

22 AUG 1963

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## Native Affairs—Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1950.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit Annual Report under "*The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946*," and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946*," as at 30th June, 1950.

### POPULATION.

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

Aborigines .. .. .	9,165
Half-bloods .. .. .	6,692
Torres Strait Islanders ..	5,000

Aborigines and half-bloods are to the extent of 44 per cent. located on Government Settlements and Church Missions. The areas and approximate population of these Institutions are:—

The remainder—viz., 4,916 full-bloods, 3,940 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.

The foregoing figures have been based on the records of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs, and can be accepted as reasonably accurate.

### ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS.

Generally, it can be claimed that the administration of the Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts and The Torres Strait Islanders Acts has been smoothly and efficiently carried out.

	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
	Acres.			
Palm Island Government Settlement .. .. .	15,510	610	626	1,236
Cherbourg Government Settlement .. .. .	26,765	168	814	982
Woorabinda Government Settlement .. .. .	54,800	345	444	789
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	39,710	186	448	634
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	588,400	295	3	298
Edward River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	554,880	300	1	301
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	616,320	673	14	687
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	860,800	117	168	285
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,216,000	651	8	659
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,600,000	151	..	151
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	245,120	259	36	295
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist) .. .. .	4,318	180	135	315
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) .. .. .	57,600	243	55	298
Hope Valley (Lutheran) .. .. .	71,000	71	..	71
Total .. .. .	5,951,223	4,249	2,752	7,001

As is implied in the provisions of both Acts, the policy is to provide protection and guidance to the Department's wards with the ultimate intention of giving to islanders and aborigines that measure of self-control which their circumstances and ability demand. Despite spasmodic contentions to the contrary, these coloured people are not yet capable of completely managing their own affairs. Even with the protective provisions of the Acts operating, continuous

vigilance is required against exploitation of islanders and aborigines.

Education must be one of the basic factors in the uplift of the race to a point enabling Queensland's coloured population to more efficiently protect itself. Time and consistent application of protection and direction will solve Queensland's coloured problem, but that ultimate aim is not yet in sight.

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

The demand for all classes of labour has again been heavy and it has been impossible to meet all applications for labour, particularly in the pastoral industry and for domestic servants.

Approximately 4,500 aboriginals are employed throughout the State and 1,000 Torres Strait Islanders are engaged, either on their own vessels or on vessels owned by firms, individuals and companies in the pearl-shell and trochus-shell industries. In all callings, these employees have given satisfactory service and have appreciably contributed to the industrial advancement of the State.

As in recent years, Torres Strait Islanders have also been engaged as cane-cutters in the Gordonvale area, the number of such employed during the period under review being 30. The number of Palm Islanders employed in cane-cutting was 53, but it is unfortunate that preliminary notice has been given to these workers that their services will not be required for the 1950 season.

The gross earnings of aboriginals employed throughout the State, excluding the Thursday Island area, were £151,385. The earnings of Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals, employed in all callings, can be safely assessed at £250,000.

HEALTH.

In the title of the Act governing the coloured people of Queensland is the word "Preservation," and, realising the most effective way to achieve race preservation was to encourage and teach care of the young, pre-natal and child welfare clinics have been established on the three Government Settlements.

The pre-natal advice given mothers is on the same lines as outside clinics and assures a normal pregnancy and the birth of healthy children who are under the regular supervision of the Child Welfare Section until attaining the age of five years. All children reaching the age of six months are also immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

To realise the value of these clinics and ascertain the results achieved one has only to visit the Settlements and observe the carefree, healthy children.

Tuberculosis has made its presence felt among the native population and, in an effort to control the disease, an extensive survey is at the present time being conducted throughout Queensland by Medical Officers of the Health and Medical Branch of the Department of Health and Home Affairs. Dr. Macken has visited Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, the Gulf Missions and Mantoux tests have been taken.

The health of the native population on the whole has been reasonably good, and during the period under review no serious epidemics or outbreaks of diseases occurred. The report submitted by Dr. Hilyard-Smith, of Palm Island, which is shown elsewhere in this report, is a comprehensive one and is a true indication of the work undertaken at the three Settlements to safeguard the health of the residents.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

*Cattle Raising.*—The following cattle are depastured on the three Settlements, the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset being £73,955. The figures quoted are as at 31st December, 1949.

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.								Dairy Cattle.					Horses.		
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Speyed Cows.	Stears.	Helpers.	Wearers.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Helpers.	Wearers.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Woorabinda ..	40	1,515	80	477	412	1,038	34	3,596	..	62	16	..	78	43	88	131
Foleyvale ..	..	7	..	5	1	..	1,048	1,061	..	8	..	..	8	..	..	..
Cherbourg ..	19	498	137	75	75	393	3	1,200	..	..	..	..	..	9	16	25
Aboriginal Training Farm ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	72	25	14	113	4	2	6
Palm Island ..	..	..	..	22	..	..	29	51	..	52	28	30	110	23	15	38
	69	2,020	217	579	488	1,431	1,114	6,908	2	194	69	44	309	79	121	200

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

201 fat bullocks .. £4,386 15s.

*Cattle Transfers.*

From Cherbourg to Foleyvale—140 steers valued at £980.

From Woorabinda to Foleyvale—580 bullocks valued at £5,400.

From Woorabinda to Cherbourg—199 herd cows valued at £2,888.

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective, to the above figure must be added £5,480, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlement. Accordingly, sale returns for the period under review amount to £9,866. Excellent seasonal conditions were experienced, and as no major setbacks occurred the Settlement herds maintained normal progress throughout the year.

Foleyvale Reserve is excellent cattle country and a big factor in the conduct of pastoral pursuits is the first quality land which permits the growing of all fodder requirements.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS.

Like all other communities, it was not possible to strictly adhere to the formulated building and developmental programmes due to material shortages. Nevertheless, much useful work was achieved and the following gives some indication of the advancement made in the major projects.

##### PALM ISLAND.

*Water Supply.*—With the release of adequate supplies of cement, work on the construction of the 1,000,000-gallon concrete reservoir for domestic water supply purposes was rapidly stepped up and the tank is in the final stages of construction.

With the exception of abnormally dry seasons the completion of this work will assure the Settlement a safe supply and even then use of water will only be restricted over the latter months of the year.

*Electric Light.*—Since acceptance of contract, work on installation has smoothly proceeded. The power-house has been completed and two of the main generating sets are positioned. Foundations for auxiliary plant have been laid. Work is now proceeding on erection of poles, laying of transmission lines, and wiring of administrative building, staff, and native houses. The end of the year should see the completion of the job.

Contract for the installation of electric light at Fantome Island has also been let and with the material on hand preliminary work has been started.

##### WOORABINDA.

Installation of electricity completed. The domestic water supply scheme has passed initial or blue-print stage and this work is well under way. Practically all required materials are on hand and no delays in the completion of the scheme are anticipated.

##### CHERBOURG.

Existing water supply system has been considerably improved. A chlorinating plant provided has eliminated the necessity of purifying the storage tanks.

The need for the provision of a better and more hygienic water supply has been felt for some time and during the year surveys for the complete rehabilitation of the supply were carried out. Work on the new scheme which provides for water towers, storage, and filtration tanks, and pumping plants is expected to commence in the near future.

In addition to the foregoing major works the year saw at each Settlement the erection of

staff and native houses, extension of existing irrigation systems, provision of farm machinery, motor vehicles, and other general improvements.

#### EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF "THE ABORIGINALS PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ACTS."

Exemption certificates are not issued as a matter of course as each application is fully investigated, and, before a certificate is granted, the applicants, both half-bloods and full-bloods, must possess the qualifications necessary to take their place in the white community and compete on the labour market entirely on their own initiative and ability. Usually, the certificates issued are unconditional, but in some cases trial exemption for periods up to twelve months with the option of renewal is granted.

With the facilities available at the Government Settlements and to a lesser extent on Church Missions for primary education, vocational training and tuition in pastoral and agricultural pursuits, the opportunity exists particularly for the younger generation to achieve a higher standard of living and lead an independent life.

During the year, 151 persons, not including children who are named on mothers' certificates, were granted exemption, and it is pleasing to report that the majority of the people take advantage of their opportunity and settle down to life outside the Settlements and Missions.

There are of course instances where the aboriginal or half-blood finds he is unable to accept life away from his own people or adequately support his wife and family and hands in his certificate and returns to the Settlement.

#### EDUCATION.

Modern aids in the shape of 16-m.m. film projectors have been in operation at Cherbourg and Palm Island schools for some years and, realising the value of visual education, particularly in the case of aboriginal children, who readily absorb learning by sight, it is intended to equip all schools with machines of this type. Already arrangements are in hand to provide a machine for Woorabinda school.

The films, which are obtained through the Department of Education Library, are apart from general school subjects, geographical, industrial, horticultural, pastoral, agricultural and depict bird and animal life. Apart from their educational value, they are the means of giving the native children an insight of the activities proceeding in the outside world.

*Manual Training and Domestic Science.*—Under the manual training scheme, boys of the senior grades receive tuition in cabinet-making, carpentry, plumbing, tinsmithing, saddlery, while the older girls are taught cooking, sewing, and general domestic science.

The number of children receiving primary education is 2,194, and the following table indicates the enrolment at the various Settlements, Missions and Torres Strait schools:—

## ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st. December, 1949.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement .. .. .	Cherbourg .. .. .	135	142	277
Settlement .. .. .	Palm Island .. .. .	89	81	170
Settlement .. .. .	Woorabinda .. .. .	76	89	165
Reserve .. .. .	Cowal Creek .. .. .	17	20	37
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Aurukun .. .. .	39	40	79
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Doomadgee .. .. .	33	46	79
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Lockhart River .. .. .	34	23	57
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mapoon .. .. .	24	38	62
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mornington Island .. .. .	49	55	104
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mitchell River .. .. .	35	28	63
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Monamona .. .. .	40	35	75
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Weipa .. .. .	15	22	37
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Yarrabah .. .. .	68	63	131
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Michael's R.C., Palm Island .. .. .	26	24	50
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Paul's, Moa Island .. .. .	43	42	85
Inland Mission .. .. .	Normanton .. .. .	9	9	18
Torres Strait .. .. .	Island Schools .. .. .	335	310	645
Reserve .. .. .	Mutee Heads .. .. .	21	30	51
Reserve .. .. .	Red Island Point .. .. .	3	6	9
	Totals .. .. .	1,091	1,103	2,194

*Secondary Education.*—The policy of placing higher education at the disposal of suitable students is being pursued and at present pupils are attending the following secondary schools:—

All Souls, Charters Towers—4 boys.

St. Mary's, Herberton—1 girl.

Mt. Carmel College, Charters Towers—2 boys.

Higher education is essential if the coloured people of the State are to keep pace with progress and graduate from the labouring classes by accepting positions in other spheres. They

have proved excellent tradesmen in the more humble trades and, given the opportunity, should be capable of equal efficiency in the higher grades. With the education facilities now available, the opportunity is there.

## ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table of deposits, withdrawals, and balances, the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £417,457 6s. 3d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings bank accounts.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1950.

	Total.		Savings Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1950.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. .. .	24,033 16 10	23,575 7 7	3,009 15 10	1,000 0 0	4,009 15 10
Palm Island .. .. .	27,177 4 8	23,833 7 5	9,017 0 7	11,000 0 0	20,017 0 7
Woorabinda .. .. .	18,872 14 6	20,472 2 10	5,302 10 3	4,000 0 0	9,302 10 3
Various Protectorates .. .. .	120,656 8 9	117,451 11 10	48,772 16 6	238,000 0 0	286,772 16 6
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	236,610 16 0	240,224 18 7	77,355 3 1	20,000 0 0	97,355 3 1
£	427,351 0 9	425,557 8 3	143,457 6 3	274,000 0 0	417,457 6 3

The balance, £417,457 6s. 3d., 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.

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 £9,110 1s. 3d.

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

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



## 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.

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 .. .. .	228
Cherbourg Settlement .. .. .	101
Palm Island Settlement .. .. .	51
Woorabinda Settlement .. .. .	74
Torres Strait Islanders .. .. .	453
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>907</b>

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £55,843 8s. 9d. The recent grant of 5s. per week for the first child is not included in this figure and will result in aboriginal mothers receiving an extra £10,000 per annum.

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:—

	Number.
Daintree .. .. .	10
Doomadgee Mission .. .. .	117
Mitchell River Mission .. .. .	77
Monamona Mission .. .. .	141
Aurukun Mission .. .. .	151
Mapoon Mission .. .. .	132
Mornington Island Mission .. .. .	164
Weipa Mission .. .. .	48
Yarrabah Mission .. .. .	313
Fantome Island .. .. .	7
Woorabinda Settlement .. .. .	91
Palm Island Settlement .. .. .	299
Cherbourg Settlement .. .. .	170
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>1,720</b>

## APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance forthcoming from all officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs is gratefully recognised.

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 arduous duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country police protectors.

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

Reports of the Settlements and the Missions and in respect of Torres Strait Islanders are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1 ..	Palm Island Settlement
Appendix 2 ..	Cherbourg Settlement
Appendix 3 ..	Woorabinda Settlement
Appendix 4 ..	Torres Strait Islanders
Appendix 5 ..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 6 ..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 7 ..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Monamona Mission
Appendix 9 ..	Lutheran Mission, Cooktown
Appendix 10 ..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 11 ..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 12 ..	Weipa Mission
Appendix 13 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 16 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 17 ..	St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island.

C. O'LEARY, Director.

## APPENDIX I.

## PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

## OFFICIAL VISITORS.

The Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, M.L.A.

Mr. C. G. Jesson, M.L.A.

Mr. J. A. Turner, M.L.A.

Mr. F. D. Graham, M.L.A.

Mr. R. H. Robinson, Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs.

Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.

Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs.

Mr. Davis, Accountant, Department of Native Affairs.

Mr. E. J. Carlson, Private Secretary to the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs.

Mr. Dale (Assistant Trade Commissioner for Canada) and Mrs. Dale.

Mr. Wakefield, Acting Superintendent, Yarrabah Mission.

Mr. R. J. Hart, Visiting Magistrate.

## MARRIAGES.

Eight.

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES.

The medical officer's report deals fully with all aspects of these subjects. The report shows the very detailed attention given to all health services and also shows that the improved standard of community health over a number of years is being maintained.

## NATIVE NURSES.

The difficulties being experienced in respect of tuition of the trainees will be noted from the medical officer's report. However, the training already received by the trainee nurses has in no small measure assisted in maintaining very efficient hospital service.

### EDUCATION.

The head master's report indicates the serious difficulty being experienced in maintaining the teaching staff at full strength. Notwithstanding these difficulties, progress has been maintained and the school inspector during his visit was most complimentary in his remarks both in respect to the teaching staff and the children.

In the field of higher education this settlement now has—

- 4 boys attending All Souls School, Charters Towers,
- 1 boy attending Mt. Carmel College, Charters Towers,
- 2 girls attending St. Mary's Convent, Charters Towers.

All are keenly interested in their work. One youth is particularly outstanding. This young man (Paul Burns) returned to the settlement for the Christmas vacation on the 2nd December, 1949, and the next morning he approached me and requested employment in this office, his reason being that he wished to keep his brain active during the vacation. Work was found for him and he proved most diligent and efficient in the work allocated to him. He has returned to college and is now studying for his Senior University Examination. Paul has hopes of being able to go to the University and study for either medicine or dentistry.

Two children are attending the School for Blind and Deaf, Brisbane.

### SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT.

**Water Supply.**—The construction of the 1,000,000-gallon concrete reservoir is now at an advanced stage. Although construction of the reservoir is not completed, water is being reticulated throughout the settlement direct from the intake tank at the source of supply. There will be a full supply from this source until July, when the supply will decrease rapidly, and until the reservoir is completed the underground water supplies will be used to supplement the reticulated supply.

### ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The power-house is completed except for the main doors. Two of the main generating sets are in position. Practically all materials for the completion of this scheme are on hand and the contractor has now commenced wiring the administrative buildings, staff and native quarters.

### STAFF HOUSING.

Material shortages have again hindered all building and development works. However, two small cottages were removed from Fantome Island and rebuilt as one unit. This has provided very comfortable quarters for the assistant storekeeper.

The superintendent's quarters at the now closed Fantome Island Lock Hospital has been removed to Palm Island and is now being rebuilt as nurses' quarters.

The experimental concrete brick cottage is being completed as staff quarters.

### NATIVE HOUSING.

Material shortages have prevented building of any "A" class native cottages. However, 16 "B" class native cottages have been greatly

improved by using surplus material from buildings being dismantled at the now closed Fantome Island Lock Hospital.

### FARM PRODUCE.

Tomatoes .. .. .	73	cwt.
English cabbage .. .. .	1,967	head.
Carrots .. .. .	57½	cwt.
Eschalots .. .. .	165½	cwt.
Kohl rabi .. .. .	59½	cwt.
Turnips .. .. .	115	cwt.
Cucumber .. .. .	90	doz.
Sweet potatoes .. .. .	82	cwt.
Beans .. .. .	22	cwt.
Beetroot .. .. .	31	cwt.
Rosellas .. .. .	1½	cwt.
Chinese cabbage .. .. .	176	cwt.
Radish .. .. .	9	cwt.
Chinese spinach .. .. .	34	cwt.
Papaws .. .. .	62	
Bananas .. .. .	75	bunches.
Watermelons .. .. .	996	
Pineapples .. .. .	215	

In addition to the above, 182 bags of coconuts were forwarded to Cherbourg Settlement and 204 bags to Woorabinda Settlement.

### RAINFALL.

Although the rainfall for the period covered by this report was 89.93 inches, a severe drought existed from the 1st July to 31st December, 1949, the total rainfall during this period being 235 points spread over 18 wet days. This very dry period had a serious adverse effect on fruit production.

### DAIRY.

Milk produced, 5,220.5 gallons.

Considerable difficulty is being experienced in purchasing suitable replacement stock and also in arranging satisfactory transport to the settlement.

### PIGS.

On hand, 31-3-50—Boars 2, sows 6, stores and suckers 59. Sixty-two pigs were killed for rations during the year.

### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The president's report indicates the increased interest being shown by the native people in their own affairs. It also indicates the interest of the staff in the native people and the co-operation that exists between staff and the native people. The association is a voluntary organisation and the members of the staff and native people who so unstintingly give so many of their leisure hours to the work of the association are to be highly commended.

### BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES.

Both of these associations continue to function most successfully.

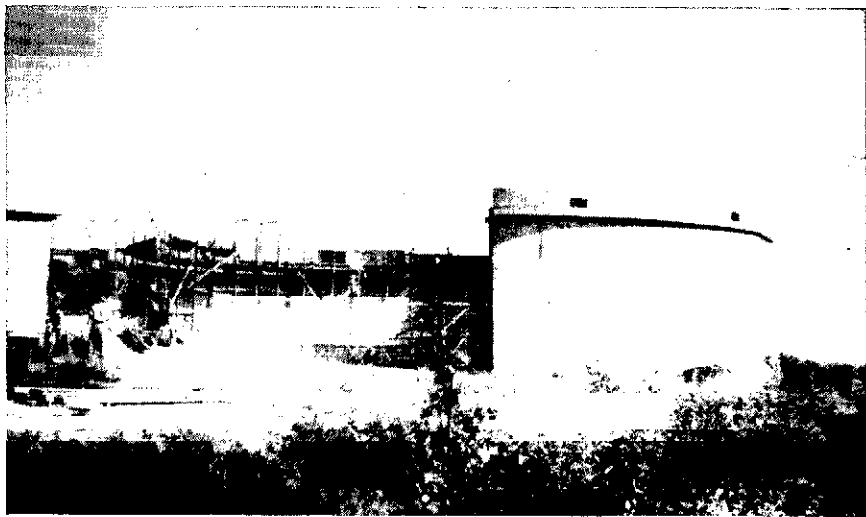
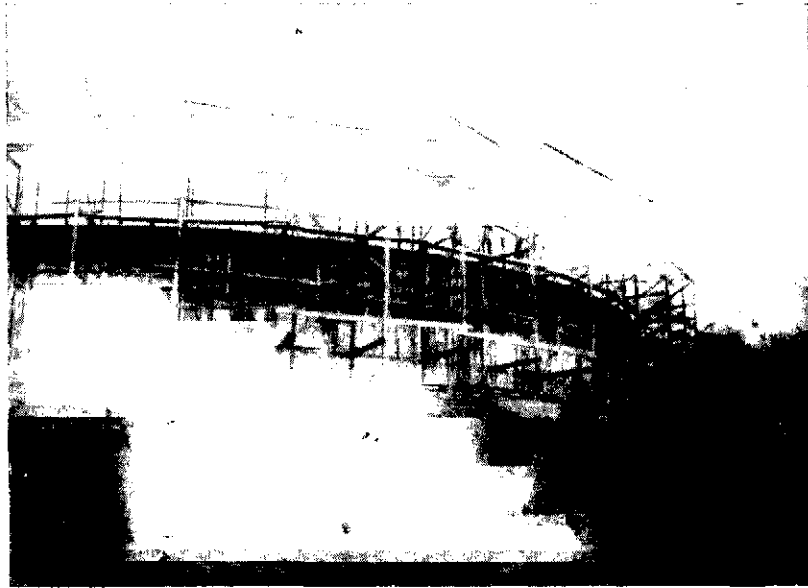
### EMPLOYMENT.

The demand for native labour, especially for domestic service, is high. Every effort is made to meet the demand. The excellent training received by the natives of the Settlement is confirmed by the fact that very few natives who proceed to employment on the mainland return owing to being a misfit in the calling to which they are sent.

It is also pleasing to record the interest that employers of native labour show in their employees.

Native cane cutters from this Settlement employed in the Herbert River district cut 18,000 tons of cane and earned £8,400 in wages.

**PALM ISLAND SETTLEMENT.**



**Construction of 1,000,000-gallon Reservoir, Palm Island Water Supply.**

### CONDUCT OF NATIVES.

On the whole, conduct and behaviour has been very good.

#### GENERAL.

The late world war and the aftermath of war has seriously set back the building and development programme of the settlement, particularly the rebuilding of native cottages.

With the improvement now becoming apparent in material supply, it is hoped that in the near future it will be possible to commence this very urgent work. Other important building works which must be given very urgent attention are—a building to house the baby welfare centre, domestic science building, and manual training school. All of these are most important to the Settlement's well-being, but at present the work is of necessity carried on under very great difficulties in buildings entirely unsuited to the purpose.

In conclusion, I desire to express through you my appreciation to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs, to yourself and Head Office, staff of this Settlement, and to all those who have through their efforts assisted in the well-being and smooth organisation of the Settlement.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Dr. R. Hilyard-Smith.)

In-patients—male, 222; female, 244; total, 466.

Out-patients' Visits—total, 41,138.

Doctor's Visits—total, 624.

Doctor's Examinations—total, 3,430.

Births—male, 22; female, 24; total, 46.

Deaths—male, 18; female, 10; total, 28.

It may be noted that in comparison with last year, admissions to hospital during the year show an increase of 128 patients, the chief cause of increase being babies and young children with skin infections, enteritis, and whooping cough. Much care is being exercised to avoid admissions where possible, owing to a depleted trained white nursing staff. Under the conditions in which we live, such cases mentioned above have to be admitted to effect a cure and prevent spread of disease. In consequence of this, our hospital has been overcrowded and beds have had to overflow on to the verandas to meet the emergencies.

An outbreak of whooping cough this year has been a cause of anxiety to us, as this complaint takes toll especially of the very young babies. I had immunised all children over six months previously, but the very young who missed immunisation have caught this most distressing complaint.

The number of patients seen in Out-patients Department this year is again very high—41,138—and shows an increase of 10,494 on last year's figures—a very large and excessive attendance. This increase was very largely due to minor ailments and the hookworm survey.

### BIRTHS.

There were 46 births at Palm Island this year, 22 males and 24 females. There was only one difficult labour due to primary uterine inertia, and a healthy normal baby was born by forceps delivery.

### DEATHS.

This year the deaths numbered 28, but 20 of these were very old people who had reached the end of their physiological lives. Of the remaining 8 deaths, 5 were babies between the ages of 1 hour and 2 months (2 being premature and the other 3 due to congenital weakness). The remaining 3 deaths were due to cholecystitis, lobar pneumonia, and violence.

#### NATIVE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL.

The training school is now in its third year. This year has been unfortunate in regard to the tuition of the trainees. The lectures and setting of periodical examination papers, which is such an essential part of teaching, have had to be abandoned for months past, owing to staff shortage. My matron and one sister have been forced to do the work of four nurses. The situation is discouraging to all, and is to be deplored. The native nurses, as usual, have done very well in the practical nursing to meet emergency illness. They are especially good with babies and children.

### SCABIES.

This parasitic infection is still much in evidence. Efforts have been made to eliminate the parasite from the population, but without much success. The only way to wipe out this nuisance, under the conditions existing here, is by erection of a fumigation plant. It is hoped the necessary plant shall be erected this year.

#### BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS.

I have felt for some time that there should be blood transfusion sets available for emergency in both Palm Island and Fantome Island hospitals. Consequently, when in Brisbane, I took the opportunity of calling upon the Medical Officer in Charge, Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. My request for the service met with the ready response characteristic of the Red Cross organisation, and I was supplied with serum and equipment for giving transfusions to both hospitals, free of cost to the Department, and with much good will from the Red Cross Society.

#### HOOKWORM SURVEY.

The recent survey carried out here for hookworm showed a decrease in this parasitic infestation since the last survey in 1946. Details are as follows:—

1946 Survey—276 hookworm hosts were found.

1949 Survey—only 90 hookworm hosts were found—a distinct improvement.

#### TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE.

I had observed during the year evidence of a wasting disease among our herd of milking cows. When one of the cows died while being driven, my suspicions were confirmed, and I took the opportunity of making a post-mortem examination. The evidence was that of gross generalised tuberculosis.



As we had in our baby welfare centre at the time 171 native children under 5 years of age (the tender years of susceptibility to infection by the tubercle bacilli), I felt it my duty to remove sections from the organs of this animal and send to the Department of Agriculture for confirmation of my diagnosis by microscopy. At the same time, I made a report to the Department and a request for examination of the whole herd. This met with ready co-operation, and the herd was tuberculin tested and the offending animals destroyed, thus leaving us with a healthy herd.

#### BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

The number of children attending under 5 years is 190, as against 171 the previous year, an increase of 19 children. Despite the rainfall of nearly 100 inches during the last three months, and the living quarters of the native population leaving much to be desired, we lost only two children attending at the baby clinic during the year, a mortality rate of 1.05 per cent.—a very satisfactory result, especially under the existing circumstances of shortage of trained staff. Every child is stripped, weighed, and examined weekly as a strict routine. It may thus be seen that this involves 9,880 examinations in the year.

#### BABY OUT-PATIENTS' DEPARTMENT.

The Baby Out-patients' Department was made an extension of the baby welfare clinic over two years ago, and it has proved a boon in relieving the hard-pressed hospital staff. All children under 5 years of age are treated at this Out-patients' Department until cured of their ills. All cases admitted to hospital are those requiring special supervision and who can only be treated effectively as hospital patients. When disease is discovered at the weekly routine baby clinic, the child is passed to the Baby Out-patients' Department for daily treatment. Mothers are also encouraged to bring their children for the slightest disorder at any time. This alone has resulted in 5,787 visits for the past year.

#### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Following an outbreak of diphtheria in Townsville, I thought it advisable to guard the children here against the disease. Accordingly, all travelling by children of school age and under was stopped between Palm Island and the mainland, and all these children (numbering 417) were immunised, which meant the giving of 1,251 injections over three months. The precautions were justified in as much as diphtheria was kept from the island.

#### MANTOUX TEST.

Dr. Macken was here recently on a survey of incidence of tuberculosis among the population. There were 1,150 persons Mantoux tested over a period of three weeks; this meant seeing each person twice and therefore resulted in 2,300 visits. This work was done at the baby clinic, and Dr. Macken was assisted daily the whole of the time by the baby welfare staff. This survey will be completed during the course of the year.

#### DENTAL CLINIC.

Mr. V. Ferry, the dental surgeon from Townsville, visits the island about every six weeks with his dental mechanic (or when required) for extractions, fillings, and dentures; 438 patients have been treated this year. In between the dental visits, emergency extractions are done by the medical officer or his assistant.

The dental arrangements, appointments, &c., are organised by the Baby Welfare officer, who generally has a week's notice of the approaching visit of the dentist. The advice is published in the "Palm Island News" and announced over the loud-speaker at the cinema. The Baby Welfare officer acts as dental assistant for the duration of the dentist's visit. These dental arrangements work smoothly and well, and the service is satisfactory in every way.

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

This clinic is also run by the baby welfare centre in conjunction with the baby clinic. All women are encouraged to attend early in pregnancy, and maintain regular weekly visits for advice until term. Routine examination consists of taking the blood pressure, urinalysis and abdominal examination for ascertaining the lie of the child. All abnormalities are detected during this period and corrected, thus reducing the risks of childbirth to a minimum. During the year 776 examinations were made.

#### FANTOME ISLAND AND LEPROSARIUM.

The treatment of Hansen's disease by the modern drug "Sulphetrone" has now been in operation for over a year. The patients have been co-operative all along in accepting treatment. About 10 per cent. of the sufferers have been able to maintain the maximum doses of Sulphetrone for long periods without any apparent reaction or discomfort. Others can maintain half the maximum dose comfortably, while the remainder of the patients have no tolerance for the drug at all, even in small doses. Owing to the severity of the reactions to Sulphetrone, and the impossibility at present of controlling these reactions, conservative measures are being adopted until more is known about the control of such reactions.

#### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

This has been satisfactorily carried out by the Hygiene Officer, Mr. Elliott.

*Sanitary Service.*—This service is carried out with a heavy type horse-drawn vehicle, which, in wet weather, requires four horses to draw it. The general service is three times weekly, with the exception of the three dormitories, hospital, and residences where there are ten or more people living but where only one privy exists. Such places are serviced daily. The nightsoil is disposed of in pits at a depot a little over one mile from the centre of the settlement.

There is still room for improvement in the sanitary service, and it is intended that strict supervision of the gang employed will be continued as in the past.

