

1925  
—  
QUEENSLAND

---

# REPORT

UPON THE

## OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Aboriginals, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates Institution (Dunwich), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Government Relief, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), Prisons, Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, and Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane).

---

---

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

---

---

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

A. 38—1925.

## Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department.

Home Secretary's Department,  
Brisbane, 17th September, 1925.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the following information regarding the operations of the under-mentioned Sub-Departments of this Department.

WILLIAM GALL,  
Under Secretary.

ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).  
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).  
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).  
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Wm. H. Jamison).  
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. D. P. O'Brien).  
GOVERNMENT RELIEF (Officer in Charge, D. A. Hogan).  
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS (WILLOWBURN).  
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, A. T. Peirson).  
QUEENSLAND BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION (Manager, I. Dickson).  
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner)

### Aboriginal Department.—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1924.

#### POPULATION.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, with the assistance of this Department, took a census of the aboriginal and half-caste inhabitants of the State.

The returns showed the total native population to be 17,914, of which 15,075 were full-bloods, 8,606 being males and 6,469 females. Of the 2,839 half-castes, 1,624 were males and 1,215 females.

It is interesting to note that these returns showed 3,505 full-blood aboriginal children under the age of twelve years, which hardly seems to bear out the commonly expressed opinion that the aboriginal race is dying out.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

The demand for aboriginal labour showed improvement in the majority of the districts,

though little benefit was felt on the settlements, chiefly owing to the continued bad conditions of the cattle industry, but the better seasons promises a welcome improvement during the coming year. The demand for female labour far exceeded the supply. Difficulty is still experienced through aboriginals, engaged as house boys on sugar farms, being illegally employed at "chop chop," which is work covered by the Sugar Workers' Award. All breaches of the award coming to notice have been reported to the industrial inspectors.

As far as could be judged, the employment regulations have been fairly well observed, though effective supervision has not been possible owing to the curtailment of police patrols, and some illegal employment and evasion of regulations as regards accommodation have been complained of in distant districts.

The total number of natives engaged under agreement was 2,475 (males 1,878, females 597), and permits were issued for the casual employment, for short terms, of 790 males and 309 females.

Two new protectorates were created, viz., Mount Carbine and Mount Molloy.

Sixty-five men were engaged as trackers by the Police Department and two by the Victorian police.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

There was a good demand for all available aboriginal labour in the pearling and beche-de-mer industries, and the behaviour of the crews was very satisfactory.

The engagements of native seamen at Thursday Island numbered 378, and during the year 242 Torres Straits islanders and 122 mainlanders were discharged at the Shipping Office. The wages earned amounted to £3,734, of which the islanders received £2,530 and the mainlanders £1,204.

In addition, 350 islanders worked their tribal company boats, earning £20,491, a record year.

At Cooktown 47 natives were engaged on the fishing fleet and earned £678, and 10 men also were engaged from the Palm Island Settlement.

In consequence of the improvement in the pearlshell and beche-de-mer markets, the wages of aboriginal crews are being increased again to the rates ruling before the depression.

#### INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Eleven claims under the Workers' Compensation Act were made and compensation amounting to £264 was received, payment in each case being made to the Protector, who controls the disbursement of the money for the receipt's benefit.

Two permanent injury cases are receiving annuities certain, and another one temporary relief pending further examination. The Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department have, with their usual courtesy, co-operated with this office in arriving at a fair settlement.

#### ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNTS.

The following is a return of the transactions of the Savings Bank accounts held in trust for natives throughout the State. This does not include the store credits of the inmates of the various missions.

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.		Accounts Transferred other Districts, Settlements, &c.		Interest Earned.		Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barambah .. ..	606	4,394	17 2	248	18 0	223	3 9	6,063	5 7	5,299	0 2
Palm Island .. ..	523	2,651	1 8	83	0 11	200	8 4	5,658	16 8	7,217	6 2
Taroom .. ..	176	2,193	1 10	149	18 3	41	11 5	2,301	7 1	1,403	14 2
Brisbane Girls .. ..	109	2,124	9 9	256	6 0	90	15 8	2,102	11 11	4,457	19 8
Brisbane Boys .. ..	14	204	8 9	32	9 1	17	3 9	144	5 4	863	0 0
Various Protectors .. ..	6,110	81,919	2 6	15,930	19 3	6,721	0 5	52,955	18 10	23,678	11 7
Totals .. ..	7,538	93,487	1 8	16,701	11 6	7,294	3 4	69,226	5 5	256,025	11 9

New accounts, numbering 1,450, were opened, and consequently, in the banking, as compared with last year, there has been an increase of approximately 11 per cent., and, as the amount of money withdrawn increased by over 20 per cent., the average individual credit is now only £33. These figures can be read as an indication that the native is more fully appreciating the value of the banking system, especially in "hungry" times during bad seasons.

