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1951

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Commissioner of Native Affairs

for the

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1949

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Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

The Hon. Minister for Native Affairs.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1949, as provided by Section 73 (6) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947 (as reprinted), together with a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 1949.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff:

In his report covering a survey of native affairs which was carried out during the periods August to December, 1947, and in April, 1948, Mr. F. E. A. Bateman, Resident Magistrate, made particular reference to the position of the Administrative Head of the Department of Native Affairs, pointing out that it would be advantageous for this officer to possess some anthropological training, and, since he was responsible for the administration of a large department, sound administrative ability. The position which was vacant at the time was then widely advertised throughout the Commonwealth, and I was invited by Doctor Elkin, Professor of Anthropology, Sydney University, to submit an application for consideration by the Western Australian Government and the Public Service Commission. Subsequently, in July, 1948, at the request of the Public Service Commissioner, I travelled by air from Port Moresby to Perth for the purpose of discussing the position with him and the then Minister for Native Affairs, and shortly after my return to Papua was advised of my appointment as Commissioner of Native Affairs for this State. Returning by air almost immediately with my family, I took charge of the department on August 12, 1948.

Mr. C. L. McBeath, the Deputy Commissioner, who had been acting as Commissioner from the date of the retirement of the former Commissioner, Mr. F. I. Bray, viz., 13th April, 1947, reverted to his substantive position, and a few months later, in February, 1949, proceeded on vacation and long service leave.

In the month following my assumption of duty I commenced a tour of the State, in which I covered most districts from the Great Southern and South-West to the Kimberleys, visiting most of the Government and mission institutions, and a large number of pastoral properties and other places where natives were employed.

As a result of this tour and a careful study of the Bateman Report and recommendations, I quickly became convinced of the urgent necessity for the thorough administrative overhaul of the department. One of my first submissions to the Minister and the Public Service Commissioner was a strong recommendation involving decentralisation of control. This plan was submitted on the 3rd November, 1948, and approved by Cabinet

one month later. It provided for the division of the State into north and south regions, the 26th parallel being the dividing line separating the two. The northern region which is to be in the charge of a senior administrative officer stationed at Broome, consists of four districts, viz., East Kimberley, West Kimberley, Pilbara and Gascoyne, the three former to be in the charge of district officers of native affairs, with the Gascoyne, because of the relatively smaller native population it contains, classified as a sub-district in the charge of a travelling inspector.

The southern region, which for normal administrative purposes is under the control of the Deputy Commissioner stationed at Perth, has been divided into the following native affairs districts and sub-districts:—Murchison, Central, Eastern Goldfields and Great Southern. The Murchison and Eastern Goldfields, being sub-districts of the Central district, are under the direct control of a district officer stationed in Perth, whilst the Great Southern district, with its large hybrid population, is in the charge of a district officer stationed at Narrogin.

The idea of having regional and district headquarters throughout the State was referred to by Mr. H. D. Moseley, Royal Commissioner on Aborigines, after his investigations in 1934, and was again recommended by Mr. F. E. A. Bateman in 1948.

The system now inaugurated closely follows that of the Papua-New Guinea administration, and in many respects that of the British Colonial Service in Africa and elsewhere. It provides for closer contact with missions and other native institutions, employers of native labour and the natives themselves. It makes possible a degree of co-ordination and standardisation of departmental effort and procedure that had not hitherto been possible, largely because of inadequate field staff organisation. At the time of my assumption of office there were four inspectors carrying on the field work of the department outside of the metropolitan area. The North-West inspector, who was a constable seconded from the Police Department for the purpose, had charge of an area extending approximately from the Tropic of Capricorn as far as the Jigalong Mission, thence north-westward to Roebourne in the south up to the boundary with the Northern Territory in the north-east. A glance at the map will convince anyone that it was not humanly possible

even with good roads and no weather difficulties to maintain adequate and satisfactory supervision over such a vast extent of territory. It has been established that if it were possible for him to visit one station or institution per day every day of the year he would still be in arrears with his inspections at the end of the year.

The second inspector had a much easier task in charge of the Gascoyne district, which extended from the boundary of the North-West district in the north to the 26th parallel in the south. The Murchison district, which extended from the 26th parallel down to within approximately one hundred miles of the metropolitan area in the south was also easy of access and control by comparison with the remaining district which included the South-West, Great Southern, Eastern Wheat-belt and Eastern Goldfields districts. As may be expected, there were vast numbers of stations and even native institutions which had seldom, if ever, been visited by a representative of this department.

At the end of the period to be covered by this report several qualified and experienced native affairs officers had been appointed in charge of the newly constituted districts and subdistricts and steps were being taken to fill vacancies created by further subdivision.

Provision has also been made within the approved field staff establishment for the appointment of young men of this State of suitable educational qualifications and physical standard as patrol officers and cadet patrol officers. The intention is that these young men will serve a period of from one to two years in the field under the direct control of the experienced district officers, and that if their period of probation is terminated with satisfactory results, arrangements may be made for them to attend a course in anthropology at Sydney University under Dr. A. P. Elkin, Professor of Anthropology.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS.

Undoubtedly the greatest problem to be faced in this State from a social point of view is that of the rapidly increasing hybrid population of the south. Fifteen years ago, Royal Commissioner, Mr. H. D. Moseley, asserted, "The conclusion is irresistible that the great problem concerning the community today is that of the half-caste." At that time the population of "half-castes" had increased from less than 1,000 in 1901 to over 4,000 at the time of the Royal Commission. Thus in the course of a little over one generation (30 years) the hybrid population of the State had multiplied four times over. At the end of the year under review the population figure of hybrids stood at 6,039, which is a further 50 per cent. above the 1934 figure, and this indicates a steadily consistent rate of increase. This rate may be expected to continue, and, as is likely, their expectation of life will rise under more humane care, immediate plans must be made for their welfare and maintenance, and preparation for

their eventual assimilation into the white community of the State. In the face of the obvious implications of such a serious situation the apathy and indifference of the public in general, and of responsible local and other authorities in particular, strike the newcomer most forcibly, especially since the problem has been brought to their notice so frequently by expert investigators, a wide-awake Press, and as far as has been permissible, by the Department of Native Affairs in this State. It seems incredible that the experiences with native peoples in other countries have apparently been so entirely lost upon most of the people of Western Australia. Obviously the familiarity which has bred so much contempt has become congenital, and is therefore noticed only in otherwise unavoidable circumstances.

Generally speaking, interest in the native is manifested only from the economic point of view. He is welcomed at harvest, mustering, shearing, and similar agricultural and pastoral times of need, or when he or she has wages or child endowment money to spend in the towns, but is expected to get back to the reserve or camp as soon as possible after the job is completed or the money spent, and stay out of sight, and presumably out of mind, until again required. Little, if any, thought is ever given to the terrible effect this attitude is having upon the minds and outlook of the natives themselves towards the white community generally.

There is evidence in the south of a growing feeling of resentment and bitterness between the white and hybrid populations that is bordering upon class hatred—it cannot be considered as racial since the hybrids are descendants of Caucasian stock just as we are, and now, in addition, possess a preponderance of white blood in their veins. The observations of officers of this department and official records strongly support the contention of genetic authorities that the progeny of white mating with aborigine, unless crossed with negro or mongol, is not subject to atavism. To the contrary, where mating between the white-aborigine hybrids is continued, the white blood predominates over the black, with the result that the children of half-caste parents on both sides are usually an appreciable shade lighter in colour than their parents. It is reasonably safe to assume, therefore, that in due course we shall have in (but not of) our community a class of people white, or almost white in colour, but still living after the manner of natives and, because of class distinction and State legislation—if both are not amended in the meantime—classified legally, socially and economically as natives.

The prejudice referred to above is undoubtedly having a chilling and restrictive effect upon the efforts of this department, the missions, and the few people outside these circles who are taking a genuine interest in natives, to improve their living and other conditions to a point where their assimilation into the social and economic structure of our white community may be regarded as something more tangible than a mere ideal. There

are many people who misinterpret the meaning the word "assimilation," in that they confuse it with "miscegenation." There is, of course, a vast difference; miscegenation, which is now prohibited under the heading of "cohabitation" by the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947, is in a very large measure responsible for the existence of the people who have now become such a problem in our midst. The latest figures reveal that in a total population of 4,800 natives in the South-West Division of the State who are under the jurisdiction of this department only 800 are full-bloods, and 600 of these are located in the Murchison District. The policy involving the eventual "assimilation" of the caste people of this State was decided upon at a conference of native affairs officials held at Canberra in 1948, which was attended by a representative of this department and the West Australian Government. It aims at educating and training the native children to a point where they will be more fitted to become better citizens of the State, but this cannot be achieved to any appreciable degree whilst they continue to live under the circumstances which exist at the present time.

Mr. Bateman was of the opinion that the existing prejudice went deeper than being a matter of colour, and added that it probably resulted from the characteristics of the native himself. He believed that if the native were clean, tidy and reliable, and lived under conditions similar to our own, the prejudice would be largely broken down, and the native problem would be well on the way to solution. I agree with him, but cannot as yet see how this can be achieved under circumstances which require so far as the average person and local authority is concerned, that natives shall be kept in settlements and on reserves sited on land that has very little, if any, value, and is not required for development by whites, or at best, on privately-owned building blocks located in swamps, on stony ridges, or in juxtaposition to sanitary dumps and rubbish tips, which is the only land, generally speaking, that local authorities are prepared to sell and natives able to purchase. A very positive and firm policy will be laid down and plans submitted with a view to combating this unjust treatment of the people whom this department is charged to protect.

INSPECTION OF NATIVES.

During the year under review, the coverage by district officers and inspectors was greater than previously, not only in mileage figures, but also from the importance of personal contact with the native.

The State was divided into eight major divisions, to which there was a field officer appointed and operative. The divisions and subdivisions are under the control of district officers who are responsible for the welfare of natives within their district.

A total of 58,533 miles was travelled by field officers throughout the State, averaging approximately 7.317 miles per district. Considerable travelling by air for particular inspections, court cases and for emergencies

were carried out by some of the patrolling officers, and in all, a very satisfactory coverage of districts and natives was effected.

Every native institution and mission, with the exception of the Warburton Range Mission, was visited a number of times during the year and inspections were carried out. The Warburton Range Mission is to be the subject of a visit, probably by chartered aircraft, in the near future.

Departmental institutions are the subject of frequent inspection by this headquarters, both by administrative and accounting officers, and especially so to the Moore River and Carrolup Native Settlements.

The increasing activity of field staffs has immediately made its presence felt, a most noticeable feature being the pleasant reaction of the natives to their qualified representative. It is found that they willingly discuss their problems with the field staffs, and it is possible to inculcate in them a sense of responsibility towards improved living standards. The effect of more frequent inspections has resulted in a new attitude by employers towards their native employees, with the result of improved wages and living conditions in many instances.

An example of a report of a district officer is that submitted by Mr. D. L. Pullen of the West Kimberley district:—

This, my first annual report, covers only from the 25th April, the date of arrival at my district headquarters, Derby, to the 30th June, 1949.

From headquarters records, from Mr. Bateman's report and from talks with individuals, I had learned that the general conditions of native workers and their dependants in the West Kimberley district were not considered good. I thought, therefore, that my best plan would be to make a preliminary survey of my district, do as little talking as possible but a great deal of listening and discerning.

From the day I arrived at Derby, I met everyone that I possibly could and after a few introductory remarks, turned the conversation towards the natives. I found that the people were willing talkers—many spoke scathingly of shocking conditions, cheap labour and the curse of absentee owners. Usually, these people were not directly interested in the stations but were engaged in various occupations in or near the towns and who had lived in the district for a long time. It was necessary to sift these opinions—to be able to separate sincerity from bias.

It was also necessary to obtain, as quickly as possible, some insight into the better known tribal customs and to get an approximate idea of tribal areas. Further, it was desirable that I talk with the aboriginals themselves in order to find out if their minds reasoned along the same lines as other coloured races and also the extent of their English vocabulary.

It was not easy, in those early months, to get into lengthy conversation with the natives. I was a stranger and I wore southern shoes, not riding boots. But I found that it did help a little when they know that I had come from another country where there was a native race—some of them know that the people of New Guinea are much like themselves—some New Guinea boys were around this coast during the War.

I was told, at least six times in the first month, that I would find these natives very different to the New Guinea natives and that

my experience with the latter would not help me at all here. I decided to reserve my judgment on both scores.

But it was not long before I found that, actually, there are many points of similarity between the two races. One simple but outstanding example is that the aboriginal, in exactly the same way as the New Guinea native, always endeavour to answer a question in a manner which he thinks will please you. He is also very sensitive to ridicule—another strong weapon used in New Guinea. He has gentlemanly qualities when dealing with European women, which is also a trait of the best Papuan types.