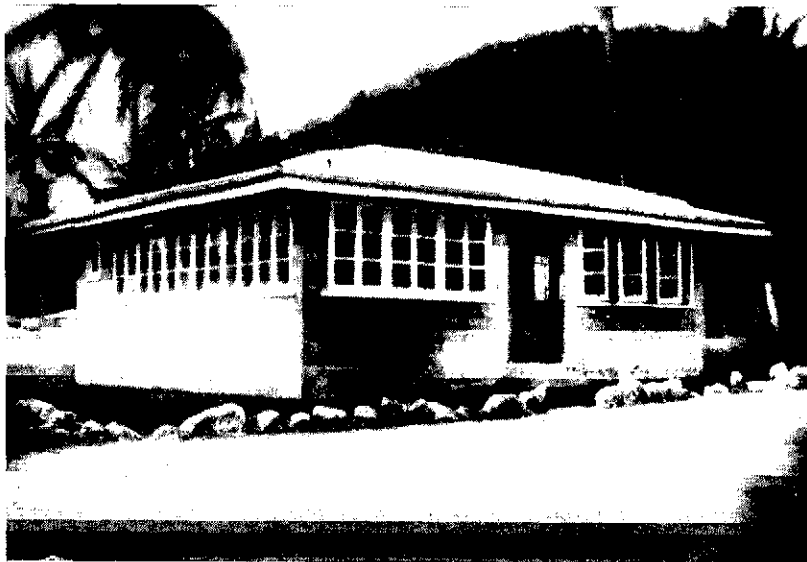
*Water Supply.*—For the first four months of the year the water supply is assured by the regular rainy season, which frequently gives from 90 to 100 inches of rain. In the dry months of the year wells are the source of supply, and these are closely watched and the water in them regularly tested and chlorinated as required. Chlorotex outfits ensure that a check can be made to determine the percentage of under or over chlorination of the water.

*Fly and Mosquito Breeding.*—Continual spraying with D.D.T., Rucide, waste sump oil, and an unlimited supply of disinfectant is carried out all the year round. Two galvanised

**PALM ISLAND SETTLEMENT.**



**Power House. Electricity Supply.**



**Native Cottage. Concrete Brick Construction.**

iron tanks have been installed—one of 180 gallon capacity is kept filled with disinfectant, strength of 1-40, and use of this is unrestricted. The smaller tank of 90 gallon capacity is filled with Rucide, and its use is for the dairy, gaols, and native residences with earth floors.

*Equipment and Stores.*—Hygiene equipment and supplies have arrived regularly and tools are on hand to carry out any necessary work. An increase in the supply of D.D.T. has been arranged and will be beneficial to the community. Sufficient material is on order to ensure the regular supply of sanitary pans.

*Garbage Disposal.*—This service is one of the pit type disposal. These holes are dug, sprayed, and burnt out regularly, and filled in when required. It is expected that a vehicle will be made available and all garbage incinerated. Swill and waste foods are kept separately and daily service removes this swill to the piggeries.

*Drainage.*—Sumps and grease traps are situated at the three dormitories and hospital. These are cleaned and sprayed daily. During the rainy season all drains and sumps are continually flushed, but in the dry period they require frequent spraying and cleaning.

*Hygiene Inspection.*—The dormitories and all native homes are visited and inspected by the hygiene officer at regular intervals, and where necessary advice is given, and where thought fit are revisited to enforce the instructions given. The issuing of meat and milk is inspected frequently and, where necessary, natives have been instructed that they must bring clean containers in which to receive their meat and milk issues. The dairy is visited regularly and the utensils at all times have been found clean.

*Native Labour.*—The hygiene gang consists of 16 men and the sanitary gang 14. These gangs are kept to full strength at all times and are under the direct supervision of the hygiene officer.

*Fantome Island, Casement, Pencil Bay and Butler Bay.*—These outlying adjacent portions of the Settlement are visited regularly and all necessary spraying and other hygiene work carried out. The sanitary service at Butler Bay and Fantome Island is the pit type, while at Pencil Bay and Casement the shallow trench method is in use. It is intended in the near future to establish a depot at Casement similar to the one in use for the main Settlement. Garbage disposal at each of the above is by pits and burning off of all rubbish. The water supply and other facilities are similar to the Settlement proper.

*Monthly Reports.*—A monthly report detailing the work of both gangs is submitted to the medical officer by the hygiene officer, and all requests for material and equipment are made to the medical officer.

*Summary.*—The general hygiene of the settlement is from fair to good. Continual supervision of the native homes is necessary to ensure that personal hygiene as well as cleanliness of cooking and eating utensils is carried out. The natural tendency of the native to throw food scraps around the house is always a problem, and is one of the most difficult to overcome in minimising the flies.

#### PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher Mr. F. A. Krause.)

In presenting this report on the Palm Island School for Aborigines, I would like to say the school staffing has been our main problem.

A good start was made, after which the male assistant teacher was absent in Brisbane for three months receiving special eye treatment and no relief was sent to take his place. When school resumed in February of this year the second female assistant teacher had not returned here and the school is still without a replacement. The other female assistant teacher was married at Easter and, after several weeks absence, was re-admitted. The school is still one teacher short and her replacement is eagerly awaited.

The children were graded as follows:—

Grade:—					
V.	..	..	9	6	15
IV.	..	..	9	11	20
III.	..	..	13	17	30
II.	..	..	19	8	27
I.	..	..	5	3	8
Prep.—					
IV.	..	..	8	8	16
III.	..	..	9	8	17
II.	..	..	13	15	28
I.	..	..	17	7	24
Totals	..	..	102	83	185

The attendances were reasonably fair though not so good by the infant classes. Whooping cough has prevented a number of young children from attending, otherwise average attendances are fairly satisfactory.

*Progress.*—It would be unreasonable to assume that progress could be very marked with the present shortage in staff, thus increasing the responsibilities thrown on to the two remaining assistant teachers. However, a good report was received from the school inspector and while the academic progress may not be all that one would want it to be, the progress in material development has been quite marked.

The school now has a well-equipped library room which is also used as a broadcasting room and is used at various periods throughout the day by selected classes to listen to the school broadcasts. These broadcasts are eagerly sought after by the pupils, and the infant class revels in the kindergarten session each morning. Some of the senior broadcasts are a little difficult for the aboriginal child to fully comprehend, but these broadcasts are backed up by special talks by the respective class teachers, and the children are encouraged to discuss them at their morning talk. This room is also used for dramatisation work by the various classes in their turn.

Besides this amenity, the school also has its own theatrette and enjoys both talkie movies and still filmstrips, the school being equipped with both types of projectors. Through these screenings these children are gaining an educational background hitherto not available to them, and I find this method of visual education most helpful.

Manual training is also taught to the senior grades from Grade III. upwards and, whilst only a limited amount of instruction is given

in sheetmetal and leatherwork, much time is expended in learning carpentry. Apart from the usual routine exercises, pupils are encouraged to make small useful articles for themselves or for their homes, and some time is spent in repairs to school furniture and to the school's environs. During the year they improved their theatrette and also built a dark room, where adults may attend for instructions in photography.

While the senior boys are attending their manual training classes, the girls of the corresponding classes visit the sewing room, where they are taught all forms of needlecraft. Some excellent work has been done by them.

A properly equipped manual training school-room detached from the primary school and a modern domestic science school is desirable if we want to give these children a more thorough and complete vocational training than is possible at present under the present set-up and conditions.

The academic and cultural side are now reasonably well provided for, but as most of these young folks will be seeking employment on the mainland, it is reasonable that they should go forward with some knowledge of the class of work they will be called upon to do. An industrial training backed up by a reasonable State school education will do much to uplift these people and enable them to take their place in our communities.

Projects are also encouraged, and two that have been conducted in this school by the senior pupils are curing and smoking of fish and the processing of the flesh of the coconut into desiccated coconut and shredded coconut as well as extracting the oil. Quite good results have been achieved and it is hoped the experience gained from these two projects will prove useful to them.

Gardening is also encouraged, and with water being available the gardens were kept going for a much longer period than normally. The heavy and abnormal wet season hampered gardening operations early this year, but despite this the garden beds are now full of blossoming flowers.

The local missionaries visit the school and conduct religious classes once a week, all the children attending.

Sports and recreational training receive constant attention and, in addition to the usual organised games and football, cricket, basketball or tennis, the girls are now taught folk dancing through the medium of the school broadcasts.

The conduct and discipline throughout the school is fairly good, though this could be improved a little by still closer co-operation by the parents with the teachers.

Despite our many handicaps, the year has been a successful one in many respects and we look hopefully to better staffing and the building of a domestic science school and vocational training schools in the near future.

#### SCOUTING.

(Scoutmaster, Mr. F. A. Krause).

The troop has functioned throughout the year and at the present time contains 25 scouts, a troop leader and three native assistant scoutmasters. The troop is divided into three patrols.

One boy has passed his 2nd Class test, 17 their Tenderfoot test, and 7 are young recruits who have only joined the troop this year.

The troop meets every Tuesday evening at 7.30 for the weekly meeting. The annual Easter camp was not held owing to heavy rains, but a week-end camp was held at Nor'-East Bay last August. Several outings were conducted by the native assistant scout masters in order to get material needed for troop work—mainly timber.

The troop has been called upon to form a guard of honour on two occasions during the past year, once for the visit of the Minister and later for the visit of the Director.

Attendance at meetings throughout the year has been good and considerable progress made.

Mr. Gray has rendered valuable assistance during his stay here, and has acted as scout master when pressure of other duties has prevented me from attending to the scouts.

#### GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT.

(Captain—Mrs. M. Waite.)

The Girl Guide Company since its inauguration in May, 1948, has increased to 24 in number. There are three patrols, each capably headed by a patrol leader assisted by a second. These leaders, appreciating their responsibilities to their patrols, make a special effort to give the company meetings a happy atmosphere, making the existence of the movement on Palm Island worth while.

During the year, the company was honoured by a visit from Mrs. Belcher, wife of the Bishop of North Queensland, and at one time stationed in South Africa, where she was Commissioner for all the coloured guides in that country.

There have been numerous outings to Butler Bay, Curry's Bower, and the islands for the purpose of furthering our knowledge in pioneering and our second class tests.

The company's funds have all been raised from the sale of ice-cream and the holding of dances. With these proceeds, uniforms, hats, and belts have been bought for every member of the company.

At present the company's 24 members are all studying for their Second Class tests.

Throughout the year, the company has had the unstinted services of Mrs. Krause, our District Commissioner, and we wish to express our appreciation to her.

We deeply appreciate the co-operative spirit shown by scouts in their willingness to lend us their camping equipment and in other ways assist us in achieving the progress this company has attained.

We would like to convey to the Superintendent and his staff our sincere appreciation of the co-operation shown by them throughout the year.

#### PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL REPORT.

(Priest in Charge—Rev. Father Donovan.)

The enrolment in the school fluctuated between 56 and 61. The pupils are divided into three sections—the Infant group, comprising the Kindergarteners and three prep. classes, the Intermediary group, with Grades I., II., and III., and the Seniors, who are girls, mostly,



above school age. An attempt is being made to train and prepare the girls to perform the simpler household tasks.

The school is staffed by three teaching sisters, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The accommodation provided is adequate for the enrolment. The classrooms are suitably equipped with blackboards, books and working materials. Each pupil is provided with individual desk and chair.

The academic work of the children shows a steady progress. Considerable attention is being paid to the development of speech habits. The conduct and discipline of the children are satisfactory.

At the beginning of the present scholastic year, three pupils from the IV. Grade were sent to convent schools in Charters Towers with a view to preparing them for higher education.

As in previous years, school sports are encouraged. A series of football games has been played between the convent school and the State school boys. Our basketball team has been less fortunate.

The school entered enthusiastically into the competition offered by the annual show, and a fair number of prizes were carried off in the various sections—pastel and pencil drawing, plasticine modelling, plain sewing and embroidery, tapestry work and in toys and novelties. Some of the work was displayed at Woorabinda and Cherbourg.

Several picnics and outings have found place on our extra curricular activities. A breaking-up concert was given to the parents and was equally enjoyed by the audience and by youthful actors. By far the most popular function of the year was our informal bazaar. All social, civic and academic activities of the school were placed under a merit system. These were given monetary values on the day of our sale. Games, toys, books and small pieces of finery were added to the 50 odd pieces of little girls' frocks, small boys' suits and daintily embroidered aprons. The senior girls provided for the stalls. Each child was allowed to purchase as much as his banking account permitted. Not only did this social provide unique enjoyment for the children, but was also a splendid means of teaching monetary values, as well as inculcating moral, social and civic habits.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

It affords me infinite pleasure to present this report on the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association's activities for the year ending 31st March, 1950.

*Committees.*—The Welfare executive is now represented by 19 committees, and each individual committee has from 8 to 10 members, so it will be seen that quite a large section of the community is directly connected with this Welfare Association and its work.

As in previous years, each committee has elected as its chairman an officer on the Superintendent's staff, while the secretary and the executive representative are aborigines.

Executive meetings are regularly held each week and special meetings only as required. Not only do the executive representatives attend these meetings, but members of the various committees and the general public are encouraged

to come along also. They are given an opportunity to enter into the discussions and every chance is afforded them to express their own views on matters under discussion, so that executive members, who alone will be called upon to vote, will be better able to make a sound decision by their vote. By this means, it gives the interested public a better chance of learning at first hand what its executive is doing and why it has come to some of its decisions that so often vitally concern the future and the welfare of this settlement.

The various committees now functioning include arts and crafts show, talkie pictures, garden project and home development, newspaper, stalls, football, library, boxing, band, dancing, transport, social entertainment, women's sports, tennis, concerts, aquatic sports, general sports, cricket, and the latest being photography.

*Arts and Crafts Show.*—Our last arts and crafts show, held last July, was easily the biggest and most successful yet staged at Palm Island. Almost 2,000 entries were received from local residents and from aborigines, from our two sister settlements at Cherbourg and Woorabinda and from other aborigines on the mainland, not resident on mission stations or settlements.

The Palm Island show has become one of the most unique shows in Australia, and each year keener interest in it is being shown by people from all over Australia. The highlight of this show was the inauguration of an inter-settlement show contest between the three Government settlements for which the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Honourable Arthur Jones, M.L.A., has donated a very attractive shield. Throughout the three contests held, Palm Island secured one first and two second places, one of which was only separated from the winner by a half point. In the final analysis of the aggregate points, Palm Island came second, being only 6 points behind Woorabinda.

Our display was well got up and very original in its design and the quality of the exhibits were of a very high standard. Some of the exhibits were really outstanding as was the case in our fruit and vegetables, and our examples of tradesmanship compared very favourably with that of our sister settlements.

In the general exhibits of the main show one saw some outstanding examples of women's crafts as well as excellent old-time native crafts. The displays of corals and shells and pandanus exhibits always command a good deal of attention by the public. Visitors were also surprised at the general excellence of the home industries, which included cookery, fancywork, handicrafts, etc.

The schoolwork section was well represented by all three settlements and the local convent school, and in the final analysis of prizes won, three were fairly distributed.

The native sports display on both days of the show created an added interest and attraction for our visitors, who came in launches from Townsville and Ingham districts. Native dancing, spear and boomerang throwing, as well as firefighting, are always popular with our visitors, and the highlight of the days' sports was a woodchopping contest for aboriginal women.

To encourage residents to take an interest in their show, various trophies were donated, and one which brought forth the greatest effort was the silver cup donated by Don MacAllister and Sons for the exhibitor bringing along the greatest numbers of exhibits to the show. This was won by Mrs. Eva Patterson, who, alone, brought along 100 exhibits, while her runner-up, Mrs. Clara Burns, came second with 98 exhibits. The Welfare Association was so pleased with this effort that they presented Mrs. Burns with a cup also for her splendid effort. Interest in this year's show has not dwindled and every hope is held for a show equal to or even better than our last one.

An official dinner was tendered the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and his party by the Social and Welfare Association, members of the executive and the staff also being present. Appropriate speeches were made and toasts were suitably proposed and honoured during the evening.

*Home Development Project.*—Very closely allied to the show is our home and garden project. So important has this project become that much of the success of the show depends on the success of this project. Residents are encouraged to keep their homes in good repair and to lay out gardens—fruit, flower, and vegetable—from which will come the exhibits to swell our show.

Last year, over £50 was used as prize money for this project and one visitor to the island, a Mr. Sniddons of Melbourne, donated £10 towards this worthy cause.

A pleasing feature of the project was the part played by the children, who also were encouraged to have their own garden plot and so become actively interested in the project. A special section was set aside in the show for them to exhibit their products, and many of these compared more than favourably with some of the exhibits of their elders. A similar competition with wider range is being organised again for our 1950 show.

*The Palm Island Newspaper.*—The little weekly newspaper—"The Palm Island News" or the "P.I.N." as it is generally called—is now well established and enjoys a wide circulation. There is not a State in the Commonwealth to which it is not sent, and copies now find their way abroad to New Zealand, Canada, U.S.A., Africa, India, England, Japan, and other countries.

A photographic plant has been installed to use in conjunction with the Gestetner duplicator on which the newspaper is printed and some rather astonishing results have been achieved. A special issue of the P.I.N. was produced to commemorate our last show and to initiate our photographic reproductions in our paper. In December last we published a Christmas number which was fully illustrated with numerous real photographs of local and general interest to our readers. A calendar is also prepared by this association and is included in the first issue of the paper in each new year. This year we headed it with a photograph of our launch "Wondi" reflected at its anchorage at Townsville. The work of printing the newspaper is now done entirely by a young native typist, 17-year-old Myra Patterson, and she is ably assisted by the welfare secretary, Harry Johnson, and a young lad.

In addition to publishing our newspaper, this association also prints all its own stationery, greeting cards, business forms, and makes its own books of accounts and other records required to be kept by the Welfare Association. The work of binding these books is done by our 15-year-old office boy, Arthur Burns.

Apart from the big list of subscribers, quite a large number of copies of our P.I.N. are distributed throughout the settlement by a number of senior school boys who act as newspaper boys. Their services are much appreciated and contribute in no small way to the financial success of the paper.

*Public Library.*—Our free public library is now well established and is becoming more popular each week. We have seating accommodation for 60 readers and this is usually filled to its full capacity each night.

New books are continually being added and certain magazines and weekly or monthly publications are regularly received. Some folks who are not fluent readers obtain a good deal of pleasure from looking at the pictures in the various illustrated publications, such as Pix, Walkabout, Wild Life, and similar periodicals.

In addition to the adult section there is a fine juvenile section to which the Welfare Association frequently adds new books.

The library evening is made more attractive by occasionally giving the readers a short screening of some educational filmstrip. Similar screenings frequently precede a welfare meeting and by this means visual education is being introduced to our adult population.

This library room is also used by the school children for their periods of free reading. As the school wireless is housed in this room, the children listen regularly to the school broadcasts. More requests are coming forward for books on technical subjects and an effort is being made to secure these and so augment our reference library.

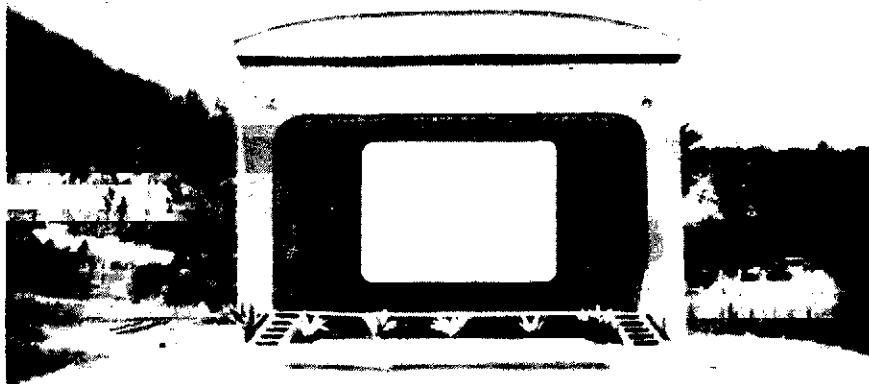
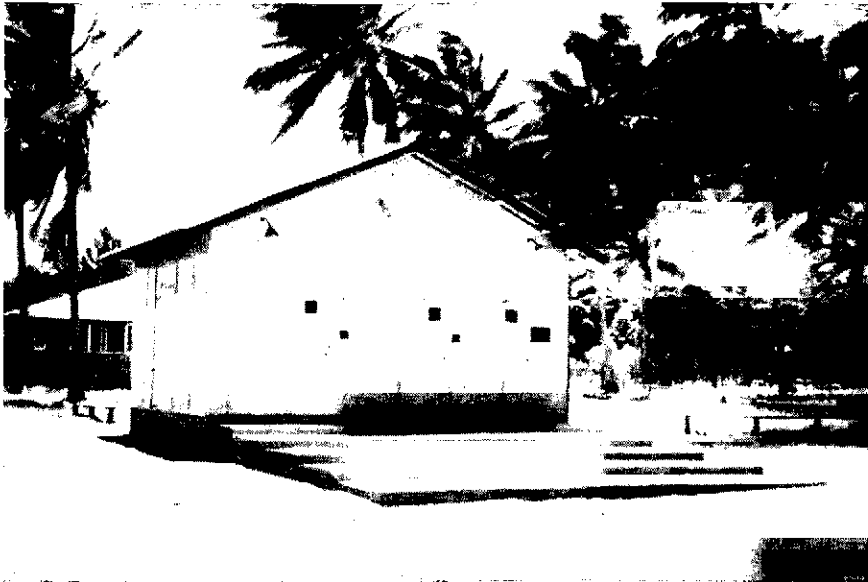
*Talkie Pictures.*—The open-air picture theatre is an ever popular spot and pictures are screened each Wednesday night. The picture and the transport committees are doing a good job at the theatre and can always be relied upon to help wherever they can.

Some of our programmes sent to us are of quite educational as well as of an entertaining nature, though a few have not been so elevating. A better class of programme has been asked for and now we are receiving one feature and a number of shorts, including newsreels, popular science, cartoons, &c. Commencing next month, it is hoped to include a serial in our programme.

In addition to this picture plant, the Welfare Association has sponsored the establishment of a filmstrip library in which there are now over 50 educational filmstrips, which are used for adult as well as child education.

This is probably the only aboriginal settlement in the whole of Australia that has established its own filmstrip library and is so well catered for in the field of visual education. This association is most anxious that it shall be kept abreast of the times by the addition of the latest educational filmstrips to its library. By medium of these strips, backed up by the movie films and talkies, it is hoped to eventually give the rising generation here an educational background equal to that received by our white communities.

**PALM ISLAND SETTLEMENT.**



**Open Air Theatre. Projection Box and Proscenium. Palm Island.**

## SPORTING ORGANISATIONS.

*Football.*—Football is easily the most popular sport on the island. A very successful season was conducted. A representative team visited Home Hill, Charters Towers, Ingham, and Innisfail, while a Townsville team of junior and senior players visited our settlement last July. On all occasions our boys played a first-class game and spectators praised them for the cleanliness of the game and the sportsmanlike spirit displayed by all of them.

A "Smoke Concert" was held to terminate the season and trophies won by the various teams and players were presented.

*Dancing.*—The dancers have always accompanied our footballers on their visits to the mainland and have given demonstrations of native dancing, spear and boomerang throwing, firelighting, spear fighting, peeling coconuts with their teeth, and spearing a given target, usually a banana stalk. These displays are very popular and have helped to draw record crowds to the football matches. The conduct of these boys when on these trips, like those of the footballers, has been all that one could desire.

At the settlement, dance competitions are regularly conducted on alternate Saturday nights and some very spectacular dancing has been seen on these occasions.

Unfortunately, some of the older corroborees are fast disappearing from our programmes as the older men die, and every effort is now being made to stimulate an interest among the younger generation to learn these dances so they can be preserved for posterity.

*Boxing.*—After football, boxing is the next most popular sport here. Tournaments are organised and held on Saturday nights alternating with the corroborees and dancing and keen interest is shown by the boys who enter the ring and the populace who turn out in full numbers to see these bouts.

The boxers have not been as fortunate as the footballers in receiving invitations to the mainland, but two such outings have been conducted. Two of our boys have also been selected to be trained as professionals.

The boys are encouraged to box as amateurs, and no cash prizes are afforded, but instead trophies are donated.

*Stalls.*—This association depends to a very large extent on its stalls to raise funds. Each picture night the stalls committee conducts a soft drink and peanut stall. This is sometimes repeated at the Saturday night functions. Also, requests come from all over Australia and occasionally from abroad for curios, which usually take form of articles made from pandanus and coral and shells.

These curios are purchased by the Welfare Association from the local residents and resold at a small profit to tourists and others wanting them. By this means the native is provided with ready cash for his goods and does not have to worry about getting a suitable buyer for them. Almost £100 was earned by this association during the past year and indications already are for greater demand for curios this year. The profits from the sale of soft drinks and peanuts run into several hundreds of pounds for the year.

Our heaviest expenditure on these stalls is for paper cups. The purchase of these runs the association into £80 or £100 a year. This, however, is the price this association is prepared to pay to maintain 100 per cent. hygienic conditions for its people. When a kiosk can be built, it is hoped to install a glass-washing machine and we shall then be able to use glasses instead of paper cups.

*Photography.*—The latest innovation sponsored by this association is the establishment of a photographic club. So many aborigines are keenly interested in photography and I suppose this Settlement can claim to be the only one to possess a photographic club comprised entirely of aborigines.

A first-class dark-room has been built under the school and adjoining the library room and many of the local residents attend weekly to receive instruction and to practise developing their own films and processing their own photos. Competitions are organised and keen interest is shown by its members.

*Fishing Contests.*—Several fishing contests have been organised by the Welfare Association and much keenness is shown by its many competitors. From 80 to 100 natives usually take part in these competitions and all available floating plant is placed at the disposal of the committee to use on these occasions. Prizes are offered for the most fish caught, the biggest fish, and the heaviest total weight landed. After the competitors have taken from their catches all they need for their household, the surplus is sent to the local hospital for the patients.

*Concerts.*—A concert party under the guidance of Matron Christie is in constant training throughout the year and concerts are usually staged on special occasions, such as at show time, during the Christmas and New Year festivities, and visits are made to Fantome Island to entertain the patients there.

*Christmas Cheer.*—Each year our Welfare Association provides a sum of money equal to the Departmental grant towards a breaking-up picnic for the school children attending our local school and the convent school.

It also provides Christmas cheer for our hospital patients and always gives the patients at Fantome Island a Christmas party a few days before Christmas. Its members also render valuable assistance in conducting the Settlement's Christmas tree for all the children.

*Finance.*—The purchase of stocks for retail purposes constitutes a large sum for the year. Then, in addition, we have spent liberally on improving our library room by the addition of furniture, books, &c., constructed our dark-room and purchased supplies for use by our amateur photographers. The P.I.N. requires a considerable expenditure in providing paper and supplies for doing the duplicating, and these would amount to quite a tidy sum over the year. Notwithstanding this, the association shows a very satisfactory credit balance after each year's operating.

You will gather from this report that this association has grown considerably during the past few years it has been in existence and now forms a very important part of our Settlement's life and its activities.



Much has been achieved through its efforts and much still remains to be achieved. It is only continued co-operation of all residents and their whole-hearted support that will ensure progress and continued success in its many ventures.

*Appreciation.*—It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I would like to express this association's appreciation to the Honourable the Minister, Mr. Jones, for his keen interest and support throughout the year.

To the Under Secretary, to our Director, and to our Deputy Director, I wish to say thank you for your interest and assistance to our organisation.

I would like to express our thanks also to our Superintendent for his continual support and those members of his staff who have in any way contributed to the successful working of this association.

To all executive members and members of the various committees I tender my sincere thanks for their support throughout the year, which has been a very successful one, and I look forward hopefully to a further successful year ahead.

#### FANTOME ISLAND LAZARET.

On this island, situated 5 miles north-west of Palm Island, is established a leprosarium for the coloured members of the community who are unfortunate enough to contract Hansen's disease. The hospital, sponsored by the Queensland Government, is conducted by the Franciscan Sisters of Mary and the unselfish work of this great order of women is most humane and worthy of great praise.

The island is regularly visited by the medical officer from Palm Island, and with the modern drugs now available good results are being achieved. The patients are contented and co-operate in every way with the medical officer and nursing sisters.

On the entertainment side, a 16-m.m. talkie picture plant is operating, the island being included on the film circuit of Metro Goldwyn Mayer and Columbia Pictures.

Throughout the year the housing programme was advanced a further stage, and, although various shortages delayed operations somewhat, the work performed was satisfactory. Other work progressing is improvement to the island water supply and the installation of electric light. Contract for the latter work has already been let and the near future should see the completed job.

#### APPENDIX 2.

#### CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Acting Superintendent, Mr. L. G. McDonald.)

#### HEALTH.

	Males.	Females.
Number of patients in hospital first day of year .. ..	14	25
Number of patients admitted to hospital .. ..	366	485
Number of patients discharged from hospital .. ..	376	512
Number of deaths .. ..	9	8
Number of births .. ..	22	22
In hospital last day of year .. ..	17	17
<hr/>		
Patients' days .. ..	11,766	
Daily average .. ..	32.23	

#### Doctor's Visits—

Number of special visits .. ..	33
Number of weekly visits .. ..	52
Minor operations .. ..	23
Major operations .. ..	2
Outpatients treated .. ..	6,564
Number of visits .. ..	15,457
Daily average .. ..	42.34
Number of X-rays .. ..	32
Deaths .. ..	26

Staff employed at Hospital—1 matron, 3 sisters, 2 nurses, 23 native staff.

*T.B. Survey.*—During the year a T.B. survey was carried out under the supervision of Dr. Macken. All settlement inmates were Mantoux tested and arrangements are now in hand to have all suspects and contacts X-rayed.

*Change Medical Officer.*—Dr. Grimmett resigned in February, 1950, and Dr. B. Monz has been appointed in his place. The liaison between the medical staff and administration is good.

*General Health.*—Although the daily average of patients is high, the general health of the Settlement is good. Visiting medical staff has commented on physique and appearance of settlement inmates in general. Vaccination against whooping cough is now completed and immunisation against diphtheria is in hand.

