
1955

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Commissioner of Native Welfare

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1955

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Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Welfare

The Hon. the Minister for Native Welfare

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1955, as provided by Section 73 (6) of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-1954, together with a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1955. In several respects it has been one of the most notable years on record.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administrative and general welfare work of the Department is covered by the reports of its District Officers, Institutional Superintendents and Head Office reports in Sections "A," "B" and "C" which follow.

In general they present a picture which is most encouraging. In spite of opposition the Government's housing scheme for natives has proceeded smoothly and the tenants have maintained a satisfactory standard of living in the houses provided for them.

The number of native children in government and private schools has increased and no less than 72 students are receiving secondary education. Where high school facilities are not available locally, native students are accommodated at hostels maintained or supported by the Department in the city and major country centres respectively. Secondary school examination results have dispelled the belief held in some quarters that native children are incapable of attaining junior and leaving certificate standards. Reference to the reports of the officers in charge of Alvan House (girls) and McDonald House (boys) shows that a high educational, sporting and social standard has been attained by these hostels and that every student from both hostels who sat for the junior and leaving examinations last year passed with satisfactory percentages. In fact, there has not as yet been one examination failure and this reflects great credit on the children, their teachers at Girdlestone and Perth Girls' Schools and Perth Boys' School and the women welfare officers in charge of the two hostels who have a very arduous and onerous duty to perform, not the least of which is due attention to "home study." The fact that these hostels can be so satisfactorily maintained and managed by one welfare officer-housekeeper speaks volumes for the splendid co-operation they receive from the native child inmates. They are tractable, lovable little characters, a credit to themselves, a living triumph over adversity and a pride and joy to all who are responsible for their guidance and tutelage.

Missions continue to render yeomanly service to aboriginal natives who voluntarily seek their physical and spiritual guidance and help, or, in the case of children, are placed there upon committal by a Children's Court to the care of the State. They function under Departmental administrative supervision and with vastly increased financial aid from the Government.

During the year a further increase in the inmate per capita subsidisation resulted upon the decision of the Lotteries Commission to extend financial aid to native Missions on the same basis at the time as with Institutions for white children, viz., 5s. per week to each child. Since then the grants for white children was increased to 7s. 6d., per child weekly, but the Commission was not prepared to extend the increase to native children. Where the religious principles of a mission body preclude the acceptance of the Commission's grant, the Government makes the additional payment which consequently becomes a charge against the Department's "Assistance to Missions" vote. Disbursements in cash to missions for the year, excluding grants-in-aid listed below totalled £57,188 made up as follows :—

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| Inmates' Subsidy | ..... | £53,593 |
| Blankets and Clothing | ..... | £2,594 |
| Medical and Transport... | ..... | £866 |
| Educational Expenses | ..... | £135 |

The last-mentioned expenses cover costs of books and a few incidentals only. (An amount of £11,707 was paid to the Education Department as re-imbusement of native educational expenses).

A total of 1,297 children and 493 adults are maintained in Missions at Departmental expense. They represent approximately 10 per cent. of the State's total native population, and the average cost of keeping them in Missions is £38 each per annum.

GRANTS IN AID TO MISSIONS—1954-55.

During the year the undermentioned cash grants to the Missions named were approved :—

| | | £ |
|----------------------|---|---------|
| Beagle Bay | Materials for boys' dormitory and dining hall | 2,000 |
| Carnarvon | Pound for pound of cost, three ton Bedford truck and Land Rover | 1,052 |
| Cundeelee | Materials and freight for dispensary and sick bay, two houses, two only 10,000 gallon tanks | 1,324 |
| Forrest River | Pound for pound of cost purchase of launch | 600 |
| Fitzroy Crossing | Materials and freight for boys' dormitory, dining room and cook house | 2,330 |
| Gnowangerup | Materials for nursery and lighting plant | 1,300 |
| Holy Child Orphanage | £1,000 towards new truck, four only 5,000 gallon tanks, £160 | 1,160 |
| Jigalong | Materials for two cottages and four dormitories, £6,098 ; Refrigerator, £138 ; Pound for pound cost of Land Rover, £555 ; Water supply, £2,100 | 8,891 |
| Kurrawang | Materials for dormitory, dining hall and kitchen block, £5,553 ; Electric lighting plant, £925 | 6,478 |
| Lombadina | Pound for pound cost of Dodge Utility and materials to louvre convent kitchen, £634 ; Materials for hospital and store, £360 ; Refrigerator, £138 | 1,132 |
| La Grange | Pound for pound cost of three ton truck | 780 |
| Mt. Margaret | Materials to improve water supply, £1,150 ; Materials for dining room, kitchen and dormitory, £5,894 | 7,044 |
| Mogumber | Materials for creche, maternity hospital, completion of store, etc., and water supply. | 6,740 |
| New Norcia | Materials for extension and septic system at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Orphanages. | 5,000 |
| Roelands | Materials for senior boys' dormitory, £2,498 ; 50 per cent. cost of radio, £20 ; 50 per cent. cost of movie projector, £100 | 2,618 |
| Wandering | Water Supply (excavations, etc.) | 1,750 |
| Wongutha | Water supply (windmill and piping) | 230 |
| | Total | £50,429 |

Land Tenure by Missions.

During the year the Government gave Native Missions in Western Australia security of tenure by granting them a 99 years' lease of the land occupied on the basis that the land would revert to the Crown should a Mission cease at any time to serve as a Mission to natives.

Improvements to Reserves.

It is the responsibility of the Department to provide hygiene and sanitation facilities on reserves, although many natives do not live there. This it is trying to do with as little delay as availability of money, men and material will permit the appropriate departments to carry out the work on our behalf. An examination of the records shows that whereas practically nothing was done prior to 1949 when the present administration took the matter in hand, expenditure on reserves over the past five years has been as follows :—

1948-49, nil ; 1949-50, £1,733 ; 1950-51, £1,910 ; 1951-52, £1,988 ; 1952-53, £1,705 ; 1953-54, £3,913 ; 1954-55, £6,009.

LEGISLATION.

During the year legislation for which the Department had sought Government and Parliamentary approval for the past five years was passed through both Houses of Parliament.

A Bill to amend the Native Administration Act, was introduced early in September last year. In the second reading on the 17th September, the Minister explained that the measure was mainly a repeal Bill. Most of the discriminatory sections of the Act would be removed, including the employment permit system and the notification of intention to marry.

The Bill did not include amendment to the contentious sections which led to the defeat of the previous Bill in the Legislative Council last year. This was a wise decision as their inclusion would almost certainly have resulted in the defeat of the Bill in the Legislative Council. The two major contentious sections were the legal definition of a "native" and the right of natives to free entry upon licensed premises for any purpose. In the latter case a compromise satisfactory to this Department was reached. It is not within the province of a welfare authority to insist that a person should be permitted to drink intoxicating liquor, and since provision was made for natives to enter licensed premises for the purpose of obtaining meals and accommodation, the welfare aspect of the matter was satisfied.

The Bill passed through both Houses of Parliament, and was assented to by His Excellency the Governor on 30th September, 1954. Proclamation was delayed until fresh and amending regulations were drawn up and approved and administrative machinery re-adjusted to conform with the changed conditions and provisions of the new Act.

On 20th May, 1955, the Native Welfare Act, 1905-1954, was proclaimed, and so became law, and a few days later, on 25th May, the Native Welfare Regulations, 1955, were gazetted.

Under the new Act :

Any native who serves in the Armed Forces outside Australia, who has served a period of not less than six-months full time duty as a member of the Commonwealth Armed Forces and who has received or is entitled to receive an honourable discharge, shall be deemed to be no longer a native for the purpose of this or any other Act. In other words, he or she automatically gains full citizenship status, rights, privileges, immunities and responsibilities.

The Minister may acquire on behalf of eligible natives, land with or without improvements, including buildings, and lease or sell on such terms and such conditions as may be thought fit to a native. (Section 6A of New Act).