The great difference that I immediately found was that, whereas the Papuan, living in a land of comparative plenty with a bountiful rainfall and good lands, could therefore settle into communities, the local natives, because of the lack of such of nature's benefits, developed into a hunter, a nomad. It is only now that he is building up some community life but is not completely divorced from roaming and likes his annual "walkabout."

One employer sarcastically referred to "importations from other countries" and said that it was a waste of money bringing them here—he had been amongst the aboriginals for 30 years so how could strangers expect to know anything about them. I claimed that, basically, not very advanced native races were much the same and that, in New Guinea, we were expected to and did study the conditions of native races in Africa in an endeavour to glean knowledge which might prove helpful in solving the problems met with in New Guinea.

In a short time this blatant antagonism to the introduction of new blood into native affairs grew much less because the better types in the community quickly appreciated the benefits to be derived from completely dissociating native affairs from the Police. People are unanimous about the wisdom of this—all agree that the new idea is the sounder and should be of benefit to the people most concerned—the natives.

Then came my first contact with station owners and managers. I think, maybe, I was fortunate to meet, first of all, a manager with a very kindly disposition—I refer to Jack Lee of Kimberley Downs, a tall, lean cowman who impressed me very much.

I quickly came up against the well-rehearsed opinions that the natives should not be interfered with, that they were getting all they needed to keep body and soul together, that they were happy, that money would spoil them and make them more sophisticated and that the pastoral industry would be upset and the stations would have to resort to white jackeroos and thus throw the responsibility of providing for the natives back on to the Government. Also I had been lead to believe that the stations were, great heartedly, maintaining hundreds of aged and indigent people. My first patrol through the Kimberleys debunked this latter idea rather completely.

I found that only 72 indigents were being fed, scattered over 12 station, i.e., six per station. So I told station people that they should not let this burden stand in the way of giving active workers greater rewards and benefits for their labour—that I felt sure that the taking away and feeding of these 72 indigents would not prove an unbearable burden to the department. This caused some concern and I was perturbedly informed that, actually, these old people weren't such a burden and that they were a valuable connecting link between the active workers and the station.

And so it was with many of the other points advanced—a grudging admission that there are degrees of happiness, that it might be possible to make allegedly contented people more contented and that if changes were not revolutionary or sudden, they might be brought about without upset to the natives or the industry,

Those early months were spent accordingly. Meeting people of all walks of life, talking with them, absorbing their good ideas, combating their illogicalities. And they were fruitful months and perhaps shall eventually prove to have been the most vital months of my period in this district. I had to do a lot of assessing and I was, myself, on trial. Only the results over the next 12 months will prove how good or bad were the assessments on both sides.

Section 1.—Patrols.

Three patrols were completed and a fourth was being carried out between the end of April and the 30th June.

The first covered what I term the "inner circuit" of the West Kimberley District and the places visited were:—Meeda (cattle), Kimberley Downs (cattle), Blina (sheep), Ellendale (sheep), Calwynyardah (sheep), Noonkanbah (sheep), Quambon (sheep), Jubilee (cattle), Fossil Downs (cattle), Go Go (cattle), Cherabun (cattle) and Fitzroy Crossing Inn.

The circuit covered 573 miles and the patrol lasted seven days. Four hundred and eighty-one natives were contacted, of which 72 were classed as indigents.

No. 2 patrol was a survey of the working and living conditions in the township area of Derby and covered 12 places of employment.

Natives of this district are not very keen to work in the town, more especially the males and only a few die-hard blackfellows remain for any length of time.

Female domestics are in short supply and mission stations are not enthusiastic about encouraging single girls to go into domestic service.

All the natives working in the town area receive wages varying from 10s. a week to the award rates in the case of a few coloured men who are still under the Act.

The behaviour of the natives in the town is very good and it is a rare occurrence for one to appear in court.

The housing conditions are slightly better than those found on the stations but there is room for improvement.

The survey took 10 days.

No. 3 patrol was a short one to Fitzroy Crossing to attend an inquest—I was not able to nominate a substitute in this instance but took the opportunity of inspecting nearby places of employment during the time I was there. Length of patrol three days.

No. 4 patrol was to survey down to my southern boundary, that is, as far as Wallal. The places inspected were:—Broome township, Thangoo (cattle), La Grange Feeding Depot, La Grange Post Office, Frazier Downs (sheep), Anna Plains (cattle), Mandora (sheep), Wallal (sheep).

On an instruction from Perth, I carried on to Port Hedland and from there, with Mr. Elliott-Smith, to Marble Bar to observe the native position there.

I found general conditions in my southern district very similar to those existing in the West Kimberleys. It was claimed that wages were being paid but, on examination, I found that they were usually in the form of a book entry, i.e., the natives did not always handle the cash and, as they stated themselves, did not really know what wages they were on or how their accounts stood. Not very satisfactory from their point of view and a system which has very little in its favour.

The distance covered to my southern boundary and return was nearly 1,000 miles.

Broome township is an area which needs regular attention. It was very difficult for me to trace individuals in the dives there. Coloured people are jumbled in with full

bloods, Asiatics and Malays and the most exotic mixtures are resulting. One troublesome aspect, however, is the facility with which the Koepangers are able to make and receive overtures from young coloured girls. An accurate census is necessary and shall be tackled as soon as possible. It might also be to the advantage of the natives under the Act if they were required to live in a separate suburb. I am hoping to give a good deal of attention to the problems in Broome during next year.

Active patrolling is very necessary and to be able to do this in a satisfactory manner, you need a reliable vehicle and good patrolling kit. Only the main roads 50 miles towards Broome and about 140 miles towards Fitzroy Crossing are at present above average. The remainder, the inter-station roads are narrow bush tracks with numerous long stretches through sandy country, the majority of the tracks being deeply rutted. This means that a vehicle with less clearance than 9in. is always liable to be in trouble.

Section 2.—Wages.

It was necessary that I should make careful inquiries into the question of payment of wages to the native workers of this district. I found, on my early patrols, that not many owners or managers were paying wages at all.

The usual procedure is to give stockmen a "hand-out" of from £1 to £5 on each droving trip. This did not always take the shape of a cash payment but very often in the form of goods from a store.

The native women, the majority of whom are employed as domestics, gardeners, goat herders, etc. do not even receive this benefit but are given dresses and items of clothing from the station or, if they have a thoughtful husband, a few items from him when he returns from a droving trip.

I soon found that the question of wages was a "touchy" one. Many and varied arguments were advanced against the payment of wages yet it was unanimously agreed that wages are "inevitable." Just what they mean by "inevitable" I don't know but my definition of it, as it has been used by the employers, is that they are grudgingly trying to compose their minds to the fact that, sooner or later, it will be necessary to put their employees on to a scale of wages.

I gained the impression that the majority of the employers thought that it was proposed to immediately bring their workers under some award and pay award rates. Expressing, at the time, a personal opinion, I told them that I thought that, at this stage of the natives economical development, it would not be very wise to raise them from nothing, in terms of wages, to award rates.

From the outset, I suggested that a small wage plus a set minimum of clothing issues, plus a balanced ration and suitable accommodation should provide an immediate solution. This idea soon gained considerable support and during the first half of next financial year, I shall pursue this line and eventually submit a scheme based on it.

It was good to find a few employers already paying a small weekly wage and on these stations the labour appeared to be very contented and appreciative of this further interest in their welfare.

Also on stations south of Broome, wages are being "credited" a system which is not really satisfactory because the basis of any wages scheme for natives is "payment without deduction." That is to say, the employer has no power to deduct anything from an employee's wages (except tax). The wage must be paid to the employee and then the employer presents his account for goods which have been booked up since the previous pay day.

In the townships, wages are paid to all workers and vary from 10s. a week for native women domestics to the award rates for males and females in certain specialised jobs.

I hope to submit a scheme during the first six months of the financial year 1949-50 which will place the native workers on a fairer footing, will not be burdensome to the employers and which will have no upsetting influence on any industry.

Section 3.—Housing, Sanitary and Ablution Facilities, Etc.

At first glance, the natives housing and general living conditions presented a rather appalling picture. I found them camped in every type of ramshackle dwelling—many made of scrap G. iron and bush timber with dirt floors, others just windbreaks of scrap iron and blankets stretched between poles and the remainder shelters of poles and bushes.

Usually the ground between and surrounding these places was not very clean—empty tins and picked bones being thrown about in the dust.

Dogs were very numerous and the small children just played round in the rubbish and the dust. Flies were thick and it was not good to see how the natives had almost become immune to the irritation of the pests seeking the corners of their eyes, their noses and their mouths—or it appeared as if they were immune because only rarely did they attempt to brush them off.

A remarkable aspect of the "compounds" is that, invariably, they are not more than two to 400 yards from the homestead, yet, to a stranger or visitor, they are the complete eyesore.

Housing was also a touchy subject to discuss with owners and managers.

The principal arguments advanced against trying to improve the housing conditions were that:—

- (a) The natives themselves were not interested.
- (b) They had never been used to settled places of abode.
- (c) They shifted quarters when a death occurred.
- (d) They were quite happy as they were and would not live in or appreciate anything better.

But I found on inquiry that many of the natives *are* interested in better houses—they have experienced better conditions in the towns or in Government institutions and like them but, on returning to their stations, do not get any encouragement to improve their dwellings, so naturally slide back into the old, careless way.

I also found that the custom of shifting after a death occurred is on the wane and perhaps could be completely obliterated if there was a sick bay in the vicinity of each compound.

But there were some encouraging signs—many huts and shelters contained old iron or improvised beds and some managers told me that there was now a strong tendency to sleep off the ground.

However, I found it unwise to jump to conclusions and decided that a thorough study of the position was necessary before fixing on a system of gradual improvements. I have a simple scheme which can be implemented with second-hand if new materials are not available and I hope to set this going during the latter part of the first six months of the financial year, 1949-50.

The lack of sanitary facilities immediately struck the new observer as being a bad feature. Rarely did I find that any facilities at all

existed. The natives, no matter how large the compound, just use the nearest clump of bushes but for urinating, do not trouble to go that far.

Employers are genuinely much more concerned about this and I anticipate big improvements in the sanitary facilities during the coming year.

Generally, I found no shortage of water and it is always available to the natives. Some stations provide showers but more often for the women who work at the "big house." Water is usually carried from the nearest well or billabong and ablution takes place, so far as the men are concerned, in the open. Considering the conditions under which they are living, the natives I have already seen, look reasonably clean as if they are not totally averse to having a regular sluice. Managers and owners are planning better ablution facilities and I confidently expect improvements in this direction also throughout the next year.

Section 4.—Medical.

It did not come within my province to, in any way, give instructions about the medical control of the natives—in this district there is a well-organised medical section and Flying Doctor Service.

However, I was interested to find out in what way the health of the natives was supervised on the stations. All the stations I visited carried stocks of such medicines and articles as:—Salts, castor oil, various ointments, iodine, Friars Balsam, liniments, cough mixtures, bandages, lint, adhesive plasters, cotton wool, etc., and so are able to treat all minor ills.

As the majority of the stations carry a pedal set they are in daily contact with the Flying Doctor Service and, on advice, send serious cases to the nearest native hospital.

I tried to convince stations of the advantage of having a small sick bay where cases, not bad enough to send to hospital or while awaiting transport to hospital, could lie up. And I think there might be some response to this idea which, however, should be a compulsory part of a station's organisation.

I received complaints from stations about the paucity of visits by a medical officer, that is, in order to make a complete medical check of all the natives on the station. There is one angle on this which the owners conveniently ignore and it is that they do very well really from the point of view of the annual cost to them of the medical treatment of their natives. A mod. st contribution to the medical fund and their employees are covered for the year. Yet the health of the natives is important and the idea occurred to me and received immediate support from employers that a travelling road plant, even if the O.I.C. was not a qualified medical officer, might be the answer. They have worked very successfully and for many years in Papua and New Guinea.

From the layman's point of view, the most striking bad feature of the general appearance of the natives is the number of sore and watery eyes seen in all ages and, in many centres, the almost entire absence of young children. I am not qualified to offer a reason for either but it has been suggested that the unbalanced diet contributes to the first and the disparity in the ages of the married people, to the second.

Perhaps some day we shall see a nutritional survey carried out and a compulsory scale of rations fixed for the natives. The staple diet at present appears to be flour, meat with tea and jam. On some stations vegetables are available spasmodically and are used in the form of stews. Fish is obtainable in certain seasons along the Fitzroy River and form a valuable addition to diet.

