultural work. Thirteen tons of potatoes and 5¼ tons of cassava were grown and consumed, besides fruit such as limes, lemons, pineapples, and mangoes. The varied diet of fruit and vegetables contributes largely to the good health the people enjoy.

Ten married couples are steadily working at Angeram, an outstation, and have cultivated 8 acres of land with cassava and sweet potatoes. They have built a church, and services are held daily by their leader.

There is another settlement of this kind named Koongalara, but not much progress can be reported, owing to the absence of the man in charge, for some time, as a seaman on the ketch "Francis Pritt."

The live stock comprise 300 cattle, 95 goats, 25 horses, 11 fowls, and 1 pig.

The estimated population of the whole reserve is 700, of whom 500 are known to be resident, and 110 draw rations and live as inmates of the Mission.

School has been regularly carried on, the roll showing 20 boys and 13 girls.

St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island (Superintendent, Mr. B. Cole).

There has been a regular attendance of 43 at the school. Progress is good up to a certain age, but then the boys are anxious to go to work on the boats. Three senior boys have been allowed to "sign on" in the *bêche-de-mer* industry, fortunately under a good master, from whom they will receive useful training. A few girls, whose parents could spare them, have been allowed to engage in domestic service, but only under strict conditions, for the purpose of acquiring some domestic experience.

Health has been good. There have been six births and only one death—a new-born infant—recorded. There has been one marriage celebrated, and we have a few eligible young men and women whom we would like to see settled in homes of their own. The population is 135, being 67 males and 68 females. The native court is practically a dead letter, the councillors lacking self-reliance and judgment, and being dominated by the villagers. After much persuasion, a channel has been dug to drain off the swamp during the rainy season. Scarcity of labour and lack of enthusiasm amongst the natives have somewhat restricted operations.

The "company" boat has not been very successful, owing to the collapse of the shelling industry, the men taking other employment. The boat showed a small debit balance at the end of the year.

The gardens have yielded abundantly, and much stuff has been given to people of neighbour-

ing islands. Even the young boys and girls have garden plots, and the people deserve credit for the success of this portion of the work.

A ready-to-build wooden cottage, 36 feet by 12 feet, has been purchased from Brisbane and erected for the Superintendent, and the group of substantial Mission buildings now gives an appearance of permanency and utility to the institution.

Religious instruction and services have been held daily.

Cape Bedford Mission (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz).

Mr. Kenny's successor at the McIvor River has left, and that outstation is, for the present, under the care of two married aboriginal couples, who are managing well, with an occasional visit by the Superintendent for advice and instruction. About 30 tons of sweet potatoes have been grown there, and plentiful supplies of pineapples, bananas, pumpkins, &c., which has enabled the head station to effect a considerable saving in flour. Corn, rice, cassava have again been planted, and the coconut plantation has been extended by 10 acres. Twelve hundred seed nuts were also sold, at £2 per hundred, and a few thousands of nuts used as food by the inmates. A large number have also been laid in nurseries for planting later.

About 2 tons of sisal hemp fibre are held in stock waiting for a better market.

The cattle now number 250, and have been of great help in the food supply, and also of some profit, for the Mission were able to sell 16 bullocks at £7 5s. per head.

The launch has not proved very useful this year, frequent breakdowns making it necessary to hire boats to carry provisions, so it is decided to obtain a small cutter also, which, when not otherwise occupied, can fish for turtle or shell.