#### MARRIAGES.

Six.

#### EXEMPTIONS.

During the year 16 males and 16 females were given the opportunity of controlling their own affairs by the issue of exemption certificates.

#### TRANSFERS.

From Cherbourg	
Males .. ..	16
Females .. ..	12
To Cherbourg—	
Males .. ..	35
Females .. ..	20

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Number of employees under agreement, 102.

In addition to the above, a great deal of casual labour is supplied annually to farmers in and about the district for contract work, harvesting peanuts, potatoes, onions and maize, clearing work, ring-barking, fencing, and general farm labour.

Labour for employment in the metropolitan area has also been supplied, which labour is controlled through Brisbane Office.

#### RAINFALL.

(April, 1949—March, 1950.)

The rainfall was above average and a total of 3,512 points fell during the twelve months. Feed has been plentiful, but inclined to be sour during the early part of 1950.

#### SALE OF HIDES.

Eighty-five hides were sold and realised £85 19s. 3d.

#### SAWMILL.

Sawn timber recovered .. ..	214,462 super feet
Logs .. ..	637
Forwarded Thursday Island .. ..	25,402 super feet
Forwarded Palm Island .. ..	24,472 super feet

The boiler at present in use at the mill is to be replaced by a 30-h.p. boiler. This latter is in position ready for installation and should be in use by September.

Cherbourg is fortunate in having a good supply of timber, and we are averaging five to six thousand recovery per week. This supply will allow the building programme to be effectively carried out.

#### CARPENTRY GANGS.

At present five gangs of carpenters are working, each gang under a native overseer-carpenter. A deal of improvements has been effected and it is pleasing to report, with supplies of materials now becoming more plentiful, work is proceeding apace.

Two new staff houses have been erected and three new native cottages and one modern native cottage is nearing completion.

In order to modernise the Settlement, the whole front row of houses in the camp area has been removed to the rear of the camp and it is confidently anticipated that a modern front row of cottages will replace this within the next two years.

Twenty-four houses in the camp have been repaired and renovated, including those removed from the front row, and the end of 1950 will see camp repairs finished and allow all carpenters to concentrate on new buildings.

#### MAINTENANCE REPAIRS.

Maintenance repairs at the hospital, dormitories, administration area, and sawmill have been kept up and the co-operation received from building gangs is recorded for appreciation.

#### PAINTING.

A programme of painting has been commenced. The hospital is finished and the three dormitories inside and out are nearing completion. The effect is pleasing.

#### SPORTS.

Activities in football, cricket, boxing, vigoro, are mentioned separately in the Welfare Association report. It is worth recording here the very successful boxing tournament which was held on 6th March. Visitors from all parts of the district, including Gympie, Gayndah, Kingaroy, flocked to the Settlement. The attraction was Elley Bennett, and to him and his manager and Mr. Pat Hill of Stadiums Ltd., and all visiting fighters and managers, we offer our sincere thanks. Brisbane Office was represented at the tournament by Mr. W. V. Maher.

#### RELIGIOUS BODIES.

The Church of England and Aborigines Inland Mission have services each Sunday and sometimes during the week. The Catholic priest from Murgon also says Mass on the Settlement at regular intervals. A representative of each denomination also attends the Settlement each Wednesday afternoon to give religious instruction.

#### STOCK.

Cherbourg cattle are looking well. At the end of March, numbers were:—25 bulls, 700 breeders, 155 speyed cows, 92 culls (steers and heifers), 193 weaners, 2 bullocks, 1 bleeder.

Six bulls were purchased during the year from Mr. Campbell, Mt. Perry, and promise well. Five are two year olds and one is a three year old.

The high quality of calves this season has caused favourable comment and, with the good season this Settlement has experienced, the quality of Cherbourg weaners next year should be high.

Two new draining pens have been erected at the dip yards and up to fifty head of grown cattle can now be drained at the one time. The Settlement dip is now using Rucide and the draining pens have proved an effective saving.

#### MEAT ISSUE.

Six beasts per week were killed for beef, March, 1950, May, 1950, inclusive, and two per week during the remainder of the year. One beast per week extra is being killed during winter months for soup. For nine months the fresh ration is supplemented by corned beef.

#### HYGIENE.

In general, the standard of hygiene is high. The absence of flies in summer speaks for itself, and the efforts of Mr. Garvey, hygiene officer, and his gang are appreciated.

Maintenance of existing drainage is kept in hand and the Settlement is looking forward to the installation of a new general drainage system when the new water supply is put in hand.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

During the year a chlorination outfit was installed by the Department of Local Government. We are now ensured of a supply of water free from contamination and the present supply is being maintained quite well.

The installation of the new water supply system is eagerly awaited, and, when installed, will ensure an efficient "town" supply.

#### FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash Collections .. ..				17,391	16	2
Savings Bank Accounts—						
Balance at December,				5,472	8	2
1948 .. ..						
Savings Bank Collec-				9,139	10	5
tions Cherbourg .. ..						
Deposits, Head Office				3,174	18	11
Sheets .. ..						
Settlement wages .. ..				9,187	10	7
Cherbourg withdrawals	16,014	10	9			
Retail Stores Orders ..	3,034	0	8			
Withdrawals, Brisbane						
Sheets .. ..	1,931	16	0			
Balance at December,				5,994	0	8
1949 .. ..						
	£26,974	8	1	£26,974	8	1

#### Child Endowment—

	£	s.	d.
Total Receipts .. ..	5,728	0	0
Number of Endowees—98			
Average Monthly Payment .. ..	479	0	0
Retail Store Transactions—			
Cash sales to natives .. ..	6,173	7	4
Sales to officers .. ..	517	11	0
Retail issue order to inmates including			
groceries, clothing .. ..	3,359	1	5
Free issue order to inmates, including			
groceries, clothing .. ..	1,411	8	7
Child Endowment orders .. ..	1,503	2	3
Issues to Aboriginal Training Farm ..	60	3	1
Total turnover for period .. ..	13,187	0	0

## STAFF.

On 30th September, 1949, Mr. W. P. Semple retired from the service. Mr. Semple occupied the position of Superintendent, Cherbourg Settlement, for 25 years and, during that time, saw the Settlement develop to its present standard, and to his own capable and willing efforts must go no small measure of credit for its progress.

The co-operation of all members of the staff and Settlement workers during the year is appreciated.

## CHERBOURG SETTLEMENT SCHOOL.

(Head Teacher, Mr. R. T. Crawford.)

*Enrolment.*—The year opened with 269 children and ended with 277 children on the roll. The highest enrolment was reached during the second quarter, when the numbers reached 299. The mean quarterly enrolment was 292.

*Attendances.*—The attendances for the year were 27,944½ boys and 29,290 girls.

The average daily attendance for the year was 129.2 boys and 135.5 girls, a total of 264.7, which shows an increase of 31.3 on last year. Average daily attendance was affected during the year by colds in the winter months and by sickness at various times, but the average daily attendance for the year, 92 per cent. The average daily attendance must be considered very satisfactory.

*Conduct.*—The conduct of the children attending school was quite satisfactory during the year.

*Progress.*—Progress may be considered satisfactory. Work proceeded smoothly throughout the year, although until the August vacation the school was understaffed. During the last quarter better progress was shown due to the better staffing position.

*Domestic Science.*—This section operated very satisfactorily during the year. As usual, the children attending showed great interest and enthusiasm for the work, and made satisfactory progress. The enrolment throughout the year varied from 30 to 39 children. Thirty-eight children of the middle grades of the primary school attended this section for instruction in needlework. Monthly reports already forwarded show the output and activities of this section. A complete list of completed goods of this section for the year is shown elsewhere in this report.

An average of 25 dozen scones were baked twice weekly and forwarded to the primary school as part of the daily 11 a.m. issue to the children.

Work was prepared for display at the different settlement shows and for the Murgon show, and for the British Industries Fair. Competitive entries were submitted to each settlement show, in each case with gratifying results.

Passengers on Pioneer tourist cars are given an opportunity to inspect work of this section during their weekly visits to the Settlement.

*Manual Training.*—This section operated satisfactorily during the year. The enrolment varied from 21 to 36, including 8 primary school boys.

Boys from the primary school attend on two days each week and have shown fair progress. The full-time students have shown satisfactory progress. The cabinet-makers' and plumbers' workshops are still attached to this section. This section has continued to prove itself of great value to the Settlement as much of the repair work and maintenance work on the Settlement is attended to by the students.

A list of the work completed is shown at the end of report. Work was prepared for display in this and the other Settlements' shows and for display in the Murgon show. Competitive entries were submitted to all the Settlement shows and many awards were obtained. Entries were also sent to the Industries Fair in Brisbane with gratifying results.

*Staffing.*—Staffing during the first three-quarters of the year was not sufficient considering the enrolment. However, the position was greatly improved after the August vacation by the appointment of two white teachers. The resignation of Mrs. R. Lightbody on 30th September, 1949, makes it desirable that another white teacher be appointed for the coming year.

The native staff consisted of three males and two females, one of whom is only a little time out of school and the other has been on the staff only from October.

Both white and native staff have been regular and punctual in attendance and have given excellent service in the duties allotted to them. The progress gained was possible only because the staff gave unsparingly of their time and energy throughout the year.

*Cleaning.*—All cleaning of the school building and other offices was done by the older school children. Classrooms, equipment, &c., were cleaned regularly and in a satisfactory manner.

*Accommodation.*—Accommodation is taxed to the limit, and the need for more space is pressing. The best use possible is made of the accommodation available, but until all school offices are in close proximity, organisation and administration will continue to be a serious problem.

*General.*—The school was closed on 20th May (Murgon show), 29th July (District school sports), 9th September (Cherbourg show).

In athletics, the school, for the sixth year in succession, won the "A" Schools' Championship at the South-East Burnett District School Sports. This success was due in great measure to the teachers, both white and native, who gave much of their spare time to the training of the children.

Six boys and twelve girls were selected from the school to represent the district at the championships held in Brisbane in September.

The primary, domestic and manual training sections submitted entries in all available classes in the Cherbourg show and carried off most of the prizes. Entries in Palm Island show and Woorabinda show received their fair share of the prizes, and the same occurred in the Murgon show.

A display of work from all sections of the school formed part of the Settlement display at this and the other Settlement shows and at the Murgon show.

The sound-on-film projector and equipment continues to give satisfaction and is of great benefit in the education of the children. Our thanks are due to the Department of Public Instruction, which has kept up a regular supply of films.

The usual breaking-up festivities were held on the last day of school. Children were entertained at various games during the morning, and luncheon was served in the school grounds. During the afternoon the Welfare Committee entertained the children with motion pictures.

It is desired to place on record the zeal and co-operation of the staff, white and native, in all school matters at all times. Our thanks go to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and his staff, the Superintendent and the Settlement staff, the Settlement Welfare Committee, and to others who have given assistance to the school throughout the year.

*List of Goods completed during the year 1949.—*

*Manual Training Section.*

- 35 Pannikins
- 16 Bilycans
- 6 Cake tins
- 5 Pole straps
- 5 Bridles
- 4 Kettles
- 4 Funnels
- 4 Axe handles
- 4 Hammer handles
- 4 Nail bags
- 4 Dippers
- 3 Dishes
- 3 Straps
- 2 Ladles
- 2 Dog Collars
- 2 Girths
- One each—Tray, shaving cabinet, suit case, scoop, pouch, breast plate, saddle bag.
- Many small articles as exercises in manual training.
- Articles in ironwork—Welded rings, scribers, &c.
- Articles for British Industries Fair.

*Cabinet Workshop.*

- 47 Chairs
- 19 Tables
- 19 Coffins
- 16 Casements
- 15 Picture frames for infant school
- 10 School desks
- 10 School forms
- 5 Cabinets
- 44 Sink cabinets
- 4 Kitchen cabinets
- One each—Stool, wardrobe, writing desk, pair French doors, lowboy, sideboard, shield case.
- Permanent show stand in pavilion in Murgon.
- Stand for inter-settlement shows.
- Shelving in the settlement store.
- Articles for British Industries Fair.
- Glazing of windows where needed.
- Maintenance work on houses of officials and natives, and to school buildings.

*Plumbers' Workshop.*

- 106 Sanitary tins.
- 9 Tubs
- 5 Tanks
- 5 Garbage tins.
- One each—Flour bin, baking dish, bucket
- Repairs to hospital beds.
- Repairs to water service throughout the Settlement.
- Fourteen tanks mosquito-proofed, various tanks repaired.

- Two stove recesses cemented.
- Shoeing of horses.
- General maintenance work on the Settlement.
- Articles for British Industries Fair.

*Cherbourg Settlement School.*

List of garments, &c., completed during 1949 by girls attached to Domestic Science Section.  
For Free Issue.

*Dormitory and Indigents—*

- 11 Dresses
- 58 Blouses
- 2 Play suits
- 2 Panties
- 1 Infant's Dress

*For Hospital.*

- 12 Cushion covers for nurses' quarters
- 1 Pair curtains for nurses' quarters
- 3 Head squares
- 1 Dressing gown.

*For Domestic Science Building.*

- 10 Pairs Curtains
- 1 Box cover.

*For Special Orders.*

- 2 Dresses, D.N.A.'s Office—Cowal Creek
- 2 Slips, D.N.A.'s Office—Cowal Creek
- 2 Panties, D.N.A.'s Office—Cowal Creek
- 2 Singlets, D.N.A.'s Office—Cowal Creek
- 5 Father Christmas smocks and hoods—Thursday Island.
- 2 Dresses, school monitress
- 2 Slips, school monitress
- 6 Handkerchiefs, school monitress

*For Primary School Children.*

- 37 Blouses
- 105 Uniforms
- 12 Curtains for infant school building
- 2 Table cloths for infant school building

*General.*

- Twenty-five dozen cakes or scones for children's play lunch twice weekly.
- Fruit preserving and jam making.
- Embroidery, fancy work and laundering.
- Various articles for training in domestic science.
- Entries for different Settlement shows.
- Articles for competition in British Industries Fair.

**SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.**

(President, Mr. A. V. Wessling.)

*Meetings.*—During the year regular meetings were held and, although the attendance has been satisfactory, this retiring executive of the association reiterates the policy of previous committees that any administrative officer or member of the native community is welcome to attend any meeting of the association, enter into discussion, and voice suggestion for improvement or criticism of Welfare Association policy.

*Finance.*—The financial position of the association is indeed sound. The treasurer's report, which will be submitted later, shows that during the term of office of the retiring committee—

	£	s	d.
Receipts for the year were .. ..	3,121	8	7
Expenditure for the year was .. ..	2,732	14	1
Profit on years workings .. ..	388	14	6
Balance in trading account .. ..	882	3	3
Plus £100 war bond.			
Value of assets .. ..	5,509	3	4
Amount paid off loan .. ..	535	17	9
Amount owing Director .. ..	1,875	0	0



*General.*—Throughout the year this association has successfully discharged its duties to the community. It has also added to the assets of the association, and has given every encouragement and assistance to the various sections controlled by the association. Each section has been active and a fair measure of success has attended their various efforts. Sporting activity could be extended over a much greater area and many requests for competition in such activity have been necessarily restricted owing to petrol rationing. This association feels that all members of this community should take a greater interest in sporting activity, particularly the younger people. Social activity continues to compare favourably with that existing in communities of a similar size, and visitors comment favourably on the dress and conduct at the many functions arranged during the year. Four girls and two boys continue with their piano tuition and their teacher reports satisfactory progress. This Association has authorised the purchase of another piano, as the present instrument is far from satisfactory. The Welfare Officer during a recent visit to Brisbane inspected several makes and has recommended on advice an instrument for purchase. The old instrument will go in as part payment.

One of the most important events of the year was the retirement of Mr. W. P. Semple as Superintendent after twenty-five years service at Cherbourg. This association had received encouragement and full support from Mr. Semple as Superintendent of this Settlement. During the year the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs was approached with a request that the child welfare centre be named "The W. Porteous Semple Child Welfare Centre and Baby Clinic" as an appreciation of the work and effort of Mr. Semple during his period as Superintendent of Cherbourg. The Hon. the Minister granted the request, which was received with general satisfaction. At a function arranged by the association on the eve of Mr. Semple's retirement a presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Semple by the association on behalf of the native residents of Cherbourg. The Director of Native Affairs and Deputy Director were present and also the new Superintendent, Mr. L. McDonald. Reference was made by the Director and Deputy Director to the work accomplished by the retiring Superintendent. The new Superintendent was introduced at this function and received a hearty welcome from all.

Other outstanding functions during the year were the Welfare Association dinner and the debutante ball held in conjunction with the annual show. The dinner was held in the recreation hall, which was most tastefully decorated with flowers and coloured lights. The tables were well decorated and a canopy of flowers and coloured lights on the stage housed the orchestra, which rendered items throughout the evening, the guest of honour being the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. Other visitors included the State member (Mr. J. A. Heading, M.L.A.), Mr. R. H. Robinson (Under Secretary), Mr. P. J. Richards (Deputy Director), Mr. J. W. Bleakley (a former Chief Protector of Aborigines), Mr. W. T. Davis (Head Office staff), chairman and clerks of Murgon and Wondai Shire Councils, Mr. Sturges (Superintendent, Palm Island), and

representatives from Woorabinda and Palm Island. At the debutante ball seven debutantes were presented to the Hon. the Minister, who complimented the girls on their deportment during the ceremony. The association thanks Mr. and Mrs. Rees for their work in the preparation of the dinner and the training of the debutantes.

During the year delegates from Cherbourg Association attended the Palm Island and Woorabinda annual shows and we thank our sister organisations for the hospitality extended to our representatives. We were also pleased to entertain delegates from both the above organisations during the annual show.

In addition to donations to the local branch of the Q.A.T.B., by receipts from functions on their behalf, this association donated £20 to the Cairns Aerial Ambulance Fund during the year.

*Recreation Hall.*—The recreation hall, which is the centre of Cherbourg social activity, is fully serving its purpose, and during the year the seating accommodation was increased by the purchase of 250 new chairs and, as mentioned previously, a new piano has been ordered. In addition to the screening of pictures, a weekly dance is held and regular boxing tournaments. During the year 146 picture programmes were screened. The programme consists of 1 news-reel, 1 cartoon, 1 short, 1 serial chapter, 2 features, making an approximate average length of 16,000 feet. Length and standard of programme, together with admission charges, compare favourably with outside theatres.

During the year the old recreation hall was removed to the showgrounds, where it will be used by the Department as a child welfare and baby clinic. This hall will be placed at the disposal of the show society at each annual show for use as an exhibit pavillion.

*Christmas Festivities.*—Under the direction of the Welfare Officer, the hall was very colourfully decorated for the Christmas tree. Over 600 good quality gifts were distributed and all recipients were more than satisfied with gifts received. Our thanks are due to the Department for assistance and to the Welfare Officer, who purchased the gifts on behalf of the association, and for his untiring effort in making the night the success that it was.

The New Year's Eve celebration took the form of a dance, proceeds of this function being donated to the local branch of the Q.A.T.B. The dance was thoroughly enjoyed by all. On the night of the 26th December, a sacred picture programme was screened for all residents of the Settlement.

*Welfare Officer.*—The welfare officer, Mr. H. Rees, has spent many hours attending to the affairs of the association. He has coached the concert party and managed the affairs of the footballers. He has interested himself in the affairs that come within the scope of his duties.

We also appreciate the interest shown by Mrs. Rees in Welfare Association and for the work she has put into association functions during the year.

In addition to duties at Cherbourg, Mr. Rees has installed a picture plant at Palm Island and expects to go to Woorabinda shortly to install a picture plant there.

*Show Society.*—The annual show was held on the 9th and 10th September and was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs. Entries for the show totalled 2,000 and reflects great credit on the people of this settlement for the interest they have taken in trying to help the committee to make the show a success.

Rain marred ring events during the afternoon of the first day, and rain again during the night and early morning of the second day caused ring events to be postponed. This was rather unfortunate, as a record crowd of visitors from other districts was anticipated. This was the first show in the new pavilion at the showgrounds and the arranging of exhibits for display purposes was a considerable improvement on previous shows. Further improvements were carried out in the ring. New hurdles were made and another amplifier was purchased for use by the show society. The official opening was broadcast by Station 4S.B. and created considerable interest.

During the year Mr. R. T. Crawford, who has been president of the show society since its inception, went away on a well-earned extended leave. Prior to leaving, Mr. Crawford retired from the presidency and at a general meeting Mr. E. H. Goodchild was elected president to the society. The finances of the society are in a sound position. Takings during the year amounted to £236 19s. 9d. Expenditure was £156 16s. 2d., leaving a credit balance of £80 3s. 7d. A pleasing feature was the increase sales in membership tickets, and the committee looks forward to further support during the coming year.

Our thanks are extended to all the judges, stewards, Mr. Rees, Mr. Jeffries, Mrs. Crawford, the president of the Society, Mr. E. H. Goodchild, to all members of the committee, and to Mr. R. T. Crawford for all work on behalf of the Cherbourg Show Society.

*Cricket.*—Under the presidency of Mr. J. McRae, Cherbourg cricket has functioned smoothly and efficiently. The Cherbourg Cricket Club is this year affiliated with the Murgon and District Cricket Association, which covers Murgon, Tablelands, Redgate, Goomeri, Manumbar, Cinnabah, Tansey, and Cherbourg. In the district competition, Cherbourg holds a good position. However, two more games have to be played to complete the competition.

In the district team that went to Brisbane to compete in the Country Week Cricket Carnival, Cherbourg was represented by four players. These players gave a good account of themselves, and we look forward to getting further representation in future Country Week Cricket Carnivals at Brisbane. Nomination fees and expenses were met by the association. Balls were purchased at the beginning of the cricket season together with a set of wickets and bails, also scoring books.

Our thanks are due to Mr. McRae for his interest in cricket and to members of his committee and to all players. Our thanks are also due to the Superintendent for making transport available during the season.

*Football.*—Under the presidency of Mr. E. H. Rees, the Cherbourg Rugby League had another active season. Matches were played at

Brisbane, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gayndah, Kingaroy, Goomeri, Mundubbera, and Murgon. Our team did not do as well during the season as in previous seasons. However, it is felt that this season the football standard will improve.

In addition to inter-district football, three clubs conducted a competition on the Settlement, the clubs being Rovers, Hornets, and Kookaburras. A cup for competition was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Rees and was won by the Hornets Football Club. Other competition football played was the "Core Cup" fixtures under the Wide Bay and Burnett Rugby League and the "Corser Shield" between Upper Burnett, Lower Burnett, and Cherbourg Leagues.

Equipment purchased for the league during the season included jerseys, socks, and shorts for the representative team and new balls.

One feature of the season was that Johnny Gee Gee, who sat for his examination for his referee badge, passed and is now a registered referee.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Rees, all members of his committee and to all players for their interest in football during the year. The Cherbourg League finished the season with a credit of £124 13s. 4d.

*Boxing.*—Under the presidency of J. Edwards, boxing has been enthusiastically supported. Many tournaments were held on the Settlement and boxers from this Settlement have taken part in tournaments held at Murgon, Kingaroy, Kilcoy, and at other centres. During the year a team of boxers was brought from Brisbane and were matched with a Cherbourg team at Cherbourg. This visit was arranged by the Brisbane Stadium. At this particular tournament, Cherbourg lads won all fights. The manager of the Brisbane Stadium, Mr. B. Potts, together with the Brisbane Stadium referee, Mr. P. Hill, proposed visiting Cherbourg early in March to enable them to see the Cherbourg lads in action. Cecil Brown of this Settlement, who has been matched at four nights at the Brisbane Stadium recently and winning each fight, has now been found employment in Brisbane, where he can get constant supervised training, and this association hopes that this lad will avail himself of this opportunity and justify the confidence of the boxing committee.

Our thanks are due to J. Edwards, all members of his committee and to all boxers for their interest in boxing. The Boxing Committee finished the year with a financial credit of £63 9s.

*Concert Party.*—During the year the concert party presented two concerts at Murgon and, except for impromptu concerts on the Settlement, have more or less been in recess. This year the party is being reformed to make appearances throughout the district.

*Children.*—During the year, the association subsidised an advance of pocket money for all institutional children attending the Murgon show, and also for institutional children and indigent elderly people for the Cherbourg show. It also assisted with transport and catering for school children attending the South-East Burnett S.S.A.A. Association Annual Sports.

Assistance was also given for a team of 19 as part of a team of 42 who represented the South-East Burnett at the Queensland State Schools Annual Sports at Brisbane. Assistance was also given for the annual breaking-up party, and a special picture programme was screened for the children on this day.

*Vigoro.*—Under the presidency of Mrs. Rees, a girls' vigoro club was formed during the year and is performing successfully in inter-town matches. So far, this club has been unbeaten, having played several matches against Murgon and Goomeri.

Material purchased for the vigoro club included 2 dozen balls and 2 bats.

*Inter-Settlement Exhibit.*—The highlight of the annual shows staged by each Settlement was the inter-Settlement competition for the "Jones Shield." This Settlement finished last in this the first round, Woorabinda being first, and Palm Island second. This competition runs for five years, and this association expects every resident of this Settlement to get together and contribute articles of their best endeavour, to enable Cherbourg to make up points lost last year. This association congratulates Woorabinda on gaining first place and Palm Island, who finished second with only 6 points difference.

*Seaside Home.*—We still feel that the setting up of a seaside home, where natives can enjoy a holiday or recuperate after illness, is desirable and it can do no harm to keep such a project in mind and endeavour to obtain some land for this purpose.

*Appreciation.*—Our thanks are due to the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary (Mr. Robinson), the Director of Native Affairs (Mr. C. O'Leary), the Deputy Director (Mr. P. Richards), to the Superintendent (Mr. L. McDonald), and to all departmental officers who have shown an interest in welfare association affairs; to Mr. A. Day of Canada for his generous donation of £20, together with his gift of numerous photographs, to the Murgon Show Society for their co-operation and gift of £7 7s., to the Murgon Concert Party for their donation of £5, to the secretary and treasurer and to members of all committees for the work they have done and to Mr. Rees, who has accepted innumerable association responsibilities and helped every section of the association.

*Conclusion.*—I would like to reiterate the remarks of previous presidents in that the incoming committee should have the help and support of every member of this community. Every member of this community should observe the laws of good conduct and general demeanour, give all assistance and full co-operation to the Superintendent and to this association in bringing about improvements in all branches of social and recreational activity and improvement in the living conditions of this growing community.

The above report should indicate that the retiring committee has carried out its duty with credit, and I offer them my thanks for their loyalty and co-operation during this term of office.

#### HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. N. S. Garvey.)

*Infectious Diseases.*—The general health of natives was closely watched and any person requiring medical attention was directed to report to the hospital.

(a) *Venereal Diseases.*—Frequent inspections of male personnel were carried out and the following patients were treated as directed by the medical officer:—Gonorrhoea, 17 patients; urethral discharge, 2 patients.

(b) *Whooping Cough.*—Where possible, the premises of these patients were sprayed and all parents were exhorted to keep their children home as much as possible.

(c) *General.*—Following the death of Baby Davidson in June, 1949, from some communicable disease, terminal disinfection (with a strong solution of formalin) was carried out.

*Sanitary Service.*—This service and the sanitary depot were carried out and maintained in a fairly satisfactory manner. The receipt, in May, 1950, of 150 sanitary pans of good construction will further increase the efficiency of this service.

*Rubbish Service.*—All rubbish was collected regularly and disposed of in an efficient sanitary manner at the rubbish depot. By next spring, all the tins, bottles, and similar rubbish that have been collected during the last twelve months will have been covered. Both sanitary and rubbish depots were sprayed with D.D.T. twice weekly during the fly-breeding season.

*Dairy and Piggery.*—Despite continued wet weather, these premises were maintained in a fairly satisfactory manner, chiefly owing to the installation of a concrete "manure collection point" and the regular removal of the manure to the rubbish depot. Both premises were sprayed as in paragraph above.

*Slaughtering.*—The slaughtering was rigidly supervised and prompt action was taken on the discovery of any diseased or suspicious-looking meat. The hygiene squad took over the cleaning up of the yard after killing and the following measures were enforced:—

- (a) All the manure, blood, offal, &c., removed to rubbish depot; and
- (b) The rails of the killing pen white-washed at completion of killing.

Further two pine tables (of good construction) with flat galvanised iron tops were built by the Rural School and installed at the yard. One table has a top draining to one point and is for cleaning of the gut, &c. These tables greatly assist in the efficient maintenance of these premises, which maintenance is of a high standard.

*Anti-Fly and Mosquito Campaigns.*—Fully carried out. However, even with the additional control measures that were enforced during the last twelve months, the fly incidence is still too high. Apparently the house fly is still breeding immunity to D.D.T.

*Settlement Area.*—Maintained in a fairly clean and tidy condition.



*Housing.*—For some time past three gangs of carpenters have been engaged in repairing and walling in the verandas of the native cottages. This work, combined with the erection of three more cottages by another gang, has greatly improved the living conditions of the people.

*Water Supply.*—The installation of the liquid chlorine treatment plant will have an immense influence on the health of the people as they now have a guaranteed potable drinking supply.

*Shower Rooms.*—In July, 1949, these rooms were repaired, altered, and reopened. The present construction affords much easier and more efficient cleansing.

*Dip.*—The additional construction effected on these premises during the past twelve months will prevent any contents of the dip being broadcast in the yards and thus will remove any danger of the drinking well near Dynever's becoming contaminated.

#### ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

(Farm Foreman, Mr. A. V. Wessling.)

The farm of 700 acres, 120 of which is under cultivation, continues to function well. The spade work of previous years is now showing results.

The returns for the twelve months, April, 1949 to March, 1950 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Sale of cream .. .. .	966	12	6
Sale of pigs .. .. .	2,157	4	6
Sale of crops (potatoes) .. .. .	331	9	0
Sundries .. .. .	46	7	4
	<u>£3,501</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>

Crops for fodder and winter feed have been maintained and a good supply of oats, wheat, and barley has been stored. A winter crop of 400 bags of potatoes is anticipated.

Pigs continue to do well and prices received are more than satisfactory.

During the year the dairy herd was tested for T.B. and the herd certified free.