The Minister is empowered to permit a native to travel South of the 20th parallel—the "leprosy line" for the purposes of education, employment or any welfare need.

It provides that an employer must return a native employee to the place where the native was engaged. Where the place of service is more than 50 miles from that where the native was engaged, costs are to be borne by the employer.

An employer must transport a native employee or his dependent or native pensioner residing on the employer's property to the nearest hospital for treatment in cases of sickness, disease or injury.

Under this Act, nothing in the liquor prohibition section of the Act shall render it unlawful for the holder of a publican's license at his discretion to permit any native to enter and remain on his licensed premises for the purpose of having food and lodging, the provisions of Section 151 of the Licensing Act notwithstanding.

It removes from natives living South of the 26th parallel (Shark Bay) and West of the 123rd meridian (slightly East of Kalgoorlie) the protection in Court of Section 61. This section, provided that no admission of guilt or confession before trial shall be sought or obtained from a native, or if obtained cannot be used in evidence against him.

The more important sections of the old Act which have been removed by repeal from the Native Welfare Act are as follows :—

Section 13.—Natives may be removed to reserve (*e.g.*, native settlements) under a warrant issued by the Minister.

Section 17.—Compulsory examination of natives suspected of being afflicted with disease.

Section 19.—Natives may not be employed without a permit.

Section 20.—Form and duration of permit.

Section 22.—No permit for employment on ocean-going vessels.

Section 23.—Penalty for unlawfully employing or harbouring natives.

Sections 24, 25 and 26.—Agreements with a native for service or employment.

Section 27.—Penalty for native neglecting or refusing to enter upon or start service or absent himself from service or refusing or neglecting to work in the capacity in which he was engaged or deserting or quitting his work without the consent of his employer.

Section 37.—Payment by employer of contribution to a native medical fund. This section formerly absolved the employer from the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Section 40.—Prohibiting persons other than natives from frequenting camps,

Section 41.—Removal of camps near townships,

Section 42.—Justices or police officers may order natives out of town.

Section 43.—Any municipal district or town, or any other place may be proclaimed an area in which it shall be unlawful for natives, not in lawful employment, to be or remain.

Section 44.—Females not to remain after sunset at creeks or inlets used by the boats of pearlers or other sea boats.

Section 45.—Forbidding female children to be brought to creek or inlets used by pearlers or other sea boats.

Section 62.—Power to remove certain convicted offenders from the district.

Section 64.—Establishment of native courts.

Section 68.—Penalty for supplying poison to natives.

In all, 30 of the total 75 sections were repealed, 29 amended, three repealed and re-enacted and one added. It is confidently anticipated that the removal of so much "dead-wood" will result in smoother and more efficient welfare administration, a better understanding between the Department's officers and natives and greatly enhanced prospects and opportunities for natives themselves.

It represents a positive and final departure from the policy of protection, "hand-outs" and control as the dominant feature of the Department's functioning, and gives expression to one which places more emphasis on providing for equality of social and economic uplift as a prerequisite to the natives' assimilation or absorption into our community life.

THE NEED FOR PROTECTION.

Whilst "protection" with its generally accepted connotation of official paternalism now has no major place in its policy and administration of natives, the Department and its legislation still recognise the need for official intervention in the interests of the natives in certain circumstances. For example, it is almost a daily occurrence for welfare officers to act as agents for hundreds of aborigines and part-aborigines who live in close contact with white civilisation; to advise and assist them when they engage in transactual and financial dealings beyond the business needs of everyday life. Such need becomes much more apparent when the natives concerned are unsophisticated, ignorant of business principles, legalities and practices and illiterate, and the vast majority come within this category.

A case in point would appear to be that of a group of natives of the Pilbara district, and their dealings in business and property during recent years with a man named Donald William McLeod.

It may be remembered that in 1945, unrest developed among the natives employed on station properties in the Pilbara district, when a considerable proportion of the natives left their station employment. Claims were made by or on behalf of these natives for better wages and conditions, and allegations put forward that existing wages and conditions were unsatisfactory.

McLeod, a miner and prospector, who was then at Port Hedland, was the self-appointed spokesman and leader of the affected natives.

Although the great majority of the natives in the North-West and Kimberleys have been engaged mainly in station employment, a few followed occupations in the towns and ports and for the last 50 years others have always or nearly always been occupied in surface mining for tin and gold in the Marble Bar-Nullagine district.

In consequence of the considerable proportion of natives who, from 1945 onwards left their work on the stations in the Pilbara district, the numbers engaged at Marble Bar in surface mining for tin greatly increased and in 1948 there were probably natives to the approximate number of 200 men, women and children subsisting by prospecting for tin at Noolyella, about 10 miles from Marble Bar.

A fair proportion of those who had left their employment during the "strike" returned gradually to the stations in 1947, 1948 and 1949, but it became apparent that they had ceased to have the same attachment to the pastoral industry that had previously existed.

It has to be accepted that the disruption of the pastoral industry in the Pilbara district in 1946-1947 had an effect on the native mentality different from that that could arise from any cessation of work by white workers. The so-called "strike" was a new phenomenon and experience in their lives. To some extent what they were doing was imperfectly understood and the general attitude of many of them towards employment which they had followed for many years, and towards their former white employers, became distorted.

Arising out of the disruption of employment in the pastoral industry a number of prosecutions and some convictions took place. In 1946, McLeod was convicted of an offence against the Native Administration Act for having counselled certain natives to leave their lawful service without the consent of a Protector of Aborigines, and of having himself attempted to persuade natives to leave their lawful service.

During the proceedings against him, McLeod acknowledged that he was a member of the Communist Party. According to a press report of these proceedings, McLeod admitted that certain notes were in his handwriting, included in which notes was the following: "Each and every one of these natives are potential Communists. In Pilbara alone, we could recruit up to a thousand members of the Party. It is our duty as Communists to relieve these people of their unhappy lot."

Under date of 18th February, 1949, McLeod wrote to the then Minister for Native Affairs as follows: "Should your Department attempt to use force to recreate the conditions of slavery under which we have worked for so long, we will resist to the utmost of our ability and hold you responsible for any unforeseen incidents which may occur as the result of the use of such force. This communication will have the effect of advising you that as from the 28th February, 1949, we repudiate your Act, and will no longer be bound by it."

The natives over whom McLeod had at that time assumed leadership and control were either engaged in mining or the dependents of mining groups. I had taken charge of the Department a few months earlier and was unaware of any need for intervention by the Government or the Department. It is certain that no attempt was made to interfere in their affairs and McLeod's extraordinary outburst of defiance of State law was therefore difficult to understand.

Although it was hoped at the time that the sentiments expressed by McLeod were his own, subsequent events proved beyond doubt that they were shared by many natives associated with him. Some were arrested for breaches of State laws. In the Courts and in prison their attitude was defiant and disrespectful. I visited some of them in the Marble Bar and Port Hedland gaols in 1949, and found them to be quite unrepentant and unresponsive to advice. They would not talk to me, although I had not previously met or had dealings with them.

It was towards the end of 1949 when McLeod assumed direct leadership and control of natives engaged in mining in the Marble Bar district. He commenced with 25 natives, including women and children, who had joined him from Moolyella. Wolfram, tin, tantalite, columbite and gold was readily obtained by the use of the primitive "Yandi," and the group rapidly become prosperous.

By August, 1950, the group had grown to about 200 souls and by the beginning of May, 1952, to an estimated total of 663 comprising 281 men, 273 women and 109 children. McLeod's white "staff" averaged about six men and women. A conservative estimate of the cost of feeding and maintaining the group would be £2,000 per week.

It is impossible to obtain accurate figures or even a reasonable estimate of the quantity and value of minerals produced by the natives during the years of their association with McLeod, but it is known that during one period of twelve months the group earned approximately £80,000 whilst references in correspondence received at this office from McLeod and others, indicate that minerals worth more than £10,000 were produced in one month on more than one occasion. A resident in the Pilbara district closely associated with the activities of the group since 1949 estimates that the natives' earnings in five years could not be less than £500,000.