Cooking facilities ranged from a discarded stove under a bough shelter to, in the majority of cases, open fires. In some instances the food is cooked at the big kitchen and taken to the camp for eating. Rarely was a dining shed found but owners like the idea and quite a number are planning dining sheds with tables and stools.

"Adequate and sufficient" food in the regulations makes the provisions rather elastic and a specific scale of rations would be of great benefit and is the modern practice in all countries where natives are employed.

Section 5.—Relations between Employers and Employees.

In the early months of my patrolling, which were the final months of the year 1948-49, I quickly came up against the statement; usually made in a belligerent manner that:—"It's a pity people don't mind their own business—the natives are quite happy, have all they need, so why interfere with them."

On the surface, as I went round, there appeared to be some truth in the assertion—I found no outward signs of great discontent, nor did the natives complain. They appeared to go about their work quietly, though it could not be said, with exuberant happiness. So that, for a time, I did not have a telling reply.

The natives did not complain to me because I was a stranger and, like most native races, they first of all had to get a line on the stranger. When I spoke to them they didn't respond with any great gusto but just replied respectfully. But it was not very long before they began to loosen up and I found that this claim by some employers that the natives were completely happy was not altogether true. The natives started to tell me that they were working for nothing, that they couldn't buy their wives and kids any presents, that their houses were not good enough to try to keep clean, and they were embarrassed when they were told how they had to relieve themselves in the bush because there were no latrines.

This was the other side of the story—they appeared contented because of their stoicism and their philosophical outlook on life and employers, naturally, didn't try to probe deeper. When they demanded a job done, the natives did it without a query. So it was easy to see how the employers had readily allowed themselves to believe that there was nothing worrying their workers. They rarely visited them and under no circumstances would they question them about their life or conditions. They were just there when they were needed and so long as the tucker was kept up to them, their sores attended to and a hand-out at Christmas, nothing else mattered. Another aspect which made it difficult to assess the relations is the extreme loyalty of a native to his boss—it has almost the quality of the absurd loyalty between a much cuffed dog and his master.

Natives living on a station, where they can marry and have children and on which their aged parents and relations are allowed to live, aren't badly off, really.

Be as it may, they have made this contact with civilisation and having done so, there is no trail back for either them or their employers. The majority of them have no desire to ever become nomads again—they are already wages and conditions conscious and whether we think it is good or bad, our only task is to cushion this impact with our way of life.

One employer said to me: "Yes, your ideas about wages are good and moderate but whether we like it or not, they'll be asking and getting the basic wage in five years' time, perhaps less—and I live right out on the edge of the desert. They make all sorts of contacts now, wherever they are—the drovers go to town, they see and hear about the conditions existing there and in other places and they come back and tell the people in the camp—you just can't stop it."

And I think that he is right—but we can cushion it.

Section 6.—Statistics.
Covering patrols carried out during 1948-49.

1. Number of natives seen:—		Adults.		Children.		Children of school age.		
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
		351	328	68	63	34	32	
Total		679		131		66		
2. Labour employed:—		Males.						
Stockmen		....	....	....	....	....	234
Gardeners		....	....	....	....	....	16
General		....	....	....	....	....	16
Total		....	....	....	....	....	266
		Females.						
Domestics		....	....	....	....	....	126
Gardeners		....	....	....	....	....	46
								172
3. Indigents							47
Pensioners							63

Conclusion.

The early months of my work in this district revealed that there was considerable scope for an active policy for the improvement of the conditions of the natives, not only the full-bloods but also the many coloured people still under the Act. Although it was evident that the prejudice against colour was not so pronounced as, say in the south of the State, there is still considerable feeling against all those people who have not been blessed with the same skin pigmentation as ourselves.

It is doubtful if this prejudice, even in the North-West, will be broken down quickly. These people are classed as niggers or half-castes, and, in many instances, are treated accordingly.

Without being sentimental, the task ahead is quite clear to me. These black and coloured people have to be treated reasonably and, at least, given a chance to take a place in the community. They, perhaps, have a better chance up here than anywhere else of doing this and perhaps it would be better if the flow of coloured people was from the south to the north instead of removing them from here to institutions in the south.

Our powers, even under the present Act and regulations, though not as specific as they might be, are nevertheless wide and if used with tact and firmness, must produce results.

After this short contact with the employers and the natives of my district, I think that all of our plans are practicable and I shall be surprised if, during 1949-50, there is not a real advance in the housing and general living conditions of the natives. It should also be possible to implement a wages scheme which, while doing justice to the worker, will not upset anyone unduly.

A recent opinion expressed by U.N.O. was that in dealing with native races, directives were better than conferences which seems to be another pointer to world opinion. So long as our plans are, first of all, carefully considered, there is no reason why they should not become a directive and written into our laws. There are many precedents for such action.

Finally, I should like to mention the necessity for efficient transport, the importance of which cannot be over-stressed. There are still many things to be done before the D.O.'s organisation is complete, office accommodation and housing for officers presenting difficulties which are appreciated but none the less aggravating.

I should like to record my appreciation of the co-operation received from the headquarters staff, which means so much to a field officer.

Moola Bulla Native Station.

During the year a change of managership was found to be necessary after the existing manager had been convicted of an offence under the Brands Act and dismissed from the Public Service. The voluntary transfer of Mr. C. L. McBeath from the position of Deputy Commissioner to that of manager-superintendent of Moola Bulla has solved not only a great problem, but has immeasurably strengthened the position of the department which now has an efficient manager, as well as a sincere altruist, to handle the new policies to be introduced at Moola Bulla. The native inmates were delighted with the move, as the transfer has given them a sympathetic and understanding leader.

The institutional side of Moola Bulla in the past has been subordinated to the primary business of cattle and horse pursuits, but the ensuing year will, I am confident, see tremendous changes.

During the year a total of 1,213 bullocks were delivered to the Wyndham State Meatworks and realised the sum of £11,669 3s. 6d. or £9 11s. 7d. net per head. This amount is included in the cattle sales at Appendix 4.

Plans are in hand for the creation of Moola Bulla to be the show place of the North and in the hands of the present manager, there is every indication that these plans will soon materialise.

Udiulla Native Station.

During the year this institution was closed down for the reason that it was considered badly situated and generally unsuited for the purpose originally intended when it was first taken up.

After shearing had finished in September, 1948, the flock of sheep was sold and the moveable assets of the station removed to La Grange Bay Depot. All able-bodied station workers were found employment on neighbouring stations and the remainder, being indigents totalling 50, were sent to La Grange Bay.

A caretaker was maintained on the property until all moveable assets had been satisfactorily transferred.

Native Hospitals.

The administration of four native hospitals was handed over to the Medical Department on the 1st February, 1949, although the finances were met and handled by this department for the year.

Whilst a medical officer's report for the interim period was submitted to this department, all specific mention of health and hospital administration is to be left to the Commissioner of Public Health in his annual report.

Even though the native hospitals have been transferred to a more competent authority, they still remain, in principle, hospitals for the care of the sick native, and natives are

undoubtedly receiving better treatment as the native hospitals are now considered as annexes to the white hospitals.

La Grange Bay Feeding Depot.

During the year an officer of this department and his wife, who is a qualified nurse, took over the depot from a part-time rationer of the Agricultural Department. With the handover, the natives who were formerly at Udialla Native Station were transferred to La Grange. This increased the number from 60 to almost 120. The health of the inmates and of the natives on the surrounding private cattle stations is now catered for by the presence of the trained nursing sister, who apart from carrying out local visits, dressings and confinements, has made herself responsible for directing sick patients through for hospital attention.

Building activity has increased and water supplies have been improved.

Cosmo Newbery Native Depot.

The nature of this institution was changed during the year from that of being primarily a feeding station to that of a delinquent institution whilst retaining the aspects of the feeding of indigents. The pastoral activities of this depot are retained as a self-supporting interest as well as a vocational work for the inmates.

At the 30th June, 1949, only one native had been committed to this institution under warrant, but several more have since been committed.

As this institution is to cater for the major delinquent, adequate type buildings are necessary and this type of work has mainly occupied the labour of the superintendent and staff for the main part of the year. Several secondhand buildings have been purchased and re-erected on the institution, the workmanship reflecting great credit on the staff.

The livestock is in good condition.

Moore River Native Settlement.

This institution which has in the past figured so poorly in every written report and particularly so in the Bateman Survey, was given a tremendous flip when a new and permanent superintendent in Mr. A. L. Ethell was appointed in January, 1949.

His untiring and energetic efforts immediately showed results to the extent that in the first six months of his administration the whole unsatisfactory aspect of the institution was changed from squalor and filth to respectability and cleanliness.

His first task was to improve the water supplies of the institution. Whilst his part of the work was soon accomplished, the lack of water piping hampered his efforts considerably but achievement is in sight. Ablution blocks and a laundry were built, the workmanship of such standing as a brilliant example of what effort can achieve from hard work and secondhand materials. The adoption of his own system of public works

achieved immediate success, as the Public Works Department normally charged with building and renovations, are too busy to devote any time to these projects.

All staff quarters and institutional buildings have been scoured, cleansed, repaired and painted, with the result that the settlement now presents at least a pleasing view, and is clean. A sewerage system is in course of construction, but with water and material shortages, this aspect has been unavoidably delayed.

New staff cottages, a kindergarten shelter shed, new dormitories, are in course of construction, demolitions are continually taking place, whilst renovating, scouring and painting are jobs constantly receiving attention.

A new system of native wages was brought into operation whereby native men and boys were to be trained as semi-skilled artisans on such jobs as carpentry, painting, plumbing, bricklaying, etc., and this has contributed materially to the rate and success of the rebuilding programme.

Whilst too much praise could not be directed to the superintendent and a few members of his staff, European labour on the whole has been most unsatisfactory, for the reason that the type of person who avails himself for this work is usually concerned only with the pecuniary and accommodation aspects and is irresponsible towards the purpose of the employment and the results that it is hoped to attain. With the availability of labour becoming easier, it will soon be possible to select the type of worker who will really throw himself into the tasks of his work and the rehabilitation of the institution.

The superintendent's report covering the period April to June, 1949, follows:—

This report, the second since the writer took over the Administration of the Institution in January, is submitted with a feeling of pride in the achievements of both European and native staff at Moore River during the last quarter. Activities at the Settlement have now entered the second phase of intense building and renovations. Already the men of the maintenance staff have proved what can be done with semi and unskilled labour, and the results achieved to date have proved the effectiveness of establishing our own Public Works Unit. The writer combines the functions of Architect, Engineer, Town Planner and Administrator, each of which at the moment is a full time job. Something has had to suffer, and unfortunately (much to the disgust of certain staff members at headquarters), the routine and correspondence is far from being up to date. Even so, the settlement continues to function, and it is confidently expected that by the end of the next quarter the foundations of Moore River will be set and the institution once again firmly established.

Water Supply.

The most important development during the last quarter has been the locating of an abundant supply of fresh water at a site about 550 yards away from the present storage tanks.

On May 4th, work was commenced on sinking a new well, near the site of the old one, but after two days' work, this was abandoned in favour of the site of the new water supply.

An old and partly filled-in well, put down in Mr. Neall's time was tested and found to contain *fresh* water. Cleaned out, the prospect of obtaining a good supply became increasingly apparent, Hume concrete cylinders were dropped into place and the sinking of the well proceeded in earnest. By May 23rd, we had succeeded in obtaining 15 feet of water, but experienced a great deal of trouble with the cylinders jamming, and on successive days to the 27th, we had difficulty in sinking at the rate of 15 inches per day. On May 26th, the water rose at a painfully slow rate, and at that stage it was felt that our optimism had been unfounded. However, on May 27th, we made a final attempt to get the well down into the main stream, and our efforts were successful. We punctured the top crust of the stream, and fresh water gushed in at the rate of about 12 feet per hour. This water has now been used by staff quarters and kindergarten for drinking and cooking, and has been found quite palatable.

Work on the well is now complete. A 9 foot high retaining wall has been built, and filled in, the rough bank smoothed out, and one more cylinder dropped into place. The total depth of the well is 32 feet from top to bottom and it holds 20 feet 3 inches of water. Action is in hand for the supply of pumping equipment and a new mill, but it is not anticipated that this will be available for about another three months. In the interim, the supply from the old well has improved with the recent rains, and it is hoped that the timbering will not cave in before the new mill arrives.

The attached photographs depict some stages of this branch of activities, and indicate the extent to which it was necessary to build up the foundations for the mill. Attempts were made to hire a crawler tractor for the job, but when this was unsuccessful, a first class job was done with "one horse-and two mule-power."