A Ferguson tractor was purchased to add to the machinery plant, and this tractor is an efficient addition to such plant.

#### APPENDIX 3.

#### WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

#### HEALTH.

The general health of the people remains very satisfactory, and another year was enjoyed free from any serious epidemics.

With regard to hospital staff, it has been possible to maintain a higher staff level than was possible for some years.

A hygiene officer has been appointed, and is now attending to the hygiene and sanitation work on the Settlement. A female welfare officer

has been appointed and is working in the camp area in conjunction with the hygiene officer and the hospital.

	Female	Male
Patients in hospital on 1st April ..	10	8
Patients admitted throughout year ..	232	268
Births during the year .. .. .	18	15
Deaths during the year .. .. .	5	8
Patients discharged during the year ..	249	273
Patients in hospital last day of month	6	10
Total number of patient days .. .. .	2,226	2,466
Daily average number of patients ..	6	6.7
Total number of out-patients treated ..	18,371	
Total visits .. .. .	20,220	
Minor operations .. .. .		15

#### Maternity Section.

Total births .. .. .	33
Stillbirths .. .. .	1
Premature births (7/12) .. .. .	1 dead
Twins .. .. .	1 pair
Instrumental delivery .. .. .	1

All children breast fed for at least 6-12; 4 small children under 5 lb. remained in hospital until they were over 5 lb.

All mothers received a layette when leaving the hospital, and then attend the Maternal and Child Welfare Clinic.

#### MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

Clinic opened in May, 1949, and 12 children attended on the first day. The average attendance is now 40-50.

Attendance year ending March—Males 830, females 850.

The mothers received extra food for the children after they are 6-12 old. Very few children underweight at 6-12.

Expectant mothers and nursing mothers received extra protein, in the form of liver and cheese, twice a week.

We hope to extend this more and give all children under 2 years their mid-day meal, morning and afternoon drinks.

#### GENERAL WARDS.

During the year a number of patients were transferred for further treatment and examinations—

To General Hospital, Rockhampton .. ..	14
To General Hospital, Baralaba .. .. .	1
To General Hospital, Brisbane .. .. .	3
To General Hospital, Fantome Island .. ..	3
To Westwood Sanatorium .. .. .	2

One hundred children were immunised against diphtheria in September; 150 children will be immunised against whooping cough in March.

Dr. Macken recommended a number of patients to be X-rayed for T.B.

During the winter months there were a number of cases of pneumonia, malnutrition, gastritis, and infected sores and yaws. The sores improved with continuous treatment, and the general health of the children has improved.

Deaths—13.

#### NURSING STAFF, 1949.

Matron, sisters 2, nurses 6, native girls.

The nurses have been given test papers during the past nine months. Unfortunately, their education standard is not very high. Their practical work is very good.



They are all very interested in the children and they change duties each week. Without their co-operation it would be impossible to attend such a number of patients.

#### VISITORS.

The Hon. A. Jones, M.L.A., Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. R. H. Robinson, Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy-Director of Native Affairs.

#### POPULATION.

Seventy-one people ex Cape Bedford Mission returned to Cooktown to take up residence at the newly established Mission at Hopevale, thus reducing our population to 789 as compared with 852 for the year 30th June, 1949.

Births—18 female and 15 males; total 33.

Deaths—5 female and 8 males; total 13.

Marriages—2 marriages were celebrated.

#### EDUCATION.

Reports of the school inspector and general standard of school work displayed at the various Settlement shows provide evidence of appreciable advancement.

Boys on leaving school are allocated to various activities carried out on the Settlement—i.e., carpentering, garage, dam sinking, and farm tractors, stock and farm for a period of one month at each. After this term they are allowed to follow the calling they desire, and every endeavour is made to teach them to become efficient in the calling of their choosing.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Amounts banked to savings bank accounts were £7,685 11s. 3d., Settlement maintenance £1,365 6s. 1d.

Agreements issued covered occupations as follows:—

Station hands .. .. .	159
Domestics .. .. .	48
Shire Councils covering tractor and truck drivers .. .. .	22
Thiess Bros.—Road work, tractor and truck drivers .. .. .	14
Farm hands .. .. .	14
Droving .. .. .	14
Ringbarkers .. .. .	9
Sawmills .. .. .	8
Timber getters .. .. .	3
Sugar workers .. .. .	4

#### TRANSPORT.

The Settlement has managed to maintain a fairly efficient transport service through the period. The trucks covered a combined mileage of 38,187 miles, the utility 14,046 miles, and the two jeeps 4,986 miles, hauling a total of 462 tons from the Duaringa railway station, 90 tons of grain sorghum from Foleyvale to Duaringa and Woorabinda, and 197 mill logs to the sawmill, total superficial feet being 66,634.

Passengers carried were 854, for which an amount of £260 17s. 6d. was collected in fares. Foleyvale gangs of from 30 to 40 men were also transported to Woorabinda each fortnight to receive their wages.

Three native drivers are now doing most of the heavy truck driving. All truck repairs are carried out on the Settlement by native staff under the supervision of a white overseer.

#### ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The power-house has provided electricity as required throughout the period without any serious breakdowns. Two natives are now serving their time as drivers with the idea of eventually obtaining driver's certificates

#### BUILDINGS.

*Staff Housing.*—New staff housing has been provided for a power-house, engine driver and the hygiene officer.

*Native Housing.*—Two cottages for natives were completed and numerous repairs to existing huts were carried out.

#### SAWMILLING.

Milling was held up early in the period under review because the services of a sawmiller could not be obtained. Since obtaining the services of a competent miller, much trouble has been experienced with the delivery of logs to the mill through the continuous wet weather.

However, a recovery of 38,310 superficial feet was obtained from the 66,634 superficial feet delivered to the mill. The dressing of 10,000 superficial feet was also carried out.

#### DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY.

Piping and cement are at the Settlement for the new reticulation scheme. It is expected that, during the next year, the proposed water-clarifying plant, storage tank, and reticulation will be completed.

#### AGRICULTURE.

*Rainfall.*—Rainfall for the period under review was equal to the record with 4,068 points.

*Farm.*—The 154 acres of peanuts planted in early 1949 yielded a light crop of only 14,920 pounds of nuts. Seventy bags of these were used for free issue to the inmates on nights that pictures were showing. The remainder realised £184 10s. 1d. through the Peanut Board.

One hundred and twenty acres of peanuts have been planted for harvesting during 1950, and are showing an exceptional crop of nuts at present.

Eighteen acres of wheat produced 25 tons of baled hay. Ten acres of sudan grass produced 5 tons of baled hay. Eight acres of sudan grass were ploughed in for green manure in the vegetable growing area.

Vegetables produced and issued during the period under review are as follows:—

Sweet potatoes .. .. .	2 tons
Turnips .. .. .	9 tons
Onions .. .. .	2½ tons
Tomatoes .. .. .	162 ½-bushel cases
Cabbage .. .. .	713 dozen
Cauliflower .. .. .	56 dozen
Watermelons .. .. .	25 tons
Rock melons .. .. .	½ ton
Cucumbers .. .. .	48 bushels
Long beans .. .. .	87 bushels
Beetroot .. .. .	1½ tons
Lettuce .. .. .	182 cases

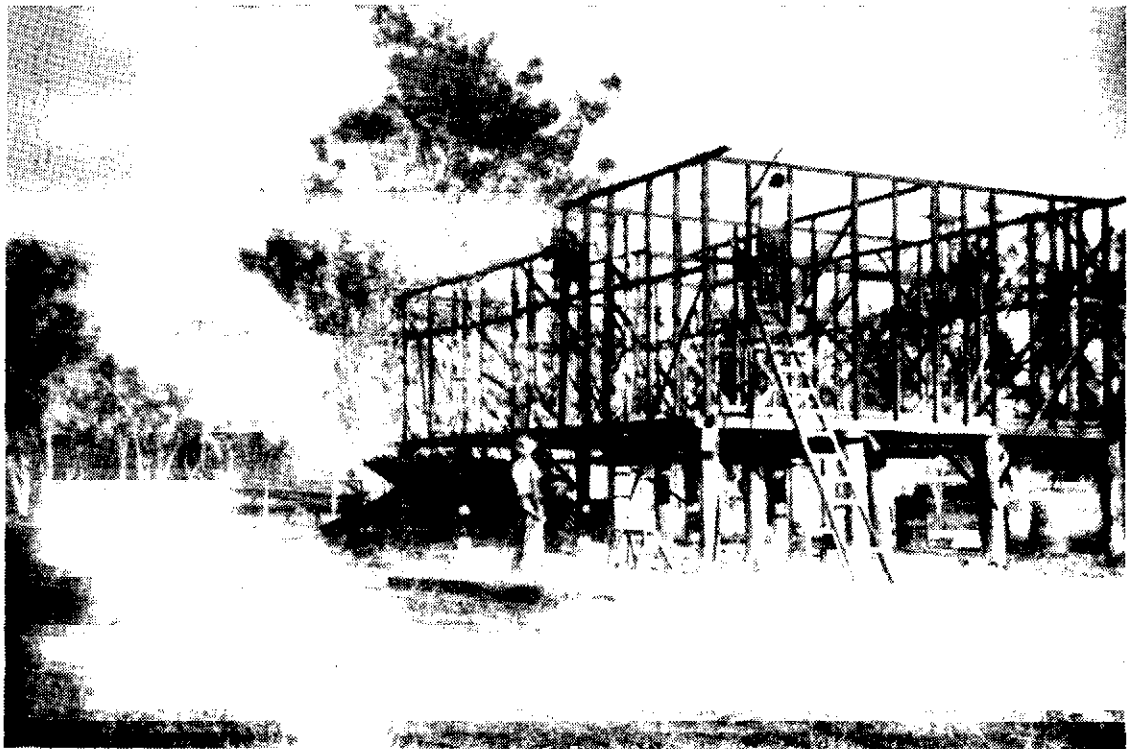
#### STOCK WATERING.

Two dams were completed by a contractor, the excavations being 4,400 and 5,600 cubic yards respectively. Each dam was excavated to a depth of 14 feet and is now holding between 17 and 18 feet of water.

**WOORABINDA SETTLEMENT.**



**Vegetable Garden for Supply Settlement Hospital,**



**Native Cottage under Construction.**

The Settlement plant completed a scheme of turning a gully and banking up the inlet and outlet of a chain of waterholes, thus providing an immense stretch of water, the deeper parts of which are 15 feet deep.

The heavy rains of this year have filled all the above holes, and it is considered that three very permanent watering places have been provided.

#### PASTORAL.

An exceptionally good year was experienced and we branded 1,040 calves. This is the best branding on Woorabinda. The cattle numbers are now 3,516. One hundred and ninety-nine head of herd cows were transferred to Cherbourg, and Woorabinda is now holding 140 steers transferred from Cherbourg to Foleyvale. Three hundred and one cows were killed for rations. The sale of meat to officials realised £158 11s. 6d. and the sale of 326 hides made £378 11s. 11d.

*Horses.*—Fifteen foals were branded, 5 draught and 10 saddle. Two draught and 6 saddle horses were broken in. Horses now number 43 draughts and 88 saddle horses.

*Pigs.*—Pigs were killed for rations on three occasions to give some variation in diet. The total killed was 25. The number of pigs on hand are 1 boar, 3 sows, and 38 store pigs.

#### DAIRY.

Reasonable milk production was maintained throughout the year by feeding hay produced at Woorabinda and grain produced at Foleyvale through the winter months.

The herd of dairy cows totals 78 and the milk produced, 12,060 gallons. Sale of milk to officials realised £26.

#### RETAIL STORE.

Sales are still on the increase. Cash sales to natives amounted to £12,444 9s. 8d., to natives on order £2,154 5s. 7d., to officials £1,172 9s. 8d., making a total of £15,771 5s. 11d., exclusive of free issues made from retail store on orders.

#### WOORABINDA SETTLEMENT SCHOOL.

(Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.)

The number of pupils enrolled at the end of March, 1949, was 165, and at the end of March, 1950, the number was 176, consisting of 84 boys and 92 girls.

About the middle of February, 1950, 15 Cape Bedford children left for their northern home, thus reducing the daily average attendance. The children accompanied their mothers, who went north to join their husbands. There will be a large number of children leaving when the remainder of the Cape Bedford people return to their home at Hope Vale.

*Classification of Pupils.*—At the end of the year under review, the classification of pupils was as follows:—

Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Grade V .. .. .	2	6	8
Grade III A .. .. .	5	7	12
Grade III B .. .. .	8	13	21
Grade II A .. .. .	11	11	22
Grade II B .. .. .	8	9	17
Grade I .. .. .	13	8	21
Prep. 4 .. .. .	17	13	30
Prep. 2 .. .. .	11	12	23
Prep. 1 .. .. .	9	13	22
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>176</b>

*Additional Children.*—In addition to the children enumerated above, there are two white children in attendance, but these children's names do not appear in the school records.

*Inspection.*—The school was inspected on the 5th and 6th September, 1949, by Mr. District Inspector A. V. Hendy of the Department of Public Instruction, and some extracts from his report follow:—

“The children are being trained by precept and example of their teachers to be truthful and self-reliant citizens and are learning at school their first lessons in co-operation, consideration for others, and patriotism. A spirit of earnestness pervades the work of the school and the children are acquiring habits of punctuality, regularity, industry, and neatness. A splendid playground spirit appears to exist among the children, who play in a most friendly and happy fashion.

“Needlework.—The needlework of the school was of the highest quality, and Mrs. Jarrett is to be complimented on the work performed by her girls, and it speaks volumes for her industry and initiative.

“Handwork by boys.—The handwork of the boys was very creditable and has been highly praised when exhibited in the inter-settlement shows. All boys who attain the age of twelve years graduate to the vocational classes, irrespective of grade.

“Music.—The music of the school is outstanding. In particular, the senior classes, with their melodious two-part singing, were a delight to hear, and the head teacher is to be congratulated on the splendid singing of his choral group.

“General Conditions.—Very sound progress is being made.

“General Remarks.—There is a splendid school library, and the children use the books in free reading periods or when set tasks are completed.

“Night School.—The head teacher takes night school three times a week in a voluntary capacity, intended for adults and for those just left school. Some of the subjects taken are—Arithmetic, English Literature, Astronomy, Physiology, Australian Poetry, &c. Attendance (quite voluntary) varies from fifty to one hundred people.

“It was a pleasure to inspect the work and to note the educational development of these native children.”

*Material Improvements.*—Two tanks, each of 1,000 gallons, have recently been installed, and an additional storeroom has been built on the southern end of the western veranda. The school has been painted externally and partially painted internally.

*Queensland Industries Fair.*—The head teacher organised this Settlement's contribution to the Queensland Industries Fair held in Brisbane in April, 1949. The number of entries was 167 (reduced from a much higher number because materials needed could not be obtained in time). The number of prizes won was twenty, and their money value was £23 2s. In addition to these monetary prizes a bronze medal was won by Maudie Wallace, a school-girl, for an exhibit of knitting.

**Settlement Shows.**—This school contributes exhibits to the shows held at the three Settlements. In each of the inter-settlement competitions (three in number) held during the year under review, this school obtained, by a narrow margin, a superiority of points.

**Health and Cleanliness.**—Towards the end of 1949, the matron of the hospital requested that the children give daily washings, with disinfectant, of all the desks and forms in the school-rooms, and of the seats in the closets, with the object of lessening the incidence of skin diseases. This work was undertaken and still continues. The area washed daily by the children is 446 square feet. In addition to this work the children give the schoolrooms daily sweepings and quarterly scrubbing.

#### Vocational Work—

**By the girls.**—The vocational training of the girls is undertaken by Mrs. Jarrett. The work undertaken includes knitting, fancywork, plain sewing, the taking of correct measurements and the drafting of patterns from these measurements and how to use paper patterns. The quality of the work done has been favourably commented upon by district inspectors.

**By the boys.**—The boys are trained in wood-work (some of which entails french polishing), tinsmithing, and leather work. Most of the picture framing in the school has been done by the boys. Practically all of their work is of exceptionally high quality.

**Rockhampton carnival.**—During the year a party of school children comprising 16 girls and 14 boys visited Rockhampton during carnival week and were greatly impressed by the Rockhampton Agricultural Society's Annual Show. The children showed keen interest in the exhibits particularly in the agricultural and pastoral sections.

Visits of this nature are indeed of great educational value as, apart from the show interests, it also gives the children an insight of the activities conducted in cities and towns situated outside their Settlement.

**Night classes for adult education.**—In November, 1945, the present head teacher inaugurated night classes for adults and the older school children. The need for this institution was very obvious, and the need for its continuance is clearly manifested by its popularity. It has no obtrusive display; it is just a quiet activity where many people learn much of interest and where they are given opportunities to increase their knowledge and their self-activity.

WOORABINDA SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. J. Ranie.)

**Finance.**—Though the total receipts for the year were practically the same as the previous twelve months and were affected by the adverse weather conditions prevailing for our annual show, the expenditure was higher and the trading account, therefore, shows a slight loss for the term. This is offset, however, by a considerable increase in assets of sporting equipment, display stalls, &c.

A brief statement of the account is as follows:—

<i>Receipts.</i>		£	s.	d.
Balance as at 1st April, 1949	..	576	15	3
Receipts	.. .. .	1,321	12	4
		£1,898 7 7		
<i>Expenditure.</i>				
Expenses	.. .. .	1,368	2	4
Balance as at 31st March, 1950	..	530	5	3
		£1,898 7 7		

**Recreational and social activities.**—These activities for the year showed a marked increase and, even though the weather affected the attendance of outside visitors for our annual show, the popularity of the function was amply illustrated by the number who did defy the rain and difficult roads by visiting the Settlement.

Commendable was the determination of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Hon. A. Jones, to visit the Settlement to officially open the show, irrespective of the almost impassable roads which had to be negotiated. The other members of his party comprised Mr. C. G. Jesson, M.L.A., and Mr. Robinson, Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs.

For the decision of the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, and the Deputy Director, Mr. Richards, to make their periodical inspection coincide with the show dates, we are also extremely grateful.

**Annual show.**—Additional attractions were organised in conjunction with our 1949 show in an effort to make a real carnival week-end and the most successful of these was a procession depicting the march of progress in regard to Queensland aborigines. To the strains of amplified recorded march music, the procession moved along the main street of the Settlement to the sports reserve, where it was disbanded after circling the ring.

The procession was divided into three sections as follows:—

1. Pre-civilisation.
2. After contact with white man, but prior to the introduction of "The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Act."
3. After the introduction of "The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Act."

The first section comprised adult aborigines and piccaninnies in pre-civilisation attire, whilst the second section comprised other aborigines who had adopted a certain amount of civilised clothing but were unkempt and ragged. The third section depicted conditions on Queensland Government Settlements as follows:—

1. Education (Primary, Vocational, Adult Education).
2. Health.
3. Sporting.
4. Industrial (Pastoral, Agricultural, Timber).

A float which created considerable interest was erected on a timber truck and bolster. Two evenly matched spotted gum logs of 40 feet length and 6 feet 5 inches girth were loaded on same and on one end was built a native gunyah in which was seated a native in pre-civilisation attire. In the centre was a minia-



ture steam engine and saw bench, and a sawn timber miniature cottage was on the other end, in which was seated a native in civilian attire.

As the third and final round of the inter-settlement competition for the Jones Shield was conducted and as Woorabinda had won both the other rounds held at Palm Islands and Cherbourg, but was only 12 points in the lead of Palm Island, the results of the Woorabinda displays were awaited by all residents of the three Settlements. The results showed that Palm Island had defeated Woorabinda by 6 points for the round, but Woorabinda had obtained the greatest number of aggregate points for the series and thereby won the much-coveted shield for 1949.

The association was successful in obtaining the use of 10 buckjumpers from Messrs. McGee Brothers, of Blackwater, and these greatly assisted in the attraction of the rodeo events, whilst the displays and ring events were well up to the standard of previous years.

To all judges, who journeyed from as far distant as Rockhampton to assist, we extend our thanks.

*Victory Celebrations.*—The welfare association, in appreciation of the efforts of all native residents in annexing the Jones Shield, organised an afternoon and night sports and games carnival later in the year, at which soft drinks, ice cream, cakes, &c., were distributed. Particular attention was paid to the aged residents and the festival was acclaimed one of the most enjoyable ever staged at Woorabinda.

*Sports.*—Football, boxing, cricket, and basket ball are played in season and the increase of enthusiasm each year is evidence of the popularity of these sports.

*Football.*—A Settlement competition has been commenced for the 1950 season with the formation of four teams. Considerable expense was incurred in the outfitting of the teams, but when the amount of pleasure derived from this sport, not only by the players but the whole of the Settlement inmates, is considered the expense is infinitesimal.

Inter-town matches were played against Baralaba, Emerald, Springsure, Mount Morgan, and Theodore, and Mount Morgan was the only team by which the Settlement team suffered defeat and then only by the narrow margin of 2 points.

*Boxing.*—A boxing stage has been erected and new matting and ropes obtained. The conditions under which the sport is now conducted have therefore been immensely improved and are appreciated by the contestants of the tournaments, which are staged fortnightly.

This association has submitted a proposal to Cherbourg Settlement association for a team of footballers and boxers from that centre to visit Woorabinda for its annual show and Woorabinda to return the visit on the occasion of the Cherbourg annual show. In view of this proposal an extra stimulant has been given these sports.

*Cricket.*—Interest in this sport continues and inter-town matches have been played against Baralaba, Mimosavale, Moura, Duaringa, and the Dawson Valley country team. The Settlement team did not suffer one defeat. The construction of a concrete wicket is urgently

required on the Settlement, however, and this utility will have the attention of the association at an early date.

*Concert Party and Dances.*—Bi-weekly dances are held, Wednesday nights for the children and Friday nights for the adults, and these, under the organisation of George Hill and his band, are exceedingly popular. The dances are interspersed with concert and community items.

The most successful functions in this regard were a children's fancy dress ball and an adults' fancy dress ball. One would have to witness the parades to realise the ingenuity required.

*Talkie Screenings.*—A talkie programme is still being shown fortnightly by a mobile plant from Baralaba, but as the Settlement's own projection plant has now been received it is hoped to have same installed in the very near future.

*Conclusion.*—In conclusion, I would like to again express sincere thanks to the Minister of Health and Home Affairs, the Hon. A. Jones, and the Under Secretary, Mr. Robinson, for their assistance at all times, and to Mr. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, Deputy Director, and members of the Brisbane staff for their co-operation I also say "Thanks" and assure them that their assistance is greatly appreciated.

For the efforts of the Superintendent, members of the Woorabinda staff and families, native committee, and all residents of the Settlement I have nothing but admiration, and say "Thanks. Well done."

#### FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

*Rainfall.*—Rainfall was much lighter than Woorabinda, registrations being 2,094 points.

The McKenzie River reached its highest flood level since the Department has taken over this property, slightly over 50 feet. The areas farmed were still well above this flood level.

*Farm.*—Frost did much damage to the grain sorghum crop last harvest. Nine hundred and seventy bags were taken from 165 acres. This was distributed to Cherbourg, Palm Island, and Thursday Island and Woorabinda to feed cows and pigs. An area of 250 acres is now showing a very good crop for harvesting later this year.

*Improvements.*—A further 50 acres has been grubbed and stacked ready for burning off.

Two thousand acres of brigalow has been rung and planted with Rhodes grass.

Two dams have been completed by a contractor. The largest of these it is estimated is now holding over 2,000,000 gallons of water, and should be the means of providing adequate stock water in the more remote parts of the run.

Four miles of fencing has been completed, giving adequate horse, cow, and night paddock facilities at the causeway end of the property.

A start has been made on a cottage for an overseer.

*Live Stock—Cattle.*—Two hundred and one bullocks were sold for a return of £4,590. Cattle on hand are 1,069, mostly bullocks. Owing to the flooded state of the river, we have not been able to take 570 head of bullocks and steers held at Woorabinda over on to Foleyvale. When this can be done, the Foleyvale herd will then be 1,639 head.

Seven head of dairy cows are used to provide milk for the men's camps.

## APPENDIX 4.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND  
PENINSULA.

The Torres Strait Islanders are a virile and industrious people. The men are primarily seamen and secondly horticulturists, and in their primary capacity they look upon the ocean of Torres Strait as their domain, the birthright of their race.

At the termination of hostilities with Japan, the islanders determined, if at all possible, they would supplant alien labour in the pearling industry of Queensland, centred at Thursday Island, and their efforts in that regard have been commendable.

On their own and privately owned vessels, 188 islanders are licensed as divers, and these with tenders and crews give a total of approximately 1,000 men employed in all callings in the marine industry. Additional men are employed as carpenters, shipwrights, plumbers, engineers to the extent that they play a very major part in the gathering of pearlshell and beche-de-mer and the equipping of vessels for such purpose. The Department is determined that the Torres Strait Islander shall receive fair and adequate remuneration for his work in this industry.

For the fishing season ended January, 1950, 1,222 tons of pearlshell and 116 tons of trochus shell were produced to a value of approximately £400,000, and in this production the Torres Strait Islanders played a prominent part.

The conditions of employment of islanders in this industry are closely guarded and the insistence is that these workers should be employed on a profit-sharing basis, to ensure they receive a reasonable return and that an incentive is provided for these workers in a particularly precarious industry.

The following agreement, which operates for the year 1950, is the award under which divers, tenders, engineers and crews work. It details the remuneration to be paid to all workers and the basis of profit sharing:—

## DIVERS AGREEMENT—1950.

Agreement made this day of one thousand nine hundred and fifty between owners of the vessel hereinafter called the Owners and hereinafter called the Diver. Whereas the vessel is now lying at anchor in the harbour of Thursday Island and the Diver is desirous of taking the vessel to the Queensland Pearlshell and Beche-de-mer fishing grounds in Torres Strait and vicinity for the purpose of procuring Pearlshell and other Marine Produce which may be desired by the Owners from time to time and supplying same to the Owners during the whole of the fishing season of 1950 ending on the 31st January, 1951; sign off of crews to be completed by that date.

Now it is Hereby Agreed between the parties hereto as follows:—

1. The Owners hereby grant permission to the Diver to take charge of the vessel and to proceed in it to the above fishing grounds.

2. The Diver agrees not to take the vessel to any other fishing grounds without the Owner's consent.

3. The Diver agrees to supply all M.O.P. Shell and other Marine Produce obtained by the Diver and crew of the vessel during the fishing season of 1950 to the Owners and the same shall become and remain the property of the Owners immediately it is obtained by the Diver and crew and shall be delivered by them to the Owners or their authorised representatives at such place in Thursday Island, and at such times as the Owners may direct, provided that no costs shall accrue against the Diver for transport or wharfage. Marine Produce includes all types of shells, beche-de-mer, turtle meat and shells, shell meat, dugong and all kinds of edible fish.

4. The Owners will pay to the Diver for the supply of live M.O.P. Shell fished from waters regarded as F.A.Q. clean, chipped, dry and ready for packing as per the schedule set out below.

Sound Shell AA, A, B, C, Grades—£200 per ton loose on scales.

D Grade Shell—£150 per ton loose on scales.

E Grade Shell—£100 per ton loose on scales.

EE Grade Shell—£50 per ton loose on scales.

No deduction shall be made for loss of weight of shell subsequent to weighing.

The above schedule has been based on the following local ruling f.o.b. prices as at the date of this agreement for shell sold on Thursday Island:—

£430 for Sound

£330 for D

£230 for E

£130 for EE

reduced to a price loose on the scales by deducting £30 per ton.

*Allowance for Price Fluctuations.*—Above schedule will be increased or decreased for each rise or fall over £25 in price of M.O.P. Shell as follows:—

Fifty per cent. of such increase or decrease.

For M.O.P. Shell not provided for in this Agreement—Lay at half above rates.

The rise or fall in price of M.O.P. Shell will be determined by an Arbitrator (Industrial Magistrate for preference) based on prices paid for M.O.P. Shell sold on Thursday Island. The fluctuation will be determined in July, September and November, 1950, as at 1st of each month and such fluctuation will apply to all shell landed in store since the previous determination. The July determination will apply to all shell landed in store in the 1950 season prior to 1st July.

5. In the event of this Agreement being terminated before the end of the fishing season of 1950, the Diver's lay will be based on the lay fixed at the previous determination by the Arbitrator.

6. The Owners shall be entitled to deduct from the Diver's lay all advances made by the Owners to or on account of the Diver for rations, wages and bonuses or other payments to 2nd Diver, 3rd Diver, 4th Diver, tenders, engineer and crew, payments for premium for Personal Accident and Sickness Policy for Diver, and any other payments or advances made against the Diver's account.

For the purpose of this Agreement, the Owner shall be considered the Employer and will pay Workers' Compensation and Pay Roll Tax.

7. The Diver shall pay to the Owners the cost of fuel used, where the Diver with the consent of the Owners and the crew uses the vessel for private purposes subject to the approval of the Director of Native Affairs, the full cost of the fuel so used shall be paid by the Diver and a record of such charge shall be given to the Director of Native Affairs by the Owners following the trip.

8. The Diver agrees with the Owners that he will pay wages to the crew as follows:—

2nd Diver .. .. .	£18 per month
3rd Diver .. .. .	£18 per month
4th Diver .. .. .	£18 per month
1st Tender .. .. .	£18 per month
2nd Tender .. .. .	£16 per month
3rd Tender .. .. .	£16 per month
4th Tender .. .. .	£16 per month
Engineer .. .. .	£18 per month
Crew .. .. .	£15 per month
Diver's liability for efficient white engineers	£6 per week.

If during the current season, a white man is displaced by an Islander, then the Islander shall receive £6 per week as above.

9. The Diver agrees to conduct and manage the vessel in the following manner:—

- (a) Crews at all times must be aboard their respective vessels by 8 p.m. except those who have a permit from the Diver in Charge or another delegated by the Diver in Charge, and all breaches of this clause should be reported in writing to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master.
- (b) Any crew member who deserts his boat during the season or whose services are terminated through his own fault or because of misconduct, neglect of duty, breach of this Agreement, or at his own request shall not participate in bonus payments.
- (c) The Diver agrees to pay the following bonuses to men employed aboard his vessel:—

Two (2) Diver Boat— $\frac{1}{3}$  (33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent.) net earnings.