In all this time the natives concerned received no known financial return from their work by way of wages, regular distribution of proceeds of mineral sales or other cash disbursements. They were allotted no shares in the company formed by McLeod. In fact, there is no reference to natives at all in the 26 page Memorandum of Association, or to their welfare or participation in the Company's profits in the 31 "objects for which the Company is established." McLeod's attitude in this aspect of his association with the Pilbara natives was as inconsistent as it was extraordinary.

During 1953, some of the more sophisticated workers in the group became restive because they were not receiving what they called "cash money in the hand." McLeod and his "bodyguard" (a local appellation) which included members of his executive body known as "The Top Committee" made strenuous efforts to combat the spread of this disaffection, the demand for some cash return for their labour and the action taken by them is typified by the following story recounted to me by a reliable witness (one of the whites then associated with the group). He said: "Sam Mitchell—Ernie's brother—told McLeod he wanted some money. McLeod refused to give him any, but Sam Mitchell was insistent. As was customary when matters of moment required 'a mob decision,' McLeod ordered that a meeting be held. The 'mob' sat on the ground and the Top Committee on forms at an Army-type table facing the crowd. Mitchell, a big man with a big voice, who speaks good English faced and addressed them in this way: 'Allright now, about this matter of cash-money. We got to be fair about this. All you good solid workers, men who aren't afraid of squatters, or police; not afraid of anything; men who want to do everything right way, help Don McLeod and all our big plans, I want you proper men, good battlers, not afraid hard times, I want you to stay where you are. And I want that man who wants to break down our mob, who wants cash-money in his hand, that one who wants to take cash-money, frightened of hard times, that man's just a scab, and I want that man to stand out on his own, over there so we all see him, asking for cash-money in his hand, scabbing that way.'

Sam Mitchell stood away from the others, and that was the end of his association with the group, because he was banished at the command of his own brother. He later said: 'I may not be much, perhaps I never did anything brave in any way all my life, just ordinary man, but that time, to step out myself in front of all the mob, I did a big thing, and I knew I was right.'

Litigation over disputes with other mining interests resulted disastrously for the groups finances ; expensive mining machinery now lying about the district unattended, unused and rusting was purchased but seldom, if ever, used ; and pastoral properties were bought at a total cost of over £20,000. These were, with the exception of a few hundred head of wild cattle, unstocked and were not to any extent used by the natives excepting Yandyarra, which was a residential area for the white " staff " and a headquarters for the mining parties.

No mining claims were registered, pastoral leases taken up, purchases made or shares issued in the names of natives of the group. All transactions were made in the name of D. W. McLeod or, subsequently, the Northern Development and Mining Company Pty., Ltd., of which McLeod was governing and later managing director for his lifetime. In this company he held at the time of its flotation, 3,001 of a total of 3,003 shares, the other two being held by two white " directors "—Messrs. H. C. Griffin, public accountant of 44 St. George's Terrace, Perth (who was also the first secretary to the Company), one share, and H. M. Leighton, optician, Marble Bar (who was described as Mr. McLeod's bookkeeper) one share. Articles of Association, clauses 67 et. seq. provide ample evidence that at all times Mr. McLeod was in sole control of the affairs of the company. Under the heading " Directors " on page 17 may be seen that—

" 67. The said Donald William McLeod shall be the first governing director of the Company. Subject as hereinafter provided the governing director shall hold that office for life, and whilst he is governing director the government and control of the Company shall be vested in him, and he may exercise all the powers, authorities and discretions hereby expressed to be vested in the governing director *and all those hereby expressed to be vested in the directors.*

68. The governing director for the time being may from time to time and at any time appoint any other persons to be directors of the company, and may define, limit and restrict their powers and duties and may at any time remove any director, however appointed, and may at any time convene a general meeting of the company. Every such appointment or removal must be in writing under the hand of the governing director."

In the light of the foregoing the statement published in a bulletin issued recently by The Council for Aboriginal Rights (Victoria) which reported Mr. McLeod as having stated on 24th October, 1954, that : " To prove our bona fides we passed over to two Government-appointed Directors and the Company's Secretary complete control of our Company and I am afraid they made a shocking mess of their responsibilities," makes strange reading. It is however, typical of Mr. McLeod's reactions to self-imposed misfortune. One of the Government-appointed nominees was Mr. E. E. Brisbane, State Mining Engineer, who was given a seat on the directorate merely to watch the interests and property of the Government when over £3,000 worth of water-boring and other machinery was made available to Mr. McLeod under a hire-purchase agreement during 1953. The other was a Treasury official. Mr. Brisbane took no active part in the mining activities of the group whatever, but was in a position to make this illuminating report to the Under Secretary for Mines under date 22nd December, 1953 :

" The affairs of Northern Development and Mining Co. Pty., Ltd., are in a very serious state. About 40 drums of columbite ore sent down from Port Hedland have been of very low grade and, as advances of £1,000 per drum have been made by Derby & Co., there is a considerable amount owing to that firm.

There is also some money owing to the Government and some further money due to Western Wolfram as the result of a legal action, besides a certain amount owing to local traders.

I have seen no statement of accounts and can only guess at the total commitments but they may be fairly considerable, say, to the order of £20,000.

I am informed that there is some dissention among the members of the group and I am not very optimistic regarding the future of their mining operations. Possibly the Department of Native Affairs should be warned in case they may be called upon to provide sustenance for the group."

On 21st January, 1954, Mr. McLeod advised, in a letter addressed to me : " We have weathered another storm although it was rather an unhappy period, but the situation appears to be well in hand."

In spite of this note of optimism, however, the contents of Departmental files clearly show that the fortunes of the group continued to deteriorate throughout 1954. They were unable to recover from the blow to their resources occasioned by the consignment of practically worthless mineral concentrates which is said by technologists to be directly attributable to McLeod's lack of knowledge of mineralogy, and his stubborn refusal to accept the advice of men with years of experience of mining on the Pilbara field. He tried to step up production so as to launch out into bigger things, and brought on a financial landslide instead. His correspondence, some of which was addressed to the Premier, Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament of the State, to at least one Cabinet Member of the Federal House, and included a petition to Her Majesty the Queen during the Royal Tour manifested a state bordering on hysteria. His attitude was one of intense antagonism, bitterness and, at times, extraordinary callousness. The Government, the Mines and Native Affairs Departments, the other directors of the Company were all held by him to be blameworthy for the financial misfortunes of himself and the native group.

In July, 1954, Mr. A. O. Day, a Field Welfare Officer of this Department, visited the natives in their mining camps and subsequently summarised the situation in this way: "With the turning of the tides visions of any future have dissolved and once again the position has become that of a fight with bare hands and a burning hatred. The natives have had their ups and downs and especially the latter of late. Years have passed with what to them was 'promises,' and now failure presents itself. Many, at least three hundred, have lost faith in the group. They are a sadly disillusioned people whose inferior feeling has been strengthened by what they can understand as only a major defeat. By temperament aborigines do not bear lasting intense hatreds, and when they 'hang on' to the last with 'Nodom' it will not be a bitter last stand against the pastoralists, but a last stand with 'poor old Don McLeod' as they now call him. 'Poor old Don McLeod' is no longer fighting for the natives or he would compromise before there is nothing left to compromise about. . . he is determined to fight to the last 'even if the people have to live off the land, and some will die' (to quote him) in order that this stubbornness in his struggle against 'the squatters' and Western Wolfram and others may be indulged."

The Department's attempt to establish a ration camp for the aged and very young at the 12-mile reserve near Port Hedland met with disappointing opposition from McLeod and his "Top Committee." A few old people, about dozen in all, defied them and were brought into the ration camp by Mr. Day.

