

1946.
—
QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Native Affairs, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Institution
for Inebriates (Dunwich), Eventide Home (Charters
Towers), and Queensland Industrial Institution for
the Blind (South Brisbane).

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:
BY AUTHORITY: A. H. TUCKER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

A. 33—1946.

Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Department of Health and Home Affairs.

Department of Health and Home Affairs,
Brisbane, 14th October, 1946.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS.

SIR,—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.

R. H. ROBINSON,
Under Secretary.

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Director, C. O'Leary).
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, E. P. Kelleher).
INSTITUTION FOR INEBRIATES, DUNWICH (Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Manager, J. E. Townsley).

Native Affairs—Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1946.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit Annual Report under "*The Aboriginal Preservation and Protection Act of 1939*" and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939*" as at the 30th June, 1946.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of aboriginals, half-bloods, and Torres Strait Islanders is:—

Aboriginals	.. ..	9,300
Half-bloods	.. ..	6,480
Torres Strait Islanders		3,800

Aboriginals and half-bloods are to the extent of 42 per cent. located on Government Settlements and Church Missions. The areas and population of these Institutions are:—

	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
	Acres.			
Palm Island Government Settlement	15,510	806	509	1,315
Cherbourg Government Settlement	26,765	126	750	876
Woorabinda Government Settlement	54,800	459	384	843
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England)	39,710	200	357	557
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	588,400	342	7	349
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	554,880	300	1	301
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	616,320	665	16	681
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian)	860,800	112	159	271
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian)	1,216,000	652	8	660
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian)	1,600,000	157	..	157
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian)	245,120	215	17	232
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	318	164	93	257
Doomadgee Mission (Brethern)	57,600	122	30	152
Purga Mission (Salvation Army)	628	5	29	34
Total	5,876,851	4,325	2,360	6,985

The remainder—viz., 4,975 full-bloods, 4,120 half-bloods—are located on country reserves and camps in country towns and on cattle stations where they are employed. The total also includes nomads.

A complete census of the aboriginal population has not been taken since before the war, but the foregoing figures can be accepted as authentic, being based on records of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs.

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS.

The organisation set up during the war years for the employment of mobile gangs of aboriginals harvesting food crops has continued to such extent that in any calling where a shortage of white labour exists, aboriginal and half-blood labour is made available and employed under award conditions.

During the war the record of these gangs was good and their reputation as efficient workers

is still maintained. There are approximately 200 aboriginals and half-bloods employed harvesting cane in North Queensland and in the Bundaberg area. A gang of 35 men was sent from Yarrabah Mission and Palm Island Settlement to harvest maize on the Atherton Tableland. To assist in harvesting arrowroot at Coomera, 57 men were sent from Woorabinda Settlement.

Additional to this labour there are approximately 3,500 aboriginals in various callings throughout the State, the majority being engaged in the pastoral industry. For the year their earnings totalled £200,000.

It is an accepted fact that were it not for aboriginal labour supplied by Church Missions and Government Settlements to the pastoral industry, particularly in the north-west and west of Queensland during the war years, this industry would have been in a parlous state for labour.

ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS EMPLOYED IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY.

Practically every available Torres Strait Islander, totalling 700, is now employed in the marine industry gathering pearl-shell and trochus-shell. Of this number, approximately 100 are employed on boats owned by registered pearling companies, the balance are engaged gathering marine produce on their own boats.

Torres Strait Islanders now possess 32 pearling vessels. This fleet, controlled by the Department of Native Affairs, is the largest individual fleet engaged in the industry in Australia. During the year it has been built up from five vessels to its present number through the efforts of Islanders, who from their war savings have been able to purchase luggers and cutters for cash. The expenditure by these men of the sum of £15,000 cash in rehabilitating themselves in the marine industry constitutes a record that can be favourably compared with any community in Australia.

With the high prices operating for pearl-shell—now approximately £600 per ton, comparable with £200 pre-war—and trochus-shell, £93 per ton, comparable with £80 pre-war—the islanders are by their piecework system of employment earning wages three to four times greater than the basic wage determined by the Queensland Government for the employment of islanders and aboriginals with private companies.

There are approximately 40 aboriginals apart from islanders employed in privately owned boats.

The terms and conditions of employment of island and aboriginal workers in the marine industry contained in the *Government Gazette* of 3rd August, 1946, are as follows:—

TITLE.

These Regulations may be cited as "The Islanders' Regulations, 1946."

EMPLOYMENT ON VESSELS.

2. (1) The wages payable to an islander employed in pursuance of the Acts shall not be less than the rates set out in this Regulation.

Minimum wages rates for islanders employed in the trochus industry:—

(a) When the price per ton of trochus-shell, free on board, at Thursday Island is:—

(i.) Up to and not exceeding £99:—

Captain .. £14 0 0 per month

Able-bodied members of the crew .. £10 0 0 „ „

Members of the crew other than able-bodied .. £6 0 0 „ „

(ii.) £100 and upwards not exceeding £119:—

Captain .. £17 0 0 per month

Able-bodied members of the crew .. £12 10 0 „ „

Members of the crew other than able-bodied .. £8 0 0 „ „

(iii.) £120 and upwards:—

Captain .. £20 0 0 per month

Able-bodied members of the crew .. £15 0 0 „ „

Members of the crew other than able-bodied .. £10 0 0 „ „

Provided that in addition to these prescribed minimum wages rates, a bonus payment shall be made to the captain and crew of every vessel which produces within a season trochus-shell in excess of 30 tons.

Such bonus payment shall be computed at the rate of 50 per cent. of the average price per ton for trochus-shell, free on board, Thursday Island, during that particular season, and in respect of every ton in excess of the thirty tons first produced by any vessel.

Such bonus payments shall be divided between the captain and crew in the proportions of:—

Captain .. £7 10 0 per ton.

Crew Proportionally to the "catch" of each man for the "Season."

Minimum wages rates of islanders employed in the pearl-shell industry.

(b) When the price per ton of pearl-shell free on board, at Thursday Island is:—

(i) Up to and not exceeding £299:—

Captain .. £14 0 0 per month

Able-bodied members of the crew .. £10 0 0 „ „

Members of the crew other than able-bodied .. £6 0 0 „ „



Pearling Lugger, Torres Strait.



Torres Strait Islanders' Fleet.

(ii.) £300 and upwards not exceeding £359:—

Captain ..	£17	0	0	per month
Able-bodied members of the crew ..	£12	10	0	„ „
Members of the crew other than able-bodied ..	£8	0	0	„ „

(iii.) £360 and upwards:—

Captain ..	£20	0	0	per month
Able-bodied members of the crew ..	£15	0	0	„ „
Members of the crew other than able-bodied ..	£10	0	0	„ „

Provided that in addition to these prescribed minimum wages rates, a bonus payment shall be made to the captain and crew of every vessel which produces within a season pearl-shell in excess of 10 tons.

Such bonus payments shall be computed at the rate of 50 per cent. of the average price per ton for pearl-shell, free on board, Thursday Island, during that particular season, and in respect of every ton in excess of the 10 tons first produced by any vessel.

Such bonus payment shall be divided between the captain and crew in the proportions of:—

Captain ..	£22	10	0	per ton.
Crew ..	Proportionally	to the	“catch”	of each man for the “Season.”

(2) The rates of payment as prescribed are in addition to food, which shall be provided by the employer free of charge, though the employee shall be liable for payment of any clothing or tobacco obtained for him by his employer at his request.

(3) A “season” for the purposes of this regulation shall be regarded as commencing on the first day of February in any one year, and expiring on the thirty-first day of January of the succeeding year.

3. Should an employer fail to observe the provisions of these regulations with regard to the employment of any islander, the agreement of hiring of the islander for employment on the vessel, signed by the islander concerned in the presence of the Shipping Master, as well as the permit for the employment of the islander concerned issued by the Protector of Islanders, shall be deemed to be terminated but without prejudice to any proceedings for the recovery of any wages and bonus payments due, under these regulations, to any such islander, in any court of competent jurisdiction, or to any proceedings against the employer on his failure to comply with any provision of the Acts.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, MR. G. R. ROBERTS.)
HEALTH.

Visits were paid to the Settlement by Doctors Warner, Hayes, Reye, and St. Vincent Welch. Mr. Thompson of the Hookworm Campaign

spent several weeks on the Settlement making a survey and intense examination of residents to determine the incidence of hookworm and to arrange for treatment.

An optometrist also examined the eyes of many natives and in all cases recommended by him spectacles were provided.

HOSPITAL.

Particulars of treatment for the year ended 31st December, 1945:—

Pulmonary	66
Accidents	85
General—	
Cardiac	13
Diarrhoea and Gastro-Enteritis	71
Tonsillitis	39
Cephalalgia	67
Epilepsy	6
Otitis Media	24
Asthma	11
Rheumatism	23
Boils	48
Tinia	12
Epidemics—	
Conjunctivitis	53
Scabies	55
Common Colds	58
Immunisation—	
Hookworm Treatment	877
Diphtheria Prophylactic Treatment	76
Gonorrhoea (1-1-45 to 31-8-45)—	
Transferred to Fantome Island	12
Treated here with Penicillin	31
Penicillin treatment for non-V.Ds.	29
Number of visits by outpatients	24,296
Number of visits by Medical Officer	406
Number of visits by Welfare Officer	159
Number of births from 1-1-45 to 31-12-45	42
Number of deaths from 1-1-45 to 31-12-45	41
Deaths of children under the age of 12 months:	
Cause of death—	
Broncho-Pneumonia	3
Gastro-Enteritis	1
Purulent-Meningitis	1
Meningeal Septicaemia	1
Premature Birth	1
Deaths of children between the ages of 1 and 2 years: Cause of death—	
Lobar-Pneumonia	1
Broncho-Pneumonia and Marasmus	1
Acute Heart Failure	1
Broncho-Pneumonia and Infective Diarrhoea	1
Dental Treatment—	
Number of extractions	200
Lock Hospital (31-8-45 to 31-12-45)—	
Number of patients transferred from Fantome Island	13
Number of V.D. patients admitted since transfer from Fantome Island	41
Number of V.D. patients discharged to 31-12-45	21
Number of births in Lock Hospital	1
Number of deaths in Lock Hospital	2

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Industrial activities on the Settlement come under the following headings:—Sawmill; Refrigeration; Training.

The sawmill is maintained for Settlement purposes, supplying all timber for native huts, bridges, fences, gates, boat-building, etc. Besides these functions, however, the sawmill provides a training ground for natives in all phases of the operation of a sawmill. Additional to the operation of the mill is the experience gained

by natives in bushwork, such as timber-getting, handling bullock teams, and the preparation of charcoal for fuel purposes at the mill. The Settlement refrigeration plant is operated by natives under supervision, and experience in this class of work is gained. Ice is made available to the natives to encourage them to preserve foodstuffs in good order.

In the general conduct of the Settlement, building, plumbing, and other operations incidental to the building trade are carried out by natives under supervision.

The comprehensive works programme being undertaken is providing many natives with the opportunity of becoming proficient, and their usefulness in the industrial sphere should steadily improve.

In brief, all the industries carried on within the limits of the Settlement, namely, timber-getting, sawmilling, charcoal-burning, carpentering, plumbing, blacksmithing, road and bridge construction, boat-building, &c., are those associated with the operation of a small country town.

BUILDING.

Work in this direction was impeded during the year by lack of materials, but despite this handicap reasonable progress was made in connection with the following improvements:—

- (1) Buildings from Fantome Island Lock Hospital removed to Palm Island and partly re-erected.
- (2) Extensive repairs effected to the junior girls' dormitory.
- (3) General maintenance of existing administrative buildings, also repairs to native huts and houses.
- (4) General maintenance of settlement roads and the provision of additional water facilities. In all, eleven wells were put down.
- (5) Attention to the requirements of the Fantome Island Lazaret, including the sinking of two wells. Before the end of this year it is expected that a communal dining hall will be erected, additions to the Settlement hospital carried out, and other works of a permanent character will have been completed. The successful completion of this programme is dependent to a large extent on the supply position improving.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ORGANISATION.

The natives, with the guidance of white officials, have formed a Social and Welfare Association which embraces all phases of cultural, social and sporting activities.