Three (3) Diver Boat— $\frac{1}{3}$  (33 $\frac{1}{3}$  per cent.) net earnings.

Four (4) Diver Boat— $\frac{1}{2}$  (50 per cent.) net earnings.

Provided that such bonuses do not reduce the Diver's income below £200.

Such bonus to be apportioned as follows:—

Two (2) Diver Boat—

2nd Diver—One quarter of the above.

1st Tender—One quarter of the above.

2nd Tender—One eighth of the above.

Engineer—One eighth of the above.

4 Crew—One quarter of the above to be equally divided among them.

Three (3) Diver Boat—

2nd Diver—2 shares.

3rd Diver—2 shares.

1st Tender—2 shares.

2nd Tender—1 share.

3rd Tender—1 share.

Engineer—1 $\frac{1}{2}$  shares.

4 Crew—3 shares to be divided equally.

Four (4) Diver Boat—

2nd Diver—2 shares.

3rd Diver—2 shares.

4th Diver—2 shares.

1st Tender—2 shares.

2nd Tender—1 share.

3rd Tender—1 share.

4th Tender—1 share.

Engineer—2 shares.

5 crew—3 shares to be divided equally.

10. The following grounds are not regarded as F.A.Q.:—East Coast, Darnley Island, waters on Paouan side of a line drawn from the Merrie England Shoal to Deliverance Island and thence to Boigu Island Reef along the Maritime Boundary of Queensland to the 144 degree of longitude. Waters on the south side of Batavia River in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

11. When vessels are being fitted out for work as Diving boats, the Owners will provide her with Masts, Spars, Rigging, Engines and Compressors, Sails, Blocks, Ropes, Anchors, Chains, Cooking Utensils, Helmets and Corselets, Piping, Lifeline, Dinghy, approved Medical Kit, One set Diver's clothing per Diver and any other gear necessary to carry out working. Any replacement due to any of the above wearing out (except Diver's clothing) to be supplied, but any replacements due to carelessness on the part of the Diver or his crew to be paid by the Diver, provided that nothing in this section shall refer to the Diver's responsibility for replacement or repairs or any work whatsoever required to the engines. In this case, Engineer's liability for damage shall be assessed by two approved engineers.

12. Any pearls won must be handed to the Owners who will sell same and pay to the Diver 75 per cent. of the nett proceeds such proceeds shall not be included in calculating bonus payments to other members of the crew, provided that all sales of pearls won by Torres Strait Islanders shall be sold by Public Tender with Director of Native Affairs or his representative being present.

13. Nothing contained in this Agreement is to be construed as conferring any title of ownership on the Divers in the vessel or any gear or plant thereon.

14. The Diver agrees to work the vessel without any undue loss of time.

15. This Agreement may be terminated at any time at the Owners' option without giving any reason therefor.

16. The Owners may make advances on wages due up to 50 per cent. subject to accounts being in credit and with the prior approval, where required, of the Director of Native Affairs. Bonus will not be paid until termination of this Agreement.

17. At the termination of the Agreement or sooner if the Diver leaves the vessel, the vessel may be slipped, cost of necessary repairs caused by ordinary wear and tear to be paid for by the Owners. Repairs caused by carelessness to be paid for by the Diver.

If on slipping, it is shown that no repairs caused by the Divers negligence are needed, the slipping costs shall be the Owners' responsibility; provided that by arrangement with the



Director of Native Affairs, and Owners, an amount of £100 shall be held in a special Trust Account by the Director of Native Affairs to meet slipping fees where applicable, and repairs through carelessness of the Diver. At the termination of the slipping, all unused funds in the Trust Account shall be returned to the Diver. No claim will be recognised after the vessel leaves Thursday Island.

Where the Diver is other than a Torres Strait Islander or Aboriginal, the Owner shall retain the slipping reserve. In the event of no charge being made by the Owner against the reserve within a period of six (6) months from the termination of previous season, all monies held shall be returned to the Diver.

#### HEALTH.

Generally, the health of the Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals has been good with no serious epidemics.

The Thursday Island Hospital has efficiently and satisfactorily catered for all cases requiring hospitalisation, but there still remains an urgent necessity of extending hospitalisation to the Torres Strait Islands and Church Missions to enable a greater measure of health protection to be afforded the people and to obviate the necessity of their being transported to Thursday Island, where living conditions are unsuitable for outpatients and transport difficult.

It is pleasing to note that preliminary work has already commenced in the survey of this area for tuberculosis and it is sincerely hoped that the work now commenced will extend to a degree consistent with the requirements of the population.

It is also pleasing to record that the Waiben Hospital, established primarily for tuberculosis cases, in Thursday Island has now opened despite staffing difficulties. The nursing requirements of this hospital, apart from sister, was 20, and when it was ascertained that white nurses were unavailable and not likely to be recruited an appeal was made to Torres Strait Island girls to undertake nursing duties in the interests of their own people in the Waiben Hospital. The call was not made in vain and 20 girls are now employed as trainee nurses under a system which will provide for lectures by the medical superintendent and hospital matron, examinations and the issue of certificates of competency. In effect, these coloured girls will provide the bulk of the staff at the hospital and reports to date indicate a service capable, under white supervision, of maintaining an efficient institution.

Schedule I. provides statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area. These hospitals cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island General Hospital. This schedule also reveals statistics of births, deaths and marriages in the area. The excess of births over deaths, 172 to 79, is a pleasing factor.

#### EDUCATION.

In the Torres Strait Islands, apart from Mission schools at St. Pauls, Moe (Anglican) and Hammond Island (Catholic), 18 Departmental schools are established for the education of 771 children.

White teachers are appointed at Badu, Mabuiag, Darnley, and Murray Islands, being the largest in the group. On the other islands, native head teachers are in charge and, as with all schools, native assistants give a service which can be regarded as commendable, under existing circumstances.

It is still maintained that the Department of Public Instruction, with its machinery and staff, should accept the responsibility for the education of these islanders in primary and secondary schools. Investigations to this end have already commenced, but without any apparent finality.

Schedule 2 shows the established schools and attendances.

#### MARINE INDUSTRY.

During the year, 25 luggers and cutters, owned by Torres Strait Islanders, won the undermentioned marine produce, which was sold by Island Industries Board on their behalf:—

Mother-of-Pearl shell—141 tons, valued at £40,772.

Trochus shell—180 tons, valued £11,414.

Total—£52,186.

The production of pearlshell was less than last year by 21 tons and £13,000 value. The trochus shell production for this year was 48 tons less than the previous year with a value of £3,000 less. Overall the total value of marine produce won for the 1949-50 season showed a decreased value on the previous year of £15,000.

This reduction in production was caused mainly through several boats being laid up for overhaul and likewise through bad weather making fishing conditions more difficult than prevailed previously.

The Torres Strait fleet has now been reorganised to meet contracts for next year of 200 tons of pearlshell and 500 tons of trochus shell and particularly in the latter production is the fleet well on its way to meet this assignment.

Last year's report revealed considerable concern with overseas advice indicating a collapse in the pearlshell market with little prospects of rise in prices for trochus shell. However, it is pleasing to note that these predictions did not culminate in fact and Island Industries Board was able to negotiate a satisfactory agreement for the sale of pearlshell, but trochus remained at an unsatisfactory price. The new season's price for both commodities is very satisfactory, as is indicated by the agreements entered into by Island Industries Board and recorded under that heading.

Schedule 3 indicates the production figures of individual boats. The higher figures represent the workings of luggers and the reduced figures are the returns of produce won by cutters and smaller vessels.

Of the Torres Strait fleet, luggers "Petta," "Adelphi," "Cessa" and "Naianga" are now fitted with compressors, enabling these boats to compete with the best-equipped diving vessels in the Queensland industry.

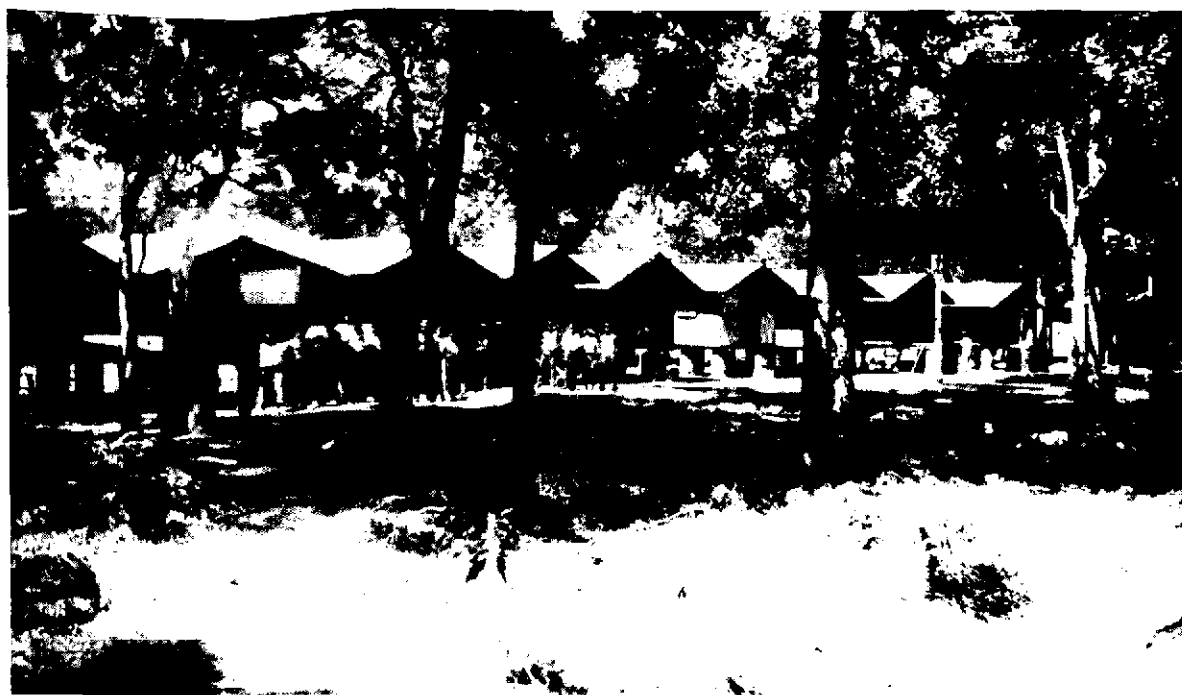
The production of approximately 37 tons by the lugger "Petta," which commenced work late in the season, is an indication of what a well controlled and managed boat can perform. The record of the "Petta" compares favourably with any Thursday Island pearling lugger.



TORRES STRAIT AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.



Portion of Pearling Fleet at Anchor. Thursday Island.



Native Workers' Quarters, Red Island Point, Cape York Peninsula.

## ACCOUNTS.

Particulars of accounts controlled by the Director of Native Affairs in the Thursday Island Office, as apart from the accounts administered by the Brisbane office, are:—

	Accounts.	Balance.		
		£	s.	d.
Islanders .. .. .	3,724	71,432	0	0
Aboriginals .. .. .	684	25,710	4	1
Child endowment .. .. .	581	9,075	6	11
Island Fund and others .. .. .	69	10,472	9	6
	<b>5,058</b>	<b>£116,690</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

For the period 1948-49 and for comparison purposes, the balances were £55,844 15s. 2d., £23,396 1s., £8,321 6s. 4d., and £7,915 8s. 7d. respectively.

These increases in savings are a fitting and answerable reply to the critics of the Torres

Strait Islanders that they are spending their money foolishly. There is practically no restriction, other than helpful advice and encouragement, with the islander in depositing his surplus earnings into his savings bank account. Many of the men earning high wages have voluntarily placed large sums into special reserve accounts to be operated on at their request for the erection of homes, purchases of boats and for those essential requirements of life which necessitate provision for the rainy day.

The withdrawal against child endowment is not restricted and the credit balances indicate a desire by parents of children for whom endowment is paid to conserve funds in a manner similar to the attitude adopted by their men folk.

Transactions on the above accounts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1950, are as under:—

	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.			Withdrawals.			Balance at 1st April, 1949.			Balance at 31st March, 1950.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions .. .. .	5,058	228,771	2	0	210,558	12	7	98,477	11	1	96,690	0	6
		Investments	Commonwealth Loan								20,000	0	0
								£			116,690	0	6

## WELFARE.

It is again pleasing to record that the Torres Strait Islanders of their own volition maintain welfare clubs on their particular islands, which provide amenities in the way of concerts, dances, and general entertainment.

The organisation has progressed to the extent that concert parties visited Thursday Island and attracted large audiences of white and coloured people. Under this heading visits were paid by Saibai, Darnley, and Murray Islanders. The gross receipts for the Murray Island concert were in the vicinity of £200.

The following are the credit balances in these Welfare Funds controlled by the Director of Native Affairs and operated on by the Welfare Committees:—

	£	s.	d.
Coconut Island Welfare Club .. .. .	38	12	0
Darnley Island School Welfare Club .. .. .	5	11	2
Darnley Island Welfare Club .. .. .	108	7	8
Mabuiag Island Welfare Club .. .. .	14	19	0
Murray Island Welfare Fund .. .. .	19	2	11
Murray Island Welfare Club .. .. .	76	16	7
Mutee Head Welfare Club .. .. .	107	5	3
Saibai Island Welfare Club .. .. .	140	9	0
Yam Island Welfare Fund .. .. .	36	14	10
Yam Island School Welfare Fund .. .. .	41	1	4
Yorke Island Welfare Club .. .. .	82	16	0

Amongst island residents of Thursday Island, a keen interest is being displayed in sport, particularly Rugby League football.

Assisted by the Department, an all schools sports organisation was formed and through the generosity of the Honourable the Minister financial assistance was provided to enable a competition amongst boys to be inaugurated, and later an all schools programme caused considerable interest and enthusiasm amongst the children.

In a location such as this, where amenities are limited, no effort should be spared to provide such as are possible and suitable for young and old.

One of the outstanding sporting events for the Thursday Island and Torres Strait area is the annual lugger race, in which all boats licensed in the pearling industry compete over a course of approximately 30 miles. The first such race eventuated during the year and resulted in Torres Strait owned vessels filling first place ("Adelphi," Badu Island), second place ("Dona," Saibai Island), and third place ("Yannah," Yam Island). Practically every boat of the 30 starters in the race was captained and manned by Torres Strait Islanders. The second annual race, to be held in July, is already causing considerable interest and preparation.

## CONDUCT.

The conduct of Torres Strait Islanders on their home islands and in Thursday Island has been reasonably satisfactory.

In Thursday Island, however, there is still a considerable amount of drinking amongst islanders, and, despite the capable efforts of the police force, it does not appear as if this vice is being eliminated. The blackmarketing of liquor to islanders still prevails and it is difficult to see, with the living conditions and cosmopolitan population existent, how it will effectively be stopped.

## DEVELOPMENT OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA AREA.

On the 24th July, 1948, an area of 44,500 acres on the Red Island Point-Cape York area was reserved for the benefit of the aboriginal and Torres Strait Island inhabitants of the State, but particularly for those in the Torres Strait-Thursday Island area. The acquisition carried the whole of the Higginsfield military installation at the date of purchase.

On the arrival of Overseer Mr. G. H. Thomas, on transfer from Woorabinda Settlement on the 27th October, 1948, a commencement was made with developmental work, preliminary action taken being—

- (1) Dismantling and storing of all buildings.
- (2) Location of a site for vegetable growing.
- (3) Location of sites for establishment of villages or townships.

This demolition work is now complete, with the exception of a few specially reserved buildings, and a large accumulation of material in good order is available for use.

Approximately 8 acres of reasonably good agricultural land was selected and planting operations undertaken, mostly of an experimental nature, with vegetables. The result has proved reasonably satisfactory. A small irrigation system has been installed from materials obtained from the purchased army installations.

Building work completed to date is—

- (a) Quarters for the overseer.
- (b) Quarters for white carpenter.
- (c) Quarters for engineer.

The sawmill purchased has been dismantled, transported from its previous location, re-erected, and with the recent appointment of a sawyer timber cutting will proceed in the very near future.

A large and well constructed garage and workshop has been completed. Temporary but substantial housing accommodation has been provided for coloured workers. Fencing of the northern boundary of the reserve has been finalised. All forest and scrub land required for the establishment of the native village has been cleared and planned for the erection of houses.

A further 25 acres of scrub land has been cleared for banana planting. The plantings to date are 750 bananas, 4,500 pineapples, 500 papaws, 100 citrus trees. Planting is to continue to establish a total of 5,000 bananas, 10,000 pineapples, and 200 citrus trees.

By arrangement with the Department of Agriculture and Stock, a visit was paid to the area by Mr. Betchel to advise the overseer on the agricultural possibilities and the programme to be instituted. That report is awaited and on it will depend the future agricultural development of this area.

#### PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR."

The motor vessel "Melbidir," length 110 feet, performed excellent service in the area during the year. Unfortunately, through engine trouble, she was laid up for approximately six weeks in October and November, but, apart from this, the services performed were abnormal and of great advantage to the Torres Strait islands.

The "Melbidir" carrying capacity has revolutionised the transport arrangements as between Thursday Island and the various out-lying centres. Materials which were held here for approximately two years before her arrival, being too heavy for cartage by smaller vessels, were transported to their destination. To pick up the lag in cargo, the boat was at sea on the average of 25 days in every month.

The manning of the "Melbidir" is a white captain, one white engineer, and 10 Torres Strait Island crew, the Torres Strait Islanders filling positions of engineer's assistant, boatmen, and deckhands.

The vessel carries all necessary life-saving equipment and a wireless two-way service operates through the Department's Thursday Island installation.

During the year the vessel proceeded as far south as Cairns, where approximately 100 tons of timber was returned to Thursday Island, and also to Mornington Island, when the Ministerial party, with cargo, was likewise carried.

#### WIRELESS SERVICE.

(Engineer-Operator, J. McKenna.)

The Department's wireless service, which provides two-way traffic for practically all inhabited centres in the Thursday Island-Peninsula area, has given excellent service during the year.

The installations comprise:—

Base Station—Thursday Island.

Out-stations—Badu Island, Mabuiag Island, Saibai Island, Yam Island, Yorke Island, Darnley Island, Murray Island, St. Paul's Mission, Mapoon Mission, Weipa Mission, Aurukun Mission, Lockhart River Mission, Mornington Island Mission, Red Island Point.

In addition, the patrol vessel "Melbidir" and Island Industries Board vessels "Dell" and "Reggie P" are connected with the service.

The out-stations at Yam, Yorke, and Saibai Islands are worked by Torres Strait Island operators and, during the absence of white personnel from the Torres Strait Islands, islanders efficiently substitute as operators.

The intention in the establishment of this service, to provide the closest contact with Thursday Island from out-stations, has been effected. Twice daily contact is made with every out-station and the daily traffic averages 60 messages of approximately 2,000 words. The value of the wireless service is exemplified in the following incidents:—

In November, 1949, the mission launch "Remus," en route to Mornington Island from Thursday Island with wireless plant for installation there, broke down between Aurukun and Mornington Island. The radio equipment being carried was unpacked on the vessel by the engineer-operator and contact was established with Thursday Island to such extent that, although the vessel at one period was in extreme danger, it never lost contact with the Thursday Island base station. It was possible, therefore, in arranging for relief for the "Remus" to know precisely her location.

In March, 1950, when tribal trouble occurred at Edward River Mission, it was possible for local police to keep in constant contact with the Mission through the Thursday Island station.

Urgent medical calls from Weipa and Aurukun Missions were promptly handled and arrangements made for medical officers to proceed there.

CAPE YORK PENINSULA.



Staff Quarters, Red Island Point, Cape York Peninsula.



Coconut Grove, Red Island Point, Cape York Peninsula.



During the influenza outbreak at Saibai Island, the Torres Strait Island nurse and the Torres Strait Island operator were able to keep the Medical Superintendent, Thursday Island Hospital, informed twice daily of condition of patients and when circumstances warranted such medical assistance was sent to the island.

A case of meningitis at Mabuag Island was diagnosed by radio and prompt medical action taken to deal with the case.

There still remains four out-stations to be provided as supplies come to hand, following which a network will have been established in this area which provides immediate contact for practically every resident of it.

SCHEDULE 1.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDED 31-3-50.

	Yorke.					Badu.					Saibal.				
	Monthly Average In-patients.			Out-patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In-patients.			Out-patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In-patients.			Out-patients Monthly.	
	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.
1949.															
April .. ..	..	..	..	421	102	5.8	2.7	8.5	321	175	0.16	0.19	0.35	345	227
May .. ..	..	..	..	345	100	3.5	2.9	6.4	287	126	0.45	0.41	0.86	385	247
June .. ..	..	..	..	215	95	5.5	5.2	10.7	528	350	1.3	1.0	2.3	639	454
July .. ..	..	..	..	208	25	3.7	3.4	7.1	286	156	0.54	0.51	1.05	321	173
August .. ..	..	..	..	156	107	2.1	2.7	4.8	307	189	..	..	..	397	200
September .. ..	..	..	..	396	110	3.2	1.3	5.5	325	161	..	0.6	0.6	247	172
October .. ..	..	..	..	193	162	3.7	2.3	6.0	525	272	..	0.9	0.9	316	297
November .. ..	..	..	..	132	93	1.7	1.4	3.1	442	134	0.4	0.1	0.5	357	207
December .. ..	..	..	..	164	114	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	277	231
1950.															
January .. ..	..	..	..	300	255	..	..	..	..	..	0.7	0.9	1.6	277	297
February .. ..	..	..	..	345	315	0.7	0.17	0.87	402	250	0.4	1.2	1.6	395	177
March .. ..	..	..	..	290	258	0.6	1.9	2.5	434	146	0.3	1.4	1.7	250	173
	In-patients, monthly average					In-patients, monthly average					In-patients, monthly average				
	Out-patients, number treated					Out-patients, number treated					Out-patients, number treated				
	3,165					3,857					4,206				
	Out-patients, number of treatments, 1,736					Out-patients, number of treatments, 1,959					Out-patients, number of treatments, 2,855				

SCHEDULE 1.

PERIOD 1-4-49 TO 31-3-50.

Place.	Births.	Stillbirths.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Thursday Island .. ..	5	..	2	18
Thursday Island Hospital ..	76	4	34	..
Badu Island .. ..	5	..	1	2
Boigu Island .. ..	3	1	2	..
Coconut Island .. ..	3	..	1	1
Cowal Creek .. ..	3	1	5	4
Darnley Island .. ..	13	..	3	..
Dauan Island .. ..	3	..	..	1
Dowar Island .. ..	1	..	3	1
Mabuag Island .. ..	4	1	2	2
Murray Island .. ..	19	..	7	6
Mutee Head .. ..	3	..	3	..
Red Island Point .. ..	2	..	..	..
Rennell Island .. ..	1	..	..	..
Saibai Island .. ..	16	..	..	6
Stephen Island .. ..	..	..	3	..
St. Paul's Mission .. ..	2	..	4	1
Naghir Island .. ..	..	..	..	2
Yam Island .. ..	3	..	3	..
Yorke Island .. ..	4	..	2	..
Kubin Village .. ..	6	..	2	1
M. V. "Melbidir" .. ..	..	1	1	..
"Reggie P" .. ..	..	..	1	..
Total .. ..	172	8	79	45

SCHEDULE 2.

SCHOOL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDED 31-3-50.

School.	White Teachers.	Native Teachers.	Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Badu Island .. ..	1	7	6	48	34	82
Boigu Island .. ..	..	6	5	21	38	57
Coconut Island .. ..	..	3	6	13	21	34
Cowal Creek .. ..	..	4	4	16	13	29
Mutee Head .. ..	..	3	8	23	25	48
Darnley Island .. ..	1	6	7	36	44	80
Dauan Island .. ..	..	2	6	11	11	22
Kubin Village .. ..	..	3	5	19	43	62
Mabuag Island .. ..	1	6	5	28	27	55
Murray Island .. ..	1	8	8	57	50	107
Naghir Island .. ..	..	1	5	5	6	11
Rennell Island .. ..	..	1	2	6	1	7
Saibai Island .. ..	1	4	6	26	17	43
St. Paul's Mission .. ..	2	2	7	52	33	85
Stephen Island .. ..	..	1	4	7	10	17
Yam Island .. ..	..	3	5	17	25	42
Yorke Island .. ..	..	3	4	19	19	38
Dowar Island .. ..	..	2	6	15	12	27
Thursday Island Coloured .. ..	2	1	4	78	77	155
Red Island Point .. ..	..	1	5	2	8	10
Hammond Island .. ..	1	..	3	10	11	21
Thursday Island Convent .. ..	2	..	5	11	20	31

## SCHEDULE 3.

BOATS, CATCHES, YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1950.

Name of Vessel.	No. of Drifts.	M.O.P.			Value.			Trochus.			Value.			Value Total Produce.		
		T.	C.	Q. L.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q. L.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Petta .. .. .	12	36	16	2 3	9,923	15	10	..	..	..	..	..	9,923	15	10	
Adelphi .. .. .	8	17	15	3 10	5,323	15	6	..	..	..	..	..	5,323	15	6	
Cessa .. .. .	7	12	8	2 26	3,872	3	9	..	..	..	..	..	3,872	3	9	
Nancy .. .. .	7	11	1	3 7	3,534	18	8	..	..	..	..	..	3,534	18	8	
Naianga .. .. .	7	11	13	0 9	3,518	14	8	..	..	..	..	..	3,518	14	8	
Caroline .. .. .	6	9	13	0 22	3,002	18	9	..	..	..	..	..	3,002	18	9	
Kismet .. .. .	8	8	1	2 15	2,458	13	6	0	2	3 15	8	1	6	2,466	15	0
S. S. Dona .. .. .	5	2	10	2 19	652	11	1	22	12	0 1	1,408	2	10	2,060	13	11
Seisia .. .. .	4	2	16	3 6	877	0	7	17	4	2 10	1,092	18	3	1,969	18	10
Thoran .. .. .	4	1	7	0 16	360	7	7	20	17	1 18	1,304	13	1	1,665	0	8
Macey .. .. .	3	1	15	3 24	541	7	1	14	1	2 10	915	13	10	1,457	0	11
Maria .. .. .	5	4	18	2 16	1,451	2	8	..	..	..	..	..	1,451	2	8	
Gloria .. .. .	4	0	17	0 9	182	18	5	19	7	0 13	1,223	14	1	1,406	12	6
Adai .. .. .	4	1	5	3 15	404	5	9	15	18	1 22	956	10	11	1,360	16	8
Loyalty .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	22	10	2 18	1,354	6	0	1,354	6	0
Adiana .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	10	1 25	1,312	18	5	1,312	18	5
Gonah .. .. .	4	3	17	1 11	749	7	8	7	9	0 22	447	11	9	1,196	19	5
Yanna .. .. .	3	3	14	1 27	1,062	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	1,062	13	1	
Yaza .. .. .	5	3	13	3 15	942	10	11	..	..	..	..	..	942	10	11	
Millard .. .. .	4	0	10	3 23	160	13	10	9	0	3 2	587	16	6	748	10	4
Mabuiag .. .. .	2	2	14	1 8	687	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	687	10	10	
Rebecca .. .. .	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	12	0 9	638	12	7	638	12	7
Danie .. .. .	3	1	6	3 8	403	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	403	12	1	
Wadumo .. .. .	1	0	19	0 13	335	6	2	..	..	..	..	..	335	6	2	
Tymapi .. .. .	1	0	3	0 6	40	11	8	..	..	..	..	..	40	11	8	
Dinghy .. .. .	..	0	17	0 10	285	8	8	2	12	2 3	163	1	8	448	10	4
..	..	141	0	0 10	£40,772	8	9	180	19	3 0	£11,414	1	5	£52,186	10	2

## APPENDIX 5.

## ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Manager, Mr. R. J. Moore, to 31st December, 1949. Acting Manager, Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, from 1st January, 1950.)

## CONSTITUTION.

Island Industries Board is a Corporation created under "The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939." During the year under review Board members were:—

Chairman—Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.

Members—Mr. R. J. Moore, 1-4-49 to 31-12-49.

Mr. V. J. Chardon, 1-4-49 to 31-1-50.

Mr. H. A. Galloway, 1-2-50 to 31-3-50.

Mr. P. J. Killoran, 4-2-50 to 31-3-50.

Secretary—Mr. J. Waller.

Under its constitution the Board may—

- (1) Carry on the business, trade or occupation, as the case may be, of banker, blacksmith, builder, carpenter, commission agent, common carrier (whether by land or water), dealer (wholesale or retail), engineer, exporter, factor, farmer, fisherman (including fishing for pearl-shell, trochus shell and beche-de-mer), forwarding agent, freight contractor, general merchant, grazier, importer, iron worker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mine owner, money lender, plumber, shipping agent, ship's chandler, ship-broker, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or other trade or business incidental or

ancillary to any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, or which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade, or occupation.

- (2) Acquire from time to time and at all times and either by construction, purchase, lease, or otherwise all such buildings, premises, plant, machinery, equipment, and stock as may in the opinion of the Board be necessary or desirable for the carrying on by the Board of any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid.
- (3) Acquire and distribute information relating to or as to the best manner of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, and undertake the education, instruction, and training of islanders or other persons in any such business, trade, or occupation and for that purpose establish, maintain, and conduct all such schools and classes as the Board may deem necessary, and enter into contracts of apprenticeship with any such person as aforesaid.
- (4) For the purpose of carrying on any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, have and exercise all such powers, authorities, and discretions and do all such acts and things as a private person carrying on business in Queensland might have or exercise or do.
- (5) Cause investigations to be made, and from time to time report and make recommendations to the Director upon all or any of the following matters:—
  - (a) Any question relating to radio, commerce, or business carried on by or in which islanders are interested or engaged.

- (b) Market for goods produced or manufactured by islanders and trade with other countries in, and the method of marketing such goods.
- (c) Generally, as to how the trade industries and commerce of islanders can be best encouraged, developed, and protected.
- (6) Finance any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, and for that purpose raise money on loan from the Governor in Council, the Treasurer, the Director, the Corporation of the Bureau of Rural Development, or any bank or financial institution or person, and mortgage or assign property of the Board (including contracts between the Board and islanders or other persons relating to or arising out of any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid).