Whilst on the subject of water, it is inconceivable to me that this institution has continued to function for so many years without tapping the unlimited supply of fresh water so readily available. Test bores have been put down on the flat opposite the settlement, and water has been obtained in all of them at a depth of nine feet. At the time of writing (5/7/49), the situation is well in hand, and it is hoped that the new bore now being sunk will provide sufficient water for irrigation purposes. With the cessation of farming activities, it is necessary now to take immediate steps to put as much available land under gardens as possible, but it would be futile to even commence gardening before an adequate supply of water is available for irrigation.

In order to do this job as cheaply as possible, we have collected about forty odd feet of five-inch bore casing, which at the moment is being put down into No. 1 test hole. A home-made sludge pump has been manufactured, and given fair weather, it is hoped that the bore will be ready for operating by the end of July. If No. 1 is not a success the bore casing can be easily hauled up and put down again on another site—a much cheaper proposition than the concrete Hume cylinders.

Taking all factors into consideration, it is felt that the water problem of this institution, probably the greatest headache right throughout the settlement's history, has been solved for all time.

New Buildings.

When the last quarterly report was submitted, nothing had been attempted in the way of new buildings, apart from the excavations for setting down the foundations of the two new ablution blocks. As the accompanying photographs show, the two main blocks are now complete, and at date the foundation and framework of the new laundry are finished.

This building should be complete and functioning by the end of the current month. Details on each unit is as follows:—

No. 1 Ablution Block—Male.

With the exception of the ridge capping, this building is complete. The whole of the concrete floor in both sections is finished off and levelled, except for a three-foot strip to take the pedestals. Work is in hand at the moment setting up the showers, and laying on the water. No. 1 block will be ready for the plumber on 11/7/49.

No. 2 Ablution Block—Female.

This building is also complete, except for the ridge capping. Floor levels will be pegged out and a start made within three days on pouring the floor. This work will now be done by Arnold Councillor, a native who has been trained in concrete work by Mr. C. A. Buck, and who has now reached a stage of efficiency where he can be left to mix, pour and reinforce a concrete floor. Showers are, at the moment, being prepared for early installation. It is considered that both No. 1 and No. 2 blocks will be ready for the plumber on 18/7/49, and the units both in operation by August 1st. Considering then, that actual construction was only commenced on the 2nd May, and that materials were held up for many weeks, it will be a feather in the cap of works and services men to have the job completed and functioning in three months from start to finish.

A requisition has been placed for the supply of flat iron for ridge capping. It is known that capping is difficult to obtain but the writer has had considerable experience in this type of work and given the materials, it will be a simple matter to manufacture our own ridge capping on the job.

Compound Laundry.

On the 1st June, 1949, the settlement carpenter was forced to leave the institution owing to ill health, at a time when we could ill spare him. However, during June the onus of setting out and erecting the new compound laundry fell on the shoulders of Mr. Buck and of two native assistants—Spratt and Little. The framework was easy—the roof hard. Neither Buck nor the writer had had any experience in roof building or the use of a steel square, so we bought a small pamphlet entitled "The Steel Square in Australian Roofing." From this handy little volume, the necessary cuts were worked out by the writer, applied to the timber by Mr. Buck and the result is quite a good roof.

Equipment for the laundry—bricks, coppers and wash troughs—are on hand. The unit should be ready for operation by the end of July or shortly after and it will be a big day for Moore River when the new ablutions and laundry blocks start to function.

The attached photographs give a clear indication of the general layout of the area.

Writing in his report to the Hon. Minister,

Mr. Bateman remarked, *inter alia*:—

Sanitation and hygiene are merely words without meaning at Moore River, the lavatory, bathroom and laundry conveniences being not only primitive but in some cases disgraceful. Drainage, sanitation and laundry facilities should be overhauled and a necessary standard maintained.

The new blocks are the answer to Mr. Bateman's remarks, and have been erected by the superintendent who prepared plans and specifications and supervised the actual construction; Mr. Rapley of Public Works, who prepared the estimates; Mr. Mackay, who built the ablution blocks; Mr. Adams, who finalised all the roofing, etc.; Mr. Buck who was responsible for the first class concrete work; two native carpenters, one native plumber, and six

natives who have worked as labourers. All told the job has gone on intermittently for three months, but the actual time spent on the work is about six weeks. Today, these, the first of the new buildings, stand as a monument to what can be achieved with native labour working under white supervision.

Kindergarten Flat.

On the 18th May, information was received from Perth office to the effect that a Mr. Johnson—truck driver—had been engaged for duty at the settlement. With no accommodation available, it was necessary to finish off the job started by Messrs. Buck and Hayes in February, when work was commenced turning the special girls' dormitory into staff quarters. Messrs. Mackay and Smirk and a team of natives were turned on to the job and inside three days a four-roomed flat was ready for occupation by the Johnson family. They moved in two days later.

Shelter Shed—Kindergarten.

Work has commenced on the erection of a shelter shed at the kindergarten. During wet weather there is nowhere for the children to play except in the dormitory or the front verandah. The new playing area now under the course of construction will provide adequate space for open air and sheltered play, and above all will prevent the children from wandering away from the kindergarten. Cement bricks, already manufactured, will be used to a height of four feet, then a wire screen to the level of the top plate. This building will be finished in July, and will be erected out of the secondhand material obtained from the Pearce demolitions.

Fencing.

A modern fence has been built around the superintendent's residence. This job cost very little apart from labour, as all the material used is ex Pearce.

New Staff Cottages.

On June 27th, Mr. Hayes commenced manufacturing cement bricks to be used in erecting new cottages for the staff, with a composition of five parts of coarse river sand to one cement, about 450 bricks are being manufactured to the ton of cement. All partitions will be of brick, and without going into detail 900 bricks will be more than enough to build one cottage. It is proposed to dispense with plaster board linings, and float up the inner surfaces to a fine finish with ordinary plaster. The bricks are on the job and the excavations completed for the first of the new cottages. Looking to the day when the settlement will only have one kitchen, there is no provision in the new cottages for either kitchens or laundries.

Maintenance and Renovations.

Work has proceeded on the general maintenance and renovating of those buildings which will remain static, and the work carried out during the last quarter is summarised as under:—

Kindergarten.

The painting of the kindergarten is now in its final stages. The interior was finished some weeks ago, and except for the final touches, little remains to be done. This work has all been done by two natives—Arthur Mippy and Franklyn Narrier, who after the first few weeks of tuition under the guidance of Mr. Buck have shown themselves well adapted to their work.

Hospital.

Since submitting the last report, no further work has been carried out at the hospital, but it is anticipated that the hospital will be finished off during the coming quarter.

Staff Quarters.

Here again there is little change. The kitchen has been renovated and a new sink provided, another grease trap put down to cope with kitchen waste, and cupboards fitted. Apart from these minor improvements, it is not intended to spend badly needed money on renovating buildings that will be demolished in the near future.

Superintendent's Residence.

Renovations in the residence are complete. Working off and on for a period of three months, Mr. A. G. Hayes scraped and burnt off about five layers of old paintwork, and completely repainted the residence both inside and outside, together with the roof. New floor coverings have replaced the tatters of the old linos which were so dilapidated that even the patterns had been worn off. Sections of the verandah which were white ant eaten and rotten have been renewed. All the old fences have been demolished and a new fence erected out of materials which came from the Pearce demolitions. Some old cyclone wire has been resurrected and used on the eastern side, and on the front of the western section, where the panels are only six feet in length and low, cyclone wire has been obtained from a number of old beds which are being broken up for reinforcing the concrete work at present in hand. Cost of erecting the fence is negligible.

Compound Kitchen and Dining Room.

Some further repairs have been effected to this building. A new and larger sink, and new work benches have been installed, and fly screens provided at all doors and windows. Most of the latter have been manufactured at the settlement by native carpenter Oscar Little, and are exceptionally well made.

Building Materials.

Stocks of building materials are good. During March, the Department purchased a number of old splinter pens at Pearce Aerodrome, Bullsbrook, which were demolished by settlement personnel and railed to Mogumber. It is hoped that the Pearce materials will provide the framework for quite a few proposed new buildings.

Settlement Mogumber Road.

Since submitting the last report, the road from Mogumber to the settlement has been graded. This work was carried out in April by the Calingiri Road Board, and though the surface was good for some weeks, it has deteriorated badly over the past month or so. The long dry spell has caused the road to corrugate very quickly following on the grading, and without water to set the surface, the traffic has cut into the foundations in some places.

Sanitation.

The primitive method of the disposal of night soil is as obnoxious as ever, but by the time the next report is submitted, the new ablation blocks will be in operation and the present antediluvian system abandoned. Temporary measures, in some slight degree effective, have been taken to provide better sanitation, but this is an uphill fight and will remain so until such time as the new blocks are in operation. One very noticeable feature, however, is the marked decrease in flies and smell, both of which were particularly loathsome at one stage.

Clothing.

The standard of clothing has improved considerably during recent months. All the settlement female native staff have been fitted out with blue uniforms manufactured in the sewing room, the children issued with new and better pyjamas, the women serviceable underwear, and the men with khaki slacks, jumpers and battle jackets, ex-army disposal stocks.

The men especially are being taught to look after their clothing, and every Saturday morning cease work at 10 o'clock, bath, shave, and change and wash their working clothes. Clothing and blankets—representing in the past a big financial loss annually to the Department—are now listed as expendable items, and all inmates have been warned that losses must be paid for at ruling prices. It is hoped that this may be some deterrent to carelessness and neglect.

Stores and Provisions—Catering.

During the past three months, much thought has been given to the stores and catering position, and a further attempt made to eliminate waste and cut costs. Unfortunately, I have not been able to devote as much time as I would have liked to this aspect of the institution, but matters were brought to a head when an examination of the stores issued during April to staff and natives disclosed terrific discrepancies. For instance, one staff member used 12½ lb. of butter, but could not account for the increase. An average of 12 natives daily at the hospital consumed 245 lb. of sugar, 146 loaves of bread, 42 lb. of butter, 30 lb. of tea and 78 tins of milk for the month, as against 146 of bread, 55 of butter, 74 of milk, 143 of sugar and 25 of tea used by 23 Europeans in staff quarters. Consumption in the compound kitchen where 130 odd natives were fed during April was not excessive, but it was apparent that something had to be done, and done in a hurry.

On 1st May a system of rationing was introduced, despite trenchant criticism and opposition on the part of the staff. It was clear from the figures available that a big percentage of rations issued was being stolen by the natives, but staff would not agree that they could do with any less than the quantities issued. The results of rationing have proved far better than anticipated, and it is considered that costs have been drastically sliced in some lines. The main items being stolen were bread, butter, tea, sugar and milk, and the figures shown in the addenda give a clear picture of the amount actually saved since rationing was introduced on 1/5/49. It is not proposed to lift the rationing of the above lines.

In the March report, the writer recommended that standard menus should be adopted at the department's institutions, and in April initiated follow-up action by obtaining from Victoria Barracks, Perth, the Army ration scale, menus and recipes. The result is that the Army system has been followed in the preparation of menus, and recipes from the "Army Manual of Cookery" carefully compiled, and then exact quantities of each individual item used in the preparation of meals noted in each menu, and the total quarterly requirements worked out. It is considered that the standardisation of catering will eliminate waste still further, and should reduce feeding costs considerably not only at Moore River, but on every institution in the department. Further, it will not be necessary to employ qualified cooks to prepare the meals, as it is proposed to issue typewritten menus and instructions to kitchen personnel, which can be followed by any layman with only an elementary knowledge of cooking. Finally, once the standard menus are adopted and in operation, natives can be properly trained to follow a set routine—an impossibility with the present haphazard rule of thumb and by guess and by God methods.

Staff.

During the last quarter, Moore River has upheld its tradition of staff changes, but only in so far as those employees who were at the settlement in January are concerned. With the exception of two staff members, all those interviewed by the writer at head office and appointed in January, February and March are still at the settlement, and doing a grand job.

The originals have departed, either under their own steam or with a little official impetus, and the "Last of the Mohicans" resigned on 10th June. It was quite apparent that those who were employed here when the writer took over in January resented the "New Order," but the satisfactory functioning of the institution could not be permitted to suffer, purely because staff members did not agree with the decisions emanating from this office. Those who threatened resignation if the office did not comply with their requests had their resignations accepted promptly.

At the time of writing, the staff position is satisfactory. As a team they work well, despite an occasional difference of opinion which is unavoidable on an institution such as Moore River.

Staff Amenities.

Early in the year, it was apparent that staff were complaining of the total lack of any amenities. During the last quarter, the position has been reversed, and the following amenities have been provided for the staff.

Table Tennis and Darts.

A new table tennis set has been provided and is used on the average about three nights per week. Those who could not play have soon learned the game, and are keen. Darts and cards have also been provided.

Tennis Court.