Up to the 31st December, 1945, this association was in the chrysalis stage, but it can now be said to have emerged as an important factor in the lives of the people.

Their own sports meetings, dancing, boxing, football and the like on a clean competitive basis are encouraged. Not only in these direc-

tions is the association of value, but, more important, it is endeavouring to encourage an interest on the part of the natives in their surroundings, a proper appreciation of the virtues of a more social existence, and the welfare of the people as a whole. Native arts and crafts, as well as modern domestic arts, are also encouraged.

If the Welfare Association were effective to a slight degree only it would have been of benefit to the natives and to the administration, but it is pleasing to report that this organisation has, to date, achieved a degree of success that is very commendable. It is to be hoped that it will continue to be a live force in the general conduct of the natives' affairs.

The following report by the association furnishes details of its many activities:—

Membership.—The Executive Committee, which constitutes the governing body of this Welfare Association, consist of a patron (the Superintendent), president and 13 native members, each representing some social or sporting organisation on this Settlement. The general secretary, who is a native, is gradually becoming quite conversant with secretarial routine, and besides keeping a very up-to-date and efficient record of the minutes of each meeting, he now assists in writing out town orders for the association, and has learnt to file correspondence, as well as attend to numerous other secretarial duties. His efforts, along with that of the native show secretary, were very commendable, and conjointly were the means of conducting the recent show so successfully.

Sports.—During the year various forms of sport were organised and conducted, and these included such activities as boxing, football, cricket, tennis, basket ball, vigoro, swimming, life-saving work and cycling, as well as general sports embracing running, jumping, wood chopping, horse events, &c.

Fishing.—Several fishing contests were held and quite a large portion of the fish caught were handed over to the hospital for the patients there.

Visits.—A social service of no mean value was the visitation to the leper inmates at Fantome Island. Accompanied by the brass band and a concert party, several visits were made for the express purpose of entertaining the leper inmates to a band recital and other concert items. On such occasions, churns of ice cream, cakes, sandwiches, and cordials served to entertain the patients to a picnic treat. This was very much appreciated and helped to bring a ray of happiness into their confined lives.

Canteens.—A canteen conducted every alternate Saturday has met with much success financially, and by this means we have been able to make available to the natives such dainties as ice creams, cakes, sandwiches, fruit, soft drinks, and more recently the supply of pasteurised milk from town.

Home Project.—Through the medium of a home developing project, it has been possible to improve the general standard of cleanliness

of many of the native homes. Gardens have been established and much self-effort on the part of the natives themselves can now be seen throughout the Settlement. Despite drought conditions there are still many attractive gardens around some of these native houses.

Community Development.—Synonymous with the home development project was that of a community development project. Not only has the individual native home improved, but natives are now taking a civic pride in their neighbouring surroundings, and whole groups of cottages may be seen to be neatly enclosed by a fence, with an attractive garden around the house, and the street in the immediate vicinity kept clean and free from weeds. Every encouragement is given to householders, irrespective of whether they live in a coconut-plaited hut or a more up-to-date wooden or fibrolite cottage.

School.—The school is the general meeting place for all welfare meetings, and these are held fortnightly. Quite recently the native Boy Scout Troop purchased a small electric lighting plant and installed it at the school, where it is used by them, as well as by the welfare association, and for night functions held at the school. This lighting proved a most valuable asset during the show festivities. It is quite an acquisition to the place and full use will be made of it.

Boy Scouts.—Although the local Scout movement is not directly affiliated with the welfare association, its many activities are closely watched by the welfare members, and every assistance is given to it by the welfare association.

Scout Camp.—Quite an up-to-date scout camp is being established on Esk Island and arrangements have been made for this island to be wholly reserved for native scouts as a suitable training camp for them.

Preparatory to going into camp at Esk Island, the young native scout boys practise making models of the things they will be called upon to make on a full size scale at Esk Island.

Social Training.—Since this welfare movement is designated a Social and Welfare Association it is the desire that these natives should be given some idea of conducting social functions other than the holding of dances or concerts, and its latest achievement was a banquet party as a welcome to all visitors, delegates and representatives from other settlements to the show.

Arts and Crafts Show.—By far the greatest achievement for the year was the holding of our annual Arts and Crafts Show in July. Almost 1,000 entries were received from the natives, including entries from Cherbourg and Woorabinda Settlements, and many and various were the exhibits displayed.

Farm Exhibit.—The high light of the pavilion display was the non-competitive display of local farm produce grown under drought conditions. Visitors to the show, including some hundred visitors from Townsville, greatly admired this display, and were laudable in their praise of its

general excellence, stating it compared very favourably with that of similar exhibits seen recently on the mainland.

Townsville Exhibit.—Prior to our show, Townsville District Show was held and this association was invited to send along a non-competitive display. The invitation was readily accepted and a really attractive display was staged there, which was well received by the general public and served to cement a closer bond of friendship and interest between this Settlement and its outside contacts. This display also did much to advertise our show and give people some idea of what the native is capable of doing.

Schedule.—A very attractive schedule was prepared and printed, and copies of it were posted to every person on the mainland employing a native from this Settlement. By this means the schedule had a very wide circulation, and some appreciative letters were received from some of the recipients. The selling of space to Townsville tradesmen for advertising, met with qualified success and we were able to show a profit over and above the printing costs.

Souvenir Buttons.—Another venture, inaugurated to raise funds for the association, and the show in particular, was the selling of celluloid buttons which were distinctively Palm Island. A photo of a schoolgirl seated in a giant clam-shell was used and now we have a souvenir that visitors to Palm Island feel proud to wear. This has been quite a successful financial venture by the association.

Palm Island Booklet.—In addition to the selling of souvenir celluloid buttons, a very neat and attractive booklet has been prepared and printed. This booklet, besides setting out in pictorial fashion the progress and development of this Settlement during the past quarter of a century, also contains several pages of interesting information.

Hostess.—A more recent innovation has been the appointment by this association of a suitable woman to act as hostess on Hayles' and Taylor's launches when they visit Palm Island each week bringing with them native passengers and tourists. Not only will this hostess attend to the requirements of the tourist passengers making the trip, but she will give special attention to any native women and children travelling to and from Palm Island by these boats. Morning and afternoon teas will be sold by her to the passengers at a nominal rate, and she may also dispose of souvenirs or other curios for the welfare association. By mingling among the passengers she will be able to enlighten tourists of what is expected of them when they come ashore on Palm Island, what places of interest they may be able to visit during their short stay ashore, and so make the trip a pleasurable one for visitors, and render a social service.

Finance.—The total receipts of cash handled exceeded all expectations, and during our period of operation approximately £1,200 was received.

This amount was mainly made up of the proceeds of sales of ice creams, refreshments, soft drinks, and some commodities that were not stocked in the retail store and were purchased

for resale to the natives. These included fishing lines and hooks, fancy work for the show, the sale of Island stationery, and other items.

The sale of souvenir celluloid buttons and the selling of advertising space in our show schedules were also profitable.

Although the gross takings were reasonably large, the expenditure connected therewith was equally heavy, and at present the association's savings bank account is showing a credit balance of just on £400. Against this amount, there are still a number of accounts awaiting payment, and the total liabilities would be approximately £170, thus reducing the credit balance to £230 when all commitments are met. Against this, the association has approximately £140 worth of assets, which, when fully realised, will bring the credit balance back to approximately £370 on the year's turnover.

GENERAL.

There has been a constant demand for labour, which far exceeds the supply. The labour requirements of the Settlement must have first priority in view of the work of a developmental character being undertaken here and maintenance.

In order to mark the cessation of hostilities, Christmas 1945 was treated as an extra special occasion. A sports meeting was held and supplementary foodstuffs were obtained for the native population.

The transport requirements of the Settlement were alleviated during the year by the acquisition of two barges. They have proved a useful addition to the Settlement's floating craft. They have been a means towards expeditious handling of cargoes brought by coastal steamers and have been of great value in transporting materials from Townsville and the demolished buildings from Fantome Island.

The hygiene and sanitation in the Settlement was overhauled during the year and a new nightsoil disposal area, approved by the Health Inspector, was opened up and better facilities than had hitherto been available were provided.

The dormitories in which are housed young women, small girls and boys, senior boys and senior girls are maintained in satisfactory order. The numbers of inmates are as follows:—

Woman and Small Girls	120
Boys' Home	40
Girls' Home	50

These dormitories are all equipped with wireless sets, which are greatly appreciated.

Female labour for the various sections is drawn, in the main, from the young women in the dormitories. In this way they receive training as nursing assistants, domestics, &c.

During the year, action was taken to use women not usefully employed on the Settlement and without sufficient family responsibilities to keep them adequately occupied as part-time labour. These women have performed the tasks allotted to them in a satisfactory manner.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(SUPERINTENDENT, W. PORTEOUS SEMPLE.)

HEALTH.

Hospital.—Particulars of treatment for the year ended 31st December, 1945:—

	Male.	Female.
Number of patients in hospital first day of year	7	6
Number of patients admitted	324	448
Number of births	16	17
Number of deaths	7	15
Number of patients discharged	337	448
In hospital last day of year	3	8
Number of patients days	3,488	4,606
Daily average	9.5	12.6

Outpatients treated—3,912.

Total number of visits—15,992.

Minor operations—16.

Dr. Underwood—24 special visits, 52 weekly.

Staff employed at hospital—One matron, two sisters.

Native staff—4 ward girls, 1 dispensary girl, 1 cook and 1 assistant cook, 2 laundresses, 1 ward boy (day duty), 1 ward boy (night duty), 1 dispensary boy.

Causes of Death, 1945—

Myocarditis Epilepsy	1
Gastro-Enteritis	1
Septicaemia Stomatitis	1
Meningeal Irritation	1
Senile Myocarditis	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1
Pneumonia Septicaemia	1
Pulmonary Haemorrhage T.B.	3
Pneumococcal Meningitis	1
Pustular Dermatitis Toxaemia	1
Broncho-Pneumonia	5
Premature Birth	1
Diaphragmatic Rupture (congenital)	1
Infected Sores Toxabuca	1

Building.—The following buildings were painted:—

Hospital—exterior and interior.
Nurses' quarters—interior.
Girls' dormitory—exterior.
Babies' dormitory—exterior and interior.
Boys' dormitory—exterior and interior.
Butcher's shop—exterior.
Police barracks—exterior.
Gaol—exterior.
Young men's home—exterior.

Young Men's Home.—The floor was taken up and relaid with a good 4 x 1 T. & G. hardwood floor. The walls were lined with fibro cement and casement windows were put in to give light. This building is now being used as a school, which is very suitable.

Boys' Home.—Repairs were made to this, namely, proper lighting was made into dining-room, a new stove was put in the kitchen, repairs were made to the bathroom and when painted inside was most effective. This building was used as a show pavilion.

Hospital.—A hot-water system was installed to supply the whole of the hospital and nurses' quarters with a good supply of continuous hot water.

Laundry.—A new laundry was built, including built-in boiler, capacity of 50 gallons, with built-in washtubs and cement floor.

Sports Ground.—The old fence was taken down and a new one erected using most of the old timber. The ring was made into a perfect oval and a little bit larger. Yards were erected to keep bullocks in while holding them for camp drafting or bullock riding. A road was made and graded to the sports ground and trees



Mustering Cattle, Cherbourg.



Cherbourg Settlement Sawmill.

planted to form an avenue. These trees were not much of a success, most of them dying. Others have been replanted.

Sawmill.—The mill, through needing repairs, did not work the whole year, but the following timber was put through:—

	Super. Feet.
Hardwood	28,178
Pine	17,225
Hardwood dressed	3,244
Pine dressed	4,108
Pine sent to Palm Island	1,120

WELFARE ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES.

Meetings of the Welfare Association are held monthly.

Report of Show Committee.—The first annual show of the Cherbourg Show Society was held on the 13th and 14th September, 1945.

A schedule comprising ring events, vegetables, flowers, fancy work, culinary, school work (manual training, domestic and primary), and Boy Scouts, attracted entries numbering 1,084.

The show was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs (Hon. T. A. Foley, M.L.A.), in the presence of members of the Queensland Parliament, Messrs. C. O'Leary (Director of Native Affairs), O. S. Wallace, Esq. (Chairman, Murgon Shire Council), J. A. Heading, Esq. (President Murgon P. A. and H. Society), and Professor Elkin of Sydney University, and a large attendance of the outside public.