Contributions to the Provident Fund amounted to £1,890, and there is now a balance of £11,948, of which £8,000 is invested in Treasury Loan Inscribed Stock at 5½ per cent.

#### ABORIGINAL KETCH "MELBIDIR."

The vessel has been stationed at Thursday Island and, as far as possible, utilised in the patrol work of this and other Government departments. The condition of the vessel and her engine, however, became so bad that she was unfit for any important sea-going journeys, and the Papuan Industries vessel "Goodwill" was hired where necessary. The mileage done by the "Melbidir" was 1,548, and by the "Goodwill" 665.

The matter of necessary overhaul and repair has been held over pending consideration of the question of replacing her with a larger vessel of greater power and cargo capacity. Meanwhile she has been kept in good condition by

regular cleaning of copper, &c., and used where possible in local work, short patrols, &c., under sail.

The master has during this time attended to the examination, refitting, and repairing of the thirty-two island fishing vessels that work under the control of the Protector's office. This has resulted not only in considerable economy in expenditure but in more satisfactory and effective work. This supervision has kept the boat captains up to the mark and saved unnecessary loss of time and earnings from extravagance or neglect.

#### REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

Twelve permits for transfer of natives to other districts were granted, and bonds were entered into for the return of ninety-three aboriginals, temporarily removed by employers. No occasion arose for action to estreat any of these undertakings.

#### FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Regular relief rations amounting to £1,791 were issued from thirty-two centres in monthly or weekly allowances, according to the needs of the recipients.

Casual relief amounting to £230 was also issued where needed.

This relief was only granted to natives not eligible for benefits from the Provident Fund.

## BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued amounted to 4,317, and in addition such articles as dresses, trousers, shirts, print, tobacco, tent flvs, tomahawks, fish-lines, &c., were distributed in lieu of the blankets where found more useful.

The cost of these supplies was £2,886, and the freight and handling charge amounted to £162.

All these goods were distributed through the various centres in time for the winter needs, the purchase and dispatch being arranged through the State Stores.

## OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative table of prosecutions for offences against the Aboriginal Protection Acts for the last three years speaks for itself:—

Offences.	1922.		1923.		1924.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	25	£ 340	16	£ 204	18	£ 310
Supplying liquor ..	11	181	9	137	12	220
Harbouring ..	2	4	1	1	2	30
Illegally employing ..	25	33	2	14	4	9

There has been a slight increase in the number of convictions for supplying liquor to aborigines, and it will be seen in the succeeding return that the number of cases of drunkenness amongst them exceeds last year's figures by 75 per cent.

Of the opium prosecutions, 6 occurred at Innisfail, 4 at Rockhampton, and the remainder at Cairns (2), Townsville (2), South Johnstone (2), Gordonvale (1), and Winton (1).

## OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative table of offences for which aborigines have been convicted during the last three years explains itself:—

Offences.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Murder .. .. .	..	..	1
Drunkenness .. .. .	46	20	35
Stealing .. .. .	1	3	4
Entering premises .. .. .	3	1	4
Desertion from reserve .. .. .	4	2	2
Obscene language .. .. .	7	2	2
Assault .. .. .	6	1	6
Immoral offences .. .. .	4	2	1
Deserting ship .. .. .	..	..	1
Resisting arrest .. .. .	..	..	2
Destruction of Property .. .. .	..	..	1

## REMOVALS.

The following statement shows the number of natives sent to reserves on Minister's orders, for reasons of discipline or for their own relief and protection:—

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Barambah ..	9	3	3	15
Palm Island ..	36	8	5	49
Taroom ..	11	4	3	18
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah ..	4	3	4	11
Cape Bedford ..	..	..	1	1
	60	18	16	94

## HEALTH.

The reports from most districts showed that health generally was good. An outbreak of influenza occurred at Springsure, resulting in two deaths, and scattered cases of mild type appeared in other places. The complaint also broke out in a severe form on the mission reserves at Mapoon, and a mild wave passed through the islands of Torres Strait.

An epidemic of sore eyes also visited Moa Island Mission.

Sharp outbreaks of influenza occurred also at Barambah and Palm Island Settlements, followed at the latter place by pneumonia and pleurisy.

The Taroom Settlement had an outbreak of measles in the autumn, which, unfortunately, left many serious cases of pneumonia in its wake. The missions and settlements all report great improvement in the health of their inmates from the continued use of the hookworm treatment.