The old tennis court has been re-surfaced with ant bed and fenced. The ant bed has rolled down to quite a hard playing surface, and is proving to be a popular asset towards staff amenities.

Refrigerator.

During the quarter a 25 cubic feet refrigerator was installed in the store for staff use. At the time of writing, the unit is not functioning particularly well, due to some slight technical fault in the compressor. This will be adjusted when the mechanic arrives to install the 300 cubic feet cool room in August.

Badminton.

The long-awaited badminton set arrived recently. To date it has not been put to use, but it is expected that play will commence during July.

Library.

Nothing has been done to date towards providing books for the staff library, due to the lack of suitable accommodation.

Medical and Health.

Health of the native inmates is, in the main, good. Cases treated for minor ailments at the outpatients' department of the hospital numbered 728 in April, 1,000 in May and 763 in June, a total of 2,491 for the quarter as against 2,913 for the previous three months. Actual numbers of bed patients have dropped considerably, only 58 natives being treated for the last quarter, as under:—

Confinements	.....	5
Abortion	.....	1
Chest Condition	.....	17
Enteritis	.....	5
Carbuncles	.....	6
Gonorrhoea	.....	1
Granuloma	.....	2
Observation	.....	20

Of the five births all were uncomplicated, but one woman who has already lost three children, lost her fourth baby at five days. One Warrant Case, Bluegum @ Peagull died of cancer of the stomach during May.

Since submitting the last report, the hospital has remained under the charge of Sister M. Hayes. Some weeks ago Mrs. Williams was appointed as temporary matron mainly to

assist with midwifery cases, as Sister Hayes has had no experience in this branch of nursing. Of the five births during the last quarter, two were attended by Mrs. M. F. Buck (in the absence of Sister Hayes) working under the direction of the Doctors Myles of Moora. This member was highly commended on her work by both doctors.

In April, the first matron appointed to the institution was dismissed. It was found that though she was an excellent disciplinarian, her methods of nursing were far from up to date, and it was found necessary to terminate her employment. However, whilst in office, she certainly effected a radical clean up in the kindergarten which was long overdue.

Native Inmates.

The natives, on the whole, are gradually improving in their outlook towards the Europeans, and it is felt that the prejudice and ill feeling so predominant in January is being broken down.

At the time of writing there are 52 male adults, 43 female adults, 69 school children, and 31 babies and infants of varying castes, hues and degree of intelligence. As an instance of what has been over recent months, your attention is directed to the following reports of individual cases.

Arthur Mippy, Male Warrant Case No. 1246.

This man came to the institution in February, brought here ex Fremantle gaol. Mippy was an inebriate and confirmed drunkard. He was most unsettled, and craving for liquor for his first few weeks at Moore River, but has steadied down and is now the settlement's top-ranking painter. Though slow, his work is a credit to him, and he has had a most sobering effect on his fellow painter Franklyn Narrier, a wild young "harum-scarum" whom everyone had given up as a lazy good-for-nothing. Mippy's warrant has been relaxed provisionally, and he is now in receipt of £2 per week as wages, with a probable rise in the near future.

Don Pedro, Male Warrant Case No. 1252.

Pedro was admitted in March; a punch-drunk boxer with a liking for liquor and trouble. For weeks he shambled around the institution doing odd jobs and defying the staff. Then someone discovered that Pedro was a fair hand with plumbing tools and a soldering iron, and "the Don" has been engaged for some weeks past on repairing water mains, bath heaters, and hooking up the showers in the new ablution blocks.

Jimmy Kickett, Male Warrant Case No. 1243.

In February, there was no wilder youngster on this institution than Jimmy Kickett, the 19-year-old youngster whom nobody could handle. Jimmy has been here for six months now, has learned concreting, and though application has been made for the relaxation of his warrant, he doesn't want to go home.

Arnold Frederick Councillor.

This youngster is held here under a committal warrant until he attains the age of 21 years. He, like many others, was difficult to handle at the outset, but has now settled down and is, perhaps, one of the best men on the native staff. Councillor has now reached a stage of competency where he can mix, reinforce and pour a concrete floor, and the work this native is doing at the moment is as good as, if not better than, similar work done by European labour. By the time Councillor leaves this institution he will be skilled in all branches of concrete work.

Melba Egan, Female Warrant Case No. 1237.

Melba Egan is a girl with a bad reputation. On entering the institution she showed signs of being troublesome, but she was found to have a fondness for children. Melba now

works in the kindergarten, and there is a suggestion that if her work improves further, she should be offered a permanent position as a native attendant, to eventually replace one European. Melba seems a cut above the average and certainly shows promise.

In the main, the men and women are settling in well. Fights are less frequent, mainly I think because troublemakers know now that a brawl means immediate reduction in wage and status. Three constant troublemakers have been expelled from the institution within recent weeks.

In June, seven full-blood warrant cases absconded for reasons known only to themselves. Action is in hand to have them apprehended and prosecuted, and complaints and warrants have been issued.

The settlement natives have had three football matches during the current season. Two have been played at M.R.N.S. when Moora natives sent down a visiting team, and one at New Norcia, when M.R.N.S. played away. The settlement holds the lead at the moment with two wins to Moora's one. Hockey sticks have been procured, and the natives are keen to learn another game. Mr. Kau, the school-master, has agreed to teach the elder children tennis and at the moment is awaiting a supply of racquets from head office.

Wages—Native Crown Servants.

Probably the greatest impetus to the building programme has been the introduction of the new wages scale from 1/4/49. The work accomplished to date during the last quarter is proof of this, and as the natives now feel that they are receiving some remuneration for the work they are expected to do, they are content to do their eight hours daily. The following is a list of some of the jobs being done by native labour, under the supervision of European staff:—

Carpentering, painting, plumbing, well sinking, butchering, cooking, scooping, concreting, manufacturing cement bricks, setting out foundations for buildings, mechanical work, gardening, fencing, laying pipe lines, laying bricks, caring for poultry, etc.

If the present rate of progress can be kept up, we should, within a year, have changed entirely the outlook of these natives at Moore River.

Transport.

Settlement transport has been maintained with W.A.G. 949 and W.A.G. 865. The former proceeded to Perth in May for overhaul, and 865 has been used as a replacement. 949 is due back early in July when 865 will be returned to Perth. The farm utility will come to M.R.N.S. in July.

General.

In general, the attitude of outside natives towards the much-hated Moore River is gradually changing. Three absconders have returned to the settlement voluntarily; others have rung up and asked permission to come in. One of the native staff went away for a week-end and brought three of his friends back with him. Another disappeared on a Friday night and came back a week later, bringing with him his brother, an absconder from Carrolup, for whom the department had been searching for six months.

And so Moore River progresses. There are no idle hands here any more; everyone works and everyone is paid. The buildings are going up slowly, renovations are proceeding on static buildings, food, clothing and general care has improved immeasurably, and above all, the general attitude of the natives within and without the settlement has undergone a complete radical change. There have been the normal headaches and setbacks, but summing up the following is a brief summary of the more important achievements during the last quarter.

- (1) A new supply of fresh water has been provided.
- (2) The ablution blocks and compound laundry are well on their way to completion.
- (3) Demolitions of old buildings has commenced, and a start made on new detached quarters for staff.
- (4) Kindergarten and superintendent's residence have been completely renovated.
- (5) Staff amenities, consisting of tennis court, table tennis, badminton and a 25 cubic feet refrigerator have been provided.
- (6) Trucks have lifted approximately 150 tons of building material from Mogumber siding.
- (7) The access road to the settlement has been graded.
- (8) The complete administration of the institution has been overhauled and split up into administration, supply and transport, works and services, and medical sections.
- (9) Increased wages amounting to nearly £150 per month in excess of what was previously paid, have been introduced for the native workers.
- (10) Approval has been obtained for the payment of increased wages to male European staff, these increases range from 5s. per week to 17s. 6d. per week.

Moore River today is on the way up, and if current progress can be maintained, the reconstruction of the settlement will not take as long as originally estimated.

Carrolup Native Settlement.

Over the course of the year a succession of acting superintendents arrived and departed, achieving perhaps only little. No radical change resulted, and it was despaired that Carrolup would be lifted from the doldrums of inefficiency. The agricultural aspects improved considerably and the clearing and cropping and stock matters received more attention than the institutional side of the settlement.

At the close of the year arrangements were in hand to secure a suitable permanent superintendent for the settlement and it is sincerely hoped that the change in administration will effect the desired results.

Native Girls' Home, East Perth.

Another busy year resulted at the home, with a steady flow of young native girls receiving training for future domestic employment.

The home was, as usual, well patronised by holidaying girls, but it is again emphasised by the matron that the size of the home is inadequate for the purposes to which it is being subjected. Unfortunately the efforts to secure an additional and more suitable home were frustrated by the prejudice of a certain section of the community. It would appear that everyone realises the necessity of an additional house and a transient camp, but the location of the home is not desired by this section of the community in their particular suburb. Efforts to locate suitable premises are still being pursued.

MISSIONS.

Throughout the year, all missions contributed magnificently to the general welfare of natives and without their help so much could not have been accomplished. They cater for both the spiritual and welfare aspects of both adults and children, indigent and worker, on a scale which could not be attempted by this Department.

Many hundreds of children are afforded an education, who otherwise would not be receiving this vital necessity of civilisation if it were not for the outback mission. Many natives are succoured in their wants for food, shelter and clothing, and whilst the Department endeavours to assist with the meagre funds at its disposal, often the costs of the truly indigent native is thrown on the financial shoulders of the private mission. Plans are afoot to not only increase the subsidy rates, and food and clothing, but to make available amounts for capital expenditure for specific purposes.

Whilst certain directives and standardisation, especially in education requirements, may be imposed, greater assistance than ever before is to be made to the private mission in the interests of the native peoples. The untold gratitude of the Department goes to the Missioners in their efforts to alleviate distress and wants.

Pallottine Mission (Balco), Hall's Creek.

This mission in its early stages has thirty-five natives at the institution. No school has yet been commenced but more natives are becoming resident on the mission. Health generally was satisfactory, although a severe epidemic of measles broke out in November, necessitating a special visit by the Flying Doctor.

During the year, heavy rains and floods damaged the aerodrome and many of the fences. These were repaired. Mud bricks are being made for several new buildings.

Forrest River Mission, Wyndham.

Forty children are educated at the mission, 185 natives in all residing at the mission.

During the year a second motor launch was purchased to facilitate the freighting of goods from Wyndham. Two new huts were built for native families, together with a new holding paddock for stock.

Water supply is one of the greatest problems, but with the allocated Government grant of £2,500 this problem will soon be solved.

Insufficient blankets and clothing are available to adequately clothe the mission natives and those who frequent the mission, and further assistance in this regard is required.

Drysdale River Mission.

There are 123 natives at this Mission, of whom eleven are receiving education in school.

The main disadvantage of this institution is the lack of medical inspections by doctors. During the year, one general inspection was made and two hurried visits for special cases. The superintendent declares that the inspections for leprosy are entirely inadequate and points out that the incidence of the disease is such that the infected natives are endangering the rest of the native population. More leprosy inspections are necessary as well as some means to transport the infected cases to Derby.

Kunmunya Native Mission.

On 1st April, 1949, by arrangement with the controlling department, the Government native cattle station of Munja was taken over. The feeding of the remainder of natives on this station did not warrant the Department maintaining an establishment and it was mutually agreed that Kunmunya would function in this regard.

Of the 264 inmates of these joint properties, 13 of the 24 children are receiving education.

It is anticipated that the mission will be reconstructed on an improved site nearer to Munja and the servicing of the existing aerodrome and boat landing have been commenced. Certain yard repairs have been made at Munja.

Sunday Island Mission, Derby.

Between 140 and 150 natives reside on this island mission. The only industry for the men is the trochus shelling and this tends to make them idle between trips and tides.

The thirty children attending school are catered for by the mission teacher, but the greatest disadvantage being that the children after leaving school return only to the native camps, as there is no other outlet for them.

During the year, two miles of road were constructed on the island to facilitate the landing of stores from the lugger. Two new boat landings were constructed to give access to deeper water. A motor truck has now been purchased for use on the island to facilitate transport.

Beagle Bay Mission, Broome.

This mission still educates a large number of children and caters for the children from many of the stations and from Broome. The children are, in the main, of half caste extraction and are receiving their education at this centre preparatory to making their way in life either at Broome or on the stations of the East and West Kimberleys.

During the year apart from stock and garden work, a new butcher's shop was erected, as well as an addition to the bishop's house. Most of the work, blacksmithing and mechanics, are carried out by the natives, every effort being made to make the mission self supporting and the inmates industrious.

Lombadina Mission, Broome.