The ring events were keenly contested. In some instances the horses were not up to show standard. It is one of the aims of a show society to raise the standard of exhibits.

The hall section of the show attracted large entries and the standard of exhibits was good, causing keen competition, which brought many complimentary remarks from the judges.

The show was of good educational value to the inmates of the Settlement in raising their standard in the art of cookery, needlework, and the growing of vegetables and flowers. From that point of view the show was a great success, and many natives have indicated that they will improve the quality of their exhibits in the next show.

The committee desire to thank the business houses in Murgon for their generous and willing financial help in the printing of the schedule and the judges who gave their time and experience.

The committee handed to the welfare association £88, which was the profit from the show, for the welfare of the inmates of this Settlement. It is hoped with the experience gained that the second annual show, which will be held in March next year, will be a greater success than the first venture.

Queen Competition.—Prior to the show, a Queen Competition was held which raised £524—a very great effort. There were three queens—Hospital, Sporting Bodies, and Dormitory. The Hospital Queen won the competition, the queen being crowned by Professor Elkin of the Sydney University. At the crowning ceremony the Director was present, together with the Chairman of the Shire Council and other visitors.

Sporting.—Under the name of "The Cherbourg Rugby League," football was revived on the Settlement during the 1945 season under the presidency of Mr. Simon Nielsen. Three Premierships rounds, a Knock-out round and a Murgon Ambulance round were played on the Settlement, resulting in a win for the Rover Football Club in the Premiership and for the Kookaburra Club in the Knock-out and Ambulance rounds. To the Premiership was attached a cup presented by Mr. J. J. Tobin of Murgon and to the Murgon Ambulance round a cup presented by the President of the Murgon Branch of the Q.A.T.B. Collections for the Murgon Ambulance were taken up on the final of their Cup round.

In representative play during the season the Cherbourg Rugby League was undefeated. Their wins were:—

- V. South Burnett—26 to 14.
- V. Jandowae—24 to 9.
- V. South Burnett—33 to 10.
- V. Lower South Burnett—24 to 8.
- V. Kingaroy—25 to 11.
- V. Toowoomba Representative Reserve Grade—32 to 8.

Three new sets of jerseys were purchased during the season and the Department assisted by supplying a quantity of football boots.

During the season the first home match in the history of the Settlement was played at Cherbourg against the South Burnett and a gate of £77 resulted. This was a record to that date for a match in the South Burnett district. It was decided during the season that in the 1946 season an effort be made to have a junior and minor-junior fixture in addition to the senior fixture.

In addition to the three sets of club jerseys purchased, new representative jerseys (white with red collars) were obtained. To this were attached representative monograms worked by girls of the camp and dormitories. These, with white football knickers, made a very effective and striking uniform. Unfortunately it was not possible to purchase football socks during the season to complete the uniform.

Football financed itself during the season and, in addition, contributed a fairly substantial credit to welfare funds.

The conduct and discipline of the travelling representative team, and particularly their sportsmanship on the field of play, was something of which the Department might be proud. This was voiced by the public frequently during the season.

Boxing.—Boxing has proved very popular during the year, tournaments being held at regular intervals on the Settlement. Boxers have met opponents from Kingaroy, Proston, and other localities at these tournaments. A tournament was held during the year in aid of the Murgon Branch of the Q.A.T.B. and a tournament in aid of the district candidate of the "Miss Australia" Anzac House Appeal. Arrangements have been made with the Brisbane Stadium management for promising boxers to meet opponents at the Brisbane stadium. This has now become a weekly feature.

Cricket.—Cricket has been played regularly during the season. To date a representative team has visited Tingoora, Stonelands, Murgon,

and teams from Stonelands, Greenview, Murgon, Wondai, and Boat Mountain playing matches against Cherbourg at the Settlement. So far honours have been even. Quite a considerable amount of material has been purchased for the cricket committee.

Tennis.—This committee has had to go into recess owing to the difficulty in procuring materials for the erection of permanent playing courts. It is hoped that the materials required will be procurable within the near future and thus enable this committee to function on a fully organised basis.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, R. W. NAGGS.)

HOSPITAL.

Statistics for the 12 months ended the 30th June, 1945, are:—

Number of patients admitted—	
Males	169
Females	191
Number of births	24
Number of deaths	13
Number of outpatients treated	3,371

The visiting medical officer, Dr. Burke Gaffney, pays regular weekly visits to the Settlement and special visits as required. A new maternity ward was erected and has eased the congestion previously existing.

SAWMILL.

Sawmilling operations were spasmodic owing to the absence of a white sawyer for a considerable portion of the year, but sufficient supplies of timber were available for building requirements. A sawmiller is now permanently on the job and it is anticipated that not less than 12,000 super. feet of hardwood will be cut monthly.

A breaking-down frame to permit of the sawing of large logs, and which the present plant cannot handle, is on order and is expected to be supplied before the end of 1946. This additional equipment should enable a substantial increase in output as well as make possible the cutting of better timber from matured trees.

BUILDING PROGRAMME.

In addition to the new maternity ward mentioned earlier in the report, building operations for the year include:—

- (1) Four native cottages.
- (2) Large garage for the accommodation of the Settlement fleet of trucks.

- (3) Conversion of a large staff house into two flats.
- (4) Commencement of erection of quarters for natives (single men).
- (5) Maintenance and repairs to official buildings. Over the war years this work was of necessity not kept up to date and necessary maintenance has been a big job.

Experience has shown that native carpenters work better under the control and guidance of white tradesmen, but efforts to obtain the services of a white carpenter have been unavailing.

ANNUAL SHOW.

The annual show, which was arranged for June, was postponed until early in July. Seasonal conditions were most unfavourable, but the committee decided to proceed with the function. Agricultural exhibits were naturally not up to the previous standard, but the deficiency was made up to a great extent by the excellence of exhibits in the Arts and Crafts and School Sections, which were the subject of congratulatory remarks from the visitors, who attended in considerable numbers.

As usual at Woorabinda functions, the main entertainment was the rodeo—bullock riding, buckjumping, &c.—which provided a spectacular display. In all directions, including financially, the show was very successful.

GENERAL.

Extensive developments on Woorabinda, including water supply both for domestic and stock purposes, fencing, clearing, irrigation and ringbarking, together with labour demands for Foleyvale, where 50 men are at present employed, have caused a heavy drain on available manpower. Woorabinda is normally called on more than the other Settlements for labour for the pastoral industry and every man is now fully employed according to his ability.

The demand for female labour for domestic purposes is also greatly in excess of supply.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

CATTLE RAISING OPERATIONS.

The following cattle are depastured on the three Settlements, and the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset is £25,000:—

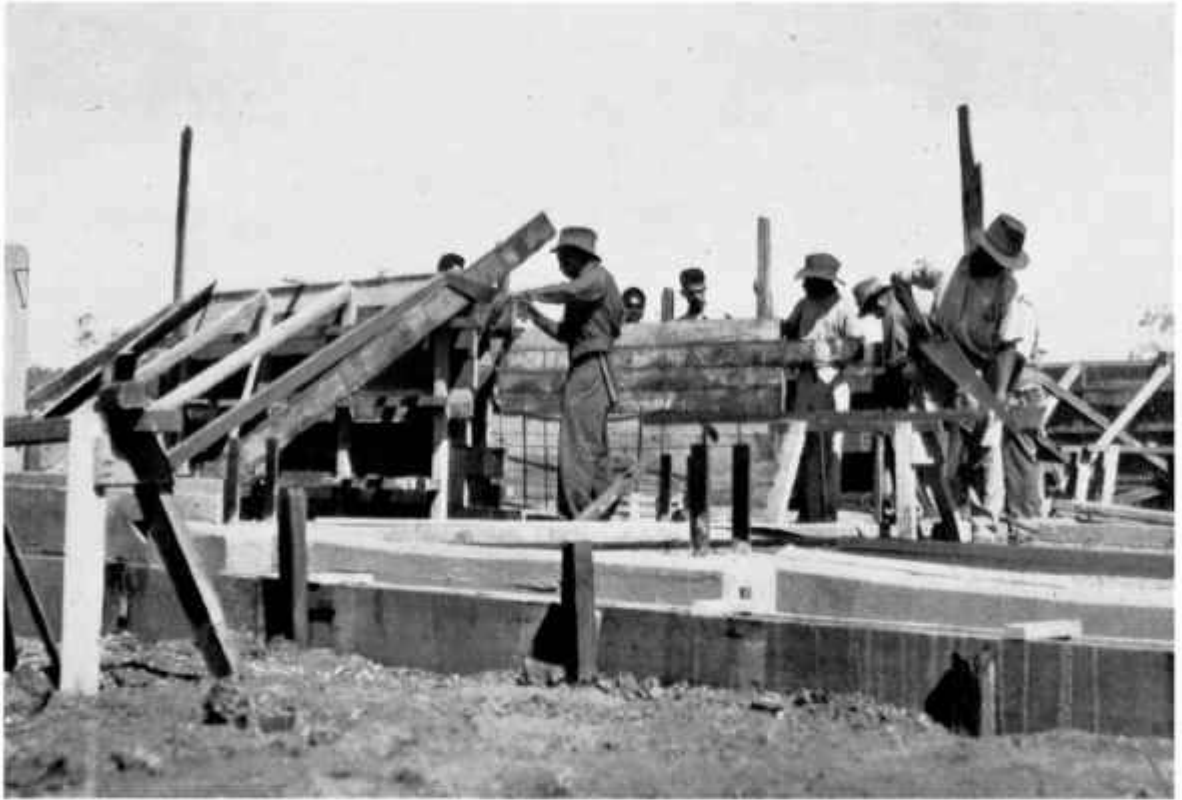
Settlement.	Beef Cattle.									Dairy Cattle.				Horses.			
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Woorabinda	37	1,528	109	..	250	700	18	102	2,744	..	..	..	..	..	47	39	86
Cherbourg ..	20	404	188	167	17	233	17	..	1,046	1	16	3	..	19	10	15	25
Palm Island	..	..	..	20	..	..	98	..	118	3	90	26	26	145	30	19	49
	57	1,932	297	187	267	933	133	102	3,908	4	106	29	26	164	87	73	160



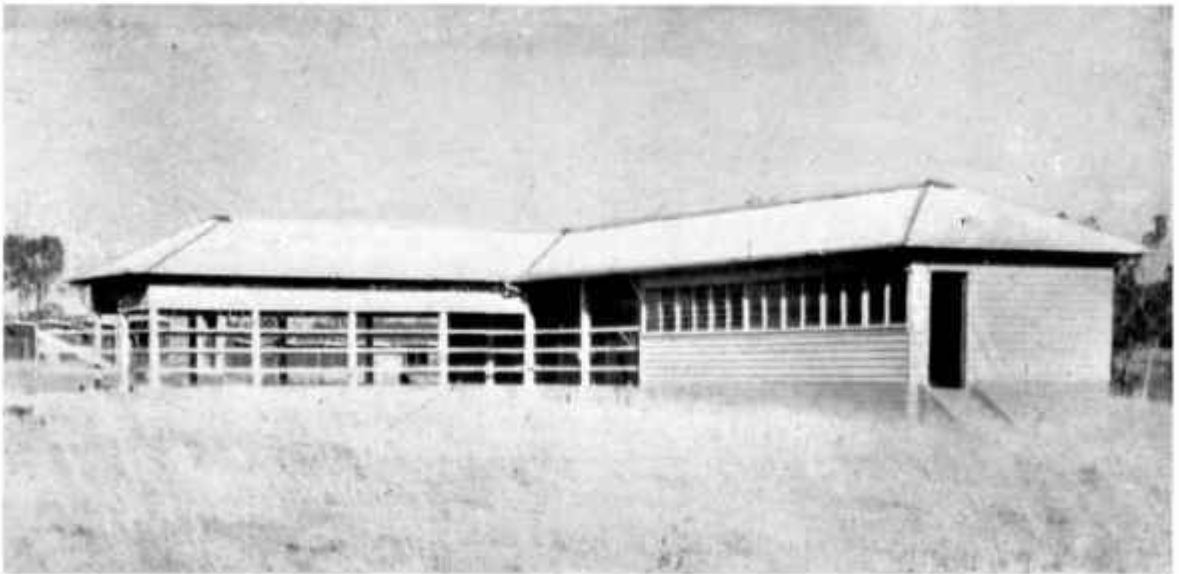
Department's Plant Boring at Cherbourg.