As reported previously, venereal disease is most in evidence in the Gulf and east coast districts, but isolated cases were treated at a number of district hospitals. Four cases were treated at Normanton Hospital, and a similar number in the Torres Strait Seamen's Hospital, while eighteen cases from Palm Island Settlement, mostly new arrivals from mainland districts, were treated in the Townsville Hospital.

Venereal cases from the Peninsula were also isolated and treated, under the direction of the Government Medical Officer, in the compound of the old Cooktown gaol, and during the year seven cases were dealt with. Six others were examined as suspects.

Several of the missions gave treatment to cases coming in from the bush, and the settlements at Barambah and Taroom also had a few cases amongst the new arrivals requiring treatment.

The number of natives treated at district hospitals was 406, of which 182 passed through the Torres Strait Hospital. All missions gave dispensary and in-patient treatment to the usual stream of minor ailments amongst their own inmates and visiting tribes.

At Barambah Settlement Hospital 941 sick persons, including 246 in-patients, were treated, and at the Taroom Settlement Institution the cases numbered 645, including 70 in-patients.

During the year, 343 deaths were reported, 116 on the settlements, 47 in Torres Strait, and 180 in the districts.

Against this, 350 births were reported.

## YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Few complaints were received from employers, and, except for a little rebellion on the part of some of the girls at the restrictions on night roaming, the majority of those in service appear to be giving satisfaction.

Very few inspections could be made by the inspector, owing to pressure of other duties, a large part of which is shopping for the settlements and the girls in employment. This is regrettable, as frequent supervision is necessary to ensure observance of the regulations, control, &c., by the employer.



The wages collected for these girls during the year amounted to £2,124, and the sum of £2,102 was withdrawn for clothing, dentistry, holidays, &c.

The Savings Bank accounts number 109, an increase of 15 on last year, with a total amount to credit of £4,458, giving an average individual credit of £40.

Of the 93 girls under agreement from Head Office, only 31 are in town situations, due to firm adherence to policy of restricting their employment in the city.

The system of collecting the maternity bonuses for the European half-caste women was continued, and 26 were received, the majority through the local Protectors.

Owing to adverse reports as to conditions of living and conduct, it was found necessary to remove 15 women and 11 children to settlements, and 3 women and 5 children to missions, to ensure their receiving better care and protection.

The number of orphans in homes was 52, as per the following return, the cost of their maintenance being £816:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island	17
Mapoon Mission	7
Salvation Army Industrial Schools—	
Yeronga and Chelmer (girls)	12
Riverview (boys)	6
Purga (boys and girls)	10
	<hr/> 52

#### HALF-CASTES.

Applications were received from 107 half-castes for exemption from the Aborigines Protection Acts. As many such requests are inspired by designing employers or made by natives of the flash type, quite unfit to be given their freedom, a searching examination of their circumstances is always made.

After inquiry, in 75 cases the exemption was refused, and to only 32 (27 males and 5 females) was it granted.

Two certificates, previously issued, were revoked, the holders having forfeited their title to the privilege by failing to live up to the conditions.

The question of the future of the superior half-caste of European strain is one always calling for anxious thought. Exemption seldom suitably meets his case, for the blood is always an obstacle, and no matter how well educated or trained, he rarely is able to successfully combat the influences against him.

Knowing this, the Department, even after granting freedom, as far as practicable, keeps an unobtrusive eye upon them, ready if necessary to help or even resume control.

#### RESERVES.

The settlements at Barambah and Taroom were visited and inspected by His Excellency the Governor, who expressed great pleasure at the hearty welcome accorded him and interesting entertainment provided by the native inmates. He also showed great interest in the measures for improving the living conditions of the people.

At Barambah His Excellency officially opened the new school building erected for the accommodation of 200 pupils, and spoke approvingly of the facilities provided for manual training,

reading and recreation rooms. He also unveiled a framed memorial containing the decorations of a half-caste of the settlement who was killed on active service in the Great War.

A visit of inspection was also paid to the Barambah Settlement by the Assistant Home Secretary, the natives celebrating the occasion by giving a very interesting display of native sports, tribal fighting customs, &c.

A visit of inspection of the aboriginal settlements, missions, and reserves on the east coast and the islands of Torres Strait was also made by the Chief Protector.

It was not possible, owing to shipping difficulties, to inspect the missions in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

In his report, the Protector at Thursday Island gives the following information:—

*Health.*—The health of the natives has been generally satisfactory. Mild outbreaks of influenza occurred on several of the islands, but were successfully checked by treatment sent from Thursday Island under the direction of the Government Medical Officer.