#### TRADING.

The Board has, in addition to its bulk store, slipway, and retail store in Thursday Island, 17 branch stores established on all inhabited islands in Torres Strait. These stores were created to enable the Torres Strait people to trade and make purchases of essential foodstuffs, clothing, &c., on their home islands. In trading through these branch stores, customers are afforded the opportunity of disposing of small quantities of marine produce won by them apart from the operations of their pearling luggers. Thus is given an incentive to the owners of dinghies to work the home reefs on the islands and obtain cash payment for their produce as it is won, thus obviating delayed payment which must occur in sending produce to Thursday Island. The following shows retail stores, operating under the control of the Board, turnover for the year, and stock on hand as at 31st March, 1950:—

	Turnover.			Stock on hand.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Badu Island ..	12,657	8	2	2,852	17	4
Boigu Island ..	3,092	7	8	1,063	1	8
Coconut Island ..	5,047	4	6	1,341	13	7
Cowal Creek ..	8,640	9	3	816	15	4
Darnley Island ..	7,801	10	9	2,205	18	9
Dauan Island ..	3,045	10	3	1,455	2	1
Dowar Island ..	3,494	7	0	858	16	10
Kubin Village ..	5,300	0	0	793	3	8
Mabuiag Island ..	7,627	9	4	2,323	1	9
Murray Island ..	9,763	9	7	1,804	8	8
Mutee Head ..	3,471	16	11	446	14	9
Naghir Island ..	1,371	1	2	930	1	6
Rennell Island ..	850	18	11	370	12	1
Saibai Island ..	6,158	5	11	2,695	13	4
Stephen Island ..	1,650	16	11	740	11	9
Yam Island ..	5,667	12	0	1,212	9	5
Yorke Island ..	4,332	6	10	1,522	8	11
Kennedy ..	28,213	17	10	15,899	10	4
Thursday Island ..	31,999	19	4	5,778	7	10
	<u>£150,186</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>£45,111</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>

With the exception of the Thursday Island branch store, all stores are controlled and managed by Torres Strait Islander branch store managers. It is a compliment to these men that they, with a mediocre primary education, are capable of being trained to a responsibility which compels them to accept stocks as indicated in the foregoing table. With the knowledge that stocks, perishable and otherwise, have to be

carried by boat from Thursday Island and landed on the beach by dinghy to these outlying islands, it should not be difficult to visualise the losses which can occur in transshipment alone.

Continuous supervision and inspection of books and accounts of these branch stores operate. A majority of the stores have recorded excellent returns and in some cases losses beyond what can be claimed as reasonable have occurred; and where it is evident that misappropriation or negligence is responsible for these losses court action against the offenders results. In the case of the Thursday Island branch store, where losses have been innumerable and unwarranted, police investigation resulted without establishing misappropriation by any individual. The Board has made every effort to curtail these losses, and is still determined that they shall be reduced to a minimum.

The recorded losses, £2,002, represent 1.3 per cent. of the turnover, which the Board is prepared to admit is excessive, particularly with relation to Yam and Murray Island stores and the Thursday Island store and bulk store. When the final audit figures were made available to the Board, a special meeting was called, and it was then determined that an immediate further investigation into these shortages must be made by a deputed officer, and on his recommendation will depend police court action against those responsible where evidence of misappropriation is forthcoming.

However, when it is recollected that, during the year, the services of the manager and accountant terminated primarily at the desire of the Board, and it was impossible to obtain permanent replacements of either before termination of the Board's financial year, 31st March, it must be conceded that the Board has worked under a handicap, the extent of which is difficult to appreciate by one not associated with the immensity of the Board's transactions.

It is, however, gratifying to obtain from audit inspectors the assurance that the Board's affairs over the recent months are in much better condition generally than applied previously. The following are the shortages and surpluses of the branch stores:—

	Loss.			Surplus.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
27/1/50—Badu ..	31	10	9			
7/2/50—Kubin ..	47	1	10			
29/1/50—Mabuiag ..	44	4	1			
12/2/50—Saibai ..	5	6	10			
10/2/50—Boigu ..	60	15	3			
11/2/50—Dauan ..						2 2
13/2/50—Mutee Head ..	3	16	0			
13/4/50—Cowal Creek ..						32 0 1
3/3/50—Coconut ..	55	19	8			
12/5/50—Naghir ..						20 12 3
3/9/49—Rennell ..	7	18	3			
4/9/49—Yorke ..						8 14 3
11/5/50—Yam ..	235	10	10			
1/3/50—Stephen ..	93	3	5			
28/2/50—Darnley ..	28	8	1			
24/2/50—Murray ..	436	6	2			
8/6/50—Dowar ..	90	2	6			
4/3/50—Thursday Island Store	634	15	6			
31/3/50—Kennedy Store ..						18 7 4
31/3/50—Bulk Store ..	237	10	0			
	<u>£2,002</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>£79</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>

## MARINE PRODUCE.

Apart from its functions as a storekeeper, the Board accepts the responsibility of disposing of all marine produce won by the Torres Strait Islander's fleet, controlled and managed by the Director of Native Affairs; therefore the Board acts as selling agent for the Director of Native Affairs and as such is required to satisfy him that the best market available is obtained for the islanders' produce. In keeping with this responsibility, the Board has regular contact with local and overseas buyers in America, England, and the Continent. The Board claims that the price which it received for this year's marine produce, viz., mother of pearl and trochus shell, compares favourably with any local producers, and by reason of its success in this direction it holds the confidence and appreciation of the island worker. Hereunder is a contract entered into by the Board with South Sea Pearling Company of Thursday Island for the sale of up to 200 tons of pearl-shell for the 1950 season:—

## CONTRACT OF SALE.

Made this eighteenth day of April, one thousand nine hundred and fifty between South Sea Pearling Company Pty. Ltd., of Thursday Island (hereinafter called "the buyer") and Island Industries Board, of Thursday Island (hereinafter called "the Seller") whereby:—

1. The Seller agrees to sell to the Buyer and the Buyer agrees to buy the whole of the Seller's catch of pearl-shell for the season commencing on the first day of April, one thousand nine hundred and fifty and ending on the thirty-first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one, up to two hundred (200) tons (no minimum tonnage guaranteed) provided that if the catch exceeds two hundred (200) tons then the Seller will offer the excess to the Buyer who shall have the right to buy the whole of such excess at the prices hereinafter set forth.

2. Delivery shall be made f.o.b. Thursday Island in monthly shipments, but when pearl-shell or transport is not available monthly, no breach of this Agreement shall occur.

3. The prices to be paid by the Buyer shall be as follows:—

- (a) Sound (AA-C) at five hundred and eighty pounds Australian currency (£A580) per ton.
- (b) Grade D at four hundred and sixty pounds Australian currency (£A460) per long ton.
- (c) Grade E at three hundred and five pounds Australian currency (£A305) per long ton.
- (d) Grade EE at two hundred and five pounds Australian currency (£A205) per long ton.

and such prices shall be f.o.b. Thursday Island.

4. The Buyer agrees to pay to the Seller against documents in Thursday Island by way of letter of credit established at the National Bank of Australasia Ltd., Thursday Island, f.o.b. Thursday Island.

Subsequent with its completion of an Agreement for pearl-shell, the Board, after exhaustive investigation, entered into contract with Messrs.

Brown and Dureau—Agents on behalf of Otto Gerdau Company, New York—for the sale on behalf of the Director of Native Affairs, trochus shell up to 475 tons to be won by boats controlled by the Director. Hereunder is trochus shell Agreement entered into:—

## AGREEMENT.

*Sellers.*—Island Industries Board, Thursday Island, Queensland.

*Buyers.*—Brown and Dureau Ltd. (Agent), on behalf of Otto Gerdau Co., agrees to purchase the following Marine Produce on the terms and conditions as set out hereunder:—

## TORRES STRAIT TROCHUS SHELL.

*Quantity.*—The total production for the season ending 31st December, 1950, of the Island Industries Board to a maximum quantity up to four hundred and seventy-five (475) tons net weight to the following gradings:—

*Gradings.*—80 per cent. from 2½ inches to 4 inches; 20 per cent. over 4 inches. Measurements to be taken across the widest part of the base of the shell.

*Price.*—Brown and Dureau Ltd., as agents for Otto Gerdau Co., agree to pay to the Island Industries Board against documents in Thursday Island by way of letter of credit established on the National Bank of Australasia Limited, Thursday Island, the amount of one hundred and five pounds (£105) Australian currency per ton, f.o.b. Thursday Island.

Further, it is agreed that to conform with the requirements of the shipping company on through Bills of Lading the Island Industries Board will prepay freight from Thursday Island to Brisbane, such expenditure to be repaid by Brown and Dureau, Ltd., as agents for Otto Gerdau Co., on demand.

*Packing.*—Packed in single new bags, or, alternatively, double bags if second-hand bags only available.

*Markings.*—Island Industries Board to grade, pack and brand bags "Produce of Australia," with identification marks as to whether the bags contain small or large shell, place shipping marks as requested and advised by the buyers.

*Delivery.*—In monthly shipments commencing May, 1950, no limitation to be placed on the amount of shell to be shipped in any particular month, but every effort to be made to maintain an average shipment of sixty (60) tons per month.

Last shipment to be made on the boat leaving in January, 1951, provided that in the event of the January sailing being of such close proximity to the 31st December, 1950, as to make it impossible to prepare for shipment any shell landed at the end of December, 1950, the carry-over to be shipped on the next ship leaving Thursday Island.



During the year under review, the Board sold 141 tons of mother of pearl shell to the value of £40,772 and 150 tons of trochus shell to the value of £11,414.

#### SLIPWAY.

The Board has established a slipway for the overhaul and repairs of the Torres Strait Islander's fleet and the following vessels were slipped during the year:—

	Gross tons.
Candia (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Danie (Auxillary launch) .. .. .	10
Penguin (Auxillary launch) .. .. .	30
Adiana (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Milton (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Francis Pritt (Ketch) .. .. .	18
Catherine R (Ketch) .. .. .	25
Ermitrude (Launch) .. .. .	1
Vymer (Launch) .. .. .	15
Janet Thompson (Cutter) .. .. .	15
Reggie P (Scow) .. .. .	30
Millard (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Macoy (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Torres Herald (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Siesia (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Hespia (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Petta (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Cape Yorke (Cutter) .. .. .	10
Cessa (Ketch) .. .. .	23
Reggie P (Scow) .. .. .	30
Wadumo (Cutter) .. .. .	10

In addition to slipping and repairing of luggers and cutters, dinghies of all types are built as part of the equipment of vessels engaged in the marine industry. The number of dinghies supplied was 12.

During the year, the slip worked at full capacity and it was difficult at times to meet the demand for boat repairs. The slipway is controlled by a white foreman and he has under his control, management and direction 26 native carpenters, apprentices, and labourers.

Apprentices are recruited from their home island schools and invariably prove intelligent. It is no mis-statement to say that inside six months of constant supervision on the building of a dinghy apprentices can turn out one without supervision. The older men, i.e., the artisans, have served from three years upwards to date, and have sufficient knowledge to repair their own luggers if occasion should arise for such away from the shipyards.

In all, 20 artisans and 6 apprentices are in constant employment. They work under the direct control of two leading hands. All employees attend night classes each week, when practical demonstrations and lectures are given them, from which they make notes on particular subjects discussed.

At the termination of each day's work, all labour is required to prepare his own time sheet, naming the various parts of the vessel on which he has been employed. The men work an eight-hour day on five days per week. During these hours, it is safe to say that every man is keenly concentrating on the job set out for him. Very little material is wasted on repair work. Constant supervision over all jobs is maintained by the shipwright in charge and the coloured leading hands.

All tradesmen, including apprentices, are taught the use of machines such as planer, band saw, circular saw, and grinding machine for

sharpening tools. All machinery is well guarded against accident to beginners. No beginner is permitted to use the machinery until he has served six months in the shop or in the vicinity of the machines. All men have their own tools necessary for the job. They are taught to keep them set and sharp. These island people take a particular pride in their tools.

For six months of the year, on account of the small tides during the day-time, it is necessary to slip vessels at night. When slipping a vessel and it has been found that the keel is damaged, these island men dive to eight feet of water to wedge up the damaged places on the cradle before the vessel settles down. The south-east trade winds reach a velocity of twenty knots, causing a particularly jumpy sea and making the job of slipping difficult to a white man, but not so much to these island swimmers, who look upon the ocean as their domain.

All tradesmen are taught to maintain their slipyard. Cradles are constantly examined and wheels greased. Blocks are kept in moving condition and wire ropes treated with oil. The opinion is held that any Torres Strait Islander, after five or six years tuition in Island Industries Board's boatslip, would be capable of taking his place in any shipyard building wooden ships in Australia. It is a calling in which they are keenly interested and the result of their labours indicates such interest. Without this labour the pearling industry would be in a very parlous condition.

#### GENERAL TRADING.

For its supplies of foodstuffs, clothing, ship's chandlery, hardware, &c., Island Industries Board is dependent on the State Stores Board, Brisbane, with local purchases where essential. Despite the difficulty in obtaining many lines, a regular flow of trade has been maintained and, generally, customers are satisfied with the treatment received. A comparison of trading figures, over the past three years, is revealed in the following:—

	1947/48.	1948/49.	1949/50.
	£	£	£
Stock (end of year) ..	26,531	38,355	50,456
Sales .. .. .	106,539	120,844	145,030
Purchases .. .. .	75,818	94,510	104,062
Charges (Freight, Insurance, &c.) ..	21,639	20,554	30,116
Stock (beginning of year) .. .. .	24,589	26,531	38,355
Gross Profit .. .. .	11,024	17,604	22,953

Consequently, by all its trading activities for the year, the Board's total net profit was £6,735 18s. 11d.

#### APPENDIX 6.

##### YARRABAH MISSION.

(Acting Superintendent, Major L. V. Wakefield, from 7th November, 1949.)

##### STAFF.

Mr. H. R. Moxham. Arrived 6th April, 1950.  
Mrs. A. Weber, matron, girls' dormitory.  
Mrs. L. V. Wakefield.  
Miss E. V. Odom.  
Sister M. Stanley, Church Army (Hospital).

Mr. A. G. F. Kirk, Department of Native Affairs, was lent to the Mission from 10th December, 1949, to 20th April, 1950.

The Mission has been without a priest since 14th November, 1949, when the Superintendent, Rev. A. C. Flint, left. Religious ministrations since that date have been carried on by native lay readers.

#### STATISTICS.

Births, 28; deaths, 8; marriages, 6.

#### VISITORS.

The Hon. A. Jones, M.L.A., Minister for Health and Home Affairs; Mr. W. Davis, Acting Assistant Director of Native Affairs; Mr. G. Sturges, Superintendent, Palm Island Settlement, Government Representative on the Committee; Mr. J. W. Chapman, Superintendent, Edward River Mission.

#### LAUNCH.

A new launch, the "Ernest Gribble," arrived at the Mission on 31st October, 1949, and was put into commission.

#### SCHOOL.

No qualified head teacher has been available. The school has been conducted by a native head teacher and his assistants.

Number on roll, 46 boys, 54 girls; kindergarten, 17 boys, 11 girls; total, 128; average attendance, 108.

#### HEALTH.

No epidemics.

A T.B. survey was carried out by Dr. Macken in March, 1950, 625 individuals being examined. Reports are not yet to hand.

Doctors Benn and Cilento from Cairns Hospital Board have made voluntary visits to the Mission on their off-duty week-ends since 25th March, 1950. They have examined any cases needing attention during their visits and have inoculated 186 children against whooping cough and diphtheria. Serum has been supplied by Cairns Base Hospital.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

The diesel engine at workshop was placed in working order again in April. The generator is still out of order and electrical installations are held up pending inspection and specifications from the State Electricity Commission.

Plans have been drawn up for a new jetty, but difficulties in obtaining materials have militated against progress. To date, the necessary piles only have been procured.

The sawmill has operated periodically. Labour shortage has made it difficult to work continually and all bearings had to be remetalled and pulleys overhauled. It is hoped to obtain expert advice regarding a layout for the mill, which in its present condition does not lend itself for easy working.

A breaking-down saw would be a great improvement on the present large circular saw which has to do this work.

#### FARMS.

Lack of supervising staff has hindered farm development. Native headmen of Settlements have carried on to the best of their ability.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

It has been impossible to secure piping for repair during the past year. Much of the existing piping is in a very bad state.

A survey by an officer of the appropriate Government Department is awaited.

#### GENERAL.

A Christmas tree for the children was held on Christmas Day, when over 300 children received presents.

Sports meeting for the children was held in June, 1949, and another day has been arranged for 17th June, this year. An adult sports day was held on 26th January, 1950. All functions were well attended and enjoyed.

#### APPENDIX 7.

##### DOOMADGEE MISSION.

(Acting Superintendent, Mr. J. Talbot.)

#### STAFF.

Assistants: Mr. Thomas Bartlett, Mrs. Douglas Potter, Sister Isa Black (absent for medical reasons since November, 1949), Miss Pearl Roberts (joined staff 12th July, 1949).

#### HEALTH AND HYGIENE.

Births, 11; deaths, 1.

*Medical Visits.*—Flying Doctor Watson, of Cloncurry, 17th March, per F.D. 'plane; Matron Brister, of Cloncurry, 30th November, per F.D. 'plane; Mr. Goldfinch, dentist, of Cloncurry, 30th November, per F.D. 'plane; Flying Doctor Robertson, of Cloncurry, 24th November, per F.D. 'plane; Doctor Harvey-Sutton, of Cloncurry, 1st October, per F.D. 'plane; Mr. Goldfinch, dentist, of Cloncurry, 1st October, per F.D. 'plane; Flying Doctor Robertson, of Cloncurry, 7th July, per F.D. 'plane.

*Epidemics.*—Influenza, 52 cases; tonsillitis, 2 cases.

*Skin Infections.*—Twelve cases.

*Infected Wounds.*—Fourteen cases.

*Accidents.*—Thirteen minor cases and one broken arm, and one torn eye and face by dog.

*Diarrhoea.*—Twenty-two cases.

*Epileptic.*—One case.

*Partial Paralysis.*—One case—complete recovery made.

*Hospital In-patients.*—Sixteen cases.

*Dental.*—196 extractions, 170 fillings.

*Hospital Out-patients.*—Varied from 10 to 40 daily.

*Hygiene.*—Every dormitory inmate bathes daily and puts on fresh clean clothes after bath. All wearing apparel, under and outer, is washed and laundered every day.

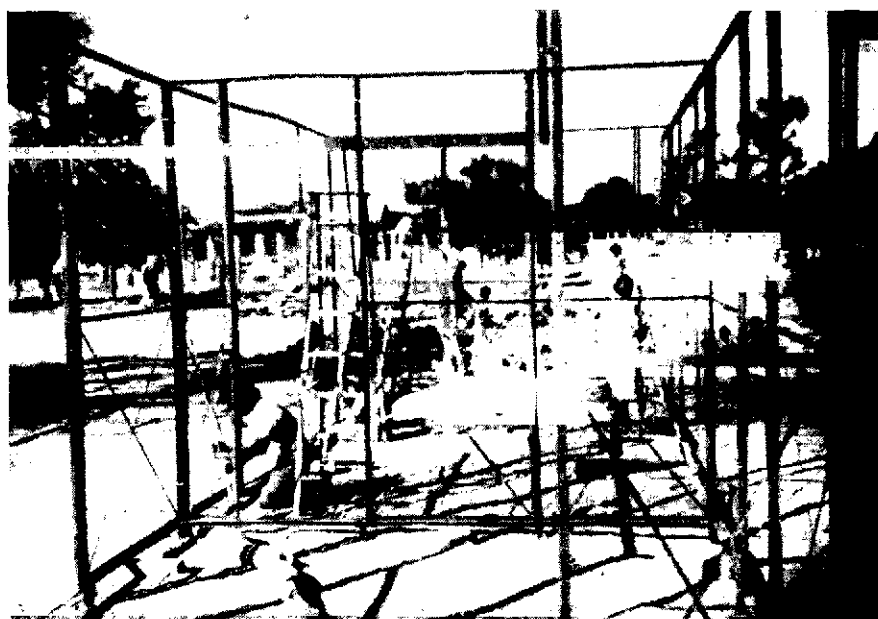
#### SOCIAL.

*Marriages.*—Norman of Burketown to Maggie Ned of Doomadgee Mission on 29th July.

DOOMADGEE MISSION.



Aerial View of Mission.



Erection Steel Framed Native Cottages.

*Conduct.*—Good for 95 per cent. of population. Two or three irresponsible young men and some visiting natives caused some disturbance to the usual smooth order.

*Absconders.*—Old man and woman, but both returned to the Mission a few days later.

*Living Conditions.*—Materials are awaited with which to improve the accommodation of families at the camp, likewise of the dormitory and also to improve the dining facilities of dormitory inmates. The long promised and still awaited electric light plant would, we believe, provide an amenity of great benefit to people socially.

*Clothing.*—Girls and boys in the dormitories and those below the dormitory age of six years, still living with their parents, are fully clothed by the Mission. Every dormitory girl requires at least six frocks a year, also underwear. Likewise, the boys require six knickers and singlets yearly. Jumpers and coats have also to be provided for the midwinter months. Almost the whole of this clothing is made up at the Mission. With the daily mending of clothing, the task of maintaining the standard of clothing set up is a very big one. There are 92 girls and 49 boys.

#### EDUCATION.

*School Staff.*—The anticipated coming of qualified teachers to join our staff by the end of 1949 did not materialise. Miss Roberts opened up the school again on her arrival last July, and with the assistance of six native assistants carried on until the end of 1949. Miss Roberts was unable to continue the work in January owing to necessary sick furlough of our nursing sister, whose hospital and other duties then became the inescapable burden of this worker. We have been in constant expectation of the return of Mrs. Read to this work and we hope it may prove to be soon. Miss Roberts may also be relieved of other duties for school teaching again by hoped for return of Sister Black at an early date. Other help is promised us in two or three months.

*School Returns.*—For period school open—18th July to 16th December, 1949:—

School conducted .. ..	105 days
Total attendance .. ..	7,645
Average attendance .. ..	74

Classification at 16th December—

	Boys	Girls	Total
Prep. 1 ..	8	5	13
Prep. 2 ..	10	10	20
Prep. 3 ..	6	11	17
Prep. 4 ..	2	6	8
Grade 1a ..	4	6	10
Grade 1b ..	3	3	6
Grade 2 ..	—	3	3
Grade 3 ..	—	2	2
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>79</b>

*Manual Instruction.*—This has been continued throughout the year.

*Boys.*—In general stock and station work. Also in boot and saddle repairs, motor and general engineering and maintenance work.

*Girls.*—Laundry, cooking, hand sewing, machining, knitting, general domestic training and in irrigation and light agricultural work.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

*Labour.*—For eight months of the year, practically all available native labour was out in employment at cattle stations. Most of our men returned home to the Mission for some portion of the four months "wet" season. Some while home gave assistance in stock work and in fencing and clearing. Several men showed particularly keen desire to help and showed ability to do so; two in yard building and gate making, one driving tractor and doing various other responsible jobs, two or three in engineering work on engines and some on steel-framed building erection.

The demand for labour on cattle stations has opened very keenly this year and appears to be far in excess of the labour that is available. In order to get many of our men away to urgent jobs before road transport could operate the Cloncurry-Burketown T.A.A. service plane was brought here on a number of occasions and transported numbers of men.

*Pastoral.*—Rainfall for the twelve months ended 31st March was 27 inches, which is considered good. There is now abundant grass feed on the reserve and cattle and horses are in very good condition. Lack of fencing wire is a great handicap to our work of building up the stock numbers.

Live Stock on hand 31st March:—

Horses of Mission .. ..	76
Horses of natives .. ..	30
Goats .. ..	50
Poultry .. ..	20
Cattle .. ..	925

Cattle operations:—

Stock on hand 1st April, 1949 ..	838
Less loss by natural causes ..	45
Brandings for the year ..	213
Killers purchased .. ..	7
	<hr/>
	1,013
Killings for consumption of Reserve	88
	<hr/>
Stock at 31st March as shown above	925

*Fencing.*—No new fences have been erected on cattle runs because of lack of fencing wire. All original fences have been maintained.

*Stock Yards.*—The nineteen cattle yards spread over the reserve have all been maintained. One brumby trap yard has been rebuilt to obtain better results. The horse yard at the Mission has been completely and systematically rebuilt and fitted with seven swing gates. The whole of this work has been carried out by natives with scarcely any supervision. The new horse yard and well-made gates is a particularly good job.

#### AGRICULTURAL.

*Area Available.*—To the previous 34 acres of fenced area we have extended and enclosed with fence an additional 33 acres in a location where crops may best benefit from seasonal rains. For this extension, 23 chains of original fencing was taken out and re-erected on new line; 51 chains of new fence were erected with beef-wood posts, two top rails and three fence wires. All the old fencing is fitted with netting, but 46 chains of the new has no netting.



**Area under Cultivation.**—This varies according to the season and circumstances, but in general rotation of crops it is necessary here for a fair area to be resting, usually fallow. We show hereunder the area at present under crop:—

**Under Spray Irrigation:**

Sweet Potatoes .. 3 acres.  
Pumpkins .. .. 2 acres.  
Carrots and Turnips ½ acre.  
Tomatoes and Cabbage ½ acre.  
Pineapples .. .. ½ acre.

**Under Channel Irrigation:**

Bananas—300 stands ½ acre. (but see more below)  
Papaw .. .. ½ acre.  
Experimental orchard 2 acres.  
Citrus—200 trees .. 3 acres. (young and only fair)

**In addition to above in extended area:**

Sweet potatoes .. 2½ acres. Grown almost entirely on seasonal rain. Now mature and yield 4 tons to acre.  
Trombone pumpkins.. ½ acre. Grown without irrigation. 4,000 lbs. harvested and now about finished.  
Beaudesert pumpkins 1 acre. Planted February and well grown without irrigation. Just coming in and will require some irrigation to mature the crop.  
Bananas, 500 Stands 1 acre. Planted early December. Received benefit of heavy rains and have grown vigorously. Now being channel irrigated.

**Harvest—**

	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Potatoes .. ..	—	9	3	27
Sweet Potatoes .. ..	5	18	2	2
Peas and beans .. ..	—	2	1	10
Carrots, parsnip and turnip	1	12	—	2
Cabbage and kohl rabi ..	1	18	3	13
Pumpkins .. ..	12	4	1	13
Sundry vegetable oddments	—	3	1	14
Squash .. ..	—	1	2	17
Tomatoes .. ..	3	14	3	14
Papaw .. ..	1	7	1	1
Bananas .. ..	2	18	3	19
Pineapples .. ..	—	1	3	26
Lemons (not including several cases of last season not recorded) .. ..	—	2	3	22
Mandarins .. ..	—	—	2	12
<b>Total tonnage ..</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>

(A large quantity of mangoes harvested were not recorded.)

**Equipment, Plant and Works, Additions, Improvements and Maintenance.**—All maintained and additions and replacements made. New channel works in agricultural area have been quite extensive, involving much initial labour and considerable maintenance.

**Bower Shade for Seedling Bed.**—This was rebuilt and roofed with elephant grass. A very good job done by all native labour.

**Four-inch Main in Irrigation Spray Line.**—This has been extended another 3 chains to a total of 10 chains.

**Ground Leveller.**—A steel blade 8 feet long, adjustable on an 18-foot long steel chassis, mounted on a pair of wheels so that it may be drawn trailer manner by Farmal tractor, has been devised and constructed. This piece of equipment has proved extremely useful levelling ground after ploughing, especially new ground.

**Battery Charger.**—To overcome our constant problem of flat radio and car batteries, a charger has been devised and fitted to Farmal tractor and charging is done while tractor is operating for long periods ploughing, &c.

**Farmal Tractor.**—A bad weakness in front steering assembly, which caused repeated hold-ups, has been remedied with device of several heavy steel stays scientifically placed.

**Fifty-horse power Thornycroft Engine.**—This powerful engine which was used in pumping plant before present diesel engine has been overhauled and set up on steel and timber mountings with concrete base for operating circular timber saw. This milling plant has been provided with a grass-covered steel-framed roof structure.

**Diesel Engine of Pumping Plant.**—Opportunity was taken during wet season to overhaul the engine. Four times during the "wet," this engine had to be moved from its normal position in engine room on low-level bank of river and taken to high-level bank to avoid flood waters of river. It had to be put back in pumping position between the high flood periods because intense heat of sun made some amount of irrigation necessary.

**International Truck.**—Broken engine block removed and an overhaul (done here), engine block installed and engine assembled. The whole vehicle was overhauled at same time.

**EQUIPMENT, PLANT AND WORKS.**

**Chevrolet 4 x 4 Truck.**—A general overall made and constant maintenance work done. Tyre maintenance on this vehicle is proving very costly, probably due to inconceivably bad tracks on which it has to operate.

**Motor Grids at Gateways.**—The first of several purposes has been made at the east gate entrance to the Mission. It was built entirely by native labour in a very satisfactory manner.

**Aerodrome.**—This has been kept in serviceable condition, ever-growing ant hills removed and grass mown. Mowing of the grass became necessary after the rains when it grew so high that planes were unable to take off in it. This caused us to get out the mower attachment of Farmal tractor which had never been assembled previously. It proved itself a splendid piece of equipment and enabled us to mow the air strips, not the full 500 feet wide but the whole lengths.

**Painting.**—Most of roofing in the Mission compound has been repainted. One worker's cottage has been painted inside. The large girls' dormitory has been painted with Calzic inside and out entirely.

**Buildings.**—Buildings existing at 30th June, 1949, all maintained. Girls' dormitory, boys' dormitory, girls' and boys' kitchen and laundry, hospital and dispensary, two workers' cottages, store, meat house, workshop, garage, engine room at pump plant, native houses, one 2-roomed cottage, 1 building of 4 rooms in line, 2 buildings of 3 rooms in line. A second 2-roomed cottage for native family has since been completed.

**New Conveniences.**—A 4-cubicle, steel frame, C.G.I. covered, has been erected on the Mission compound to replace a wood-framed lavatory. Three other single-cubicle conveniences have been made and covered but not yet installed.