Cherbourg Cattle Watering at Bore.



Native Tradesmen Building Modern Dairy on Training Farm.



Completed Building.



Spray Irrigation, Training Farm.



Aboriginal Tractor Driver, Training Farm.

In addition to the supply of meat for local requirements, the following cattle were surplus and were disposed of:—

	Net return.	
	£	s. d.
32 fat bullocks	362	5 7
137 No. 4 steers	787	15 0
244 No. 5 steers	1,098	0 0
2 cows and 2 calves	13	0 0
	<u>£2,261</u>	<u>0 7</u>

To indicate the returns obtained from cattle-raising operations, it is necessary to add to this figure the sum of £5,500, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlements. Therefore, the return from cattle raised during the year can be fairly quoted at £7,761.

Woorabinda.—Over a period of three years, subnormal rainfalls have handicapped cattle-raising operations and in the year under review the position has become steadily worse and has culminated in a drought of a severity reminiscent of 1902. For the first time in the experience of residents in the locality, large areas of bush timber are dying as a result of the drought, which gives a good indication of its severity.

With the intention of bringing Woorabinda, which is a poor property, comprising in the main third-class grazing land, to its maximum capacity, extensive ringbarking and suckering operations have been undertaken, and an area of approximately 10,000 acres was treated. The benefit of this work is being felt in the present adverse seasonal conditions.

Cherbourg.—During the war years, all available Settlement labour was fully employed in essential rural industries and little was available for Settlement maintenance. However, with the easing of the position, men are now employed ringbarking, suckering and fencing. Ringbarking particularly is urgently required and will be continued until the whole grazing area has been fully improved.

WATER CONSERVATION.

Woorabinda.—Water supplies generally have seriously diminished, but on Woorabinda dam-sinking operations were commenced two years ago in anticipation of a contingency such as the present. Permanent water exists in the sands of Mimosa Creek, which runs through the Settlement, but before the provision of other supplies in dams only about half the area of grazing land was available for stock, the remainder being too remote from water. However, dams sunk have enabled nearly the whole of the Settlement to be grazed almost to full capacity. As a consequence, stock losses have been confined within normal limits and should the drought continue for a further three months, reserves of pasturage will be sufficient to carry on for at least this period. Should the drought continue into the spring months, it will be necessary to remove some of the cattle. Provision therefore has been made, and on Foleyvale there will be room for at least 500 head, which in case of dire urgency could be carried there probably until the end of the year.

Cherbourg.—Seasonal conditions at Woorabinda have been paralleled at Cherbourg. In the past years lack of water has been the cause of serious losses. After investigating the best means of overcoming this disability, a boring plant was purchased and has been kept in full operation over the financial year. Permanent supplies of good-quality stock water have been made available in four holes which have been fully equipped with engine, pump, tank and troughing, and at least 15,000 acres of country, which hitherto was of little or no use in dry seasons, is now available for stocking in all weathers. As a result, losses have been confined within ordinary limits, whereas without the additional water provided at least half the herd must have died.

The value of this boring plant to the Settlement, which cost £300, can be assessed when it is estimated that had water not been secured stock to the value of £3,000 would have been lost.

ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LANDS.

To ensure the maximum results from cattle-raising operations, which could not be obtained on the Woorabinda and Cherbourg properties, and in keeping with Government policy to endeavour to make the aboriginals of the State self-supporting to the maximum extent and to equip the younger people particularly with as full a knowledge as possible of rural industries to enable them, should they be so adapted, to enter this industry either as employees or ultimately as land holders, a farming property known as the Aboriginal Training Farm has been secured near Murgon, and a grazing property, now known as Foleyvale, acquired on the Mackenzie River near Daringa.

Aboriginal Training Farm.—The farm, with an area of 703 acres, of which 130 are irrigable, was purchased in January, 1945, and has proved a success both economically and as a training ground for aboriginals in modern agricultural dairy farming and pig-raising methods. Selected rural school trainees have shown an aptitude to assimilate modern ideas of agriculture and farming, and in eighteen months the tuition knowledge gained by selected youths in equipping themselves to be competent farmers has alone amply justified the Department's move in acquiring such a property.

Already many improvements have been effected, and with the systematic culling of cattle and pigs, and the building of a modern hygienic dairy and piggery, an ambitious programme for improvements has had a very satisfactory beginning.

Stock.—The milking herd includes two pedigreed Jersey bulls purchased from Palen Creek and seven stud-book cows purchased through Mr. Jones at Westbrook. A number of selected heifers have also been acquired and a further thirteen thoroughbred heifers have been bred on the farm. These form a nucleus of a first-class herd. The herd has been registered with the Jersey Cattle Society of Queensland and registration of stock and book entries of calves are being carried out.

Despite two very severe drought seasons cream returns have netted £930 8s. 7d.

Pigs.—A return of £418 4s. 7d. has been received from sales. A purebred boar was purchased from Palen Creek and his progeny have shown good quality and size. One pedigreed sow in litter was also secured from Westbrook Home for Boys farm.

The aim is to ultimately have an entirely pure-bred herd of pigs.

Farming.—Due to drought conditions, farming has had many setbacks, but with irrigation potatoes, lucerne, maize, pumpkins and fodder crops have been successfully grown and receipts from the sale of produce have yielded £295 10s. 2d. Last season 12 acres of potatoes yielded the most successful crop in the district. At present 101 acres have been ploughed and cultivated and by November all will be under crop, including 15 acres of lucerne, 12 acres of potatoes and 20 acres of maize.

The planting of 360 citrus trees on the farm will be undertaken in September.

Buildings.—A modern dairy and pig yards have been completed. They were erected by supervised aboriginal labour and are a credit to the establishment. The dairy, when the water supply system now being installed has been completed, will be one of the finest in the State.

General Improvements.—Despite difficulties in obtaining materials, a steady programme of fencing has been carried out and the clearing and ringbarking of 300 acres have also been completed.

Within six months, installation of electric current will have been completed, ensuring electric power for irrigation and the extension of services to living quarters, dairy and other essential buildings.

Plant.—All available modern plant necessary for the successful working of the farm has been secured. Amongst other items the following were purchased:—

1 1-ton truck,
Tandem disc harrow,
Mower hay rake,
Double row cultivator,
Sundercut.

It is intended to further enlarge the plant and full use will be made of modern farm implements.

An analysis of the expenditure and receipts from this farm, having consideration to the capital expended for its improvement and development, reveals that from the date of purchase until the 30th June, 1946, a credit of £875.

Foleyvale.—Grazing country reserved for the use of this Sub-Department at Cherbourg and Woorabinda Settlements is of inferior quality, and over the years difficulty has been experienced in maintaining a remunerative production. It has been found impossible to maintain stock in fit condition for killing purposes in exceptionally dry periods, and a determined effort

is now being made to rectify the position. Therefore, Foleyvale was acquired as a fattening and agricultural area to ensure—

- (1) A continuity of locally-grown beef for feeding Woorabinda and Cherbourg Settlement inmates, totalling 1,700.
- (2) The production of grain and other fodder for dairy stock, poultry, &c., to be utilised on Government Settlements and disposed of on the open market.
- (3) The training of young aboriginals in up-to-date grazing, fattening and dry and irrigated farming methods.
- (4) Sales of fat stock, receipts from which would offset the costs of running the Settlements and/or finance their further development.

By negotiation with the Land Administration Board an area of approximately 23,000 acres from Balcomba Pastoral Holding was gazetted as an aboriginal reserve and constitutes Foleyvale.

This area is particularly well suited for the purpose for which it was acquired. It has a frontage of approximately 13 miles to the Mackenzie River, which guarantees an abundance of water for all requirements, including irrigation on a substantial scale. The land is of excellent quality and offers good opportunities for development for fattening and agricultural purposes. Certain disabilities exist—viz., the liability of part of the holding to flooding in extremely heavy rainfall, and difficulties of access; these disadvantages will be overcome. When taken over, the property was undeveloped apart from minor ringbarking and fencing. Now a working party of 60 aboriginals, under the control of a white overseer, are systematically employed effecting improvements, and it is confidently expected that within twelve months a complete transformation will occur.

Conservation of pasturage from date of acquisition in January until winter made possible the safe purchase of stock at advantageous prices. The following Hereford cattle have been purchased and are now depastured on the Reserve:—

220 bullocks, Nos. 1 and 2;
381 steers, Nos. 4 and 5;
534 young cows,
301 calves.

This stock was purchased at prices ranging from £5 for cows to £9 for bullocks. Their purchase would not have been advisable had the Department not owned Foleyvale property, where ample feed had been conserved for such an emergency. The transaction will certainly benefit the Department by several thousand pounds.

FARM IRRIGATION.

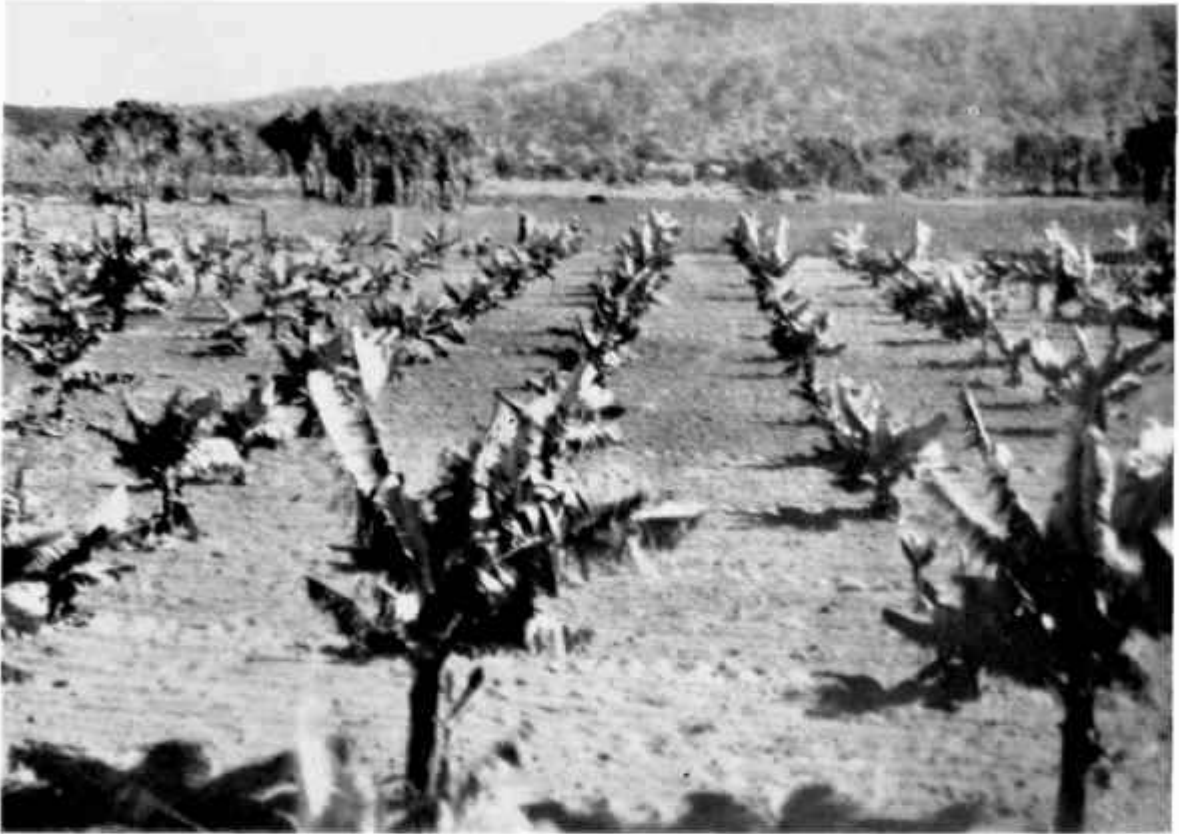
On the three Settlements it is an accepted fact that without irrigation food crops would not be produced except during a few months of the year, and even then with no great certainty of success. To ensure the maximum production, therefore, irrigation plants capable of watering required areas are established at Cherbourg



Mackenzie River, Foleyvale Reserve.