In August, Mr. Day reported: "McLeod, himself, has adopted an attitude of complete defiance of circumstances and intends to hold out to the last grain of sugar. . . it seems that quite a number of natives are in accord with him. There is no doubt that many have been convinced that this Department is in league with 'the squatters and are trying to drive us back to the pastoralist by starving us out.' Their attitude, as illogical as it is, is backed by McLeod's own very illogical but almost fanatical arguments."

In spite of the hostility of McLeod and the native leaders and the difficulties of bad roads, remote camps, etc., Mr. Day, acting on instructions from this office, continued to maintain close contact with the people in an attempt to coax them in to the 12-mile reserve where rationing could be satisfactorily and continuously carried out. On 18th August, Mr. Day reported: "On Tuesday, 17th August, a trip was made to Bore Hole (about 60 miles South of Port Hedland) where Mr. McLeod is now living. Some considerable concern is held for children who were alleged to be congregated in a camp about 20 miles on the far side of Yandyarra Station—an almost inaccessible spot. This matter was discussed with Mr. McLeod and it was pointed out quite definitely that this Department could not and would not stand by to see native children constantly on a near starvation diet. McLeod said that he felt that to remove the children even with the consent of the parents to the 12-mile would be to break up the group—as parents would automatically follow. He went on: 'There are times when you have to do things for the good of these people when at that time they do not appreciate the particular action being taken. I doubt if we will lose any through starvation but if we do then it is just one of those things. Hundreds have died of neglect in the hands of the squatter in years gone by and even if some died now it would be in a cause that will shape the future of natives here and perhaps in the whole of the nation. We will continue to battle it out and the under-dog sometimes gets back on top'."

Since no known human force was opposing him at the time it can only be assumed that he was "battling it out" with the circumstances which he, personally, had brought about.

McLeod continued: "There is, however, a move afoot amongst the parents to break up the children's camp and have their children with them. . . . If they decide to break up the children's camp and take the kids out then there is nothing I can do about it."

At about this time a native woman named Ruby, who had been brought in from Yandyarra "in an amaciated state, suffering from malnutrition" died in the Port Hedland Hospital. Two others died en route and a man aged 49 collapsed and died near Yandyarra from unknown causes. A post mortem examination failed to reveal the cause of death. Mr. McLeod's excuse for refusing to co-operate with the establishment of a ration camp for them at the 12-mile was that they would be subjected to "drinking and gambling"! Since he had never given them money and they were in rags, the wherewithal to buy liquor or to gamble is not apparent. The obvious reason was, of course, the one he had already mentioned—the move would create a breakaway from his influence and direct control and this had to be avoided by McLeod at any cost.

On receipt of this report I instructed Mr. Day to see that the children were rationed immediately and transport provided for those who wanted to go in to the ration camp which had been provided with tents and flys and an ample supply of blankets, clothing and food. The children have been rationed ever since, and are still being rationed by this Department at a cost to date of over £1,100. In addition all indigents who elected to do so were transported to the 12-mile ration camp and the number by the end of August, 1954, stood at 20. They are still there. The able-bodied members of the group who elected to "stick to Don McLeod" sustained themselves in a somewhat precarious way by selling gold and alluvial mineral to a local mine manager and hunting kangaroo for meat. They rejected Mr. Day's offers of assistance.

By the end of 1954 it was apparent that the group was in a very sorry economic and social plight. They were still producing mineral in such quantities as could have made them self-supporting in normal circumstances but were unable to market it and consequently unable to obtain credit for food and clothing

In December, 1954, McLeod called at this office in company with his native lieutenant, Ernest Mitchell. After some discussion, the latter requested that the Department take over the management and control of the native group. I agreed on the firm condition that there was to be no interference from McLeod. On Mitchell's return the group unanimously agreed to the proposal and terms and I was advised in writing of their decision. The letter was signed by Mitchell, but was obviously written by an educated person. Mitchell is illiterate. Mr. McLeod accepted the situation and on 24th December, through a Member of Parliament, stated that "he is quite willing to get out as he realises the position is hopeless." I believed he would honour his promise.

Mr. Day had in the meantime been transferred and a more senior officer (Mr. H. R. Tilbrook) was posted to the district. Within a few months he had arranged advance payments on parcels of mineral to the value of £3,425 from which stores and a truck were immediately purchased and supplied to the various mining camps, further stores being supplied as required.

During April, I visited the district and formed the Pilbara Native Society, the intention being to have it incorporated as a business concern; marketing and purchasing agencies were established under written agreement and a trust fund opened in the name of the Society. Arrangements were made for the early purchase by the Department on the natives' behalf of Riverdale Station and homestead buildings—which are situated in the township of Nullagine—where it was intended a hostel for children would be established and a school opened for white and native children in Nullagine. It was planned also that Yandyarra Station would be purchased from the Company's liquidator for similar purposes.

Early in May, McLeod, accompanied by a solicitor and the secretary of a new company McLeod had formed (the Pindan Pty., Ltd.—Directors, D. W. McLeod and Miss Elsie Lee) returned to the district after an absence of nine months. He held meetings with natives at Nullagine, Port Hedland and at Pilgangoora mining camp, near Yandyarra. The following situation obtained a week later when he returned to Perth.

Natives engaged in mining at Marble Bar divided into factions again, operating in separate areas.

The main mining group in the Pilgangoora-Yandyarra area repudiated their agreement with the Department and signed documents which purported to give McLeod control over their mining and other business, through the newly formed Pindan Pty., Ltd.

The establishment of schools, school hostels and other welfare measures planned by the Department had to be suspended owing to the confused state of mind of the natives who again began to treat the Department and its welfare officers with suspicion and distrust. We were back where we were six months ago.

Having successfully thrown the natives and their affairs into a state of utter confusion, and brought to a halt the Department's welfare activities on their behalf, Mr. McLeod and party returned to Perth. At the time of writing, nearly three months later, he had not returned to the district, although the natives, due mainly to heavy wet weather which has precluded the use of the "yandi", are again experiencing some privation.

In April of this year, Mr. McLeod is known to have received a cheque for £2,900 from Derby & Co., mineral buyers, Adelaide, being the proceeds of the sale of two drums of tanto-columbite belonging to the native group. A few weeks later he toured the Pilbara district accompanied by a member of his firm of solicitors, Mr. Bertram, and another member of Mr. T. J. Hughes' staff who was said to be the secretary of McLeod's new company the Pindan Pty., Ltd. Mr. McLeod flew to Nullagine where he was joined by the others who travelled there overland in Mr. Bertram's motor car in which the party continued the tour, at considerable cost to someone.

Immediately after their return to Perth, Mr. McLeod left on a tour of the Eastern States where he is reported to have conducted a number of lectures. Press reports subsequently received contained grossly misleading and damaging statements regarding the administration and welfare of natives in this State, which were attributed to Mr. McLeod. Reference is made to this aspect of native welfare in the subject dealt with under the heading "Natives and Publicity," which follows.

The Pilbara group, although communal in nature and referred to as a co-operative, has little from the point of view of legal framework to justify such a term. So far as the natives can be regarded as co-operatives, they had little in the way of legal rights or interests in return for the services they have contributed through their work. As a consequence they have no legal equity in the property which became alienated by the collapse of McLeod's company, although it is certain that much, if not all, of the money expended on the property was the proceeds of their labour. It has not been clearly determined whether Section 35 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-1954 gives the Commissioner of Native Welfare adequate powers in respect to the property of natives, with reference to the situation which has arisen in the Pilbara district, and which may arise in the Kimberleys or elsewhere in the State at any time.