*Population.*—The returns show the population of the islands to be 2,963—792 men, 701 women, 779 boys, and 691 girls. The births numbered 103, being 53 males and 50 females. Deaths numbered 47, being 3 men, 26 women, and 18 boys.

A noticeable feature is that the number of males exceeds that of the females by 179. The births of male children showed an excess of 3 over the females, while on the other hand the deaths of females were 5 in excess of the males.

There were 47 marriages.

*Schools.*—The Government teachers all report fairly satisfactory progress. An inspector from the Public Instruction Department visited the schools and conducted the ordinary examination of scholars. The reports submitted by him serve to indicate that in the majority of schools the progress was satisfactory when all circumstances were taken into consideration. A lack of organisation and general teaching method was noticeable in a few instances, but arrangements are being made to effect the necessary improvement by proper instruction and training.

The new quarters for the teacher at Darnley Island have now been completed, and appear to be a most substantial and comfortable building. It will certainly be welcomed by the official on that island.

Numerous repairs have been effected to the quarters on the various islands. At Yorke Island such were carried out under the direction of the Works inspector, by a native carpenter, who will also perform minor repairs to the Yam Island quarters. Similar repairs were also carried out at Saibai and Badu teachers' quarters by native labour. At Saibai Island the old school, which was erected at an uncomfortable distance from the village, is being replaced by a building of native workmanship, probably with galvanised iron roof and wooden floor. This should be completed early this year.

At Poid Island a new school, 45 ft. by 25 ft., of similar character, is also being erected. The natives themselves are carrying out these improvements by voluntary labour.

At Yam Island the school has been enlarged, and, with its concrete floor, is now a very compact and comfortable building.

At Mabuig Island the building of a new concrete court house has been started, and should be completed early in 1925.

Four 1,000-gallon tanks have also been placed at Badu school, which has an iron roof.

*Island Funds.*—The total contributions were £3,859, and the disbursements in relief, boat repairs, &c., amounted to £1,647. The record working season enjoyed by the boats resulted in an increase of £2,210 in these funds, through redemption of boats debts and deferred payments. These liabilities were reduced by £1,400. The amount now to credit is £4,965.

*Island Company Boats.*—This year has been the most successful yet experienced by the natives in the working of their vessels. Produce to the amount of £20,491, including £1,670 for sale of pearls, was won and disposed of. As a result, only three of the twenty-eight vessels trading to Badu are now in debt to that firm. At the end of the previous year the number so situated was 18. In February, 1924, the total indebtedness of the Company boats to Papuan Industries Limited was £1,543. To-day it is £275, and 213 of this represents the balance still owing on the purchase price of a new vessel. As against this, the credits of other vessels amounted to £369. It can therefore be said that the working debts of all of the vessels have practically been wiped out, in addition to which £2,688 has been paid to Boat Reserves account or in repayment of purchase price for new vessels.

It has now been arranged at the trading station to keep a reserve credit, wherever possible, of £20 in the working account of each vessel, to avoid running into debt during the lean times of bad weather.

As proof of the success of these Company boats, the crews of 80 per cent. of the vessels, as well as owning the boat on which they worked, drew in dividends sums equal to the wages paid by private employers, and in several instances the earnings were much higher. The prosperity resulted in greater contentment on the islands last Christmas than has been the case for many years.

The following figures illustrate the growth of the native Company vessels business since 1912:—

	£
1912 .. .. .	3,895
1913 .. .. .	4,439
1914 .. .. .	2,795
1915 .. .. .	6,277
1916 .. .. .	4,907
1917 .. .. .	4,417
1918 .. .. .	6,269
1919 .. .. .	12,987
1920 .. .. .	11,762
1921 .. .. .	12,919
1922 .. .. .	9,740
1923 .. .. .	7,670
1924 .. .. .	20,491

and are a sufficient indication that these men will work, and work well, if opportunity and encouragement is given them.

These few figures from the boats' returns of catches for 1923 and 1924—

	1923.	1924.
	£	£
"Sissy" .. .. .	573	1,236
"Don" .. .. .	241	1,308
"Caroline" .. .. .	413	723
"Erub" .. .. .	192	804

will be sufficient to show that with favourable working conditions and fair prices these people can make a success of their boats.

The "Nancy" and "Kismet," owned by the half-caste family Mosby, who employ native crews at ruling rates, won £1,572 worth of produce, and the "Fly" and "Cherrie," two small vessels worked by mainlanders on the Peninsula, accounted for £487.