*Store Extension and Office.*—The steel framework, 48 feet by 28 feet overall, has been erected for this, but awaits e.g. iron covering to complete it.

*Concrete Work for Floors.*—In order to use any available native labour conveniently for supervision, also for convenience of water supply and other materials, we have devised a method of making concrete slabs 2 feet by 2 feet by 2 inches in speedily manipulated steel moulds. The slabs so far produced appear very strong, with good surface and generally satisfactory. They will be as easily conveyed to place required for laying as would the materials for concrete mixing. All our floor sizes are of multiple of 2 feet so the one size slab will suit all building floors. They will be floated on sand when laying.

To assist in accommodation of unexpectedly large numbers of natives who were sent here last Christmas, and most of whom were flood-bound here for following three months, we erected a number of steel-framed structures, tent-like shape, some of which we covered with second-hand iron and others were covered with canvas flies and tarpaulins. These structures, easily assembled and easily dismantled or moved, were of a purely temporary nature and none such is occupied at the present time.

We are still awaiting materials for the many other native houses planned and which we desire to build as soon as possible.

#### RECREATION.

Bush outings and hikes and fishing are the forms of recreation unanimously desired and most enjoyed. Indoor games and ball games are, however, played when they wish. Several outings have been arranged during the year under review. Christmas was a time of much pleasure. Gifts for all, contributed by Christian friends down south, were distributed.

#### RELIGION.

Meetings have been very well attended. This was particularly noticeable when the big numbers were here in the "wet." Numbers of women and more of men attended the morning meetings daily. On Sundays very big numbers of the men and women attended the meetings held. We have reason to believe that a work was done in the hearts of many which will stand eternally to the glory of God and to the praise of His Son, Jesus Christ.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

The Mission has been without Superintendent Mr. Mel G. Read since the 7th September, when he went south to undergo an operation and to gain much needed health restoration. His absence has been felt by his co-workers to be a severe loss to the work of the Mission.

The loss of Mr. Read's work at the Mission has been accentuated by the absence of nursing Sister I. Black, whose health prevented her from carrying on any longer without medical treatment and rest. Sister Black left for Sydney on 20th November.

The list of persons shown in this report to have attended the hospital for treatment gives some idea of the amount of work involved, but dozens of cases of minor sickness attended at the hospital are not recorded.

We hope for the early return of all our absent co-workers and for the early arrival of new workers.

The Mission was visited in August last by Mr. W. T. Davis of the Brisbane Office of the Department. Mr. Davis spent a week in the district and took the opportunity to visit in company with our Superintendent a number of stations on which natives are employed.

We have quite recently been visited by a party from the Department of Health and Home Affairs, comprising Doctor Abrahams (T.B. authority), Mr. Bailey (engineer), Mr. Calder (engineer), Mr. Cross (dentist). Mr. Bailey with Mr. Calder checked up on the Mission with a view to electric power installation. Doctor Abrahams made a quick medical inspection of all native men, women, and children on the reserve. Mr. Cross made a dental inspection of nearly everyone and effected a number of extractions.

In July last, Mr. Read, our Superintendent, with another worker, went to Normanton, where by arrangement they met a Ministerial party led by the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Jones, and with the Director of Native Affairs.

We desire to express our appreciation to the Minister, the Director of Native Affairs, to all members of his staff, and to members of the Ministerial party at Normanton for their evident interest and consideration of the matters referred to them by Mr. Read and for their assurance of whatever assistance was possible.

For the funds recently made available to the Mission for building work, chiefly for housing of natives—a need we feel to be so urgent—we are deeply appreciative.

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#### APPENDIX 8.

##### MONAMONA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Pastor G. Peacock.)

##### HEALTH.

The general health of the people over the last twelve months has been good. We attribute the fact to regular visits from Mareeba medical practitioner, the good service of those in charge locally, and a more balanced diet of the people. Our local gardens supplied an abundance of all classes of vegetables as well as plenty of greens and we have seen the result in the health of the people. We have had two deaths, one a very old man and a little baby a few months old. However, the stork has been a frequent visitor and the number of births will be recorded at the end of the report. We are pleased to report that we have the hookworm menace well in hand, thanks to the assistance of the clinic in Cairns. We have received excellent help from the dental clinic in Cairns and we are able to report good advancement in caring for the dental needs of the people. We have not had much in the way of ordinary epidemics, but these and colds, sores, skin trouble, cuts and wounds have all been taken care of by our local dispensary with a trained nurse in charge, having white and native helpers. We have had one suspect for leprosy removed to Fantome Island over the last twelve months.

### CONDUCT.

Generally, the conduct of the people here has been excellent. There is a marked improvement in the respect for those in charge of them here and on the whole things have worked very smoothly. Our local Police Force have done a good work in caring and protecting the people.

### EDUCATION.

The number of children attending our school has almost reached the 90 mark. Our facilities for teaching this number of children are not the best. However, with the promised assistance of the Government, we are looking forward to a new school with many other improvements. The conduct and attendance have been excellent and the interest in education is growing considerably. Seven grades are being taught and also music, singing, woodwork and needlework and basket work of many kinds. We still have some of the native crafts included in the programme. We have two white teachers assisted by four native teachers. The local parents and teachers and Friends Association have been a great help to the school, not only in teaching, but in raising funds to help the school.

### BUILDING.

Our reconstruction programme is far from completed as yet. However, we have made good progress by building several native cottages, one house for the Agricultural Superintendent, as well as other improvements that have taken up much time. All the houses are enclosed with picket fences and to us here it is the cheapest and best fence generally speaking. The new bakery that was erected last year has proved a great blessing to the people as it is easily handled and they have not had one bad batch of bread up to date.

### CHOIR AND BRASS BAND.

Musical interest is one of the greatest interests here. The band is one of the chief attractions. The boys have improved beyond expectation. Monamona Mission had the pleasure and privilege of taking the entire service on Anzac Day at Kuranda, the band taking an important part. The choir has visited some centres in the district and have been greatly appreciated wherever they have been. By the way the coming generation is practising we shall have a large band membership in the near future.

### DOMESTIC WORK.

Classes are being taught in sewing, cooking, and in general domestic science, and the boys are taught agriculture, carpentering, engineering, and teaching work.

### AGRICULTURE.

We have continued to advance in agricultural endeavour. However, we have not yet reached our aim, but we are advancing in the planting of citrus, bananas, papaws, beside garden produce of all kinds. We are enlarging our irrigation output so that we can irrigate a larger area. With proper care, the country will produce excellent crops. The peanut crops, maize, sweet potatoes, sorghum, cowpeas and other wet-season crops did very well, and now the season has changed we are planting peas, cauliflowers, cabbage beans, lettuce, and many other crops that provide abundance of food for the people.

### CATTLE.

The stock has wonderfully improved over the last year. By purchasing and by natural increase, we have doubled the number of cattle on the Mission. We have purchased more bulls from New South Wales and we are now on the lookout for more milking cows. As the year has been a good one in this district, the stock are in good condition.

### GOATS.

The goats continue to be a success for milk and meat. The herd has increased threefold in spite of the number that has been killed for food. We are erecting another shed which will be used to separate the kids from their mothers so that a greater milk supply will come to the people.

### RELIGION.

Some Bible classes are taught in the day school and religious service is conducted every morning and evening, special meetings being held on Tuesday and Friday evenings. The Sabbath services are conducted in the morning and afternoon, and in the evening there is a song service, the band being in attendance at times.

### RECREATION.

Sport days are still looked forward to and enjoyed by the Mission and many friends that do attend from time to time. Football for the seniors as well as other sports are held once a week and the school children are on the oval every opportunity. On suitable evenings, indoor games are played.

### STATISTICS.

Births. 12; deaths, 2; marriages, 4.

### APPENDIX 9.

#### LUTHERAN MISSION, COOKTOWN.

(Superintendent, Rev. V. Wenke.)

Though well provided for at Woorabinda, the Cape Bedford natives keenly felt the spell of the home country and desired to return at the earliest opportunity. They had been under the care of the Lutheran Mission for 60 years. A huge amount of money had been spent and many hardships endured to maintain and preserve the Mission. The Church, therefore, felt that it could not allow the petitions of these Mission natives go unheard to effect their repatriation and decided to do its utmost to bring about their return.

After continued negotiations, the Government gave permission for the Cape Bedford natives to return, and promised to subsidise the re-establishment of the Mission on a pound for pound basis as far as capital expenditure was concerned.

We fully realised with the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, that the re-establishment would mean a huge amount of capital expenditure. We would have hesitated somewhat to begin, had we not purchased the R.A.A.F. installation at Eight Mile at the very reasonable figure of £500. The material placed at our disposal through this transaction gave us reason to believe that a reconstruction of a mission



station would be possible. We made a start. The secretary of the Board of the Lutheran Mission, Cooktown, had visited Eight Mile in February, 1949, after the cyclone had swept over Cooktown and surroundings in order to ascertain what possibilities existed to build a station, after the assurance had been given that we can begin the reconstruction on a stretch of land selected at Boiling Springs at the right-hand branch of the Endeavour River, about 32 miles from Cooktown.

The first party of natives ex Woorabinda, seven men, arrived at Cooktown on the 12th April, 1949, to begin the work of dismantling of the R.A.A.F. installation at Eight Mile. Mr. Fred Radke, of Beaudesert supervised this work. Not long afterwards, Mr. Hermann Radke, of Bethania, joined him. Both men gave about 5-6 weeks of free voluntary labour in this undertaking. More native men from Woorabinda left on the 23rd April; more arrived later in batches.

On or about the 26th June, 1949, the first load of timber was deposited on the site for the station, selected by Mr. J. Bjelke-Petersen and the president of Synod, Rev. M. Loche.

About five months afterwards, early in December, the secretary of the Board visited the Mission site, now called Hope Vale, and already found 15 houses erected for the natives, the boys' dormitory built, the boys' messroom ready for occupation, a workshop and shed erected. The residence of the manager, Mr. Frank Behrendorff, and family, was almost completed. They lived temporarily in a house, which is converted into a storeroom. Five acres were cleared, a paddock comprising 5 acres was fenced in, and some pipes were already laid to bring the water to the station—no doubt a wonderful achievement in such a short time. The Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, also visited the station and expressed his satisfaction at the work done. We had been fortunate enough to procure a professional carpenter in the person of Mr. C. Hartwig, of Indooroopilly, who supervised the reconstruction of the station.

We are building the station on the basis of a master plan, which has been submitted to the Director of Native Affairs and the Government. Provided we get the machinery and assistance from the Government, we hope to achieve our aim within ten years, and believe that by then a native settlement will have been established which will stand inspection by authorities concerned. According to our plan, we will have provided each family with a suitable piece of land around their houses (2½ by 2 chains) where they can satisfy their particular ambitions and grow fruit and foodstuffs for themselves and also have ample playground for their children. There will not be cramped conditions.

Rev. V. Wenke, a graduate from the theological seminary at Adelaide, a native of New South Wales, applied for the position of Superintendent after serving in the Home Mission field at Biloela for some years. We are fortunate to have him as successor to Rev. G. H. Schwarz, who resigned his position in December, 1949.

On the 18th February, 1950, the first families, the wives and dependants of the men at Hope Vale, left Woorabinda and arrived at their

destination on the 22nd February. The Church catered for them on their journey. They found housing conditions satisfactory beyond expectations and are happy on the station.

#### INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

With the Farmall A tractor, which was in possession of the Mission already before the evacuation from Spring Hill in 1942 and which had been impressed by the military authorities for the construction of the aerodrome at Eight Mile, we were able to clear 5 acres of land and plant sweet potatoes in February, 1950.

Besides, we have made agricultural use of the main street of the station for the first year anyhow, and have planted pumpkins, of which we harvested 5 tons recently for food for the natives. We planted some thousands of pine-apples and about 100 citrus trees and are experimenting with corn, lucerne, sugarcane, cotton, &c. We are definitely relying on "Dick's" property, adjoining our settlement, and have actually based our hopes and calculations on it being incorporated into the aboriginal reserve. Failing this, we feel we are not given the conditions necessary for success.

Six horses are on the reserve. We have been able to secure 68 head of cattle at the reasonable price of £5 10s. per head. Cows among them have already produced milk for the families. We have lost a few of them through poisoning by the zehmia plant, but have decided to take better care of cows by nursing them on grounds which have been cleared of the destructive plant and by providing food for them at the station. We have shepherded the cattle for some time to get them used to the surroundings, keeping them closed in overnight in the station paddock.

So far we have not killed any cattle for food purposes. There has been such an opportunity of getting pigs that the natives were absolutely satisfied to live on pork. We have warned them, however, to go steady hunting for them, as we do not want our supplies to fall away too soon. The natives are taming some pigs and have had 15 of them in the yards in December.

A sawmill is on the place, but we could not make use of it because we do not yet possess a bigger tractor. In our estimates, we have specified for a Farnall M. and do hope to be in possession of it soon. With it and with a ploughing machine (a smaller type) we will be able to procure and produce our own timber for building purposes.

The fishing industry has been kept in view by the Board. The distance between Hope Vale and the old Hope Valley establishment is about 12 miles. Once the road is made trafficable the natives will be able to bring in supplies of fish occasionally. The fishing industry even from the new site has its great possibilities. Taking a fair average, we have, through marine products, received an income in 1931 of £284, in 1932 of £154 and in 1933 of £84, when we were at Cape Bedford. One dugong alone supplied meat for days for the station. Besides, the oil was used for health purposes. We definitely will need a boat to make a success of this enterprise.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the natives under the care of the Mission has been fairly good. No serious illness had to be reported. Many suffered from



skin infections. Perhaps the change of climate had something to do with this. The Superintendent and his helpers gave them the needed attention and have in most cases been successful with their treatment, having acted upon the advice of the chemist and sister in the hospital at Cooktown. One man was sent to Cairns for complications on account of tooth troubles and came back cured. The life of George Rosendale was saved when he was bitten by a snake, thanks to the assistance in the hospital at Cooktown given by a tourist doctor and air ambulance transport to the hospital at Cairns. We are looking for a nurse and have made application for free drugs at Canberra. As the means of communication to Cooktown in dry weather has greatly improved, we refer any serious illness to the Cooktown hospital. A dentist and the sister of the Cooktown hospital have visited the station spending some days there treating natives. We are having a few girls trained at Woorabinda. Miss O. Paterson can give first aid.

There is no undernourishment, nor malnutrition. We believe that they are receiving a good supply of food. In December some of them looked fat to bulging point.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Hope Vale being situated near the Endeavour River, we have an abundant supply of water. The river here has never been known to be dry. Not far away is a waterfall. With water reticulation at the station, we should never be in want in that respect. We have a pump, but not yet an engine. There is no power take-off attached to our Farmall A tractor. We are anxiously waiting for the engine specified in the estimates submitted to the Native Affairs Department.

#### REFRIGERATION AND ELECTRIFICATION.

With the material bought at Eight Mile, we procured a cool room that can be fitted out at the station. The compressor will be sent to Cairns for repair. Refrigeration facilities are absolutely necessary. Later, with Government aid, we hope to install the electric light.

#### COOKTOWN NATIVES.

The Board of the Lutheran Mission has decided to take care of the natives in Cooktown. Children can at any time now be transferred to Hope Vale if it is so desired. Just now they are receiving instruction by the Methodist pastor, but other arrangements will be made later. Our men are conferring with the sergeant with regard to water supply.

#### EDUCATION.

When the first families ex Woorabinda arrived, the Superintendent held school for the time being. On the 1st July, Miss O. Paterson, a qualified teacher, is arriving. She will immediately set to work and systematise the business of education. Training in arts and crafts will be undertaken later. We have to train the natives to be useful in every way.

#### CONDUCT.

We are satisfied to know that our Mission natives are honest and decent people. Little frictions in community life are inevitable. On the whole we are happy concerning their behaviour.

#### PRESENT HOUSING.

Housing has been provided for all natives, those at Woorabinda included. The store-room, the boys' dormitory, the boys' mess room, the manager's residence, the girls' dormitory are completed. There was a holdup on account of shortages of nails, doors, windows, &c., but the residence of the Superintendent, the school, the teacher's residence should be completed by now. Our needs for reconstruction purposes have been specified in the estimates.

#### OUR POLICY.

The natives must work. So far they have received £300 in wages. We must awaken in them initiative for self preservation. Each native family has, as already stated, its plot of land where they can be made to feel their responsibilities for the welfare of the family. With good land for agricultural purposes, we should later be able to do well. Our aim is to make the station self-supporting. All our work is done for the welfare of the natives.

#### STAFF.

Rev. V. Wenke is the Superintendent of the Mission. Mrs. Wenke will give him all the assistance he needs. Till now, we had as our manager Mr. Frank Behrendorff from Biloela, who definitely deserves credit for successful management. Mrs. Behrendorff has sacrificed a lot in the pioneering stage of the development of the Mission. On account of illness of parents of Mrs. Behrendorff this family has to leave, but we hope to obtain them later. Mr. Fred Radke is going up now again for some time. We may have a few voluntary workers again in the course of this year. Miss Paterson is the teacher. Mr. C. Hartwig is the carpenter. A good spirit has always existed in this community of white people.

We wish to thank the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, for their helpful co-operation.

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#### APPENDIX 10.

#### LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. A. Briggs.)

#### STAFF.

Chaplain, Rev. A. E. Briggs; school teacher, Miss A. Hann; matron of hospital, Sister D. Brown.

Having completed twelve months as Superintendent, I am now in a better position to present this report than the previous one for 1948-49.

Progress is very slow and must be for some time, because of the extensive needs of this Mission, the lack of staff to supervise the various projects for improvement, and the delay in getting delivery of materials ordered against the account of Government Loan Funds.

Another and perhaps more serious bar to progress is the apathy of these people towards any efforts to improve their conditions. This apathy will take some time to overcome.

However, I do feel that we have started the forward move and that gradually our difficulties will be overcome. The delivery of some equipment and stock mentioned in this report and the possibility of further deliveries in the near future encourage me to say that progress is slowly but surely being made. Only time will show the result of the efforts being made by all concerned for the welfare of this Mission and the aborigines generally.

I wish at this stage to express my sincere appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs for his assistance and sympathetic co-operation in all matters concerning the welfare of the Mission.

We are very fortunate in having a certificated sister for our hospital—Sister D. Brown—sent out by the Australian Board of Missions. In addition to the medical work, she has charge of the women's sewing classes.

#### STOCK.

The cattle here number approximately 800; horses, 110, including 50 head purchased by Government grant. Of these, 4 brumbies have been broken in for ploughing and hauling. Three new riding saddles, three pack saddles, and two sets of plough harness have been received from the same source. With these additional horses and gear, we shall be able to muster a greater area with beneficial results. We have acquired some 303 rifles with which to eliminate wild bulls (which are a menace when mustering) as well as brumbies and crocodiles.

Two hundred breeders were purchased by Government grant from Mitchell River Mission. We were not able to take delivery of these because of bad travelling conditions. We expect to get these cattle over by December this year. I have asked for an additional 100 breeders, as these could be brought over without added expense. These, with the acquisition of 20 bulls asked for should increase our herd considerably during the next few years. I have also asked for a thoroughbred stallion to improve our horses and gradually eliminate the necessity for buying new ones.

Two new mustering yards have been erected, and a number of others repaired and enlarged. Posts have been erected for a holding paddock at Sefton. As no new wire is available yet, we are having to take old wire from fences no longer required. I have been able to see the Sefton area of the reserve and am more than ever convinced that this is the best country to hold our cattle. It is not possible to work the whole of the reserve with the plant we have, neither is it desirable because of the unsuitability of most of the reserve for cattle. There is a permanent water supply at Sefton for all purposes.

Sixty beasts were slaughtered during the year for consumption on the Mission.

I would like to commend the work of the cattle-manager, Mr. Joe Callope. He is untiring in his efforts on behalf of the Mission. During

the years he has been here he has been handicapped by lack of good gear and efficient stockmen. The arrival of new gear and horses mentioned has brightened his lot considerably.

#### AGRICULTURE.

With the exception of a small area for staff gardens, not much has been done in this direction, mostly because of lack of equipment and fencing to keep stock out.

With the acquisition of a disc plough, donated by Australian Board of Mission friends through the efforts of Miss Hann, our teacher, while on furlough down south, we hope to have a greater area under cultivation next season. No vegetables have been harvested this year, because of the gardens being flooded at Looking Glass. More pumpkins and sweet potatoes will be planted as there is still time before the dry season sets in.

We have planted about 200 coconuts. This has been done in previous years before my time, but they were dug up by the children and eaten. Four dozen citrus trees were also planted. A number of these were lost because of the very dry weather at time of planting. A little sugarcane is growing here. I am planting some of this out with a view to increasing the area. Wild lucerne is growing abundantly because of present good season. I hope to have fenced areas of this at Sefton for making hay. I am also testing out new grasses, seed of which was kindly supplied by the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

#### BUILDING.

Four new native cottages are nearing completion. These are of bush timber with bark walls and grass-thatched roofs. They cannot be finished until flooring being supplied by Government grant arrives.

Spouting and materials for two 2,000-gallon tanks are here waiting for a plumber to assemble and erect. I have fixed spouting along one side of school and cemented an old tank which will give a supply of drinking water for some months.

Paint is here for the hospital. I hope to get this work done during the winter months.

The materials for the new teacher's house have not yet arrived. I had hoped to have this job completed this year, as mentioned in my last report. It is one of the most important, if not the most important, of building works to be carried out here.

#### BOAT.

The Mission cutter, "Mary Lockhart," has been running regularly between the Mission and Portland Roads carrying mail and cargo. I arranged with the Department of Native Affairs to have Government issue stores unloaded at Portland Roads with portion of goods for the store. This has been of great advantage, as we get these supplies the day after the arrival of the "Elsanna."

A new suit of sails with ropes and pulley blocks has been fitted to the "Mary Lockhart." Without these the boat could not have run in the rough weather we have been experiencing. It is now essential that the boat go on the slips for thorough overhaul and repairs. Particularly does not need recoppering and a new keel shoe.

As mentioned in my last report, a bigger craft is essential for the use of this Mission. I do hope that in the near future our need in this direction will be realised.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

A number of men from Lockhart are employed on stations around Coen and other North Queensland protectorates. With the exception of one man who wishes to marry and settle down here, these men and some women do not seem to have been to the Mission for some years.

Employment of our men on trochus boats south of the Mission has been generally unsatisfactory, partly because of the undesirable influence at some places where these boats call and the misunderstanding of our boys by masters of boats. In some instances wages have been difficult to collect.

The Director of Native Affairs has now arranged for men to work on boats operating from Thursday Island, which to date has proved satisfactory. These boats have called at the Mission and the men are quite happy and return to their boats willingly, which was not so previously.

#### SCHOOL.

The enrolment for the year was 62. Average daily attendance was good and we were fortunate to escape serious illnesses.

At the beginning of the year, we had a setback when the three native boys who had been trained as teachers went to work on boats. This meant the training of a new staff. A married woman and two of the senior school girls replaced the boys. The chaplain also joined the staff during the year and he assists three mornings a week.

Standard of work has been satisfactory, in fact good when it is taken into consideration that the seven classes share the one room, which at times makes it difficult to make oneself heard. The pre-school children attend every opportunity they get and are keen to learn.

In the senior grades the afternoons are devoted to gardening and carpentry for boys, while the girls learn to cut out and make their own clothes and learn knitting, fancy-work, and their own native crafts. An opportunity to learn simple first aid is given to the girls when two each week assist with the out-patients.

#### HOSPITAL.

Births, 13; deaths, 6.

Daily average of out-patients, 40; in-patients, 1.

Main treatment—colds, infected sores, dysentery. Hookworm was very prevalent during the wet season. The entire Mission was given hookworm medicine in December and May.

General health fair. Dental attention is urgently needed.

A doctor visited the station last December. All natives were tested for T.B. It was necessary to send 30 patients to Thursday Island for further treatment; 40 more to go up for investigation at a further date. Six other patients have been sent up for medical treatment.

There is a native nurse assisting with hospital work.

#### WOMEN'S WORK.

The village women meet every Friday afternoon for sewing under supervision. They cut out and make their own and children's dresses and under garments. Baskets and mats are made in the village.

The girls after leaving school attend sewing classes each afternoon. They cut out and sew by hand various garments. Recently, they have learnt to cut out and make men's shirts which are to be sold in the store.

It is hoped in the near future to procure several sewing machines and teach the girls to use them.

#### CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

I have much pleasure in reporting a general growth in the spiritual life of the people, a natural result of having a resident priest. Especially is this noticeable amongst the children, due very largely to the close co-operation between church and school. I not only have two whole mornings a week for religious instruction, but Miss Han has also allowed me to assist her by teaching two grades under her supervision on the other mornings too, which gives me larger and wider contact with the whole school. The whole system means that I am starting to prepare for confirmation from earliest school years. One schoolgirl who came in from the bush has been baptised. Now the whole school is Christian in every sense.

The Director of Native Affairs has kindly provided me with a Shelton projector with films supplied from the Department of Public Instruction. With films from our own General Board of Religious Education shown one night a week, it is a very valuable assistance for both church and general education.

A singing evening is held weekly mainly to practise hymns for church services, at which there are always their own language hymns, several of them composed by people in the village. These are definitely worthy of preservation and occupy an important place in public worship.

Meetings of the mothers are held monthly with a view to forming a branch of the Mother's Union, which is designed to defend and enhance Christian motherhood, and to band together those who can measure up to the very high standard required, then from them to influence and encourage others to strive after that standard.

Several men have received Holy Baptism during the year and I hope to have a considerable adult confirmation later in the year.

It is a great joy and relief to me to have our men working under the supervision of Torres Strait Islanders. Whenever these boats come in, the islanders make the splendid Christian witness one expects from them. I feel very deeply the need of Christian leadership when our men go away to work, and, personally, I hope that Torres Strait Islanders will be able to absorb all our men who go away from the Mission for employment. All those who have come so far have been of the best type. They are to my mind the most suitable employers for men who are all too ready to copy and follow a congenial leadership, and it is essential that that leadership should be one that puts the least strain on their moral life.



Holy Week and Easter are worthy of a special mention. The services will remain a happy memory and a very great encouragement. Good Friday and Easter Day supplied very nearly 100 per cent. attendance.

Well attended services have been held twice daily throughout the year, with three on Sunday and some Holy Days.

#### APPENDIX II.

##### MAPOON MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. J. C. Allan.)

##### STAFF.

Matron, Mrs. J. C. Allan; Assistants, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hartshorn.

##### CHURCH LIFE.

As in former years, the devotional life of these people has been attended to. The routine of morning prayers, weekly services, and regular observances of Communion has not been altered. We were again honoured by a visit from the Moderator of our Church.

##### STATISTICS.

Births, 14; Deaths, 4, 3 male and 1 female.

##### HEALTH.

The Mission dispensary is open daily for the attention of minor complaints. There have been twenty hospital cases. Five of these necessitating hospitalisation for more than three weeks. We had one serious eye infection in a newly born babe. This was reported and the child and mother were taken to Brisbane for treatment. The eye is now normal. The expenses of this trip were met by the Native Affairs Department and thanks are given to them for their attention.

We have had no serious epidemic of any kind.

Throughout the year, we had two official visitations from medical Departments. In August, we were privileged to receive Dr. Fryberg of Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Wunderly of Tuberculosis Campaign, Canberra, Dr. Mackerras of Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane, and Dr. Barnes of Thursday Island. The visit was of value to us because the doctors had constructive and destructive criticism to offer and at the same time took the opportunity of examining patients.

In April of this year, we received, with as much pleasure, Dr. Abrahams of Queensland Tubercular Campaign, and Mr. Cross, dentist. These two spent their time in the interests of the people—Mr. Cross extracting 100 teeth and Dr. Abrahams examining some 170 odd people. Instructions given by these men were carried out.

##### EMPLOYMENT.

In 1949, many of our men offered themselves for the pearling industry and acquitted themselves admirably. One vessel, the "Yole," was completely manned, including the engineer, by Mapoon men.

Others at home found crocodile shooting a profitable work, while others found the horse's back good enough. A picture of this year's work is best shown by the following figures. The men employed are employed as follows:—

Pearling .. .. .	4
Cattle other than our own ..	25
Beche-de-mer .. .. .	9
Crocodile hunting .. .. .	10
Other work . . . . .	5

The beche-de-mer and crocodiles are worked on the Mission area.

##### AGRICULTURE.

Very little is done along this line. The soil requires much water and fertiliser and plans are in process to experiment with this branch of Mission activity.

We failed to reach the 500 mark in our poultry flock. Our estimate is just over 300.

Our cattle are in fair condition but are too inbred. Steps are being taken to remedy this by the purchase of bulls from other districts. However, we are also short of breeders.

##### INDUSTRY.

We have made our own flatties for crocodile hunting and repaired the dinghies of our own boat Department.

##### HANDICRAFTS.

The women of the Mission still carry on the arts and crafts. Their chief lines are fans, beads, feather flowers, serviette rings, crochet work, and knitting.

##### EDUCATIONAL.

Mrs. Hartshorn is in charge of this department. The elder girls are taught the elements of housekeeping in Mrs. Hartshorn's home. All girls are taught to sew, make frocks and dolls, and to knit. A display at the end of the year showed the high standard they had reached. We thank Mr. Jones for presentation of gramophone and records to school.

We have 71 children in the school. Mrs. Hartshorn is assisted by a staff of 7 mission girls.

##### AMENITIES.

After the visit of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and party in July, 1949, and Mr. Bailey and Mr. Calder in May, 1950, commencement was made for the erection of cool room and the installation of electric light. We are now in the process of gathering the necessary foundation materials. A small hospital and a saw-bench are also to be erected. The projects are made available by the assistance of the Government through the Department of Native Affairs.

##### THANKS.

The Mission extends its appreciation to Mr. C. O'Leary and his staff. I would especially mention the radio operator, Mr. McKenna, for his courteous handling of all our traffic, the doctors of Thursday Island, (Drs. Barnes and Streeten), the visiting doctors, and all who visited us and helped us, to our ruling body, The Aboriginal Mission of our Church and Societies, to the Church, and friends everywhere.