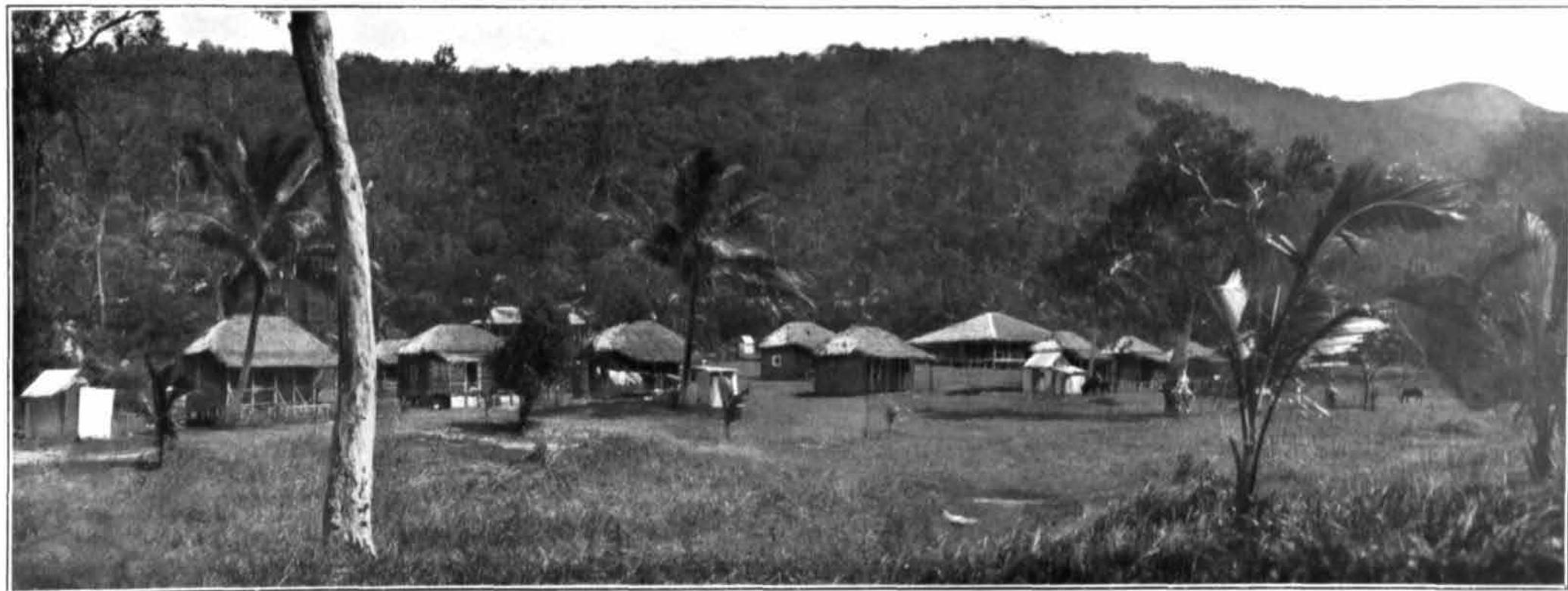
The population is 145. There were no births and only one death, an old female. Seventeen children were received from other districts, and are doing well. Health has been exceptionally good, hardly a cold having been noticed amongst the inmates.

School has been regularly carried on, and the attendance and progress have been good. The number attending last quarter was 40—18 boys and 22 girls.

Yarrabah Mission (Superintendent, Mr. S. Lyon).

The staff consists of seven European officers, all at the head station, and two native overseers in charge of outstations at Bukkhi and Reeves Creek. Numerous changes in the early part of the year considerably hindered progress, but some real advance has been made during the remainder of the period under review.

The population is 296, showing an increase of 66 during the year, and all these people drew rations. There were 12 births and 9 deaths. The sexes are about evenly divided, being males 149, females 147. Of the males, 48 are able-bodied adults and 12 are lads between 14 and 18 years of age. Of the females, there are 47 married women and 9 girls between 14 and 18 years of



Village Head Station—Yarrabah Mission.

age. There are 118 children under 14 years of age. The proportion of half-caste and quadroons among the population is 50 per cent.

The large amount of labour utilised in maintenance of the institution left but a small margin for progressive work. Little help was received from the women, for 47 married women were responsible for the care of 61 children under 7 years of age. The girls were fully occupied in cooking, sewing, laundry, and housework, yet some found time to do some gardening. The same applies to the school boys.

Eight acres of land were twice put under beans and yielded large crops. Two thousand English cabbages were also grown and consumed. Six tons of sweet potatoes and plentiful supplies of pumpkins, taro, cassava, yams, bananas, pineapples, also turnips and carrots, were grown as field crops. Five hundred bunches of bananas were exported, but the results were disappointing, two consignments to Brisbane hardly clearing expenses, owing to rough handling in transport.

In addition to field crops, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres were worked as market garden and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres were planted with peanuts, but the late rains spoiled the crop.

Forty-five acres of ground were planted under Hickory King maize, all of which is now doing well.