*General.*—The number of Savings Bank accounts in operation was 945, an increase of 257. The earnings banked amounted to £13,278, and withdrawals totalling £6,449 were allowed, the balance to credit now being £14,508, which earned £229 in interest.

There was practically no distress noticeable as regards food supplies in either the Torres Strait villages or mainland camps. Blankets were issued to fifty persons, principally mainlanders. In addition, the usual free issue of clothing, tobacco, &c., was made to the councillors and police. Twenty-two indigent persons are in receipt of regular relief, being old people, friendless, and incapable of work.

The mission station on Lockhart River, opened by the Church of England during the year, is steadily establishing itself by bringing in aboriginals from the neighbouring camps, thus making possible the long-desired control of the recruiting and employment on the east coast.

*Patrol.*—The Protector visited the various settlements as frequently as other duties would allow, and 1,300 miles were travelled in doing so. A visit of inspection was made by the Chief Protector, when twelve days were spent visiting islands, and 533 miles were travelled. A number of important matters were successfully dealt with, which, by removing several old misunderstandings and grievances, should result in a better feeling amongst the people and general improvement. The value of these patrols as an aid to administration cannot be over-estimated. The troubles that arise amongst these simple native people are often trifling, but they spread soon, and magnify if not dealt with promptly.

#### GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

**Barambah (Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple).**

**Palm Island (Superintendent, R. H. Curry).**  
**Taroom (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).**

*Labour.*—The demand for female domestic labour was fairly good, but employment for men was disappointing, and at Taroom and Palm Island showed a big decrease, owing to the state of the cattle industry. Some employment is offering on sugar farms, but complaints still are received of men being employed on other work than that engaged for. This will occur until there is an effective system of patrol established. At Palm Island ten men were signed on to fishing vessels.

The number of engagements entered into was:—

Barambah 334, including 239 casual jobs.  
Palm Island 76, including 7 casual jobs.  
Taroom 104, including 32 casual jobs.

About £15,000 was earned in wages, and of this £10,105 was paid into the various natives' bank accounts for the benefit of themselves and

*Settlement Revenues.*

	Barambah.	Palm Island.	Taroom.
	£	£	£
Collections—			
Wages, fares, produce etc.	4,377	3,146	2,582
Interest on bank account	223	200	41
Native contributions ..	370	384	164
	4,970	3,730	2,787

*Population—*

Barambah 667 (full-bloods 399, half-castes 268).

Palm Island 733 (full-bloods 562, half-castes 171).

Taroom 250 (full-bloods 154, half-castes 96).

*Crime.*—The conduct of the inmates has been generally satisfactory. Only two serious cases needed reference to the Police Court.

Minor offences from quarrelling, tribal disputes, &c., were dealt with by the officials or native court. The one cause of such trouble is the gambling, as the women, once addicted, neglect their homes and children, and family quarrelling results.

*Retail Store.*—The following table will show the volume of business transacted through the settlement stores. In this way the inmates can spend their earnings in employment on serviceable article of food, clothing, &c., and the profits are available for development work on the settlements for the general benefit:—

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Barambah ..	511	4,226	515	5,252
Palm Island ..	1,116	1,261	182	2,559
Taroom ..	278	5,512	156	5,946
				£13,757

*Schools.*—Inspections were made by the Public Instruction Department inspectors at Barambah and Taroom, which show that good progress has been made.

At Barambah an up-to-date school, capable of accommodating over 200 pupils, has been erected, also a large playshed. The staff consists of a head teacher and two assistants, and gratifying results have been attained in manual training in basket and raffia work, sewing, needlework, carpentry, toy making, gardening, &c.

At Taroom, although it has not yet been possible to provide the new building planned, the work done was very favourably commented on by the inspector.

No white teacher has yet been appointed to Palm Island, owing to shortage of quarters, but very creditable work was done by two native teachers with the 110 children attending.

*Industries.*—The farms showed some encouraging results, and the inmates were kept well supplied with fresh vegetables, especially during the latter half of the year.

At Barambah 45 acres of lucerne, oats, millet, maize, and vegetable were cultivated. Over 21 tons of mixed vegetables, potatoes, tomatoes, &c., were issued as extra rations, and 42 tons of hay were harvested and stacked. A small crop of cotton realised £30.

At Taroom 71 bags of potatoes were raised, and, although the crops on more than half the area under cotton were destroyed by hot winds and grubs, the yield from the remaining 12 acres totalled 4,590 lb., returning £104 when sold. Two large stacks of silage made from sorghum, &c., estimated to be 112 tons, were fed to the dairy cows and working bullocks, and a large stack of wheaten hay made.