Deep consideration of recent events leads to a conclusion that there is an inherent weakness in our democratic "way of life" in respect to our native people. In the eyes of the world, they are a dependent minority for whom we, as the dominant race, are responsible. Under the provisions of Section 52 of the Commonwealth Constitution, the State Government is responsible for their guardianship, tutelage and

development. The State Government has entrusted the Native Welfare Department with that responsibility. Yet it is clearly evident that an individual or group of individuals, having no legal or moral responsibility or authority, unimpeded by law and aided and abetted by uninformed and ignorant people within and beyond the State, may reduce hundreds of native people to such a state of destitution and starvation that deaths occur and it becomes necessary for the Welfare Department to make provision for their subsistence, despite the fact that they are capable of earning a living. It seems there is little point in setting up a Welfare Department, however well it may be endowed, if it is not empowered to take immediate, appropriate and effective action—with the knowledge and consent of its Minister—to protect natives where protection is needed even to protect them from their own actions and ignorance where it is deemed necessary and desirable to do so.

Much has been said and written about the "exploitation" of natives by employers, and there is more than a modicum of truth in some of the assertions. But one seldom hears reference made to other forms of exploitation, much more sinister and dangerous to natives and to the State than the non-payment or under-payment of wages. In this State natives are being exploited by some people for their own personal gain—financially, socially and politically. In my opinion it is more reprehensible to exploit the natives' state of ignorance and illiteracy, and their primitive way of living, for purposes of publicity and self-aggrandisement coupled sometimes with financial gain through donations, contributions, etc., than to neglect or refuse to pay them higher wages for their work; it is worse still to advertise them as being "anti-Fascists" or "potential Communists" when they individually and collectively have no knowledge whatever of such political bodies or politics of any kind. It is bordering on criminal intent when they are used as an instrument to undermine constituted authority, defy State laws and disrupt industry, and incur alone the penalties of their actions, when they imperfectly understand or have no sound knowledge of what they are doing; and it should be regarded as an act of serious crime when all of these elements of exploitation are being combined and practised under any pretext by any person to the detriment of the natives concerned. Amending legislation should be placed in the hands of the Native Welfare Department to satisfactorily and completely carry out its duty under Section 6 of its Act to "protect the natives from injustice, imposition and fraud," and it is the inescapable duty of employers of natives, and others in positions of authority and trust to do everything in their power to remove the industrial and social anomalies which provide nourishment to those who make capital from such matters. Until these measures are effected the emancipation of natives will be retarded, much of our time wasted and considerable sums of public money unnecessarily expended.

McLeod in the Kimberleys.

In correspondence addressed to certain persons in the North-West, McLeod made significant references to his interest in the Kimberleys, of which the following extracts, copied as written, are typical: "Tell Earnie (Mitchell) I am working on a plan to break down the movement of blackfellows South of the 20th parallel in order to combat the spread of leprosy." "If Earnie's men have not yet left for the Kimberleys or if they have left, if Earnie could send another lot they could arrange for a dozen La women to make up their minds to visit South Australia about this time or a little later next year. If these men come from wide apart they would be able to give a good view on what prospects there are in getting the Kimberley mob to join in. I could go up and pick them up if they travelled to a central place for that purpose. When I came past Wallal or when we got as far as Port Hedland we would all be arrested but provided they all said they intend to visit South Australia then we would fight a case on this ground. If they had arrested us they would have to let us out as soon as our appeal went in. Now while the high court hearings were being waited for we would all be free to go where they like and could then call on our mob and make proper arrangements. Having had their plans to go to South Australia broken into by the court proceedings they could then decide to abandon the trip and I could then take them home with a new knowledge of how the white fellows' law works and could get busy with the plans agreed on I hope Earnie can follow this. If not I will repeat it again later in a different way till he can follow it closely."

McLeod is reported to have sent another message to Ernest Mitchell by a white man from Port Hedland, requesting Mitchell to send two of the native group to Hall's Creek for the purpose of "stirring up trouble among the natives at Moola Bulla and forming the nucleus of a striking team to spread throughout the Kimberleys."

McLeod travelled by air to Halls Creek in April where he contacted a number of natives. A subsequent report contained information supplied by the natives to District Officer Beharell which is of a most disturbing nature.

Towards the end of May two natives of the Pilbara group had their fares paid to Halls Creek by air. They were met there on arrival by Mr. Beharell, who talked with them, and subsequently, at their request, brought them back to Derby. Their permit to return South of the 20th parallel was approved and they returned to Port Hedland by air.

MOOLA BULLA AND THE KIMBERLEYS.

In last year's Annual Report, I made reference to the difficulties of management of this property in which I reported the special committee's decision that the land comprising the cattle station be handed back to the Lands Department, less such portion of it as may be required by the Native Welfare Department for the benefit of Northern natives generally; that the Lands Department appraise the property

and stock and have the land subdivided into areas suitable for re-selection under pastoral lease, subject to payment for improvements, and providing the welfare needs of the Moola Bulla natives were adequately safeguarded.

Cabinet agreed to the recommendations, and tenders were subsequently called for the purchase of the improvements as recommended.

The property was subdivided into two parts and the separate tenders of Mrs. Monica Winifred Goldman and Mr. Allan Goldman were accepted.

The date for the hand-over from the Lands Department to the new owners was fixed for the 1st July, 1955. The Deputy Commissioner of Native Welfare (Mr. F. W. C. Andersen) and District Officer, Mr. J. Beharell were on tour of inspection of the district at the time and Mr. Andersen was requested to be present at the hand-over to watch the interests of the native employees and their dependants, and assure them of the Department's continued interest in their welfare and future.

The new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Goldman visited my office prior to the closure of the tenders for the sale of Moola Bulla. During the course of a long discussion, I produced for their perusal and information, a complete return of natives resident at Moola Bulla, natives' wages sheets and all other relevant information. I was assured by them that all natives working and resident on the property would be kept on, and maintained by the Goldmans, if their tender were successful. I had no reason to doubt their sincerity. Subsequently, I received from the Lands Department a copy of the Goldmans' tender. It confirmed their verbal undertaking with me in this extract :—

“ We are also prepared to take over the native labour and also the ones who are not working and pay and keep them as they are being kept providing we can make the property pay as we think we can by fencing and putting water there.”

The decision to separate the native children's institution from the cattle station activities of Moola Bulla was first made at Departmental and Ministerial level several years ago.

The maintenance of a cattle station employing young station hands, white and black, in conjunction with a welfare institution in which there were always a number of adolescent girls and unmarried young women—some committed there by Northern children's courts—proved a perennial source of embarrassment and worry to the Department's welfare staff, and of criticism in some quarters. Characteristically the Department was blamed by some people for maintaining such an establishment, and now, by others, for not doing so.

The task of recruiting and maintaining on average salary and wages rates a dual-purpose white staff provided a problem that was never satisfactorily solved. Many native stockmen in the Kimberleys are probably as efficient as any in the world, but they all need supervision and guidance in some matters. With few exceptions natives have a strong aversion to the acceptance of responsibility, and where they are brought vis-a-vis white men in similar circumstances, e.g., the mustering of cattle on adjoining unfenced properties, they are acquiescent and respectful to a degree that may not always be in the best economic interest of the station employing them. Moola Bulla “ boys ” were no exception.

Few experienced white stockmen were attracted to Moola Bulla. Over the past seven years not more than two white men with knowledge of stock work were available at one time, and they were invariably the manager-superintendent and his assistant. Moola Bulla is a huge station—area, 1,100,000 acres—and, before the big drought of 1952 and 1953, it carried about 30,000 head of stock, cattle and horses, which were scattered in groups over the whole area. In dry times they had to be grazed near to a sufficient supply of water mostly obtained from bores to which engine-driven pumps and windmills were fitted. In the light of this knowledge, and much more that could be outlined here, it is not surprising that the manager-superintendent spent more time managing than superintending, and that the needs of the welfare institution were neglected to save the lives of starving stock.