An early crop of sweet potatoes was planted, and 40 acres of ground is being prepared for further planting. The ground is poor, but it is hoped to get the best from it by a systematic rotation of crops.

Forty acres of land around the head station were cleared of light scrub, and 25 acres ploughed, and a belt of scrub and heavy timber, about 100 yards wide and about 10 acres in area, cleared from the hill behind the station, for health reasons. The duck pond was filled up and now gives no trouble.

Some improvements to permanent buildings were made and a new boys' dormitory erected. The water supply system was extended and several shower baths provided.

The ketch was thoroughly overhauled and repaired on the Mission, and a new suit of sails, probably worth about £70, was made by the men, at cost of material only.

At the ten small settlements, about 30 acres are at present under crops and another 20 acres are on the way towards planting. Although these outstations are intended to be self-supporting, the aboriginal disposition and distorted idea of values make this practically impossible. More frequent supervision has resulted in marked improvement.

Health generally has been good, only one bad epidemic of whooping cough affecting about 80 persons and causing 4 deaths. Phthisis, pneumonia, broncho-pneumonia, and senile decay accounted for five more deaths, in all nine. There has been little malaria and few cases of serious fever. The people seem somewhat susceptible to pulmonary troubles. Twelve children were born. Only two minor accidents occurred. Ankylostomiasis has now been practically eradicated.

School has been regularly kept since the teacher's return, the chaplain assisting with the boys. The roll shows 70 scholars—33 boys and 37 girls—the average daily attendance being 67. Real steady progress has been made up to about third standard. The boys receive industrial training after school hours, and the girls domestic instruction. The senior girls are all taught to make their own clothes. In this way all efforts are directed towards making them useful members of the community, and building up the family life on firm and stable foundations.

The possession of a good stallion has enabled horse-breeding to be started, the stock now being 11 horses, 18 mares, and 6 foals. Pig and poultry raising is also to be resumed. About 300 goats provide milk and meat. Families are encouraged to keep private gardens and poultry flocks. Native corroborees are the favourite amusement, but the old Yarrabah band has been revived and is working heartily. The people are generally happy and contented.

The appointment of a layman as Superintendent has enabled the chaplain to more fully devote his time to spiritual work, and this must in time assist greatly towards success.

The neat gardens and tidy houses are a great improvement on camp life, and indicate that self-respect is a quality they are fast acquiring.

The improvement in behaviour and altered lives of many men of past bad character who have been admitted to the Mission are, in the Superintendent's opinion, daily proofs of the civilising influence of Christian teaching in the lives of the aboriginals.

Monamona Mission (Superintendent, Mr. J. L. Branford).

The reserve contains 4,000 acres. At the end of the year 93 natives were drawing rations. All of these were residing on the reserve, and consisted of 46 males and 47 females. Of these 31 women and children were attending day school.

The health of the people has been good, except for an epidemic of whooping cough, from which cause two of the babies died. Three male children were born and three deaths occurred during the year.

The past year has been a busy one, and, though all have worked hard, the results have not been up to expectations. Among the improvements made are eight bridges, built on the road to the railway station, one of 55 feet span, and seven smaller ones. About 9 acres have been cleared for the plough, ready for planting with vegetables and peanuts. Five acres were also cleared for a banana plantation, and 500 plants have already been put in. Eighty acres of scrub have also been cut down and burned, and are now ready to be planted with corn and Rhodes grass as soon as the rain comes. A girls' dormitory, consisting of four rooms with a dining-room capable of seating 200, and a kitchen, has also been built. In addition, a number of native cottages and several miles of fencing have been put up. Building operations have been slow, owing to the fact that almost all the material for the purpose has been prepared on the Mission.

The new assistants, with our aboriginal workers, are facing with good courage the hard pioneering work which is always necessary in the opening up of a new Mission such as this is.

The Mission's endeavour is to uplift the aboriginals of this district, and they trust, with God's help, to so labour that spiritual as well as material benefits will result.

Deebing Creek Mission (Superintendent, Mr. R. Morrison).

Good progress has been made and the general conduct has been good, the officers reporting in a gratified manner of the general demeanour and morals of the inmates. A little trouble has been experienced through drink, but confined to the old people. Religious services have been well attended, and the beneficial effect is shown in many directions.