At Palm Island, in addition to pumpkins, beans, and melons, 25 tons of potatoes, 5,000 pines, and 700 bunches of bananas were raised and used for food. Five tons of lucerne was grown for stock fodder. The citrus trees are coming into bearing.

A good supply of turtle and fish was also caught for food.

The sawmill at Barambah started again in April, and has been busily cutting and dressing our own timber for building. The engine and saw bench was started at Taroom for a similar purpose. It is also proposed to instal a sawmill plant at Palm Island.

*Stock.*—There was a very good season, plenty of natural feed being available. The breeders at Barambah were augmented by 6 Hereford bulls and 50 Hereford heifers. A good Ayrshire bull, 4 cows, and 10 heifers were obtained from St. Helena as nucleus of a good dairy herd, and during the latter part of the year there was a plentiful supply of milk. The muster showed 722 cattle, including 18 workers.

At Taroom the herd has been considerably improved by the introduction of good Hereford bulls. Forty-one settlement bullocks were killed for beef. The muster there was 391.

A commencement was made with a herd at Palm Island, one bull and five heifers being purchased.

*Building and Village Development.*—In addition to the large new school at Barambah, a start has been made with a large two-storied home for girls. Several cottages have been added to the native village and occupied by couples with large families.

A new hayshed, capable of holding 50 tons, has been erected, and a roof built over the timber shed.

Two of the officers' houses were painted, and a tank water supply provided at the dip.

The erection of important buildings at Taroom has been delayed owing to the uncertainty over the site question, but a new boys' quarters was erected by the Superintendent with native labour.



At Palm Island a thatch school building and a maternity ward have been built; necessary buildings such as hospital, school quarters, &c., await the installation of proposed sawmill.

*Social Improvement.*—The establishment of the sawmills on each settlement, to make available the necessary material for building improvements, will prove a decided spur to social betterment. The eager demand for the more civilised type of home and the readiness with which, when provided, simple refinements and living comforts are imitated, indicates a real desire for better conditions.

The effect of the tone of village life is soon noticeable. As the separate home life, with its domestic occupations and encouragement for family hobbies and recreations, gradually supercedes the degraded conditions of the old camp life, it makes its influence felt in the combat against the evils of gambling and immorality.

*Religious Instruction.*—At Barambah, regular church services were held by the Church of England clergy, which were well attended, the old school being used for this purpose. Sunday school classes for religious instruction were also held by the ladies of the settlement staff.

Services are held at Taroom by the Bush Brotherhood and by the Roman Catholic priest from the township. Sunday school and services are also regularly held by the nurse.

The Church of England chaplain of the Yarrabah Mission now attends at Palm Island Settlement monthly, and under his instructions the services previously conducted by the island native inmates are continued.

Missionaries from the Aborigines Inland Mission also visit the three settlements regularly, ministering to the camp families and holding services.

*Recreations.*—Every encouragement was given for practice of healthy outdoor sports, such as cricket, tennis, and football, nor were their old pastimes, such as corroborees, boomerang and spear throwing, neglected.

Sports have been held, with great success, and from the proceeds of concerts, &c., held amongst themselves, a new billiard table was purchased by the Barambah natives.

The usual Christmas festivities were heartily entered into, for which extra luxuries, gifts of clothing, toys, games, &c., were provided, and a week's holiday given over to sports, picnics, and usual amusements.

Provisional schools for aboriginals are also established at Thursday Island, Gayndah, and Myora. The reports show that satisfactory progress has been made, though frequently the home life of the pupils to some extent impedes development.

#### MISSIONS.

**Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, W. McCulloch), Anglican.**

**Mona Mona, Cairns (Superintendent, J. L. Brandford), Seventh Day Adventist.**

**Cape Bedford, Cooktown (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schawrz), Lutheran.**

**Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula (Superintendent, H. Rowan), Anglican.**

**Moa Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. J. W. Schomberg), Anglican.**

**Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. J. B. Love, M.A., M.C., D.C.M.), Presbyterian.**

**Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, H. Mayer), Presbyterian.**

**Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, W. F. McKenzie), Presbyterian.**

**Trubananman, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. Chapman), Anglican.**

**Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. R. Wilson), Presbyterian.**

**Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Commandant W. Perrem), Salvation Army.**

*Conduct.*—Reports from all stations show that no serious crime has occurred, and the general behaviour has been excellent. Credit in many cases is due to the loyalty of some of the more intelligent natives, who, as policemen or councillors, help by their influence to maintain order and discipline.