Twenty-four children, mainly fullbloods, are receiving education at this centre, out of the total population of 71 natives. Six new pupils were received during the year, and several left with their parents.

Building progressed during the year with a new dormitory for the girls, together with a new butcher's shop and kitchen. Poultry stocks have been bred and the flock is being increased. Cattle raising and farming are the main activities of the mission.

Aborigines' Rescue Mission, Jigalong.

Hospital work increased considerably during the year with the natives showing much more confidence in the nursing staff thus eliminating otherwise long and tedious treatments. Two deaths and seven births were recorded in the year and many nursing mothers and antenatal cases received instruction and extra nourishment. This institution was visited by the Meekatharra doctor once during the year.

Building activity in the form of an enlarged kitchen, garage, machine shop and hospital were carried out. Fence work is maintained at all times and a native stockman is employed.

Good progress is being made in the school and forty-six children are being taught. Physical training and sport is taught and the older boys are given an elementary training in stock work, motor engineering, carpentry and tinsmithing. The girls are taught handicrafts.

The airstrip has now been licensed and is considered highly by pilots.

Disabilities at this institution are the lack of good water and the infrequency of visits by a medical officer.

Carnarvon Mission.

This mission caters for the education and welfare of full blood and half-caste children. The full blood children are educated at the mission and the half-castes attend the Carnarvon State School. Ten new children were admitted during the year.

Four acres of ground have to be cleared on the completion of the water scheme, the work on which has now commenced. Normal maintenance work in painting and in the erection of fences was carried out.

Warburton Ranges Mission.

Of the 64 natives on this institution, 45 are children and attend school. At this institution particularly, large numbers of nomadic natives frequent the institution for medical attention.

Further additions to two 60ft. dormitories and additions to residences comprised the building activities of the year. Fruit trees were planted, bees were introduced and additional sheep, a cow and a bull were purchased. Water supplies were considerably improved during the year.

Spinning and manufacture of rabbits' fur and other craft work is being taught.

Mount Margaret Mission, Morgans.

This mission still caters for a large number of natives who radiate around the district to station employment. There are 72 children at school, 15 having been admitted this year. The education at this institution is on a high plane, and is giving to the native child a sound education to fit them for their employment in life.

Much hard work was put in on the water scheme and new buildings, renovations and additions, including a new class room, received attention.

Norseman Native Mission.

Of the 92 natives at this mission 24 of the 45 children receive education.

During the year a large shed, 32ft. by 30ft. was erected for garage work, also two fowl houses, a chaff shed and milking shed. Stock and eggs comprised the sales of the institution.

The provision of an electric lighting plant at this institution will prove to be of great value. The garden has been considerably enlarged.

Craft work is encouraged at the institution.

Tardun Mission School.

During the year this mission functioned to its fullest. Forty-six children are now resident at this centre and all are receiving education.

Tardun has quickly gathered momentum and inspections prove that the children are comfortably quartered and very happy in their new surroundings.

New Norcia Mission.

One hundred natives are supported at this mission in the two orphanages, of whom eighty attend school. Eight boys and three girls were discharged to employment during the year, the boys going to farm work and the girls to domestic duty. The health of the inmates has been good.

St. Francis Xavier's Mission, Wandering.

This mission was still being completed during the year and no children had been admitted at the close of the year. Seven hundred acres of land was in crop and pasture and extra clearing was taking place. The girls' orphanage was completed and the laundry block in course of erection.

The buildings and facilities at Wandering are a munificent contribution to the welfare of the natives and will give to the hybrid children the opportunity to live in circumstances that will tend to befit them for subsequent assimilation into the white community.

Roelands Native Mission Farm.

Of the 48 mission native children on this institution, 45 attend school. During the year seven children were discharged to jobs with people who would guarantee their welfare as well as pay them in employment.

The production of farm produce was intensified in an effort to meet their own requirements and the sales of grape fruit were improved.

The mission property was maintained and necessary repairs effected.

Good progress in education and training has been maintained during the year and the health of the children has been most encouraging.

Badjaling Mission, Quairading.

This mission, in the charge of a single missionary, caters for the welfare aspects of the few natives now resident on the reserve. Most of the male adults are employed on neighbouring farms and are accommodated at their place of employment.

Gnowangerup Mission.

During the year this mission changed its policy from that of maintaining whole families on the mission reserve to that of primarily catering for the welfare of children. Many native families, formerly resident on the reserve, have now taken up accommodation on employers' properties with the result that 16 children have now to be educated at State schools. This is considered a forward step as the mission was not able to provide family houses adequate for the purpose. There are 36 children still being educated at Gnowangerup Mission.

Quite a few confinements were carried out at the mission clinic during the year.

Apart from the usual dedications, marriages and burials, fortnightly visits to the Carrolup Native Settlement have been made and where Sunday school and gospel services have been held.

Children's Cottage Home (Inc.), Queen's Park.

Whilst still registered as an institution within the meaning of the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947, this home caters for the almost white child—quarter-caste—and is, in its strictest sense, more of a white children's institution rather than a native institution. However, an inadequate subsidy for the majority of the inmates is still being met from the limited resources at the disposal of this department to keep this excellent home. Departmentally it is considered that this home should come under the Child Welfare Department for jurisdiction as well as financial assistance, as the children would then benefit to the same extent as white children in other homes under the control of that department.

FINANCIAL.

(See Appendix No. 2.)

The audited statement of receipts and payments of the Department of Native Affairs is contained in appendix.

The amount expended from revenue funds for the year amounted to £105,102 0s. 11d. and constituted an excess of £15,102 0s. 11d. over the £90,000 provided in the Appropriation Bill. In addition to this an amount of £1,080 2s. 1d. was expended from loan funds on capital works.

The expenditure for 1948/49 was £18,350 in excess of that for the previous year. This increase was spread generally throughout the whole activities of the Department, and is attributable to the increased activity, both in staffing and in the relief for and amenities to natives, as well as in the rising costs.

The Department is still faced with insufficient funds for its purposes and proper function, and with increased and unforeseen commitments and rapidly spiralling costs, it would appear that the Treasury vote of £115,402 for the ensuing year will again be insufficient to meet the normal contingencies.

Revenue of £29,275 was earned from sources within the Department and more particularly from the sale of cattle at Moola Bulla Native Station (£12,482). This represents an increase of £9,865 on the revenue of the previous year, but as this money is paid into consolidated revenue, the Department has no call on these funds.

NATIVES' MEDICAL FUND.

(See Appendix No.1.)

The report referred to above indicates that contributions to the fund during the year totalled £4,563 10s. 6d., exceeding the previous year's contributions by £205 15s. 6d.

Disbursements from the fund totalled £3,780 11s. 1d. of which £2,121 17s. 7d. only referred to the current year. The balance represented late claims for previous years, as far back as the year 1943/44.

After allowing a liberal figure of £1,800 to meet any accounts that may be outstanding at the 30th June, 1949, it is estimated that for the year 1948/49 a favourable balance of £641 12s. 11d. was obtained from the operation of the fund. This result has had the effect of converting an accrued loss of £605 11s. 4d. over the initial eleven years operation of the Natives' Medical Fund, to a profit of £36 1s. 7d. at the end of the twelfth year, a most commendable result.

Of the 6,095 natives directly covered under this scheme of medical insurance, a total of only 953 were reported as having received medical attention during the year.

TRUST ACCOUNTS.

As at the 30th June, 1949, there were 307 Commonwealth Savings Bank Accounts in existence held by the Department on behalf of natives.

Each account is a personal one with the Commissioner of Native Affairs as trustee. Compared with the previous year this represented a reduction of 34 accounts. The total amount in savings bank accounts as at the 30th June, 1949, was £3,566 14s. 11d. compared with £3,730 5s. at the end of June, 1948.

In addition £7,321 was invested in Commonwealth bonds and war savings certificates on behalf of 60 natives. This compared with £7,470 for 69 natives at the conclusion of the previous year.

Interest on investments is credited to personal bank accounts held at this office for the native concerned.

Natives with bank accounts or investments at this office operate on them as they require, mostly for the payment of clothing orders and small cash advances when in Perth on holidays.

Deposits are, in most instances, derived from a system whereby a proportion of the weekly wages of natives in employment, mostly trainee boys and girls, is remitted to this headquarters to be banked on their behalf.

LOTTERIES COMMISSION.

The following is the list of donations made by the Lotteries Commission for the year 1st July, 1948 to 30th June, 1949:—

Institutions.	Departmental Institutions.		Other than Departmental Institutions.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Lombadina Mission			33	0 0
Port Hedland Recreational Hall for Natives			220	0 0
Pallottine Mission—Balco Hill			250	0 0
Carrolup Native Settlement—Katanning Show	15	0 0		
Head Office—Christmas Cheer	450	0 0		
Derby Leprosarium—Christmas Cheer			25	0 0
Beagle Bay Mission			132	15 0
Beagle Bay Mission			100	0 0
Native Girls' Hostel, Broome			200	0 0
New Norcia Mission			400	0 0
Lombadina Mission			150	0 0
Moore River Native Settlement—Wireless Set	24	15 0		
Port Hedland Native Training School, White Springs			2,000	0 0
New Norcia, St. Joseph's Girls School			138	0 0
Holy Child Orphanage			74	11 6
East Carnarvon Mission School			130	0 0
Moore River Native Settlement—Refrigerator	74	11 6		
St. Mary's Orphanage, Broome			20	0 0
			£564	6 6
			£3,873	6 6
Grand Total			£4,437	13 0

The department is greatly appreciative of the assistance given through the Commission on behalf of both departmental and private institutions.

ESTATES.

During the year a total of 34 estates were handled by this office under the powers conferred by section 36 of the Native Administration Act. Of this number 23 were carried forward from the previous year and 11 new estates were reported.

Money held in respect to natives' estates as at the 30th June, 1949, totalled £268 5s. 8d. of which £135 12s. 10d. pertains to the estate of one native. This will give some indication of the general paucity of native estates handled by this department.

MAINTENANCE.

As at the 30th June, 1949, there were 127 orders in existence for the collection of maintenance in respect to native children representing an increase of five cases during the year. The total number of orders at the 30th June, 1949, are divided as follows:—

Court Orders.	
White men	52
Natives	45
Asiatics	4
Total	101
Voluntary Agreements.	
White men	11
Natives	12
Asiatics	3
Total	26
Grand total	127

Wherever possible action was taken during the year, to obtain maintenance orders against the fathers of illegitimate native children as soon as the matter was brought to the notice of the department.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AND GIFTS.

The Lotteries Commission increased their annual gift this year for Christmas cheer to natives from £350 to £450. In addition the "Daily News" Orphans' Christmas Cheer Fund donated an amount of £20 and the Economic Stores Ltd., placed £15 15s. at the disposal of the department, together with £5 5s. to be allocated to the inmates of the Carrolup Native Settlement.

The above donations were distributed at 54 centres in various parts of the State and approximately 3,000 natives participated in this distribution.

Other gifts made in the spirit of the Christmas season were also received and distributed.

To the kind donors of the above "cheer" is extended the department's very sincere appreciation for this exhibition of their interest in native welfare work.

POPULATION.

(See Appendix No. 7).

The population figures as tabulated in Appendix 7 would purport to show an increase in the native population of the State, but with the inadequacy of the returns, the figures in some cases are approximate only, and therefore a year by year comparison cannot be made with any possible degree of accuracy.

The most significant fact to be drawn from such inadequate statistics is the very rapid increase in the half-caste population since the time when statistics were first compiled.

Year.	Full Bloods.	Half-castes.	Total.
1899	12,183	*	12,183
1903	not recorded	856	no total shown
1915	13,813	*	13,813
1917	12,888	1,603	14,491
1929	12,815	2,833	15,648
1939	11,878	4,688	16,566
1949	10,724	6,039	16,763

* Included with full bloods.

These statistics purport to show the relative decrease in the full-blood population and the heavy increase of half-castes and lesser bloods. Whilst there is, no doubt, a margin of error in all statistics, it is undeniable that the increase in half-castes from 1903-1917 was 87 per cent, from 1917-1929 65 per cent., and from 1939-1949 30 per cent. The latter figure is considered to be low for the reason that many of the superior type half-castes and lesser bloods who are living under European conditions and whose children are attending State and private schools, have probably not been recorded.

Until such time as a full census is taken, it is a matter of conjecture to estimate the half-caste population of say the next 25 years, but at the present rate of increase it is not improbable that the half-caste population may total 20,000 by 1975. The full blood population continues to decrease at a rate approximately 100 per annum, and urgent steps must be taken to preserve this interesting and useful remnant of early mankind.

DEATHS.

(See Appendix No. 11).