The decision to relieve the welfare department of the duties and responsibilities of managing what it found to be a practically unmanageable pastoral property was, in the circumstances, not only sensible and economically sound, but positively in the best interests of the natives concerned. The station had outlived its usefulness for the purpose it had originally been acquired, *viz.*, the prevention of cattle killing by uncivilised natives roaming at large on other stations. It was no better fitted to train young natives to stock work than any other Kimberley station—in point of fact, because of the staff problem referred to, expert supervision by competent white stockmen was more readily available on other stations than at Moola Bulla—the training of natives in all rural and pastoral industries is and always has been, incidental to their employment. There are over 5,000 natives in the Kimberleys, mostly on station properties. At the time of its establishment in 1910 the natives who worked and were resident on Moola Bulla were mainly unsophisticated, unemployable indigents who needed little more than food and clothing, medicines and medical attention, etc. This generation has practically disappeared and the 233 natives at Moola Bulla shortly after it was handed back to the Lands Department were made up as follows : Number employed, 87 ; relations of employees (not employed but dependent on employees), 131, which is an average of only 1.5 dependents per employee ; indigents not related to an employee, 1 ; foreign indigents (school children who have relations at Moola Bulla but whose parents are employed on neighbouring stations 9 ; orphaned children, 5), total 14.

Under the provisions of the Native Welfare Act, the dependents of employees are, for the purposes of the Act, also classed as "employees," and it will thus be seen that at Moola Bulla only six could be regarded as not being the responsibility of the station. As a general rule which applies in all but about one per cent. of natives employed, the fact that dependents are accepted as being the economic responsibility of the station to maintain is recognised and reflected in the rates of wages paid. An obvious and logical alternative to the repudiation of such responsibility would be for the stations to pay wages commensurate with the domestic responsibilities of their native employees, which would at least be the basic wage and, in the North, possibly a substantial margin, or wages and keep. The views of well-meaning but uninformed critics here and in the Eastern States notwithstanding, I am convinced that at this stage of their development the payment to them of a sub-basic rate of wages plus keep and the maintenance of *bona fide* dependents is not inimical to the interests of the Kimberley natives. It is in other directions that the greater need exists for improvement, *e.g.*, education, better living conditions and better balanced diet, and plans are being developed by the Government and station owners along these lines.

The Kimberley natives, during the past two or three years, have been surveyed for information on the incidence of tuberculosis; they were thoroughly examined and treated free of charge by a dental unit in charge of Mr. Frank Meldrum, formerly of Collins Street, Melbourne, Mrs. Meldrum, a nurse, and Mr. M. Bertoldini, dental mechanic; a survey of all stations, missions and government institutions was carried out by a Commonwealth Government team of dietitians whose report is now available to the State departments concerned; natives were examined by Professor Ida Mann for diseases of the eye and hundreds have since been treated for trachoma which, incidentally, was introduced to Australia by non-natives and transmitted to the natives who are now considered to be the media of some infection of non-natives! In addition natives in the Kimberleys benefit by regular flying doctor services and are accepted as patients into the A.I.M. and Government-controlled hospitals in the North. For these services to natives, and to the people who render them for little or no reward in some cases, I extend, on behalf of my department and the natives of this State, our grateful thanks.

Generally speaking, in a way which has been unobtrusive and much more deserving of publicity than the matters which have recently been so widely publicised, the progress of native welfare in the Kimberleys during recent years has been somewhat exceptional. A gratifying feature of this development is the measure of co-operation that has been maintained between the State departments concerned (Education, Health and Native Welfare), private and church organisations and individuals, and State and Commonwealth Government health authorities.

It is hoped that this splendid and growing structure will not be torn down by destructive whites with malicious intent, or by the actions, well-intentioned or otherwise, of uninformed, vexatious busy-bodies.

A "strike" or similar upheaval among natives in the Kimberleys could cause untold harm to the natives and seriously disrupt the progress of their development which may be slow, but is definitely sure.

NATIVES AND PUBLICITY.

It appears to be inevitable that the progress of economic and social reform of natives in this country will always be opposed and impeded by some people. In some instances their actions are well-meaning, but thoughtless; in others there is evidence of malicious intent.

The modern state is honeycombed with enemies of the State; people who, unable or unwilling to assimilate true knowledge, yet determined upon self-expression foment every kind of strife, hate all that is superior and bend themselves, secretly or openly, to wilfully destroy the whole structure. Some of these people are parasites; that is to say, there are men and women who have acquired the habit and possess the cunning to shun manual labour, and who try to earn a living without hard work. They are social non-descripts who nourish their ego, megalomania, and in odd cases, their personal fortune, at the expense of underprivileged people, *e.g.*, natives.

It is unfortunately true that these disruptive elements are frequently provided by the popular Press with the publicity that is the lifeblood of their very existence, and that as a consequence the reading public gains impressions which are misleading, and in some cases, false and damaging. It is not within my province to discuss matters of newspaper policy, but when the effect of uninformed and injudicious criticism is to widen the racial gap that exists between us and the aborigines, then I feel it is my duty to draw attention to that fact. It must be remembered that, unlike the masses of people who read these criticisms, and who are only for the time being interested, there are others who collect and collate the information and long after the matter has been dropped by the newspaper because of depreciation of its "news" value, are still using it to suit their own purposes.

This Department does not demand credence and can produce valid testimony of its work. It has no "axe to grind" on its own behalf.

Our daily newspapers in this State render important service to natives. In my experience they have always donated space and given the strongest support to the Department in a full and sympathetic appreciation of its onerous duties and heavy responsibilities. Others have done more harm than good.

Recently in Sydney a journalist named Oliver Hogue published an article in the "Sun" under the heading "Blackman's Burden—Paying for Protection," in which he criticised me and my Department in a manner unparalleled in my long association with journalism and native welfare. His article purported to be a story of the Pilbara natives and their mining affairs, and his informant was Donald William McLeod. In his introduction to his reported interview with McLeod, he wrote: "As usual, the bureaucrats deny there is any oppression. They say they are 'protecting' the aborigines. In 'protecting' the natives the bureaucrats have confiscated their assets and possessions. Al Capone used to 'protect' Chicago business men in this fashion. On a bigger scale Hitler used to 'protect' small nations in the same way." Then followed a series of charges based wholly and solely on the statements made by D. W. McLeod.

The combination of journalistic incogitancy on the one hand and personal aggrandisement, self-interest and malicious intent on the other, is not likely to be beneficial to the natives concerned—but it may help the enemies of the State.

In the past Church Missions have been ridiculed, criticised and vilified at the hands of such people when missionaries were striving to combat the cruelties of the past and bring the comforts of Christianity and altruism to the natives. Now the Department and its welfare officers are being subjected to similar treatment when their undivided attention is being directed to the provision of more advanced educational, social and economic opportunities for natives and their ultimate absorption into our Australian way of life. What, and who, next? Probably the natives when they are capable of contesting their own case for the abolition of this and other forms of their exploitation.

The Department's task is a complex and difficult one, and those charged with the responsibility of carrying out its policy and administration must have the goodwill and support of the public, or they cannot possibly succeed. The Press wields tremendous power. It is not expected that editors and journalists should be idealists, or welfare workers; but it is also not expected that some of them should boost sales and circulation by mobilising the emotions of the readers in a confirmation of ignorance of a vital human problem.

SECTION "A"



District Reports



SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

Introduction.

The year under report has seen an advance in the position of the native people of the State, particularly of the hybrid people of the South of the State. Amended legislation passed during the last session of Parliament has, though not providing all that was hoped for to ameliorate the condition of the aboriginal population of the State, removed several anomalies and most of the restrictions which formerly the State's coloured inhabitants had to put up with.

To the native people of the Southern District of the Department, the Native Welfare Act, as it is now known, is an indication of the Government's goodwill and sincerity in dealing with their problems. They look upon it as a first step on the path of progress towards progressively increasing welfare measure on their behalf.

With the provision of houses for natives, improved and increased facilities on native reserves in the shape of electricity, water supplies and ablutional facilities, also the continuing provision for education and employment opportunities and the provision in the new legislation for natives to acquire land for farming purposes, hope has been revived amongst the aboriginal people of the Government's intention to secure their welfare and advancement.