*Religious Training.*—The inmates of the institutions display encouraging interest in this side of mission activities, and it is claimed that the apparent efforts of many of them, especially of the younger generation, who have benefited by early training and education, to improve the lives of themselves and their families, is due to the influence of the religious teaching. At several missions may be seen natives taking part in the conduct of services as lay readers, organists, &c.

At Moa Island the St. Paul's Mission College has trained natives for ordination to the clergy, and several of these are functioning on island reserves with gratifying success.

*Health.*—Already given under "Health Generally." It is claimed that, under the improved conditions due to protection, the results show that the race need not decline. Many couples on the mission can boast of as many as six healthy children, and the majority have at least three.

*Education.*—Good progress has been made, no serious sickness interfering with regular attendance. Particular attention has been paid to instruction in manual and domestic sections.

*Industrial and Agricultural.*—The season proved somewhat better for farming and gardening than in the previous year, but the missions, while recognising the value of the food-producing industries, took care to utilise a portion of their labour also in other directions, ensuring some revenue in case of bad seasons.

At Mapoon the industries of beche-de-mer fishing, cattle raising, cocoanuts, fruit, and vegetable growing have enabled the village families to support themselves, leaving the subsidy from the Government and the Church for maintenance of head station, where school children and old people are cared for.

The earnings from each source were:—Beche-de-mer and copra £556, cattle £114, pearls £5, and a quantity of fancy work was made and sold by the women, who also from the proceeds made clothing for themselves, the children, and old men.



Good supplies of sweet potatoes, bananas, pineapples, cocoanuts, pumpkins, melons, &c., were grown and issued for food.

The head station gardens have been wallaby-netted, the enclosure fenced, and three cattle yards erected. Ten acres of fresh ground have also been cleared for cocoanuts; 500 seed nuts have been planted, and 2 acres of ground are being tried with date seeds.

At Weipa and Aurukun the income was in the same way supplemented by earnings from beche-de-mer fishing, sandalwood cutting, and the food relief by garden produce. As far as funds allowed the bush people were encouraged by an allowance of rations to settle to some steady productive work on the station, but they frequently had to be allowed to go "bush" to hunt for food.

The sawmill plants also cut a good supply of timber for mission improvements.

A number of the reliable single men took employment in the neighbouring cattle stations.

At Mitchell River the most important industry is the cattle-breeding, but at the new farming station on the Magnificent River good crops of vegetables, &c., were raised for food. The school has been established on agricultural college lines, where the children learn practical gardening, and in this way not only maintain themselves in vegetables, but contribute towards the head station need.

At Mornington Island the following income was earned:—From beche-de-mer £427, sandalwood £78, turtle shell £10, and 20 tons of food crops, such as pineapples, papaws, bananas, melons, peanuts, tomatoes, pumpkins, and potatoes, were grown and used.

An assistant's cottage, a roomy store room, and a 40-foot-long building for workshop and toolhouse, were erected, all from timber cut and squared by the natives.

The stock now comprises 4 horses, 65 head of cattle, 107 goats, and 2 pigs.

At Cape Bedford the community farms raised 40 tons of sweet potatoes, 130 bunches of bananas, some thousands of pineapples and cocoanuts, 55 bushels of maize, and a good supply of cassava. A ton of peanuts was also sold for £33. This was exclusive of produce of the private family gardens. One man from his own garden was able to supply nearly a ton of vegetables to the head station during the shipping strike. Twenty-six bullocks were killed from the herd for beef, and a plentiful supply of milk was obtained for part of the year.

The earnings from beche-de-mer fishing amounted to £160.

At Yarrabah the gardens at Oombunghi and Reeve Creek provided good supplies of vegetables and fruits for use of the institution, and the new superintendent is considerably extending this necessary side of mission activity.

The fine sawmill has been kept occupied supplying material for a number of buildings in course of erection, and some outside orders were supplied.

A number of young men are receiving skilled training as carpenters, mechanics, electricians, &c. Some revenue has been earned cutting sleepers and burning charcoal.

At Mona Mona 80 tons of sweet potatoes were grown and used for food. One thousand banana suckers were planted out, and 30 acres of artificial grasses sown.

Timber-getting and sawmilling have been the principal revenue-producing industries, the earnings from that source approximating £2,000.

At Moa Island (St. Paul's Mission) the inmates practically maintain themselves from their own gardens and by engaging in the beche-de-mer fishing.

Two native companies have been formed and work their own boats. One of these started late in the year with no capital, obtained a pearling vessel, fitted her with diving apparatus, and in less than six months, besides maintaining their families ashore, paid off practically half of the cost of the venture.

The other company, in one year, after paying off their boat and all expenses, divided £700, banked £200, and placed £20 to a sinking fund.