Native deaths recorded for the year 1948-1949, totalling 234, comprised 161 adults and 73 children. For the previous year comparable recorded figures were, total 240, adults 171 and children 69. A reference to the Appendix mentioned above, will supply an indication of the various causes of death and the distribution between castes and sexes.

MARRIAGES.

For the year 1948-49, 62 marriages were celebrated in which either both or one of the parties concerned were natives within the meaning of the Native Administration Act. Particulars are:—

Native to Native	52
Native to exempted native	1
Native to quadroon	3
Native to European (male)	6
Total	62

Comparative figures for the previous year are:—

Native to native	47
Native to exempted native	1
Native to quadroon	7
Native to European (male)	9
Total	64

Records kept at this office in respect to marriages of natives to people of European blood indicate that there have been 143 unions of this nature. In three of these marriages white women were the participants.

HEALTH OF NATIVES.

Following advice in the previous report that progressive steps were being taken to transfer to the Department of Public Health matters pertaining to health of natives generally, this Department completed the transfer of the four district native hospitals in the North on the 1st February, 1949. The institutions concerned are located at Wyndham, Derby, Broome, and Port Hedland. The Commissioner of Public Health has dealt with native health in the community in his annual report, and has indicated the action being taken on a State-wide basis to improve the medical facilities available to natives. This Department works in close liaison with the Department of Public Health on all matters pertaining to native health. Native affairs field officers are constantly conscious of the necessity to ensure a good standard of health and are establishing a system of patrol work designed to ensure the maximum amount of co-operation with district medical officers and public health inspectors.

RELIEF.

Over the course of the year a weekly average of 1,179 natives were rationed at a cost of £21,812 4s. 8d.

This represents a decrease of 266 on the previous year's figure with a saving of £585 3s. 1d. The resultant decrease in numbers and cost is due to the fact that several bulk rationing missions have now been placed on the mission subsidy system.

Although it is intended that departmental institutions are to be converted to institutional stores procedure and missions to the subsidy system, there must remain in force certain bulk rationing centres and also contract rationing centres for the smaller isolated groups of natives. The cost of relief, therefore, will only show the actual cost of foodstuffs supplied through this Department to institutions and feeding depots, but in fact, the greater percentage of subsidies paid to missions is expended on the direct relief of the native inmates.

With the current period of full employment, relief to natives is considerably lower than for some time and can be said to be mainly attributable for children or for adults in institutions for particular purposes. All large bulk rationing centres are being considered as future native institutions to cater for the relief of distress.

EDUCATION.

The Department is working in very close liaison with the Director of Education and is pursuing a policy aimed at improved educational facilities for natives throughout the entire State. Missions are being encouraged to improve schooling facilities, and in the near future it is proposed to introduce a scheme to ensure that consistent results are encouraged and obtained.

Through increased field work and by close contact with the teaching staff of all country schools, the Department is taking energetic action to assist and facilitate the attendance of native children in each respective area. The Department of Education has been most co-operative, helpful, and encouraging in their reports on native scholars. It is fully realised that education and training is a major factor in overcoming nomadic habits, and inculcates a sense of responsibility so apparently lacking in many of the older people.

Information to hand in regard to natives in attendance at State and other schools is as follows:—

State Schools	855
Carrolup Native Settlement	58
Moore River Native Settlement	68
<i>Missions—</i>	
Carnarvon	45
Kellerberrin	16
Roelands	53
Jigalong	45
New Norcia	92
Wandering Brook	—
Tardun	46
Mt. Margaret	72
Beagle Bay	278
Lombadina	24
Badjaling	8
Billiluna	—
Forrest River	40
Drysdale River	11
Sunday Island	30
Warburton Ranges	45
Norseman	27
Kunmunya	13
Gnowangerup	36
	<hr/>
	881
Broome Convent	80
Derby Leprosarium	14
Holy Child Orphanage	45
Catholic Schools in Perth Diocese	50
	<hr/>
	2,051
	<hr/>

Comparable figures for the year ended the 30th June, 1948, are below:—

State Schools	730
Carrolup Native Settlement	56
Moore River Native Settlement	78
Native Missions	520
Broome Convent	87
Derby Leprosarium	22
Holy Child Orphanage	52
Catholic Schools in Perth Diocese	47
	<hr/>
	1,592
	<hr/>

The increased school attendance, whilst perhaps partly through the efforts of the Department, reflects great credit on many native parents who realise the opportunity offering to their children to glean an elementary and perhaps higher education.

EMPLOYMENT.

Native employment is daily becoming a matter of more importance to the economic life of the State, and indeed to the country as a whole. Natives are proving themselves competent workers, not only in avenues of pastoral and agricultural employment, but also to a lesser degree in industrial circles. The Department has embarked upon a State-wide survey of conditions of native employment, and is resolved that no stone will be left unturned to ensure that full recognition is accorded native workers, both in regard to remuneration and also accommodation. Much is to be done in this direction, but with the appointment of an adequate staff of field officers now operative, and the introduction of closer and continued personal contact with natives in all sections of the State, results are immediately becoming evident.

Certain employers are evincing a keen interest in the department's efforts in this regard and are being made fully aware of their responsibilities. They generally realise and appreciate that the average native worker, particularly in the pastoral and agricultural areas, is an indispensable employee; an employee, who, in many instances in the past, has not been fairly treated, and in some areas, with little or no wages.

For all types of employment during the year, 2,805 permits were issued in respect to 6,095 natives. These figures are an improvement on the previous year's statistics, when 2,755 permits covered 5,648 natives, and represented at the time a record in native employment figures.

LEPROSY PRECAUTIONS LEGISLATION.

During the year 1948-49, two natives were issued with permits, under section 10, subsection 3 (b) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47, to travel south of the 20th parallel of south latitude. Five permits were also issued under section 10, subsection 3 (d) to natives engaged in the droving of stock.

RESERVES.

At the 30th June, 1949, the total acreage of Native Reserves stood at 33,085,401, compared with 33,073,001 for the year ending 30th June, 1948. An increase of 12,300 acres in reserves was gazetted during the year.

The Agricultural Department kindly transferred its assets, which included buildings and improvements at the rabbit-proof fence, Jigalong, to this department for the use of the Aborigines' Rescue Mission established in that area and conducted by the Apostolic Church authorities. It was the transfer of this particular Agricultural Department depot and reserve which made up the 12,300 acres referred to above, and was a most welcome addition to the area of 16,000 acres already occupied by the mission. It will make possible the establishment of some farm and pastoral activity for post-school training purposes and the production of meat for the mission inmates.

CERTIFICATES OF CITIZENSHIP.

(See Appendix No. 11.)

During the year, 123 applications for citizenship under the Natives' (Citizenship Rights) Act, 1944, were received. Compared with the previous year, there were 10 less applications. Certificates of Citizenship issued totalled 92, making in all 298 instances, to date, where natives have been granted citizenship. In 33 cases, rights of citizenship were refused by the presiding magistrate, and there were 34 cases pending for hearing at the 30th June, 1949.

Since legislation of this nature has been introduced, 435 natives have taken advantage of the facilities offered to improve their status in the community. In 69 instances only, or a percentage of 15.8 per cent., have met with a refusal by the court.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

At the 30th June, 1949, 300 Certificates of Exemption were in existence, made up as follows:—

Single Certificates	231
Family Certificates (covering husband, wife and children under 14 years of age)	36
Certificates covering husband and wife only	13
Certificates covering husband and children only	3
Certificates covering wife and children only	17

During the current year, 38 Certificates of Exemption were issued and 33 certificates were cancelled. Of the 33 cancellations, 27 elapsed when the holder was granted Citizenship Rights and six because of the holders' unsatisfactory conduct, mainly due to liquor offences.

COURT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

During the year a Court of Native Affairs was convened for the trial of three natives who had committed offences against other natives, and was referred to as the West Kimberley Court of Native Affairs.

The court was held at Derby on the 9th December, 1948, and Nyow-ow-ord alias Sandy, and Jambooroo alias Jerry, were charged that they, on or about the 29th June, 1945, at Munja Native Station, wilfully murdered Alphonse Kelly, a native within the meaning of the Native Administration Act.

Also Wherra alias Jack was charged that on, or about, the 29th June, 1945, at Munja Native Station, he wilfully murdered Lawrence Paddy, a native within the meaning of the Native Administration Act.

Mr. A. L. F. Taylor, Resident Magistrate, presided as Chairman of the Court and Mr. H. C. Bromby, as nominee for the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

Constable W. T. R. Connolly prosecuted for the Crown and Mr. S. H. Johnson, solicitor, who was briefed by the department, appeared on behalf of the three accused natives.

The court had the assistance of Long Alick, an elder of the tribe to which all three accused belonged. The two deceased natives were of a different tribe.

The defendants gave as justification for their act that the two deceased had been interfering with the single girls at Munja Native Station. The court was satisfied that in tribal law of the natives concerned, the accused had no dominion over the girls concerned and that the tribal practice was for such killings to have been authorised by the elders of the tribe which was not done in the cases in question.

In the case of Nyow-ow-ord alias Sandy, and Jambooroo alias Jerry, it was proved to the satisfaction of the court that they had unlawfully killed Alphonse Kelly and they were therefore found guilty of murder. However, the court considered that because of the defendants' good conduct and exemplary record on the station and throughout the district, and because of the fact that there was some influence exerted upon them by a third party, Wherra alias Jack, they should be recommended for Royal Mercy, and the court abstained from pronouncing a sentence of death, and ordered judgment of death to be recorded pursuant to section 657 of the Criminal Code.

The court also suggested that the two offenders should be banished from their country and sent to the Cosmo Newberry Native Station for a period of two years.

In the case of Wherra alias Jack, it was proved to the satisfaction of the court that he unlawfully killed Lawrence Paddy and that such killing was neither authorised, excused or justified and he was found guilty of wilful murder.

The accused had been previously convicted of wilful murder at Broome on the 18th April, 1941, when he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment with hard labour.

In considering the sentence, the court decided that the unlawful killing was not in pursuance of any native custom or law and precluded Wherra alias Jack from exercising any discretion in mitigation of punishment under section 64 (4) of the Native Administration Act and that sentence must be according to the provisions of the Criminal Code.

The accused Wherra alias Jack, was ordered to be returned to his former custody, and that at a time and place to be appointed by the Governor, he be hanged by the neck until he is dead.

His Excellency the Governor, in Executive Council, extended Royal Mercy to the three natives and directed that in lieu of the sentences they be imprisoned for the following terms:—"Nyow-ow-ord alias Sandy, and Jambooroo alias Jerry, five years' imprisonment with hard labour, and Wherra alias Jack, imprisonment with hard labour for life."

WARRANTS.

At the 30th June, 1949, 61 natives were held at departmental institutions and missions under ministerial warrants.

Places of detention are as follows:—

Moore River Native Settlement	25
Carrolup Native Settlement	20
Cosmo Newberry Native Depot	1
Moola Bulla Native Station	7
New Norcia Mission	5
Beagle Bay Mission	2
Port Hedland Police Station	1
	—
	61
	—

OFFENCES BY NATIVES.

During the year, reports were received of 764 native offences against law and order. This was an increase of 97 cases compared with the 1947/48 figures, maintaining a rise in the number of offences by natives of the past three years. Since the year 1945/46, there has been a total annual increase of 214 native offences. For that year 550 cases only were recorded.

Of the 764 offences for 1948/49, 196 were by full bloods, and the remainder, natives of mixed blood. Juvenile offenders accounted for only a very small proportion of the total, numbering 34 in all.

Offences directly attributable to liquor are on the increase. They were responsible for 54.6 per cent. of all native shortcomings, compared with a percentage of 50 per cent. for the two previous years.

Details of liquor offences for 1948/49 are as follows:—

Crime	Male.		Female.		Total
	F.B.	Others	F.B.	Others	
Being on Licensed Premises	1	4	—	1	6
Being on native institutions under influence	—	2	—	—	2
Drunkenness	30	132	7	31	200
Drunken Driving	—	1	—	—	1
Habitual Drunkard	—	4	—	—	4
Receiving liquor	30	127	2	25	184
Soliciting for liquor	1	4	—	1	6
Supplying liquor to natives	2	2	—	—	4
Total	64	276	9	58	407

Other offences which were prominent were disorderly conduct 65, assault 36, and stealing 20.

OFFENCES AGAINST NATIVES.

For the year, convictions referring to offences against natives totalled 52, compared with 66 for 1947-48.

Again the supplying of liquor to natives comprised a high proportion of the total, numbering 39, compared with 41 for the previous year. The percentage was considerably greater, being 75 per cent. as against 62 per cent. for 1947-48. Sentences against offenders under this category ranged from fines of £50 in one instance to two cases where six months' imprisonment were inflicted as a deterrent.