But the main ambition of every native-in-law has yet to be achieved and that is a civic status as a birth right. The longer this is delayed the further off is the goal of assimilation. It is the avid hope of every dark skinned Australian that before many years have passed the powers that be, recognising the justice of their claim to a footing in the land of their birth, will grant them their birth right.

PART I.—ADMINISTRATION.

1. Staff.

The staff of the Southern District remains the same, namely, the District Officer, the Assistant to the District Officer and the Office Assistant, who is also the shorthand-typiste.

There has been one change only during the year. Miss M. Jarrett, who was the office Assistant for five years resigned to be married and was replaced by Mrs. P. Underwood who joined the staff on the 10th January, 1955.

2. Patrols.

The District Boundaries have remained unaltered and comprise the Great Southern and South-West districts of the State.

Seven major patrols and several trips for special purposes were carried out during the year under review involving 90 days on patrol covering a total mileage of 11,188 miles.

By means of these patrols contacts have been maintained with the aboriginal people in all parts of the District. These patrols entailing as they do calls upon Local Authorities, Doctors, Protectors, visits, to Schools, Missions, Hospitals, farms and other places of employment, native reserves, Court appearances, on behalf of natives and last but by no means least visits to native camps and homes everywhere in the District, are a valuable means of not only establishing goodwill between the Department and the native people, but are a useful guide towards assessing the welfare needs of the coloured people of the District.

Such contacts also enable the Field Officer to ascertain and assess what the general public, local authorities and others are thinking and feeling in relation to the "native problem."

By means of these patrols the Field Officer is in a position to meet and encourage the welfare groups formed in the District for the purpose of assisting the natives in their own particular area of influence.

3. Protectors of Natives.

The number of Protectors in the Southern District is 30, comprising two Departmental Officers, four Mission Superintendents, three Ministers of Religion, four laymen and 17 Police Officers.

In my last Annual Report I have explained at length how the protectorship system operates for the benefit of the natives of the District and there is no need to repeat myself there.

I may say, however, that much of the routine duties of the protectors has been done away with, due to the abolition of the permit system and the Natives Medical Fund with effect from the 20th May, 1955; protectors are no longer required to issue permits and therefore there is no need for them to issue cash receipts and handle money involving banking and accounting work. This leaves them free to attend to duties of a welfare nature.

As in other years so in this year under review I have received the fullest assistance and co-operation from the protectors of my District for which I am grateful.

4. Reserves.

There are now, apart from Missions, 18 Native Reserves in this District. No reserves were cancelled during the year and only one (1) new reserve, at Pingelly, was gazetted. Of these 18 reserves, three reserves, namely those at Beverley, Broomehill and Wandering, are not used. The reserves at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Gnowangerup and Kojonup have been provided with a reticulated water supply and lavatory, laundry and ablution facilities. Wagin and Kojonup have been provided with these facilities during the year under review. Six other native reserves are provided with lavatories and water supplies. Plans are under consideration for the provision of reticulated water supplies and ablution and sanitary facilities for reserves at Mt. Barker and Collie.

This represents a considerable advance in the position as it was three or four years ago. There is no doubt that these facilities are greatly appreciated by the residents on native reserves and itinerant natives and more especially by native mothers faced with the problem of keeping their children attending school in clean condition and attire.

5. Missions.

There are four Missions in the District, namely the Roelands Native Mission Farm (Inc.), (Interdenominational), The United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup (Interdenominational), Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission (Baptist) and St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering (Catholic).

Twenty-one per cent. of the Native Children attending school in the District are Mission children.

All the Missions in the District cater exclusively for children.

Below are accounts of the activities of the Missions of the District.

Roelands Native Mission Farm, Inc.

The year concluded with 76 children on the Mission Roll. During the year six children were admitted, two from Mt. Margaret Mission for the purpose of attending the Bunbury High School. There were eight discharges during the year seven of these to employment in the South West.

There are 46 children attending school on the Mission—this school is staffed by the Education Department—and 19 attend the Bunbury High School but of these 19 two have recently dropped out, a boy and a girl, leaving 13 girls and four boys still going to High School from the Mission.

From amongst the children attending the Mission School there are several with the ability in due course to progress to secondary education at the Bunbury High School, thus keeping up a continuous flow of boys and girls who will receive the opportunity to enter trades and professions. Six girls and four boys from the Mission School will go to High School next year.

It is now admitted that of the 19 children attending Bunbury High School during the year not all have the ability to carry on. Two have already withdrawn and been placed in employment. It is considered, however, that the experience and social contacts with other High School scholars will assist in later life those who may not continue beyond the current year.

At the end of the current year, three Mission children will sit for the Junior Examination from the Bunbury High School. Six are second year, and eight are first year students.

The fortnightly visits to the Harvey State School for Domestic Science lessons for the girls and wood-work for the boys has been increased to weekly visits.

A special regular school bus service functions for Mission High School students to be conveyed to and from Bunbury.

The appearance and conduct of the boys and girls from the Mission attending the High School at Bunbury have earned very favourable comment in that town.

The health of the children of this Mission during the year under review has been of a high standard.

Apart from an experienced and qualified Matron at the Mission to attend to minor ailments, the children are conveyed to Bunbury, 17 miles away, for medical and dental attention of a more urgent nature. During the Christmas vacation Dr. Rankine of the School Dental Service again examined all Mission inmates and attended to cases where necessary.

All children at the Mission have had Diphtheria and Tetanus immunisation and "booster" service where required. Two cases of mild trachoma were detected and satisfactorily treated. Four girls have had to be supplied spectacles for remedying sight deficiencies.

Sport and recreation appear to be well catered for even though, apart from a tennis court and basketball court, the Mission lay-out does not include a sports ground.

In the Annual Sports of the Bunbury High School a Mission girl won the open girls' champion running event (over 16 years) and another Mission girl won the Junior Girls' champion event (under 16 years).

At the District Inter-School sports at Brunswick Junction the Mission won the shield for Section B schools for the second year in succession.

Apart from these successes two girls have been chosen to play for the Bunbury High School girls' hockey team in the Inter-High Schools Hockey Competition in Perth and two boys have been selected for their School (Bunbury High) to play in the Inter-High School Boys' Football Competition.

An annual feature is the happy holiday, held in separate relays for boys and girls, at the Mission's Beach Holiday Home at Dunsborough.

The Mission's building activities have progressed with the erection of a senior boys' section comprising a large room for gym and scout work, a common room, bedrooms to accommodate three, five and seven boys and excellent modern and up-to-date ablutional facilities in two separate sets. This entire section is a credit to the foresight and planning of the Mission Authorities.

All-out efforts are being made to make the Mission as self-sufficient as possible. New machinery acquired during the year has helped in putting approximately 70 acres of Mission land under pasture and a further programme of increased pasturage is envisaged.

This mission is fortunate in its situation, water being plentifully available and the soil being good. The Mission produces its own vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk, cream and meat. It has a valuable export business in grapefruit, having a first class orchard of this fruit.

Ex-students of the Mission are doing well in various walks of life. Two are themselves Missionaries at Roelands, namely Miss Gladys Vincent and Miss Molly Damer and two other girls, Miss Elvie Ugle and Miss Alice Chadd are on the Mission staff at Norseman Church of Christ Mission and the Mogumber Methodist Mission respectively. Two others are training as nurses, one in Melbourne and the other in Perth.

With the advent shortly of an electric supply provided by the State Electricity Commission and with the existing commodious, clean and brightly painted (interior) accommodation provided for its inmates this Mission has a record of welfare work of which it can be justifiably proud.

United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.

This Mission ended the year with 34 children on its roll—an increase of six over last year's figures. Of this figure 13 are boys and 21 are girls.

During the year the Education Department arranged for the children attending school on the Mission to attend the State school in Gnowangerup two miles away. They are conveyed to and fro by the Mission bus. This arrangement is working very satisfactorily as it has destroyed the segregation previously obtaining and provides, besides, a more balanced education. Mr. Devenish, the Education Department teacher who formerly taught the children in the Mission has been absorbed into the staff of the Gnowangerup State School. Seventeen children from the Mission attend the State School.