Future Fat Bullocks, Foleyvale.



Banana Growing, Palm Island.



Staked Tomatoes, Palm Island.



Pineapples, Palm Island.



Irrigation, Palm Island.

Settlement, 5 acres; Woorabinda Settlement, 10 acres; Palm Island Settlement, 10 acres; and the Aboriginal Training Farm, 40 acres.

The early installation of electric power at Cherbourg and the provision of pumps and plant there will increase the irrigable areas to—Cherbourg Settlement 20 acres, and Aboriginal Training Farm 130 acres. Investigations are proceeding with a view to expanding irrigation on Woorabinda and Palm Island Settlements.

By reason of these irrigation plants, it is possible to report as hereunder the very favourable results achieved.

PRODUCTION FOOD CROPS

Palm Island Settlement :—

518	sacks Chinese cabbage,
30	sacks kohlrabi,
384	sacks turnips,
169	cwt. tomatoes,
14,723	lettuce,
3,063	cucumbers,
4,313	cabbage (to 15 lb.),
5½	cwt. French beans,
218	cwt. sweet potatoes,
32	sacks radish,
136	marrows,
4	cwt. peas,
153	cwt. carrots,
18	cwt. beetroot
2	sacks onions,
15	tons pumpkins,
32	sacks English potatoes,
10	sacks silver beet,
7,313	watermelons (to 40 lb.)

In addition, surplus vegetables were forwarded to the Townsville District Hospital, and mangoes and coconuts to other Settlements. Large quantities of vegetables were also sent to Fantome Island regularly.

An area of 30 acres is regularly cultivated and a further 12 acres has been cleared for planting with pineapples, papaws and bananas. Planting is in hand, with the excellent results pictured in the illustrations shown in this report.

The very satisfactory results in the production of vegetables and other food crops was contributed to largely by machinery supplied at the instance of the Hon. the Minister viz., Farmall tractor, tractor plough and harrows, and also a Simplex garden tractor for doing light work. The effects of the provision of this machinery will become more manifest as time goes on and large areas of pineapples, papaws, and bananas are brought into production.

Cherbourg Settlement :—

128	lb. lettuce
340	lb. silver beet
7,840	lb. cauliflower
12,418	lb. cabbages
10,266	lb. turnips
786	lb. carrots.
430	lb. beetroot
331	lb. kohlrabi
233	lb. choko

Approval has been obtained for the purchase of up-to-date mechanised farming equipment for Cherbourg, which has already been supplied in part.

Woorabinda Settlement :—

20,475	lb. pumpkins
11,476	lb. sweet potatoes
2,092	only cucumbers
3,142	squashes
3,834	beetroot
1,186	bunches eschallots
934	watermelons
2,667	cabbages
3,970	kohlrabi
1,149	cauliflower
966	lb. peas
28	sacks turnips
24	sacks lettuce
209	lb. carrots
26	bunches silver beet

As Woorabinda is situated in a low rainfall belt and the quality of the soil is too poor to be classed as agricultural land, it is felt that the results as set out above reflect credit on the officials responsible.

Results achieved on Woorabinda would not have been possible but for the provision of a farm tractor with all necessary tractor-drawn implements. This plant is capable of handling the 40 acres now under cultivation and the proposed extensions which will result in this area being developed.

Peanuts.—An experiment was carried out in the course of the year in the growing of peanuts under dry farming methods. An area of 8 acres was planted and although the rainfall over the planting and growing period was less than 3 inches the yield was 400 bags of good quality nuts. In view of the success achieved it is proposed, provided drought conditions end, to plant an area of about 20 acres with this crop and make as large a contribution as possible towards the pool of edible vegetable fats.

Citrus Orchard.—In the last report, reference was made to the establishment of a citrus orchard and the planting of 350 trees as an initial step. This year a further 700 young trees were obtained; 350 were planted, but in view of the extremely dry and frosty weather, planting was then discontinued and the remaining 350 trees temporarily planted in a sheltered nursery until the warmer months. Some losses will be suffered amongst the planted trees, but this can be regarded as a small and temporary setback.

WATER FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES.

Cherbourg Settlement.—On Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, ample supplies of water for the administrative area, including the natives' houses, exist.

Woorabinda Settlement.—At Woorabinda Settlement an acute shortage of essential supplies has existed for many years. In an endeavour to rectify the position, the Hon. the Minister was able to secure the services of competent labour to tap the underground supplies existent in the sands of Mimosa Creek. By a unique system of utilising concrete cylinders embedded in coarse gravel to separate and store the water contained in the fine sands of the creek, and which has proved refractory in separating from the sands, supplies estimated at between 30,000 and 40,000 gallons per day have been made available for pumping.

The existing water reticulation was installed many years ago when the Settlement population

was much smaller than at present. Action is in train for the erection of an additional storage tank and the renewal of water-piping throughout the Settlement. When this work is completed the Settlement should have ample supplies of water for domestic requirements.

Palm Island Settlement.—At Palm Island the only sources of supply of water for all purposes are wells and tanks. Despite the heavy rainfall—approximately 70 inches per annum—the spring months are invariably dry and over this period water supplies become short. Under drought conditions such as are now obtaining the supplies become acutely short and there is a real danger of them completely failing. The necessity for augmenting supplies available within the Settlement area is already felt, and additional transport is being provided to cart water from better wells at the farm area about 2 miles distant from the Settlement proper.

The seriousness of a threat of the necessity to evacuate even part of the population does not need stressing. To remedy the position the Department of Local Government is now working on a scheme to provide a permanent supply of water sufficient for actual requirements over the longest dry period recorded. This scheme, which is gravitational throughout, entails the erection of 1,000,000 gallon concrete storage tank, with reticulation to the Settlement. An abundance of water will be available except during the dry months. Care will be taken that the tank is full entering this period, and water supplies will be rationed. Records show that this scheme will provide approximately 7 gallons daily per head of the population over the driest period recorded.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABORIGINAL PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ACT.

Wherever following investigation it is established that a half-blood or a full blood aboriginal appears capable of controlling his own affairs, a certificate of exemption is issued to him. In some instances trial exemption covering a period of twelve months with option of renewal at the expiration of that period is issued. In other cases complete exemption is granted.

Over the last five years the number of exemptions so granted have averaged 100 per annum, and during this year 113 persons were so exempted.

The percentage of cancellation of exemptions is very small and over the last five years only 26 such cancellations were necessary. The cancellation of an exemption certificate is not always due to misconduct by the owner. In many instances the aboriginal or full-blood finds that he is unable to take his place in the white community and to support his wife and family. There is also the inherent call in some aboriginals and half-bloods to return to Settlement or Mission life, and in a few instances that call is so keen that the exempted person hands in the exemption certificate and returns to the Settlement.

The Department has under control several outstanding aboriginals and half-bloods in this latter category. The native head stockman at Woorabinda Settlement many years ago returned

his exemption certificate and sought permission to take up work on the Settlement. During the year a very capable stockman, who held exemption for two years, returned to Woorabinda Settlement, renounced his exemption and is now employed as head stockman on Foleyvale Holding.

On Cherbourg is a returned soldier from the 1914-18 war who has been offered his exemption on many occasions but has refused to accept it. During the year another returned soldier from the first World War received his exemption and employment was found for him under award conditions in a State department. He has now given notice that he desires to have his exemption cancelled to enable him to live amongst his people on Cherbourg Settlement.

SCOUTING.

Boy Scout Troops are established on Palm Island Settlement under Scout-master F. A. Krause, and on Cherbourg Settlement under Scout-master H. R. Pascoe.

It is to the credit of both of these officers that a high standard of efficiency has been maintained in the troops throughout the year.

A close association is manifested with outside troops, and regular competitions have indicated that the standard of the native troops is not below that of white boys. Visits to adjacent towns were made by the Cherbourg troop and reciprocal visits eventuated from white troops to the Settlement.

The value of scouting, if only for disciplinary purposes on the Settlement, is particularly important. The Palm Island troop has established a camp on an island adjacent to Palm Island, where regular visits for training and pleasure are made.

The curriculum for these troops provides for all types of native handicrafts additional to the tuition in such familiar work required under the scout rule.

ACCOMMODATION FOR COUNTRY ABORIGINALS.

This is a matter which is causing the Department considerable concern, in that it is known that the accommodation for aboriginals in many country towns or on reserves established adjacent to those towns, is not of adequate standard.

The war period militated against any action to improve this accommodation, but as a preliminary measure, during the war years, where reserves were not established, action has now been taken for such. This action is the forerunner to a concentrated effort for better housing, consistent of course with the availability of materials and labour for erection.

In many cases the aboriginals will be capable of paying for their own homes. In Cloneurry an allotment has been reserved for the benefit of aboriginals. This allotment, with a cottage on it, was purchased from aboriginal funds and serves as a residence for aboriginals when they visit Cloneurry.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

Seeing that for the full period of the war with Japan every available able-bodied Islander was in the armed forces, the termination of hostilities was a red letter day in the Torres Strait Islands.



Successfully Tapping Underground Water Supplies, Mimosa Creek, Woorabinda.



Season's First Plantings—Woorabinda.

Thereafter a gradual discharge of the men commenced, the result being that every Torres Strait Islander has now returned to his home island where the opportunity presents itself for his rehabilitation in industry, for the cultivation of his gardens and generally for the re-establishment of the domestic life of the people.

Since the 1st January, 1946, when the Torres Strait pearling fleet commenced to operate, they have won and sold produce to the value of £66,000, being 301 tons of trochus shell and 53 tons of pearlshell.

The long period of war service which compelled the Islanders to be continuously absent from their homes, detrimentally affected their houses and gardens. They are now actively engaged in picking up the leeway of the war years, and on some of the islands fruit and gardens are more prolific than they were pre-war.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

The Island Industries Board, a corporation established by "*The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939*," for the purpose of assisting the Torres Strait Islanders in their business activities, has had a successful year, as indicated in the following report from the manager, Mr. P. Jensen:—

"Although no actual physical damage was occasioned, the activities of the Island industries, like those of other firms engaged in industrial and commercial pursuits, remote from the main centres of production, were seriously affected by the war just ended. The forced evacuation of the citizens from Thursday Island and the virtual loss of this centre to the Board, added to the already onerous burden that was being carried. Arrival of cargoes in Thursday Island meant visits there to supervise the unloading and the ultimate despatch of goods to the islands. This work was carried out with a seriously depleted staff and an equally depleted complement of cargo-carrying vessels. This factor is fully appreciated by all Islanders and their appreciation is manifested by the confidence in and the volume of business being offered to the Board at the present time. On every hand statements such as 'the Government fed us during the dark war years; others did not care whether we died or not,' or similar sentiments, are being freely expressed. This appreciation of the efforts made on their behalf has restored to the full the Islanders' confidence in the Board and its policy.

"The policy of selling essential foodstuffs for a minimum of profit has been continued. In keeping with the Board's aim of doing the greatest amount of good to the greatest number, a close watch is kept on all prices. Wherever possible these are reduced to a level that allows a profit margin only sufficient to cover costs and risks.

"The trading activities of the Island industries have developed considerably during the past ten years. During the year 1936, the purchases made by the business totalled £10,090, and the sales realised £22,177. For the year just concluded the purchases were £60,432 10s. and the sales £97,582 1s. These figures do not include those relative to the purchases and sale of marine produce which is now a function of the Board. In respect to marine produce the Board purchased and sold 255 tons of trochus and 32 tons

of pearlshell during the year under review. The sum of £38,311 for this produce was paid to the Islanders. All of the shell was sold by tender and the prices paid for each class reached an all-time record. The Board desires to express its profound appreciation to the Director and staff of the Native Affairs Department for the handling of the tenders for its shell. Without this help and guidance the Board, through its inexperience, may easily have foundered.

"The Board now controls 16 branch stores, through which sales amounting to £66,324 8s. were effected during the past year. With the introduction of military allotments, old-age and widows' pensions, child endowment and other social services payments, the work and responsibilities of the various native branch managers have been greatly augmented. It is gratifying that this increased work has been carried out in a manner that pays tribute to the ability and necessary adaptability of the present-day Torres Strait Islander.