## APPENDIX 12.

## WEIPA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn.)

## STAFF.

Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn; temporarily assisting to end of June, 1949, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Belcher; assistants from end of November, 1949, Mr. and Mrs. L. Hopkinson; Teacher, Miss Margaret Winn.

## RELIGION.

Sunday service and morning prayers have had good attendance. The Sacraments have been regularly administered. Five babies have received baptism and three marriages were performed.

Great pleasure has been felt by all in the appointment of Rev. W. F. MacKenzie of Aurukun, well known and loved during his many years of service on the Missions, to the high office of Moderator of the Queensland Presbyterian Church during the Centenary Year of the Church. His visit in his Moderatorial capacity has been eagerly anticipated. During the services he conducted he baptised one child, and dedicated the foundations of Miller House, the new buildings for boys, in appreciation of the sterling service rendered to the Missions for over twenty years by C. J. Miller and Mrs. Miller, who were assistants here.

## HEALTH.

Births, 5—2 males, 3 females.

Deaths, 5 (tuberculosis—2 at Weipa, 1 at Cherbourg Settlement Hospital, 1 at Thursday Island District Hospital. Heart failure—1 elderly man).

In-patients, 9; out-patients, approximately 3,000.

Patients sent to Thursday Island District Hospital:—For X-ray, 13, tonsillectomy, 2; tuberculosis, 3; menorrhagia, 1; congenital deformity, 1; arthritis, 2; pneumonia, 1.

One child was sent to Brisbane Children's Hospital for operation on cleft palate. For this we were singularly fortunate in securing the services of Dr. K. B. Fraser, King's Surgeon, who specialises in treating this malformation and who offered his services free and also the use of one of his beds in the hospital. We are also grateful to the Director of Native Affairs, who arranged and financed transport and provided every facility and assistance.

Doctors visits—on call, 1; in passing, 1.

An official visit was made by Dr. Wunderly, Commonwealth Director of T.B. Campaign, Dr. Fryberg, Queensland Director for Health and Medical Services, Dr. Barnes, G.M.O., Thursday Island, and Dr. Mackerras.

As a consequence of examinations made, 10 patients were sent to Thursday Island for X-rays and Mantoux tests. Blood tests performed by Dr. Mackerras revealed no evidence of malaria or filaria in the population. It was also noted that there are no enlarged spleens. These findings afford general satisfaction, as do the high blood counts recorded among both children and adults on a later visit of Dr. Barnes. This latter would seem to indicate very little hookworm infection.

Epidemics of colds have been rather frequent, as the people failed to take advantage of the dugong oil always available. Since this has again been made compulsory, it is hoped that a measure of resistance will soon be regained.

## SCHOOL.

Teacher, Miss M. Winn, assisted by one native woman and last year's senior class in rotation as pupil teachers.

Attendance.—Days school was open, 184, and 26 days for scholarship candidates only; total, 210.

Number of pupils at 31st March, 1949, 37;

Number of pupils at 31st March, 1950, 34.

Total attendances, 6,763; average attendances, 32.2.

The usual curriculum of the Queensland State schools was followed with modifications where necessary. Four candidates were presented for scholarship without success, though all received a pass in arithmetic. Gladys Hall with 38.8 per cent had the highest percentage. It was observed that the two examinations per day proved too great a strain on the candidates. It is hoped that in our next attempt some modification can, perhaps, be arranged for them whereby the four papers could be attempted on four separate days. The papers set were within the candidates' scope as all the work had been covered within the year.

Weekly periods have been devoted to such extras as sewing, painting, singing, physical training, mothercraft, and practical measurement. Special mention was made by the judges of entries submitted by the school to the *Courier-Mail* art contest in July last.

The work and aims of the school were demonstrated to the Minister for Health and Home Affairs during his official visit in July, 1949. A gramophone, with suitable kindergarten recordings, was presented to the school as a memento of his visit, and we wish to place on record our appreciation of it.

New furnishings have been received and are greatly appreciated. Gratitude is also recorded to Somerville House, a Brisbane girls' school, for monetary gifts and additions to the school equipment and library which it provides annually. Further supplies of school requisites have been made available through Native Affairs, and the school can now be considered well equipped in every respect.

The teacher wished to record her sincere appreciation of the help and encouragement given to the school by the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, during the year.

## DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

Mrs. Winn reports satisfactory progress during the year. The girls have become proficient in bread-baking and general bulk cooking and are mastering cake and pastry baking. Laundry is taught two afternoons weekly. They have also mastered the rudiments of machine sewing, and are making steady progress with hand sewing. Clothes made by the group total 43 school uniforms, 104 girls' dresses, 14 dozen girls' pantees, 24 pairs boys' trousers, 24 playsuits, 30 women's dresses, 16 pensioners' outfits, and complete layettes for five babies, with quarterly replacements.

## EMPLOYMENT.

Cattle.—Three men under agreement. Five men have been employed twice for short terms droving to Mareeba.

Technical training.—One man returned from Cherbourg Technical School, having completed training in sawmilling and carpentry. Another had completed a plumbing course when he unfortunately contracted T.B. and subsequently died there.

Lugger hands, 1.

House staff, 1 couple at Thursday Island.

The men on the station are employed in rotation on building, gardening, or stock activities and have again augmented their income by firewood cording under contract for sale to Thursday Island and by hauling logs for constructional purposes on the station. Women have been employed collecting gravel for concreting and clearing light growth on the airstrips.

A house, comprising two dormitories, each to accommodate ten boys, a common-room and bathroom block containing two showers, and septic system, is in course of erection to replace the present totally inadequate boys' dormitory. It measures 54 by 38 feet and has concrete foundations, flooring and walls to a height of 3 feet. The upper walls will be of fibrolite with glass louvres providing ample light and ventilation. All timber for the building has been cut on the Mission sawmill and prepared by the men under supervision.

The septic system installed experimentally last year having proved successful, with the installation of a small pumping plant to ensure an adequate water supply, the proposed system in the boys' building should also prove a success.

With the arrival of assistance in November, Mrs. Winn was relieved of various chores in connection with the children's diet and the daily dispensing and thus been freed to resume the crochet industry with the women which now provides them with a good source of income and an occupation for the hours not occupied by hunting. The crochet is assured of a ready sale in the south, being exquisitely worked.

## AGRICULTURE.

The area planted with papaws has been sizeably increased and there is the beginning of another heavy crop. Last year's crop provided sufficient for a daily supply for all children and indigents for the greater part of the year. The banana plantation has also been further extended and promises well. Other seasonal crops have been planted as usual and will be used to augment the children's diet.

## PASTURE.

Townsville lucerne and *Stylanthus grassilis* continue to spread. The prevalence of burr this year will necessitate attention in an attempt to eradicate it. Further clearing of a third airstrip is begun and this will provide more pasture land.

## CATTLE.

This position is still unsatisfactory. It is impossible to supervise adequately the mustering carried out by the native stockmen, who

have been hampered by a shortage of horses. Of 14 allotted to the station, 9 were received in poor condition, 4 of which died soon after arrival. Cleanskins are mustered and branded each time the stockmen bring a killer in to the Mission, which is an average of once in two weeks. Small losses are experienced through crocodile ravages. It is to be noted also that dingoes are becoming more numerous in this area. Number of cattle mustered this year totals 250.

## SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The visit of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Jones, the Under Secretary, Mr. Robinson, and the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, resulted in the promise of various amenities for the station. A windmill and two tanks for the village have been ordered and plans are in hand for the installation of a lighting system for the compound and a refrigeration plant. After the plant is installed, a 16-mm. cinematograph will be made available, which should prove of inestimable value to the school and to the general population.

These and other schemes mooted for the Missions necessitated the formation of a Council to administer funds and decide priorities. This Council was constituted at Thursday Island in November last, with the Director as chairman, and with the Superintendent of each Station as its representative.

## CONDUCT.

The conduct generally has been good, the inevitable small squabbles being amicably and easily resolved.

## WIRELESS.

The wireless installation of Native Affairs Department has proved of value in many ways, and our thanks are due to the operators for their courtesy in handling our traffic, both Station and Departmental.

## APPRECIATION.

The Mission wishes to express its appreciation of the support rendered by the church organisations, of the help given by the Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, and, in particular of his unhesitating answer to a recent request for an urgent visit to remove a serious case, to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff; for his active co-operation and interest is placed on record the gratitude of the people and the staff of the Mission.

## APPENDIX 13.

## MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. G. W. Taylor.)

## STAFF.

Mission Matron, Mrs. G. W. Taylor; Assistants (from 18-11-49), Mr. and Mrs. Ollett.

STATISTICS.  
Population (as at 1949).—

	Full Bloods.	Half-castes.
Births .. .. .	233	34
	6	2
Deaths .. .. .	239	36
	7	
Transferred to Mainland	232	
	4	
Employed on Mainland ..	228	
	31	
Grand total for Mornington ..	259	36
BENTINCK ISLAND.		
(As at 1949) ..	62	
Births .. .. .	3	
	65	
Deaths .. .. .	3	
	62	
Overall total .. .. .	321	36

In July, we were pleased to have a visit from the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Jones, his private secretary, the Director of Native Affairs, the Under Secretary, and members from Kelvin Grove and Mackay electorates. We appreciate the interest of these gentlemen and progress can be expected as a result of their visit.

In November, our assistants, Mr. and Mrs. Ollett, and their two children arrived. Their coming has meant the sharing of responsibilities and the forward move in the outdoor work.

By the same boat, the wireless engineer, Mr. McKenna, arrived to install the new wireless transceiver set. As our only communication with the mainland had been the monthly visit of the "Cora" or a visit from the flying doctor, one can readily understand how much this necessary equipment has been appreciated.

#### SCHOOL.

Supervisor to December, 1949, Mrs. G. W. Taylor; supervisor from January, 1950, Mrs. L. Ollett; native staff—4 half-caste and 4 full-blood teachers.

Children on roll from 30-6-49 to	
December, 1949 .. .. .	104
Transferred to Mainland .. .. .	3
Finished school .. .. .	4
Total at 31st March .. .. .	97
Nineteen Bentinck children included in above.	
Average attendance, 102 children.	

The school curriculum includes the following subjects:—For the girls—Domestic science, needle and crochet work and knitting. For the boys—Dairy and gardening. Physical culture for boys and girls.

We are pleased with the added equipment in the school, a press, three desks and forms, a gramophone and records having been received.

#### HEALTH.

On the whole, the health of the Mornington Island people was good, but the Bentinck people are not yet as they should be, though there are signs of improvement in them.

There are 4,462 out-patients treated and 1 in-patient, the in-patient having rheumatic fever.

Deaths—Mornington Islanders, 6 (old age);  
Bentinck Islanders, 4 (3 children, 1 adult).

Births—Mornington Islanders .. 8  
Bentinck Islanders .. .. 3

Marriages .. .. . 2  
Flying doctor's visits .. .. 2

One lad was taken to Cloncurry Hospital, having a broken arm.

Dentist attached to Flying Doctor Service examined all the children's teeth when he visited us in November.

#### CONDUCT OF INMATES.

The general conduct of the people has been good. The policemen and councillors have done splendid work and appear to have a good influence on the people.

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

There have been signs of the people reaching out for a better standard of homes. It is hoped that this desire will soon be fulfilled. Some are also making their own gardens and wells.

#### INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Again new wells had to be dug owing to the water shortage in the months preceding the wet season. Repairs have been made to buildings and the dinghy. Cement floors put in the girls' bathroom and cookhouse. Work on the jetty and airstrip continued. The usual stockwork has been carried out also repairs to stockyards.

#### GARDEN.

Following a better wet season, the garden is showing signs of improvement. We have beans, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and tomatoes in the garden and should have a good crop in due season.

#### WOMEN'S WORK.

A quantity of crochet work and fancy work was sent to Melbourne and Brisbane during the period. Garments for dormitory children and babies were made in the sewing room. Some women were taught how to cut out their own dresses as well as how to sew them. A keen interest was taken in this.

#### BUILDINGS.

The boys' dormitory still awaits flooring boards. It is hoped that this building will be completed soon.

#### LABOUR.

On agreement to cattle stations, 1 woman, 16 men, 4 married couples.

On m.v. "Cora," 5 males.

#### TRANSFERS.

One male adult to Palm Island; 3 children, 1 woman to mainland.

#### BENTINCK ISLANDERS.

Since the last report, the Bentinck Island people have shown signs of steady improvement in behaviour, though the practice of polygamy is a real drawback to the maintenance of peace among them. They are very willing workers, and appear eager to learn the better things of



life. They are very anxious to learn English, and we are encouraging this. There were three births, and four deaths (children) from pneumonia. We are considering showing the women how to sew and other useful occupations. The Mornington people are very friendly and helpful to these people and the men have learned how to make canoes, thus giving them valuable assistance in catching fish, turtle, and dugong. The Bentinck children are doing very well in school and the little ones stay in the Mission compound all day with one of the big girls in order that they may receive regular food and that their health and progress may be more easily supervised.

#### GENERAL.

With reference to our water problems, we are grateful to have had a visit from irrigation engineers, a geologist, and others who made a thorough investigation into the possibilities of obtaining a more adequate and permanent water supply. Several auger holes were bored and samples taken from all waterholes on Mornington and Denham Islands.

The water supply was so low that we found it was necessary to put all school children on Denham Island from 3rd November until late in December. We were also compelled to send all the people out of the camp area into the bush, where there was better water. We were not able to commence work on the Mission until after Christmas.

We were pleased to receive some equipment for the school from the Government, which included three desks and forms, a gramophone and records, and two basket balls and a school press.

The Mission is still without a launch, but the position regarding communication with the mainland is much better than last year with the wireless installed. More horses are being handled and broken in in readiness for more intensive work among the cattle, many of which are very scattered and therefore very wild. For the nine months ended 31st March, 1950, 42 bullocks were killed for the people, 2 bullocks were killed for Christmas.

#### RELIGION.

Morning prayers are held each morning during the week and these are fairly well attended. Two services are held on Sundays, also Sunday School. These services are well attended. Quite a number of Bentinck people are among the worshippers. All the people are very attentive at the services, and they are especially fond of singing the hymns. We can see that in quite a number of cases the Christian teaching has shown itself in the practical life and experience of the people.

#### THANKS.

We desire to express our sincere thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, who have again given us valuable assistance during the year. We are also grateful to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs for his kindly interest and sympathy in our work. It would not be right to close this report without expressing our thanks to the aerial medical service, the flying doctor, the dentist, and all others who have helped us in various ways during the year.

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#### APPENDIX 14.

##### MITCHELL RIVER MISSION. (Superintendent, F. W. Currington.)

#### STAFF.

Rev. E. Wingfield, Chaplain; Miss R. Wall, head teacher; Sister I. Johnson, matron in charge hospital; H. Butler, cattle manager.

Mr. R. K. Matthews (now Diocesan Secretary) acted as Superintendent for three months during the Superintendent's absence on furlough.

Births, 13; deaths, 14; marriages, 4.

#### HEALTH.

Sister I. Johnson (matron in charge of hospital).

General health fairly good. Yaws, boils, and skin diseases prevalent near the end of the wet season. There have been two epidemics of dengue fever, one in January and one in June. One epidemic of diarrhoea in August, during the green mango season.

Ante-natal and infant welfare clinics have been well attended and show a big increase on last year. Thirty babes and toddlers are inspected and weighed weekly. Tinned milk and oatmeal are supplied at the clinic to all mothers with children below school age. Births average one a month. Birth weights average 6 lb.

All children between 18 months and 9 years of age have been immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough. Two deaths have occurred among the children. One child with congenital heart was previously treated at the Brisbane General Hospital, but died here in July. The other, a boy of five, died of ? beri beri. He was brought in too late for treatment. Assistance from the Cairns Ambulance had to be summoned to remove a young woman suffering from complications of pregnancy to the Cairns Hospital, where she later died. Other deaths have all been amongst the older people, most of whom were suffering from old age. The flying doctor paid us one visit, examined a number of patients, and took two with him to be treated at the Cloncurry Hospital. One, a child, has not yet returned.

Four people were sent to Thursday Island for chest X-rays. Three returned with clear charts, and the fourth is being detained for treatment. One man was sent to Cairns Hospital for treatment of a bone disease. Mantoux tests were carried out by Dr. Macken, who also examined 250 people.

A dentist paid us a visit and extracted 241 teeth. Other visits were from Doctor Abrahams in connection with a T.B. survey and the Commonwealth doctor, Dr. Cook.

Owing to the extreme heat in the dry season and the inaccessibility of it during the "wet," I have abandoned the old iron building hitherto used as a hospital. Our old dining room under the dormitory has been converted into a dispensary and out-patients department and a large tent in the dormitory grounds provides shelter for any in-patients. Plans for a new hospital have been drawn up and, if accepted, and we are able to have this hospital built, it will help considerably with the maintenance of good health amongst the natives.



## SCHOOL.

Miss R. Wall, head teacher; Rev. E. Wingfield, assistant teacher; Leah Minyolk, assistant native teacher; Doreen Dennis, assistant native teacher; Bobina Lawrence, assistant native teacher.

Total enrolments, 70; left during the year, 7; children who started during the year, 9; total attendance, 11,940½ days; number of days school was open, 196½ days; average attendance, 60.8.

In July last year, a school was opened at Edward River Mission, so 17 of their children who had been attending school here went home. This accounts for the drop in attendance. Attendance has been very good and only three pupils have been absent for any considerable time—to obtain medical treatment.

The standard of general school work shows improvement. This is due to the smaller numbers, so that the head teacher is able to supervise work more thoroughly, which has led to a marked improvement in the ability of the native teachers.

The annual show was held in August and there was a marked improvement in the school exhibits of writing, drawing, girls' sewing, and boys' native weapons. Adults also exhibited various types of vegetables, bread, and cakes, while the men displayed native weapons and the women had on a fine show of fancy work, dressmaking, native baskets, fans, mats, and belts. This show is now an annual event and the people look forward keenly to it. The range of exhibits is gradually being extended and we hope to arouse more competition and gradually to improve quality.

We are grateful to the Government for now supplying all school requirements free. The Ministerial visit last July promises to be very fruitful in the way of added equipment and improvements to the school building. Two large book presses have arrived and are very much appreciated, as is also the new gramophone. These amenities and the others on the way make school much more attractive and interesting and therefore more profitable to the children.

## EMPLOYMENT.

The demand for native stock boys on the cattle stations still continues and all boys that are suitable are out on employment.

## AGRICULTURE.

We have had great success this year with the community gardens of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, papaws, bananas, tomatoes, silver beet, and turnips. These vegetables are issued to the people from the store on store days. In the villages the people have also taken keener interest this year in their own little private gardens and some of them have already had very good results. When we have our water system, which we hope to have installed this year, supplies of vegetables should be more adequate for the population.

## CONDUCT.

Satisfactory. No removal orders asked for.

## INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The cattle is now under the supervision of Mr. H. Butler and continues to make good progress. Up to date, this year, approximately 700

calves have already been branded and 10 foals. Two hundred and twenty bullocks were killed during the year for home consumption. We also supplied Edward River Mission with a number of killers.

A sale of bullocks has just been completed. What we really need on the run is another new dip for dipping the cattle, as ticks and buffalo fly are very bad this year. Another essential need is 50 good Devon Shorthorn cross bulls, which would improve the herd immensely.

## GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A new kitchen and bathroom were erected at the quarters of Miss Wall and Sister Johnson. These buildings were made from bush timber and cabbage tree. The cabbage tree, or palm, is used for covering, which proves very satisfactory during the hot months of the year and is also waterproof.

A new butcher's shop was also erected.

## RELIGION.

We now have with us Rev. E. Wingfield as chaplain. Services are held daily. A number of adults, as well as infants, have been baptised during the year.

## GENERAL.

Last July, we were delighted that the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs and party paid us a short visit, and the financial aid promised us by the Government through this party will be a great benefit to the Mission.

As a result of their visit, two of their engineers came here in May to survey for an electric light plant and cool room, which we hope to receive next year.

A windmill, which this party also promised to secure for us (to improve our water system), I understand is on its way.

The Governor of Queensland (Sir John Lavarack) called here on his trip around the Gulf with the A.N.A. mail 'plane, and we were honoured to see him.

## RECREATION.

Football, cricket, and general sports arranged.

## APPRECIATION.

I again would like to express my appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their ready co-operation and also to the Government for the financial aid which will enable the Mission to make more satisfactory progress.

## APPENDIX 15.

## AURUKUN MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A.)

## STAFF.

Acting Superintendent, Mr. J. B. McCarthy, as from September, 1949, during the absence of Mr. MacKenzie in Brisbane; matron, Mrs. W. F. MacKenzie B.A. (absent in Brisbane from September, 1949); acting matron, Mrs. J. B. McCarthy, as from September, 1949; buildings, Mr. C. D. Sydney; assistants, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Little; cattle manager, Mr. Davies. Mr. and Mrs. Davies resigned July, 1949.

Rev. W. F. and Mrs. MacKenzie have been absent for the period of this report. The Right Rev. W. F. MacKenzie was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

#### HEALTH.

In the last year's report mention was made of the concern felt by reason of the incidence of consumption. This year, we have to report much progress has been made with the help of the Director of Native Affairs, Doctor Barnes and the staff of the Thursday Island Hospital and others.

Many suspects were sent to Thursday Island and for treatment for those who were found suffering from this disease. We are happy to report that the numbers of those infected was much lower than anticipated and that, with care, this disease can be eradicated.

The people themselves have co-operated to a marked degree and we are confident that those who have been returned to the Mission, apparently cured, can be kept free and healthy.

The general health of the people has been excellent.

The work of immunising the young children against diphtheria and whooping cough has been carried out and there has been the periodic treatment for hookworm for all children.

There is a daily dispensing of medicines for minor ailments at the Mission Dispensary.

Two visits were made by the Cairns Flying Ambulance at our request, taking an Aboriginal patient to hospital each trip. One case was for appendicitis operation.

One visit was made by the Flying Doctor Service at Cloneuray (Dr. Watson). Patients treated at this visit.

A medical survey was carried out by Drs. Fryberg, Barnes, Wunderley and Mackerras. Dr. Gibbs, of Thursday Island, paid a visit to the Mission and did a considerable amount of work while here.

Dr. Robinson of the Flying Doctor Service also paid us a visit during this period.

*Births.*—Males, 12; females, 10; total, 22.

*Deaths.*—Female, 1, Normanton Hospital. Females, 2; males, 2 at Thursday Island Hospital. Males, 5 at Mission. Three females at Mission. Total deaths, 13.

*Marriages.*—Legal, 6; tribal, 1; total, 7.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

The Mission area has been enclosed in new fencing. A wooden tank has been erected in the garden for irrigation. Three acres of timber has been felled and the new ground ploughed and gardens planted. Undergrowth around village cleared.

#### CONDUCT.

Conduct on the whole is very good. The staff assisted and guided the native councillors and police in the execution of their duties.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

Mr. Sydney has carried on with the sawmill. Gangs of men have brought in logs from the bush. These were carried up and cut. Assisted by Mr. Leith Gordon, sawmillier of Brisbane, a planing machine was installed and operated. A quantity of dressed timber was turned out and has been used in the building of the new assistant's cottage, which is in course of erection. This planing machine will be a great asset to the Mission, and we thank Mr. Leith Gordon for his services.

#### AGRICULTURAL.

The garden this year has been extended considerably. An area has been put aside for the growing of papaws. Cassava, sweet potatoes, yams, pumpkins are the main crops, while water and rock melons have been greatly appreciated by the children. The experiment made with Pigeon Pea has been very successful. Work has been done towards planting fodder crops and cow cane with a view to increasing the milk supply and feeding dairy herd during dry season.

#### CATTLE.

Since Mr. Davies' departure, Mr. Little has carried on with this important work. A number of new horses and bulls have been purchased. Many of the horses were unbroken, but have been handled by our own men, who obtain their experience on outside cattle stations. An average of 1 bullock is killed weekly for native rations. Extensive plans are being made to improve the herd.

#### RELIGION.

Morning prayers are held each week day, and Church services each Sunday. Both prayers and services are well attended and the people show a great interest. Among the Kendall and Holroyd people, the late Uki's work is being ably carried on by his wife, Archiwald, and volunteer helpers. The Sacraments of the Church have been observed.

#### SCHOOL.

The staff consists of one white head teacher, four full-blood teachers, one full-blood pupil teacher. New pupils have been enrolled from the Kendall and Holroyd district and from the children permanently resident at the Mission. Older children have graduated from school to Domestic Science for the girls, while the boys are learning agriculture, saddlery and some are being taught practical carpentry by Mr. Sydney.

Children on roll—44 girls, 45 boys. Total, 89.

#### RECREATION.

Organised games are indulged in, physical instruction is given. These in conjunction with picnics, fishing and camping holidays, give to our children plenty recreation.

#### THANKS.

The Mission wishes to express its thanks to Mr. O'Leary, the Director of Native Affairs, and his staff for their ever ready co-operation and help; Dr. Barnes and Thursday Island Hospital Staff; Cairns Ambulance and Flying Doctor's Service; all those who have shown interest and given support to our work.

## APPENDIX 16.

## EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, J. W. Chapman.)

Steady progress has been made during the year, the main work carried out being the cultivation of gardens for a food supply, house building and repairs.

In the gardens, sweet potatoes, yams, taro, bananas, sugar cane, cassava, papaws, coconuts were grown and kitchen gardens were cultivated. The native-built fish traps also helped to provide a good supply.

During the year, a new school building was erected. Now the children have no longer to be sent to Mitchell River Mission to attend school. The Rev. R. Brown has been appointed Chaplain and school teacher. The school opened with 35 scholars.

Religious services and classes have been taken by the Rev. Brown since his appointment.

An area of land of about 20 square miles has been fenced to enable the Mission to run cattle for a meat supply. During the year 25 head of bullocks were killed for meat.

Conduct, except for a sad happening when a native was fatally speared, has been good. Much assistance is given by the natives themselves in maintaining discipline.

Recreation consists mainly of corroborees, especially those dealing with the past history of the tribes as well as pantomimes depicting the every day life of the tribes and are very well performed.

Apart from common ailments, the health of the natives has been good.

The Superintendent, who has not had a holiday for some years, was absent from the Mission from June until December. Mr. R. Matthews ably carried on the work of the Mission during his absence.

The natives of this Mission, who a short time ago were Stone Age people and very warlike, continue to progress towards a more civilised way of life, although some still continue in their primitive way of life. No attempt is made to destroy their initiation ceremonies which I consider are beneficial to them and cause them to take a pride in their tribes and people, but rites which are practised to cause the death of individuals by magic are condemned and in the uprooting of magic, much assistance is given by the natives themselves.

I greatly appreciate the interest and practical help given to this Mission at all times by the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for the advancement and welfare of the natives.

## APPENDIX 17.

## ST. PAUL'S MISSION.

## STAFF.

Wilhelm Rechnitz, Ph.D., headmaster; Philip H. MacFarlane, B.A., Andai C. Ware, Mrs. Kitty Ware (since 1950), Harry A. Captain (left at the end of 1949.)

## SCHOOL.

87 pupils—55 boys, 32 girls.

During the past twelve months, the changes which had been made at the beginning of 1949 have shown forth satisfactory results. Above all, the re-arrangement of the time-table according to modern principles proves to be less tiring for pupils although the same amount of work is done. Thus, no further alterations were necessary.

In the lower grades, more stress had to be laid upon spoken English, and the mechanical and abstract way of learning elementary arithmetic has been superseded by concrete and visual methods in problem situations.

For the upper grades, a Social Studies course has been arranged to give an interesting and adequate outline of knowledge as a basis for later detailed work. Topics include physical geography, man's development from primitive to modern societies, life in other countries, the story behind food and clothes, outline history of the Torres Strait, and Australia and her resources today. All work is related to the children's own life, and activity work in notebooks is provided for.

Grades V. and VI. learned more about fractions and decimals and their use in problem situation and also the elements of geometry. In English, simple sentences were analysed and spelling was made more understandable by pointing at some Latin prefixes and roots. Both grades continue to do voluntary homework. The teaching of elementary physical conceptions was greatly hampered by the lack of equipment so that only a few experiments could be demonstrated.

Games have been continued. The playground has been enlarged, and the village wants to add further improvements during the next months.

There are two school gardens. Boys are made acquainted with methods of gardening hitherto unknown to them. Senior girls are being given instruction by several of the village women in mat and fan making, dressmaking and embroidery. Boys' work is restricted through lack of tools, to elementary carpentering. Opportunities are given to some to assist in construction of Mission buildings.

In art lessons, it is the aim to introduce the children to a variety of media and to encourage self-expression in each. Difficulties of obtaining materials have limited the extent of work, but interesting and promising results are being obtained in pastel and poster colour. Senior children have helped in the construction of visual aids for the junior classes. Future plans include simple woodcarving, weaving, fabric-printing.

In singing, two groups of singers have been formed, the junior pupils (Gr. I. and II.) sing in two parts, the School Choir (Gr. III. to VI.) in four. Both appeared several times in public. On July 1, 1949, the School made a drawing exhibition and gave a show consisting of singing, dancing and dramatic scenes. At the end of the school year, the singers and most other pupils made a trip to Thursday Island, because on December 14, the school displayed an exhibition of drawing and gave a concert in the Town Hall; both met with appreciation. The

"Cairns Post," the "ABM Review" and the "ABM Herald" commented favourably on them, the two latter ones added several photographs.

The new year started in rather a confused manner as several children were unable to return in time. There are sixteen new pupils this year, most of which are from other Islands. A seventh grade was founded which, at present, contains five pupils. We hope that eventually they will reach Scholarship standard.

Apart from learning at School, pupils have opportunities of indirect learning, the older pupils are allowed to attend the adult Bible

class held by the Headmaster, and to borrow books from the steadily increasing village library. From the Queensland State Library, Brisbane, the School borrows 26 books every three months; pupils as well as villagers benefit from it.

There was plenty of help from outside. Many changes would have been less easy without the help and encouragement of the Director of Native Affairs and of the Australian Board of Missions. The publicity which we enjoyed during the past twelve months caused known and unknown friends of ours to present us with books, music and other useful gifts.

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