In July a new mission station was opened at Lockhart River, under the Torres Strait Anglican Mission, to provide for the natives of the camps on the east coast of the Peninsula and ensure control of the recruiting of these men for the fishing industry. A temporary camp has been established and much work done, preparing for the permanent mission. A good-sized ketch has also been acquired. The natives are coming in from all the neighbouring inland as well as coastal camps in a very satisfactory manner.

The settlement voluntarily established at Small River, near Cape York, by natives of mainland camps, is interesting as evidence of the growing appreciation by the native of the advantages of the life of industry and order. Until a trained native mission teacher was sent to open school there recently, these people carried on a simple village life, in imitation of that seen on the islands of Torres Strait, governing themselves, working their fishing boats and gardens, and doing their trading through the Protector at Thursday Island. The villagers own two boats, and last year earned £487 by sale of fishing produce.

At Purga the breadwinners of the village have found ample employment offering to enable them to provide for their families on the reserve, and others have been occupied in the mission gardens and cultivations. A good supply of vegetables and produce has been raised.

*Recreation.*—The people enter heartily into all forms of outdoor recreation and keenly enjoy football, cricket, swimming, foot racing, &c. They are also very fond of hunting and fishing.

*Social Progress.*—There is gratifying evidence on the mission of a steady progress in civilisation, and a growing appreciation by the people of the advantages of the settled orderly life. The old myalls are loath to leave their free,

wandering life, especially while native foods are plentiful, but they see the benefit of bringing the children to the mission and leaving them to be educated. It is on these young people and the education they receive that the civilised community is built up. The transition from the gunyah to the cottage is, to them, by this method, not the wrench felt by the old ones. These young people, on reaching marriageable age, settle naturally into the new life and do not find the call to the walk-about so insistent. The

old people, hovering in the offing, are often slowly drawn by this influence into accepting mission shelter, if not adopting a modified form of the civilised life.

As the family life develops, ambition is aroused for even better conditions, and in many places the first civilised home, a thatch hut of one or two rooms with earthen floor, has given place to a roomy bungalow built of timber, on stumps, with wide verandas and rooms furnished with a pleasing evidence of taste and refinement.

ABORIGINALS PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 31st December, 1923 .. ..	9,174 18.11	Barambah Building Improvements—	
Collections—		Wages .. .. .	686 11 0
Estate deceased .. .. .	1,098 17 3	Material .. .. .	11 11 6
Unclaimed bank balances .. .. .	1,344 5 2	Grants—	
Transfers—		Yarrabah Mission .. .. .	1,000 0 0
Bank accounts of departed natives and wages and bank accounts banked for convenience .. .. .	166 5 11	Lockhart River Mission—	
Interest on A.P.P. Account .. .. .	180 18 5	Cost of ketch .. .. .	500 0 0
Interest and cash on War Bond, half-caste soldiers .. .. .	65 3 6	Establishment expenditure .. .. .	223 8 9
Interest on settlement joint accounts	417 6 11	Refunds—	
Refunds—		Proceeds sale of pearls from Thursday Island .. .. .	325 19 6
Advance Account loans .. .. .	65 1 0	To relatives deceased estates .. .. .	1,065 14 3
Payment of Aboriginal Accounts, &c.	48 0 8	To others whose bank balances were banked for convenience .. .. .	1,120 10 2
Expenditure on school bar accounts payable from contingencies vote	294 6 8	Christmas goods, settlement interest accounts .. .. .	597 5 4
Loans, Torres Strait islands boats ..	584 13 3	Various payment, Aboriginal Accounts and destitute natives .. .. .	31 12 10
Proceeds—		Loans—	
Sale of pearls from Thursday Island	480 9 6	Advance account .. .. .	125 0 0
Sale of beans from Palm Island .. ..	85 6 6	Palm Island .. .. .	10 0 0
		Burials, destitute natives .. .. .	14 10 0
		Miscellaneous .. .. .	42 10 5
		Balance, 31st December, 1924 .. ..	5,754 13 9
			8,250 19 11
	<u>£14,005 13 8</u>		<u>£14,005 13 8</u>

The expenditure on relief administration amounted to £48,661, and the collections throughout the State of aboriginals' earnings, wages, store sales, sale of produce of fishing vessels, settlements, &c., amounted to £152,166.

**Report upon the Operations of certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department - Aboriginal Department, Information contained in Report for the year ended 31st December 1924**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

RS 25.4/3

[www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/qld\\_prot\\_list.html](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/qld_prot_list.html)  
vn1594192-7x\_a.pdf