"Early this year when military restrictions operating in the areas were eased and civilians commenced returning to Thursday Island, it was necessary for some going concern to provide for their requirements. Necessary action was taken by the Board to establish a store in Thursday Island from where all civilian requirements could be drawn. This facility was continued until the business was transferred to a former retailer of Thursday Island.

"In addition to the foregoing the Board undertook to establish, if necessary—

- (1) A fuel depot for the supply of firewood.
- (2) Setting up of a bakery business.
- (3) To supply artisans, wharf labourers, road and sanitary workers, truck and tractor drivers, and labour for public utilities.

"Relative to the provision of labour and in an effort to provide a maximum of contentment for the labourers, the Board purchased a complete block of buildings that has now become known as the Labour Pool Barracks. This block of buildings contains five large sleeping huts, a fully equipped kitchen, adequate ablution benches and showers, adequate lavatory conveniences, electric light and water. Approximately sixty Islanders are now resident in these buildings, from which is drawn all labour required in Thursday Island.

"In a sincere effort to materially assist in the rehabilitation of discharged Torres Strait Island servicemen, the Board has undertaken to offer every assistance. An ambitious programme has been set out and already the following has been done:—

- (1) Iron and timber purchased for the establishment of a workshop on each island. These workshops will remain the property of the Board but will be used, rent free, by tradesmen engaged on their own behalf in boat-building, tinsmithing, blacksmithing, carpentry, and the manufacture of simple household furniture.
- (2) A complete set of tools, including all necessary benches, leather, and other essentials, purchased through the Commonwealth Disposals, for an Islander who had been set up in Thursday Island as a bootmaker.

- (3) Assistance in the establishment of a native controlled laundry, and hair-dressing saloon in Thursday Island.
- (4) Assistance in the establishment of a bakery at Murray Island.
- (5) The purchase of huge quantities of house building and domestic requirements ex Disposals, and the sale of these items to Islanders at a figure that just covered handling expenses.
- (6) The purchase of materials for the establishment of a duro plastic business.
- (7) The making available for use by native tradesmen the machinery and/or tools owned by the Board.

“The Board has extended every possible assistance to all Islanders engaged in the marine industry, in so far as provision has been made for the transport by the Board’s vessels of all marine produce bought through the Island stores. Members of the Board and the staff have at all times worked long hours handling produce so that the boats could return to work with a minimum of delay. Due to the acquisition of many new boats by the Islanders, the Board anticipates a record year in respect to the shell handled by it.

“During the war years the Board undertook to purchase from Islanders wolfram that had been mined on Island reserves. A total of 76,600 lb. of this ore was delivered to Sydney.

“During the year under review the Board’s boat slip at Badu Island worked at full capacity, many boats were slipped and in some cases major repairs were effected. It is the intention of the Board to maintain this slipway at Badu, both as a place where minor repairs may be effected to any boat and where it is confidently hoped students will be taught the essentials of boat-building.

“In an effort to better serve all Islanders and to avoid double handling the Board transferred its headquarters from Badu Island to Thursday Island during the month of May, 1946. Adequate and central premises were secured within which were set up the Board’s offices, bulk store, and branch store. From this source all boats working in the marine industry will be victualled, thus obviating journeys to Badu whenever heavy gear and other items of ships’ chandlery were required.

“In all activities the Board has maintained steady progress and the coming year is faced with optimism.”

ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table, all deposits, withdrawals, and balances, the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £399,131 4s. 10d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings bank accounts:—

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1946.

	Total.		Savings Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1946.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Cherbourg	15,975 17 9	16,458 0 4	3,464 14 11	1,000 0 0	4,464 14 11
Palm Island	19,990 12 9	19,309 15 10	3,288 18 7	16,000 0 0	19,288 18 7
Woorabinda	12,811 18 0	13,482 16 10	6,631 12 7	4,000 0 0	10,631 12 7
Various Protectorates and Missions	135,169 18 3	149,709 12 11	47,717 18 9	238,000 0 0	285,717 18 9
Torres Strait Islands ..	122,594 0 0	110,577 0 0	79,028 0 0	..	79,028 0 0
	306,542 6 9	309,537 5 11	140,131 4 10	259,000 0 0	399,131 4 10

In the case of a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin.

The number of estates so administered was 64, and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £4,248 3s. 8d.

The balance, £399,131 4s. 10d, represents the savings of aboriginals from their earnings. A separate account for each individual is kept by the Director of Native Affairs and the current Commonwealth Savings Bank rate of interest is credited annually to each account.

Duplicates of these accounts are kept by the Protector of Aboriginals in the district in which the aboriginal resides, thus allowing the latter to operate on the account in his home town.

These savings bank deposits are entirely the property of the individual aboriginal, the Director of Native Affairs being the trustee of the accounts. Only the aboriginal owner, or a person authorised by such owner in writing, can withdraw money from his account.

By reason of the fact that funds are deposited with the Commonwealth Bank to a society account, every account, irrespective of its credit balances, receives the current rate of interest.

The total aboriginal population of Queensland is 19,500, and therefore the average savings bank balance per Queensland aboriginal is £20.

For comparative purposes it is interesting to know that the white population of Queensland is approximately 1,050,000, and the total savings bank deposits in Queensland was (vide Queensland Government Statistician) £60,594,454 on the 31st March, 1944—an average of £57 14s. per person.

Pre-war it was generally accepted that the rate of earnings and the cost of living of the ordinary aboriginal worker was from one-third to one-half that of a white worker. Consequently the foregoing statistics imply a fair saving *pro rata* of white to aboriginal.

The inauguration of savings bank accounts for aboriginals in Queensland dates back to 1897, and the savings have accumulated over that

period. No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate means and innumerable cases can be quoted of—

- (a) Aboriginals receiving their exemption from the provisions of the Act and receiving their savings in a lump sum to set them up in business suited to their calling.
- (b) Homes being built for aboriginals from their savings.
- (c) Plant and equipment being provided from savings to allow the aboriginal to improve his industrial status.
- (d) Funds made available for interior aboriginals to enjoy a holiday at the seaside.

SOLDIERS' PAYMENTS.

For the period of the war, approximately 700 Torres Strait soldiers were in the armed forces. They received wages, dependants' allowances, &c., on a two-third basis comparable with white soldiers. The receipt and disbursement of these payments was, at the request of the Commonwealth Government, undertaken by the Sub-Department of Native Affairs.

The total amount of funds received and credited to the soldiers from all sources was £180,000.

It is to the credit of these soldiers and their dependants that their money has not been squandered. Much of the savings from these payments is being devoted to the purchase of pearling luggers, house building material, furniture, &c.

CHILD ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS.

The Commonwealth Government Child Endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of this endowment has proved of immeasurable benefit to aboriginal children, in that it allows the purchase of luxury foodstuffs, better type clothing, &c., than was possible before its inception.

Child Endowment payments are received and disbursed by the Sub-Department of Native Affairs with the exception of Institution Mis-

sions, where payment is made direct by the endowment office to the Missions and disbursed by the Missions.

A close check is made on every individual account to which child endowment is credited to ensure that the expenditure by parents is in keeping with the purpose for which the payment is made. The number of aboriginal parent endowees in the State is:—

	Endowees.
Country Protectorates	214
Cherbourg Settlement	108
Palm Island	109
Woorabinda	78
Torres Strait Islanders	445
Total	954

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totals £43,000.

Where aboriginal children are wholly maintained in Mission and Government settlement institutions, the endowment is paid to the institution funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing luxury foodstuffs, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books and reading material.

The following table reveals the number of children in institutions for whom child endowment is collected:—

Doomadgee	96
Mitchell River Mission	100
Monamona Mission	118
Aurukun Mission	138
Mapoon Mission	117
Mornington Island Mission	111
Weipa Mission	42
Yarrabah Mission	318
Purga Mission	30
Fantome Island	16
Woorabinda Settlement	59
Palm Island Settlement	106
Cherbourg Settlement	70
Total	1,321

EDUCATION.

As indicated in the following table, the number of children receiving primary education is 2,497:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 30th June, 1946.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	122	131	253
Settlement	Palm Island	106	94	200
Settlement	Woorabinda	71	84	155
Reserve	Cowal Creek	28	31	59
Country Town	Gayndah Aboriginal	12	11	23
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	34	42	76
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	33	52	85
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	35	25	60
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	27	33	60
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	31	36	67
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	46	44	90
Aboriginal Mission	Monamona	37	39	76
Aboriginal Mission	Purga	11	15	26
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	8	18	26
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	59	65	124
Island Mission	St. Micheal's R.C., Palm Island	35	37	72
Island Mission	St. Paul's, Moa Island	25	24	49
Inland Mission	Normanton	10	14	24
Torres Strait	Island Schools	487	485	972
	Totals	1,217	1,280	2,497

To obtain the best results from the existent primary education system, selected promising boys and girls are given the opportunity of secondary education with a view to ultimately utilising them in semi-administrative positions on the Government Settlements and Church Missions or to fit them to take their place outside the aboriginal communities.

At present there are 5 boys in All Souls' Secondary School, Charters Towers, 1 girl in St. Ann's Secondary School, Ravenswood, 3 girls in St. Mary's Secondary School, Herberton, 1 girl in St. Anne's Secondary School, Townsville, 1 boy in the Convent at Halifax, and 1 boy at the Roman Catholic Agricultural College at Abergowrie.

MANUAL TRAINING.

The class operating at Cherbourg Settlement continued throughout the year. In this section of the Department's education scheme, 21 boys were enrolled during the year and generally their progress was satisfactory.

They are taught carpentry, plumbing, blacksmithing, sheet metal work and cabinetmaking. From these classes are recruited apprentices for the native tradesmen gangs operating under white supervision.

The training covers all phases of tuition and extends to the practical building of furniture, pansteads, hospital equipment, saddlery, &c., as used on Government settlements. These apprentices are likewise competent under supervision to cut out and erect buildings.

DOMESTIC SCIENCE, CHERBOURG.

The Domestic Science class at Cherbourg has an enrolment of approximately 30. There girls receive tuition in all sections of housekeeping, including home sewing. From the sewing room attached to the Domestic Science class were produced:—

School blouses	96
School uniforms	161
Women's dresses	444
Women's pantees	60
Women's petticoats	44
Flannelette bloomers	25
Children's dresses	40
Hospital uniforms	2
Aprons	2
Aprons for boys	20
Curtains	5 pairs
Bedspreads	3
Flannelette shirts	3
Baby's outfit	1
Sets of colours for school sports	20
Total	926

Similar classes operate, but on a smaller scale, due to lack of adequate accommodation, at Palm Island and Woorabinda Settlements, and equally pleasing results are obtained there.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The undermentioned Church Missions are located in Queensland:—

Church of England Missions—

Lockhart River Mission, via Coen; Mr. H. E. Johnson, superintendent.

Yarrabah Mission, via Cairns; Rev. C. G. Brown, superintendent.

Mitchell River Mission, via Normanton; Mr. F. W. Currington, superintendent.

Edward River Mission, via Normanton; Mr. J. W. Chapman, superintendent.

Presbyterian Missions—

Mapoon Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. F. A. Cane, superintendent.

Weipa Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. J. S. Winn, superintendent.

Aurukun Mission, via Thursday Island; Rev. W. F. McKenzie, superintendent.

Mornington Island Mission, via Burketown; Mr. X. J. B. McCarthy, superintendent.

Seventh Day Adventists—

Monamona Mission, Oak Forest, via Cairns; Mr. L. A. Borgas, superintendent.

Plymouth Brethren—

Doomadgee Mission, via Burketown; Mr. M. G. H. Read, superintendent.

Salvation Army—

Purga Mission, via Ipswich; Mr. O. Smith, superintendent.

The following reports furnished by superintendents indicate the progress that is being effected in the work of caring for the aboriginals under their control.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

Health.—Births, 8; deaths, 17; marriages, 1 tribal.