There were seven breaches of section 47 of the Native Administration Act "Cohabiting with a native woman" compared with nine for 1947-48. In three instances imprisonment for three months was the punishment.

Other offences where convictions were recorded, were "Employing natives without a permit," under section 19, two cases; "Without lawful authority permitting native woman to remain in camp," section 23, one case; and "Entering native camp and being found within five chains of a native camp," section 40, three cases.

MATERNITY ALLOWANCES.

From information to hand from the Maternity Allowance Office, Commonwealth Social Services Department, 282 applications were received from native women for maternity allowances during the year. Of these applications, 224 were granted and 50 rejected. Compared with the year 1947-48, this represented an increase of 22 applications and one more successful applicant.

The Commonwealth Government has continued to ignore representations made by this department for the amendment of Commonwealth legislation to enable more equitable allocation of maternity allowances. As pointed out in previous reports, difficulty in establishing castes of native applicants has in many instances resulted in the disallowance of an allowance which to all intents and purposes has been made by a deserving case.

Commonwealth Social Services Department insist that no native woman should receive the maternity allowance if she possesses a preponderance of native blood. This department contends that a degree of native blood should have no relation to the eligibility of an applicant, the deciding factor being the standard of living of the individual concerned.

It is generally not realised that natives, irrespective of caste, are subject to the laws of taxation, and in many known cases, native workers are paying taxation for which they and their wives cannot participate in the many social services apart from child endowment, because of the primitive restrictive blood preponderance clause.

This department will persist in representations in this regard and it is hoped that in the near future an obvious injustice will be corrected.

CHILD ENDOWMENT.

(See Appendix No. VI).

Reference to the above report reveals that during the year 1948-49, £76,902 was paid out in child endowment to detribalised natives in this State by the Commonwealth Government. This amount referred to 2,993 children. Compared with the previous year, this was an appreciable increase of £21,352 and an addition of 105 children.

Included in the 1948-49 payments was £22,662 paid to missions for 858 children. This department successfully claimed £5,800 involving 259 children held at departmental institutions. Native parents, living away from native institutions, collected £44,086 for 1,695 children.

Supervision of endowment to those parents not considered capable of exercising a proper regard in respect to the expenditure of endowment money, totalled £4,354 for 181 children. For the previous year comparable figures for supervised native endowees were £2,473 for 119 children. The supervision referred to, is undertaken by this department on the recommendation of departmental field officers and local protectors of natives and is carried out by means of orders for goods on local stores, in lieu of personal cash payments of endowment. The services of local protectors of natives are utilised, and their sympathetic handling of the necessary supervision has brought great benefit to native children in most instances.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Twenty applications for old age pensions were received from natives during 1948-49, 11 of which were granted.

At the 30th June, 1949, according to departmental records, natives in receipt of the old age pensions totalled 75. In addition five native women were receiving the wife's allowance for the above.

WIDOW'S PENSIONS.

Only one application was received for a widow's pension during the year, and this claim was rejected. There are now 23 natives receiving this Commonwealth social services benefit.

INVALID PENSIONS.

Applications for invalid pensions during the year numbered five, four of which applications were successful.

At present, records indicate that 31 natives are receiving invalid pensions. Six instances are recorded where a wife's allowance on an invalid pension is being paid to a native.

COMMONWEALTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND SICKNESS BENEFITS.

Native applicants for benefits under the above act totalled eight during the year and seven of these applications were successful. Compared with the previous year's figures there was a distinct decrease in the number of applications and the resultant benefactors from this social services benefit.

During 1947-48 19 applications resulted in 15 natives receiving assistance from the Commonwealth Government due to unemployment and sickness.

With the greater personal contact by the increased field staff, it is most probable that genuine and deserving cases will be directed to make themselves available for this social service.

APPRECIATION.

I desire to convey my thanks to the Hon. Ross McDonald, K.C., who was Minister for Native Affairs during the period covered by this report, for his helpful advice, patience and kindly consideration towards me in the

administration of the department, particularly during the period when I was settling in to a strange and difficult task.

To the acting clerk-in-charge of the department, Mr. J. B. Crooks, and the officers of the departmental headquarters, whose loyalty and support during a difficult period for me was so freely given, I extend my very hearty appreciation. Their efforts under the confused circumstances brought about by somewhat radical changes of administrative practice and procedure were particularly praiseworthy.

My gratitude is also extended to the missions and their workers, and the protectors of natives throughout the State for assistance in the field.

To the Public Service Commissioner (Mr. S. A. Taylor, I.S.O.), the Assistant under Treasurer (Mr. H. W. Byfield) and officers of other departments who were ever ready to assist the department and the natives, I extend also my grateful thanks.

S. G. MIDDLETON,
Commissioner of Native Affairs.

APPENDIX II.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1948-49, under Section 73 of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance carried forward—									
Ex Consolidated Revenue		1	14						Dr.
Ex General Loan Fund	24,505	3	0						
				24,503	8	3			
Grant under Section 5 of Native Administration Act, 1905-47				10,000	0	0			
Amount provided from Consolidated Revenue Fund	80,000	0	0						
Treasurer's Advance	15,102	0	11						
				95,102	0	11			
<i>Note.—The Revenue of the Department is not credited to the Trust Fund but direct to Consolidated Revenue Fund. The Revenue for the year was:—</i>									
	£	s.	d.						
Generally	15,316	1	4						
	12,481	13	0						
	34	16	3						
	1,442	1	9						
	29,274	12	4						
By <i>Salaries—Departmental—</i>									
Commissioner of Native Affairs, Medical Inspector and Head Office Staff									
							16,281	19	5
Relief Distributions									
							66	0	0
<i>Relief to Natives (General)—</i>									
Provisions									
	1,618	10	7						
Freight and Cartage									
	477	8	1						
Blankets and Clothing									
	3,962	10	5						
Medical Supplies									
	680	14	5						
Burials									
	473	3	4						
Transport of Natives									
	1,316	2	6						
Travelling									
	1,183	3	10						
Miscellaneous									
	3,219	13	0						
Motor Truck and Car Upkeep, Repairs, Petrol, etc.									
	559	11	2						
Travelling (Commissioner of Native Affairs, Medical Inspector and Travelling Inspectors)									
	2,959	14	3						
Evacuation, Special War Expenditure									
	67	8	0						Cr.
							16,383	3	7
,, <i>Native Hospitals—</i>									
<i>Port Hedland:</i>									
Salaries									
	1,093	14	3						
Provisions									
	544	3	4						
Medical Supplies									
	417	4	6						
Miscellaneous									
	1,727	0	3				3,728	2	4
<i>Derby:</i>									
Salaries									
	1,036	12	6						
Provisions									
	1,237	1	6						
Medical Supplies									
	505	11	11						
Miscellaneous									
	980	14	7				3,760	0	6
<i>Wyndham:</i>									
Salaries									
	1,337	7	11						
Provisions									
	793	19	0						
Medical Supplies									
	134	8	10						
Miscellaneous									
	1,479	16	11				3,745	12	8
<i>Broome:</i>									
Salaries									
	793	2	8						
Provisions									
	353	1	2						
Medical Supplies									
	128	17	10						
Miscellaneous									
	668	11	0				1,943	12	8
<i>Moore River Native Settlement:</i>									
Salaries and Wages									
	4,850	13	1						
Stores and Provisions									
	4,516	3	4						
Bedding and Clothing									
	876	18	8						
Medical Supplies									
	719	7	8						
Freight and Cartage									
	501	14	4						
Forage									
	461	15	10						
Furniture and Hardware									
	470	13	2						
Upkeep Truck, Tractor and Car									
	1,174	10	6						
Miscellaneous									
	5,131	10	5				18,703	7	0

APPENDIX II—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS—continued.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1948-49, under Section 73 of the
Native Administration Act, 1905-47—continued.

RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.						
	By Native Hospitals—continued.						
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
	<i>Carrolup Native Settlement :</i>						
	Salaries and Wages	2,942	13	1			
	Stores and Provisions	2,520	18	2			
	Bedding and Clothing	368	16	10			
	Medical Supplies	168	19	2			
	Freight and Cartage	322	14	3			
	Forage	395	0	0			
	Furniture and Hardware	186	14	6			
	Upkeep Truck, Tractor and Car	1,737	3	10			
	Miscellaneous	4,272	0	2			
					12,915	0	2
	.. <i>Native Stations—</i>						
	<i>Moola Bulla :</i>						
	Salaries and Wages	2,133	19	8			
	Improvements and Up- keep	7,234	5	11			
					9,368	5	7
	<i>Munja :</i>						
	Salaries and Wages	1,267	4	7			
	Improvements and Up- keep	1,056	0	10			
					2,323	5	5
	<i>Udialla :</i>						
	Salaries and Wages	550	7	6			
	Improvements and Up- keep	1,105	6	7			
					1,655	14	1
	.. <i>Relief Depots—</i>						
	<i>La Grange :</i>						
	Salaries	338	7	0			
	Provisions, etc.	1,567	6	7			
					1,905	13	7
	<i>Cosmo Newbery :</i>						
	Salaries	1,111	9	5			
	Provisions, etc.	2,905	5	5			
					4,016	14	10
	<i>Wallal :</i>						
	Provisions, etc.	99	13	4			
					99	13	4
	<i>Cundeelee :</i>						
	Salaries	247	8	3			
	Provisions, etc.	627	4	3			
					874	12	6
	<i>East Perth Girls' Home :</i>						
	Salaries	475	18	1			
	Provisions	468	2	5			
					944	0	6
	.. <i>Grants to Missions and Homes—</i>						
	<i>Port George IV. (Kun- munya)</i>						
	Beagle Bay	115	14	3			
	Wotjulun (Sunday Is.)	557	8	9			
	Drysdale River	167	5	2			
	Forrest River	243	18	5			
	New Norcia	241	10	6			
	Broome Convent School Children's Cottage Home (Sister Kate's)	101	8	0			
	Norseman	776	8	6			
	Roelands	153	12	2			
	Lombadina	163	16	1			
	W.A. School for Deaf and Dumb	173	11	0			
	Broome Convent Orphan- age	52	0	0			
	Pious Soc. Missions Pallo- tine	236	10	8			
	Carnarvon Mission	287	16	0			
	Subsidy A.I.M. Hosital, Fitzroy Crossingp	206	3	5			
	Mt. Margaret	45	0	0			
	Jigalong	588	18	4			
	Incidental	2,006	11	11			
		134	19	10			
					6,385	8	0
	.. <i>Loan Works—</i>						
	<i>Item 41 :</i>						
	Moola Bulla Electric Lighting Plant	11	13	8			
	Moola Bulla Plant and Truck	127	14	2			
	Udialla Agric. Machinery	6	0	10			
					145	8	8

APPENDIX II—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS—continued.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Financial Year 1948-49, under Section 73 of the Native Administration Act, 1905-47—continued.

RECEIPTS.	PAYMENTS.			
	By Loan Works —continued.			
		£	s.	d.
		£	s.	d.
	Item 42 :			
	Wyndham Hospital Bulk Stores and Garage	1	12	8
	Carrolup Water Reticu- lation	65	1	11
	Carrolup Cleaning	127	7	7
	Cosmo Newbery Erection Meat House and Lava- tories	150	19	5
	Cosmo Newbery Mill and Truck	11	13	9
	Wyndham Hospital Maternity Ward	225	15	0
	Wyndham Hospital New Lavatories	18	10	11
	Moore River Septic Tanks	333	12	2
				934 13 5
	Balance on hand 30th June, 1949—Ex General Loan Fund		23,425	0 11
				£129,605 9 2
£129,605 9 2				£129,605 9 2

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the books and documents produced.

(Sgd.) W. NICHOLAS,
Auditor General.

APPENDIX No. 7.

NATIVE POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1949.

Division.	Full Bloods.				Other Castes.				Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.	
East Kimberley	1,052	896	338	2,286	74	38	87	199	2,485
West Kimberley	1,714	1,423	559	3,696	409	331	250	990	4,686
Pilbara	887	711	324	1,922	68	54	56	178	2,100
Gascoyne	250	185	144	579	79	58	130	267	846
Murchison	283	215	113	611	310	248	460	1,018	1,629
Eastern Goldfields	649	451	315	1,415	151	115	165	431	1,846
Central	64	40	43	147	429	343	717	1,489	1,636
Great Southern	33	16	19	68	395	352	720	1,467	1,535
Total	4,932	3,937	1,855	10,724	1,915	1,539	2,585	6,039	16,763
Unclassified and beyond confines of civilisation				6,000					6,000
Grand Total	4,932	3,937	1,855	16,724	1,915	1,539	2,585	6,039	22,763

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Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1949

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