Regular inspections have been made by the committee, and visits have been paid by the Salvation Army and the Women's Temperance Union. Picnics were held to celebrate the opening of the new homestead at Purga, and at Christmas.

Great results are anticipated from the transfer of the home to Purga, which was the wisest and best move ever made by the Mission. In addition to the added advantages of convenience to railway, increased dormitory and storage accommodation, extra cultivations and permanent water were secured right adjoining the old cultivation at Nine Mile, thus saving the great loss of time and inconvenience caused by the distance from homestead to scene of agricultural operations. In addition to this, opportunity was taken at the same time to raise the inmates another step in the social scale, by building a number of neat wooden cottages, on stumps, ready to receive the families as transferred.

During the year the population increased from 57 to 85.

The stock did fairly well, although the increase was not so great as expected. At the end of the year the Mission possessed 15 horses, 56 cattle, and 4 pigs, valued at £358 2s., and farm implements worth £100. Of the horses, 1 died, 2 were sold, and 2 foals were born. Of the cattle, 24 were sold and 9 were killed. There were also 36 pigs born, of which 2 died. Thirty-five of the herd were sold, leaving 4 for breeding.

The total expenditure for maintenance was £415 4s. 7d., towards which the natives contributed £37 9s. 7d. from their earnings outside, and £112 9s. was realised from sale of cattle and pigs. The Government contribution was £252 16s. 2d. The cost of removal of the Mission buildings to Purga was £217 11s. 1d., towards which £200 was granted by the Department.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The following statement shows the receipts and disbursements of deceased aboriginals' estates and other unclaimed moneys, which, under Regulation 14 of 1904, can only be utilised for the benefit of aboriginals.

Price, 2s. 6d. *o v*

A few items of disbursements need some brief explanation.

The amount spent on Christmas festivities represented the accumulated interest on the joint bank accounts of the natives interested, which, by their own desire, was spent in this way instead of being divided. The refunds made were of the estates of certain deceased natives whose dependent relatives claimed the property. The temporary additions to advance accounts were to tide over the rush at Christmas and Exhibition times, and were immediately afterwards refunded. The grant of wire netting was made by the Minister to Weipa Mission to assist cultivation operations which were rendered abortive by marsupials. The Exhibition and Carnival expenses were for clothing and accommodation supplied to natives exhibiting. The loan for Torres Strait boats forms part of a £450 loan, authorised by Hon. the Minister for three additional fishing vessels, the amount, with interest, to be repaid from produce won by the tribes benefited.

The total receipts were £644 11s. 11d. and disbursements £608 0s. 5d.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
From Balance 1st January, 1913	1,123	8	6
Deceased natives' estates	444	3	8
Deserters' wages	62	16	9
Refund Advance Account	125	0	0
Barambah Interest Account	58	18	5
Barambah Account, Credit Balances	36	13	7
Balance, Boys' Account	17	11	5
Balance, Girls' Account	18	7	7
Taroom Interest Account	6	0	6
	£1,893	0	5

Disbursements.

	£	s.	d.
By Clothing to destitute natives	48	8	8
Barambah Christmas festivities	44	4	11
Refund various accounts	56	0	8
Burial fees	27	5	10
Goods for distribution at schools	5	1	7
Barambah girls' exhibition expenses	2	7	6
Temporary Addition Advance Account	125	0	0
Purchase of wire netting, Weipa Mission	29	14	3
Subsidy for launch, Cape Bedford Mission	40	0	0
Patriotic Carnival expenses	20	8	3
Temporary advance, Taroom Account	10	0	0
Purchase of curios for Queensland Museum	14	8	9
Loan, Thursday Island, purchase of boats for natives	310	0	0
Balance, 31st December, 1914	1,160	0	0
	£1,893	0	5

COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINALS BY VARIOUS STATES.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Amount. £
Queensland	*15,000	23,040
New South Wales	6,779	21,089
Northern Territory	*3,000	8,042
South Australia	4,636	6,053
Victoria	261	3,879
West Australia	*32,000	32,010

* Approximate.

The revenue collected from all sources, not including refunds received, amounted to £3,778 16s. 10d. The number of letters received and dealt with was 3,688.

Yours obediently,

J. W. BLEAKLEY,

Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

Annual report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year 1914

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aborigines

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