The general health of the people is fair but the stamina of the people has been retarded owing to the failure of the potato, papaw and banana crops both this and last year. Last year's crops were greatly damaged by the excessive heavy rains experienced from January to June (over 80 inches being recorded) and the almost complete absence of rain this year. Further, this year there has been a complete absence of sea food, such as fish, dugong and turtle. This is probably due to the dropping of bombs in these waters during the war years and the exploding of mines along these coasts during the past few months.

A regular supply of dugong oil is being arranged by the Protector of Islanders, Thursday Island.

Buildings.—Due to the scarcity of nails only a few new buildings were erected, but at the present time all houses are being repaired and a number are in course of erection.

Stock.—The cattle herd continues to increase, and with the horses purchased last year, mustering has been carried out and inspections of stock made regularly. In general with all stock workers we have been somewhat hampered by the lack of gear, such as riding and pack saddles and bridles, but I feel confident that with a good supply of gear, we could increase our herd. As it was, we branded over one hundred head during the year. Action is now in hand to obtain the necessary gear required.

Ten young herd bulls were purchased which will help to increase and improve the herd.

On an average, two beasts a week were killed during the year as a meat issue to the people.

We are very fortunate in having Joseph Callope as head stockman. He is most reliable and trustworthy and never tiring in his efforts to further the interests of the Mission as to the stock. He had a number of small yards built during the year, thus making it easier to muster and inspect the cattle. A number of new fences are in the course of erection.

With the addition of the country around the Sefton River to our reserve we should be able to keep the cattle on this end of the run, which is practically free of crocodiles.

Religious Ministrations.—Daily services, well attended, were held during the year.

YARRABAH MISSION.

Population.—The maximum number in any one month was 645. Births 26, deaths 8, marriages 4.

Health.—No epidemics. Notifiable diseases: 2 typhus, 3 gonorrhoea (treated at Cairns), 1 syphilis (sent to Palms). In-patients at mission hospital, 236; out-patients, daily average, 9; dental extractions, 138; inspections, 228. All school children are inspected for teeth quarterly. Medical and dental cases that cannot be treated locally are sent to Cairns. G.M.O., Dr. A. Langan, Cairns.

Dr. St. Vincent Welch visited the Mission and gave an illustrated lecture on social diseases, which was attended by all the people and much appreciated.

Dr. and Mrs. Reye visited the Mission and made a mass inspection for skin affections, with special reference to the incidence of leprosy.

By the kind act of the Hon. the Minister a grant of hospital equipment was received in October, including laundry tubs, cups and saucers, large plates, small plates, frying pans, saucepans, pails, wash basins, jugs, bed-pans, knives, large forks, small forks, dessertspoons, teaspoons, towels, and wood stove.

Conduct and Discipline.—Conduct, on the whole has been satisfactory and discipline good. In July, a Native Council was appointed to assist the superintendent in administering discipline, maintaining law and order, and seeing that houses and surrounding grounds were kept clean and tidy. This institution has been found helpful.

Education.—Yarrabah school was open 197 days. The average number on the roll was 117, and the average daily attendance 95. Rev. R. S. Campbell, on his return from military service, took charge of the school and effected certain changes. The children were carefully graded, the number of native assistant teachers was increased, and the syllabus of the State primary correspondence school was adopted. Special attention is given to boys and girls of marked ability to prepare them for secondary schools. Three girls have been sent to the Church of England Grammar School at Herberton, where they are making good progress. At Oombunghi Settlement school 10 children are enrolled in the State correspondence school, and an average of 15 children attend a kindergarten. In October, an exhibition of children's handiwork was held at which there was a varied display of

palm leaf and loya cane fans, table-mats, serviette rings, shell and seed necklaces, bowls made out of coconut shells, sailing boats, &c.

On Victory Day medals were distributed and sports were held, ending with tea, buns, fruit, and lollies.

Industrial Development.—The workshops have been kept busy in the following departments:—Engine-room, providing power and light; blacksmith, bow and upstart for bullock yokes, chains for teams, bolts for bridges, boats, repairs to ploughs and harrows; tinsmith, mending sanitary pans, pails, tubs; plumber, attending to water pipes, bathroom attachments; wheelwright, making and repairing wheels for carts and dray; woodworkers, making tables cupboards, chairs, oars.

Shellgrit.—There has been a market for this commodity in Cairns. The demand weakened towards the end of the year. Quantity sold: 204 cwt. at 7s. 6d. cwt.

Sawmill.—Worked five months. Logs cut 87; timber sawn 24,677 super feet. A breaking down saw is urgently needed.

Women's Work.—A number of women supplied in large quantities, floor mats, table mats, baskets, handbags, purses, fans, which were sold locally and in distant markets, and brought profit both to the workers and to the Mission. These articles are made out of pandanus palm leaf and loya cane and have a ready sale.

Building Development.—One staff house at head station erected but not roofed owing to lack of iron. Four dwellings, two kitchens erected at Oombunghi, four dwellings erected at Mourighan, one harness room, one blacksmith's forge erected at Oombunghi.

During the year the Mission purchased through Commonwealth Disposals the military hutments at False Cape. The dismantling of these buildings was begun in January. Four landing barges stripped of engines were obtained at no cost which have been used for carrying the materials to the Mission. The frequent breakdown of the launches used to tow the barges has caused much delay in carrying out the work. The buildings are being used to give additional space to the store, school, hospital, dormitory for girls, and to provide men's club and women's club; office at the head station; a staff house, club and single men's quarters at Oombunghi; and headman's houses at the other settlements. It is hoped that the water-piping will be sufficient to lay a pipe line to Reeves Creek, which will give a permanent water supply to the head station; and also to carry out an irrigation scheme at Oombunghi.

Stock and Farming.—The numbers of stock are approximately: cows, steers, and heifers, 90; working bullocks, 30; horses, 70. There has been no purchase of fresh stock. A certain number of horses have been given to the Mission by the Cairns City Council and Mulgrave Shire Council out of the pound.

Farms.—At Oombunghi the main development has been the raising of a pig herd, which has grown by natural increase from 11 to 120 during the year. Additions at Mourighan farm

have been:—Banana and papaw plantation 2 acres, and five acres for root and surface crops. In January the clearing of scrub land at Dajinghi Creek was begun to form a new settlement. Approximately 10 acres were cleared. Milly Scrub has also been partly grubbed and cleared.

The policy is to create new settlements both in order to extend the area of cultivation and to divide the population into small communities which seems to make for greater contentment and more healthy living.

Produce.—Milk, 820 gallons (Oombunghi); eggs, 144 dozen; vegetables, 166 lb.; peanuts, 6 bushels; sweet potatoes, 11 tons; pumpkins, 9 cwt.; maize, 8 cwt.; bananas, 123 lb.; cowpea, 1 bushel.

Religious Ministrations.—Church services are held daily, morning and evening at the head station, and weekly at Oombunghi. Sunday school held regularly, meetings of St. Mary's Guild for single girls weekly, meetings of the Mother's Union monthly. Confirmation classes are held from time to time.

Holy Eucharist.—At head station: Celebrations, 346; communions, 3,987. At Oombunghi: Celebrations and communions, 665.

Baptisms, 22; marriages, 4; burials, 8; confirmed, 16.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

Staff.—F. W. Currington, superintendent; Rev. A. C. Flint, priest; Mrs. Flint; Miss Wall, head teacher; Sister Roach; and R. E. Fowke, cattle manager.

Population.— Full-bloods — Females, 329; Males, 342; = 671. Half-bloods—Females, 9; Males, 7; = 16.

Number drawing rations from Mission account, 415. No rations supplied by Department.

Births, 30; deaths, 19; marriages, 6.

School Staff.—Head teacher, Miss Wall; Assistants, Leah Minyolk, Beatrice, Jessie, Bruce, and Venus.

School Attendance.—Days school open, 209 days; average attendance, 71.5.

Health.—Excellent. Two passing visits by Flying Doctor. One direct call owing to illness of superintendent.

Conduct.—Good, no removal orders asked for.

Social Improvements. — Twenty-four new houses built and a quite a number repaired. General improvement in family life.

Employment.—Demand extra good for stock work. No complaints from any stations where boys employed.

Industrial Operations.—Total number of mixed stock, 4,910. Number of cattle sold, 420. Area available for cultivation for production of food and fodder crops, ten acres. Area under cultivation and estimated annual production, five tons sweet potatoes, also supply of other green vegetables grown but no records of same kept. No market for produce, and food only grown that can be consumed by Mission.

Area Ringbarked.—Nil. Not advisable as scrub grows where ringbarked.

Timber Milled.—Nil.

Buildings.—Girls' dormitory; new storeroom built; kitchen floor cemented; new Mission store built.

Recreation.—Football, cricket, general sports.

MAPOON MISSION.

Staff.—F. A. Cane, superintendent; Mrs. F. A. Cane, matron.

Population.—Births, 14; deaths, 4; marriages, 5.

Health.—Generally good; no serious epidemics during the year. Dugong oil was given twice weekly to the children and it is available to all the inmates if and when desired. 7,340 treatments were given in the dispensary for the year.

School.—The school has an attendance of 70. Since the departure of Mrs. Bentley, the school has been carried on by a half-caste teacher and good progress is reported.

No manual training or technical education is given owing to the lack of staff, except that gained by the usual Mission duties performed by the children out of school hours. It is known that the Presbyterian Mission Committee has a scheme for the training of boys and girls in manual and domestic science.

Employment.—There are no men now working on essential work; all Civil Construction Corps men and Allied Works Council men have returned, with the exception of two or three and whose whereabouts are unknown.

Two men returned from station work and 3 others have been employed in this industry, making a total of 16 men engaged as station hands.

Industrial.—Cattle.—A general muster was made at the end of this month and a total count of 1,066 was made. This is much less than the last muster. Loss can be accounted for by deaths from Buffalo Fly, wandering, and lack of water and feed. Although there was an abundance of rain during the wet season the feed died off quickly and left the cattle stranded. A fence has long been wanted at the top end of the run to prevent wandering, and also to keep them within reach of good feed. This fence would have to be about 20 miles, which would connect the Coen and Batavia Rivers. Some years ago a loan was made to the Mission by the Department, which has since been repaid, for the purchase of better cattle, but no great improvement is shown and it is believed that the country is not altogether suitable to cattle-rearing. They do not grow to any great size and, with bulls procured from Aurukun Mission twice in four years, very little alteration is shown. With the herd as it is now very little sale can be expected. The Department of Native Affairs is investigating the possibility of improving cattle-raising activities and the herd generally. Fifty-five head were killed for use as food for the children, and 14 young bulls were purchased from Aurukun Mission.

Garden.—About five acres are cultivated. The whole is wire-netted and at time of writing potatoes are being dug, of which there is every

prospect of a heavy crop Pumpkins and papaws are also well advanced. Bananas were a failure. A rotary hoe purchased in 1944 is doing good work and is a great advantage.

Industrial.—Airstrip.—An airstrip is in course of being laid down; the old one, which was in use during the war, is not altogether suitable for all weather purposes. Therefore, another is being made nearer the Mission and one that will be suitable during all weathers. This is giving a lot of work to members of the Mission, both male and female, and a further six months' work is entailed.

Buildings.—A church building on the out-station has been dismantled and rebuilt at the Mission as a school on a new site, making a very presentable school and a great improvement on the old one. The whole of this was done by native labour under the supervision of the superintendent.

A new dispensary was also built with a concrete floor 20 x 15, but the need is felt of a hospital, and it is hoped that in the near future one can be procured, with full equipment and supply. The village has been kept clean and tidy. No rubbish has been allowed to collect and the people on a whole are contented and happy.

The making of coconut leaf fans has been restarted and a quantity have been sent to Brisbane for sale.

Discipline.—Discipline has been very good. Native police and councillors have been most assiduous in their duties. The Department of Native Affairs is providing uniforms for police and councillors.

Church Attendances.—Services are held every morning and good attendances are shown, with interest.

Boats.—During the last year, the Mission suffered the loss of the J. G. Ward, which was allowed to sink in Thursday Island harbour where she was waiting to be towed to Badu to be slipped and overhauled. Another launch was purchased but since has had to undergo great engine repairs and the difficulty of transport has been felt.

PURGA MISSION.

Population.—At the beginning of the year there were 8 boys under our care, 1 was transferred to another institution and 3 were sent to situations, leaving 4 boys at the end of the year. Twelve girls at the beginning of the year; 1 sent to a situation, leaving 11 girls at the end of the year.

Health.—There has been no serious illness among the children during the year. One boy, Robert Bundle, had a small growth in the nostril removed by radium at the Brisbane General Hospital.

Discipline.—During the past nine months, under the direction of Mr. Tom Wilkie, the school children have made marked advance. The discipline is good and whether in study or sport, the scholars are keen. Mrs. Wilkie visits the school one day per week to instruct the girls in various forms of needlecraft. Meanwhile, the boys learn gardening during the winter months, and swimming during the summer months.

Christmas.—Christmas was celebrated by the whole of the staff and inmates, together with visitors from Brisbane and Ipswich, taking dinner and tea together in the large hall. There was a special Christmas menu for each meal. Every child received several gifts off two Christmas trees, from Father Christmas in traditional dress.

DOOMADGEE MISSION.

Staff.—Mr. M. G. Read, superintendent, Mrs. M. G. Read; Mr. T. Bartlett; Mr. D. Potter.

Population.—Births 7; deaths, 4; marriages, 4.

Industrial.—Labour Demand.—Demand for stock work and droving has been brisk excepting where the industrial unrest upset normal activities. Forty-eight natives have been out on agreements during the year.

Pastoral.—Drought conditions existed from June to December. Very little mustering could be done then. Upwards of 30 head of cattle were lost in consequence, and poor brandings have followed as is to be expected. The present year does not promise to be good.

Stock.—Horses, 72; goats, 135; poultry, 18; cattle, 480; cattle killed, 78; cattle branded, 109.

New Yards.—During the past year, three mustering yards were built (prior to December), also a trap yard for brumbies. Twenty brumbies have been broken in as stock horses to date.

Fencing Repairs.—Approximately 30 miles repaired with the use of about 400 posts.

Agriculture.—

Area available.—Approximately 30 acres.

Area under cultivation.—Approximately 2 acres orchard and vegetables.

Production.—8 tons sweet potatoes; 1 ton mixed vegetables; $\frac{1}{2}$ ton mixed fruits.

This work has been held up through lack of help, equipment, and material for fencing repairs. A new fence has now been built around the whole area, comprising 3 feet wire netting, with two barbs and a strong rail above. All beefwood posts have been obtained as they resist white ants very well. As so much building work is in hand, and a suitable tractor has not yet been obtained, it is not expected that a great area will be put under cultivation till next year.

Timber Milled.—None for some time. A new bench is being fitted up to be driven with a 9-h.p. kerosene engine and we expect to do some milling shortly.

Building Development.—As previously reported, all accommodation has been short since the cyclonic disturbance in 1944. Early this year, purchases were made but the work is still delayed.

Material for the following has been shipped or on order:—

Workers' Cottage (staff).—Three rooms, verandahs, &c., steel-frame and corrugated iron, 60 feet by 30 feet, cement floor.

Hospital Ward, dispensary, and nurses' quarters. Steel-frame and corrugated iron, 48 feet by 24 feet, cement floor.

Boys' Dormitory.—Steel-frame and corrugated iron, cement floor, 40 feet by 20 feet.

Garage-Workshop.—Tool room, saddle room, steel-frame, 80 feet by 20 feet.

Store-Shop-Office.—Steel-frame and part concrete, cement floor, 75 feet by 20 feet.

Young Women's Dormitory.—Steel-frame and corrugated iron, 40 feet by 20 feet, to be built over a dining-room of open verandah type, 40 feet by 40 feet. Local timber and a further quantity of concrete still to be acquired. Kitchen, 20 feet by 15 feet, to be attached.

Young Men's Dormitory.—Steel-frame and corrugated iron, on high stumps, 40 feet by 20 feet. Local timber and required cement to be acquired.

Unattached Women's Quarters.—It was originally intended to build these of steel and iron, but owing to the shipping delay and the advisability of getting on with some part of the programme we are now building these of concrete bricks. It is our intention to build two buildings each 30 feet by 10 feet. Concrete walls, partitions, floors, and corrugated iron roofing. This work is well in hand. Local timber will be used where necessary for windows, doors, &c. To get on with this work we have made our own brick moulds and concrete mixer (geared and efficient).

We trust to put all the above works in hand during the next period to June, 1947, and also to construct a number of lavatories and other small conveniences.

General.—In the above work we have the assistance of a temporary worker who is expected to stay for about six months. A new permanent worker, and a fully trained nursing sister, is expected to arrive 24th July, 1946. Mrs. Read is not expected back till next year. It is expected that Nurse Black will also take up school work.

Amongst other items of equipment purchased this year are 3 5-ton Chevrolet trucks; 2 heavy duty cooking ranges; a Chevrolet engine to replace the worn one in the 30-cwt. International truck. We have on order 330 feet of new piping for replacements necessary on the irrigation line, and through friends we are acquiring, at a nominal figure, an electric welding and lighting plant, which will provide all the light needed.

Religious Ministrations.—Daily instruction is given in Christian doctrine and practical social ethics. Meetings are well attended, interest is good. Results are comparatively good and the moral standard of living on the reserve continues to improve.

Health.—Venereal disease or Pulmonary D., nil. Appendicitis.—Four young women were operated upon in the Cloncurry District Hospital and were discharged.

Accidents.—One Colles-fracture of forearm healed in good condition.

Visits of Medical Officer.—Six from Dr. Allberry, of the Flying Doctor Service.

Dental Treatment.—Six cases of extractions by Dr. Allberry.

General Health.—Good.

AURUKUN MISSION.

Education.—The school enrolment is 43 boys and 44 girls. The school is under the supervision of Mrs. McKenzie, B.A. Dip. Ed., and on the staff are 3 native teachers and 4 native pupil teachers. The system of education, particularly for infants, is based on the mental capacity of these children, who are only one stage removed from nomadic life. In the first grade, lessons are based on the matching of words with pictures. The next grade is taught to compile short sentences with familiar words used in Mission and bush environment. As the grades proceed, the children are taught reading and spelling from stories from their own legends.

Mrs. McKenzie has prepared script, with suitable illustrations, for a primer based on the foregoing scheme of education, and it is hoped to have this book printed in the very near future.

Hygiene lessons are a portion of the curriculum, as are stories from history, which the children can appreciate, viz., the story of the compass, the Maori migration to New Zealand, exploration by early Dutch navigators, and the work of British explorers of the nineteenth century in and around Cape York Peninsula. Kindergarten lessons for the children are also a prominent part of the education scheme.

Religious Instruction.—Early morning and Sunday morning; Sunday afternoon service of song—people and children encouraged to choose own service.

Domestic Science, &c.—Girls instructed in domestic duties, cooking, house work, sewing and mending clothes. Older girls showing aptitude for teaching trained as pupil teachers. Senior girls take turns as helpers with native woman dispenser, giving simple routine doses, cleaning and bandaging of wounds, cuts and sores. Boys are trained in garden work. Older boys receiving instruction in handling of tools and stock work.

Recreation.—Ball games, picnics, hunting, fishing and camping. Athletic sports for children and adults. Corroborees encouraged, especially those dealing with old folk lore of the tribes.

Agriculture.—On an area of ten acres, crops grown include cassava, sweet potatoes, yams, pumpkins, cowpeas, tomatoes, silver beet, papaws, bananas. All available animal manure and leaf mould is gathered and put into compost heaps in readiness for each year's preparation of ground. Village people are encouraged to work their own gardens and cassava and potatoes are their main crops. Each house in the village has its own mango and coconut trees. The Mission has a coconut plantation at Wuton, where saplings are planted out each year. Four hundred trees at present either bearing or coming into fruit. About two hundred nuts are gathered each month and used for food. Further areas are being cleared and stumped for general cultivation.

Landing Strip.—A strip of 1300 yards long was built by natives and used during the war by the Royal Australian Air Force and is now available for civil planes. Work is continuing on a cross strip.

Health.—Health generally is good. A serious outbreak of influenza in 1945 resulted in 13 deaths, mainly old people. Such ailments as

colds, malaria, &c., have been favourably treated, and hookworm treatment is given to children and adults. Particular attention is paid to the diet of children. Wholemeal and wheat germ pollard is used, also ground rice when available. All children from birth and through school age receive prepared food instead of rations to ensure a proper balanced diet. Nursing mothers receive supplemented rations. Old people are also given full rations.

Milk from the Mission dairy herd is issued mid-morning and evening to all school children. Eggs are also issued when they are available.

Dental.—Teeth are showing great improvement after change to wholemeal and balanced diet. Many middle-aged and old people suffer with dental caries owing to sand and grit in the food wearing teeth down to the pulp.

Population.—Births for 1945, 11; for 1946, 9 births to 18 May, 1946. Records reveal a steady increase of births in recent years as compared with the period 1920-25, when no births, or at most one or two, occurred per annum. All births are pure aboriginal.

The total number of people on the Mission is 250, with 350 to 400 nomads partially in touch with the Mission. The whole Mission is pure full-blood.

Stock.—The cattle comprises a dairy herd of 100 head and a beef herd of 1,400 head. The latter figure is the natural increase from a herd of 400 heifers bought through the Department in 1936. Attention is being paid to the introduction of new blood, and 25 bulls were bought in 1945. In that year, 160 head of cattle were sold at an average price of £5 per head.

Yards.—One set of yards has been erected and repairs effected to the existing ones.

Water.—Waterholes have been kept open in the dry season and stock shifted as the seasons demand.

Pasture.—Many varieties of grass and legumes have been introduced to improve native grasses and this was done in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Stock and the Bureau of Tropical Agriculture. Good results have been experienced with these, especially with Townsville and Brazilian lucerne (Stylo).

Occupation.—All able-bodied men and women, not in employment, hunt for their own tucker. There are great varieties of native food, such as roots, berries, fruits, fish, crabs, game and shell fish. All surplus native foods are bought at the store and traded for flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c. This native food is used to supplement children's diet, giving a change to European food—flour and rice.

A roster system of employment is used, so that all men and women can have the opportunity of three months' work. They are given full rations, pocket money, and clothes. Twenty men and boys are working on cattle stations under agreement. The marine industry has been at a standstill during the war, but plans are under way with the Department to start work in this sphere.

Village.—Several families in the village rear fowls and sell eggs to the Mission for the children. One result of inducing the people to keep fowls was that all dogs were banished from the village.

Houses are kept in repair, bark being the usual medium as no iron has been available. Eight new houses were built and people are encouraged to build houses off the ground.

Sanitation.—Pan system. All undergrowth was cleared around the village to encourage use of lavatories. Difficulty was at first encountered owing to superstition regarding sorcery.

Patrols.—Patrols have been impossible through staff shortage but contact is kept up through native Christian workers, who are supplied with simple medicines. Monthly supplies of tobacco are sent to these workers for distribution among the tribes. Nomads periodically visit the Mission and bring their children to school. It is proposed recommencing patrol work as soon as possible.

Christmas Festivities.—From a Christmas tree for the children, gifts of toys and sweets were given out by Father Christmas. The children demanded a Mother Christmas, so this person also arrived and enlivened the proceedings considerably. In the morning a bullock was killed and after service, beef, flour, tea, sugar and tobacco was distributed. In the afternoon, adults were given tea and cakes, also gift bags of clothing, tobacco, soap and whatever was available. The night ended with a dance.

New Year was celebrated with athletic sports, viz., spear throwing, tugs of war, and the usual dance at night.

The progress which is recorded on the above-mentioned Missions can be accepted as applicable to Monamona, Mornington Island and Edward River and Weipa Missions.

Experience has shown that the superintendents and staffs of all of these Missions are giving their wholehearted co-operation to the Department's policy of protection and advancement of the aboriginals.

APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance received throughout the year from the staff of head office is gratefully recognised, as also is the work of the Protector of Islanders, Thursday Island, the manager, Island Industries, and the officers under their direct control.

The superintendents and staffs of the large settlements have earned the Department's appreciation for their zealous efforts at all times for the welfare of their people.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various police officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their duties most capably.

The Superintendents and staffs of the Church Missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Native Affairs - Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve months ended 30th June 1946

Corporate Author: Queensland Dept. Health and Home Affairs

RS 25.4/3

www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/qld_prot_list.html
[vn2005895-9x_a.pdf](#)