With the opening of the new native reserve at Gnowangerup, complete with facilities, the adult native population has shifted off the Mission to the reserve. The Mission, however, retains its small two-bed maternity hospital to which native mothers of the district come for confinement as the District Hospital still does not accept native maternity patients. The telephone has been extended to this building and a qualified nurse has now joined the Staff.

The health needs of the Mission inmates are attended to by the Doctor at Gnowangerup and the School Dentist makes regular visits to the Mission.

The Mission has modest plans for expansion. During the year under review a new nursery has been built, though not quite completed. This nursery is to accommodate the eight babes-in-arms which are at present being accommodated in the quarters of various staff members.

The Mission has asked for financial assistance from the Government to complete this nursery and also to build another intermediate nursery for housing toddlers. This has been considered desirable because of the numbers of small children left at the Mission by parents and guardians. For lack of accommodation the Mission authorities have had to decline to accept some very small children and infants.

A complete drainage and electrification system has been planned and is depending on Government finance for completion.

This year again the Mission children spent their Christmas vacation by the sea at Bremer Bay, this being arranged by the Mission authorities.

Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission, via Katanning.

This is the former Departmental Settlement known first as Carrolup Native Settlement and then as Marribank Farm School. It has been a Baptist Mission since November, 1952.

There are 29 children at the Mission, 16 boys and 13 girls. At one time during the year the number of inmates was 37, but five were there temporarily during their parents' illness and three were discharged as their period of commitment had expired.

Fourteen children, of whom nine are boys and five are girls, attend school on the Mission. The School Teacher is Rev. W. Ewing, who last year completed his training at Claremont Teachers' Training College. All the children are in the primary classes.

Since January last, the cottage system of accommodation has been adopted but shortage of staff has precluded it being followed. The children share accommodation with three staff members but dine in the Mission dining hall. The staff for the care of the children, apart from the School Teacher, comprises two single ladies and a married couple, the latter caring for the 11 older boys.

With the resignation of the Superintendent, Rev. Bruton, during the year, Rev. W. C. Carter, who was the farm manager, was appointed Superintendent of the Mission. Progress of farming activities is being maintained, but it will be a long time before this Mission will be self-sufficient enough to supply all the needs of its inmates.

In my Annual Report last year I painted a rosy picture of the set-up at this Mission, looking forward to continued progress in the year under review. This, however, has not materialised to any appreciable degree. I cannot foresee any improvement unless there is a determined effort to overcome staff shortages.

The health of the children is satisfactory. Medical and dental attention is provided by Doctors and the Dentist at Katanning, 20 miles away.

It is part of this Mission's declared policy to provide accommodation eventually for aged and infirm natives. There is a pressing need for this in this District, there being quite a few aged natives languishing in camps and reserves throughout the District, eking out a meagre existence on the rations provided by the Department and on the charity of relatives and friends. By its central situation in the District this Mission is best suited to provide a home for aged natives.

St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering.

This Mission has 30 inmates, all girls. Though it has catered exclusively for girls up to now, it is intended, if younger boys are available for admission, to accommodate in temporary accommodation, up to a dozen boys, until the permanent accommodation is constructed, this being the Mission's ultimate object.

Of the 30 children on the Mission roll, 26 attend school and four are engaged in domestic science training. All the school children are in the primary classes and the other four girls learn cooking, sewing, washing, mending and other household duties.

The Special Inspector of Native Schools visits the Mission twice a year, in an advisory capacity in the beginning of the year and in an inspectorial capacity towards the end of the year. His last inspection report very favourably refers to the progress made in the Mission school.

This school works to a special curriculum for native schools very little different from the State schools curriculum. The Teacher is a Nun of the Order staffing the Mission Convent.

The present staff of the Convent is four Nuns, two Lay Brothers, who also work as general farm hands and the Superintendent, who is an experienced farmer. This year the Superintendent has made several trips to various centres even as far afield as Pinjarra to secure children for the Mission with some success.

The Mission is practically self-sufficient in respect of its food needs. The vegetable garden supplies all the needs of the children and staff for vegetables and the milk and butter consumed in the Mission is their own produce. Meat is killed on the property.

At present the Mission is clearing a further 200 acres, and when completed there will be a total of 1,300 acres under crop and pasture. The proceeds from the farm helps to support the Mission.

PART II.—NATIVES.

I. Population.

Below are population figures for the district. These figures are approximate.

| Classification. | Adults. | | Children under 16. | | Totals. |
|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. | |
| Full Bloods | 61 | 52 | 56 | 49 | 218 |
| Other Bloods | 481 | 428 | 576 | 540 | 2,025 |
| Totals | 542 | 480 | 632 | 589 | 2,243 |

2. Health.

The health of the native population of the District continues, as in other years, to be surprisingly good, taking into consideration the unsatisfactory living conditions of most natives. During the year under review, very few cases of serious illness have come to notice. Two adults were admitted to Wooroloo Sanatorium one of each sex and both from Gnownagerup. Two cases of brain tumor, one of each sex, were discovered. No cases of polio have come to light this year. Ten cases of Trachoma in children were discovered, all mild cases, and these have been successfully treated. The contemplated survey of the South for Trachoma by Dr. Ida Mann should produce some interesting results as I feel certain that there are still many undetected cases of Trachoma amongst the native children of the district.

Natives continue to make full use of the medical facilities available to them in the District and doctors and hospital staffs generally are kindly and sympathetic to native patients, but payments of medical accounts by natives continues to constitute a problem. This is likely to become more acute with the abolition of the permit system and of the system of voluntary contribution to the Natives Medical Fund. In every case now, with the exception of indigent and destitute natives, doctors and hospitals must look to the native patient for payment—and it is no secret that only a handful of natives pay their medical accounts. Most of the remainder do not pay because of genuine inability to do so. I would dearly like to see some scheme evolved whereby doctors and hospitals in the Great Southern and South-West Districts would be assured of payment for services rendered.

As a result of the abolition of the Natives Medical Fund, already a few, as yet not even a dozen, natives have realised the need to belong to some Friendly Society and have joined or made enquiries re joining one or other of these.

3. Education.

This year, as during the previous year, complete statistics of native children attending schools in this District have been obtained. My office has lists showing the names of all children attending school and the number of boys and girls in each school and in each class separately.

Whereas last year 445 native children were attending school in my District, this year the figure has jumped to 589, representing an increase of 144. Of this figure, 271 are boys and 318 are girls as against 149 boys and 296 girls last year ; there are therefore 122 more boys and 22 more girls going to school this year.

Of the 589 native children going to school, 88 are being educated in three Missions—the fourth Mission, Gnowangerup, sends its entire school going quota to the Gnowangerup State School, 496 are attending State schools (235 boys and 261 girls) and five children attend Catholic schools at Collie, two at the Convent and three at Christian Brothers College, making a total of 45 schools in the District at which native children receive education.

There has been an increase in the number of children in the higher classes, 63 children are in classes 6, 7 and 8 this year as against 43 last year. These figures ensure that there will be a regular flow of children from this District to Alvan House and McDonald House, both in Perth, where higher education and training in better living is available to children from the country. During the year four girls and four boys from this District proceeded to Alvan and McDonald Houses respectively as against four girls and nil boys last year.

These figures are a clear indication of the increasing awareness in the native mind of the need for education, if not for itself, then as a means to an end, namely, to qualify for better employment opportunities.

However, there are still several native parents with no sense of responsibility in this important matter. During the year there have been a few prosecutions under Section 16 of the Education Act. Field staff always check up on progress of native children at schools and make it their duty to reprimand neglectful parents.

Without exception I have found the Head-masters, Headteachers and the many Teachers I have personally met, most helpful and co-operative in providing me information re their native charges. At all schools I have been impressed at the interest taken in the native children. In those few schools where colour bias has reared its ugly head immediate steps have been taken by the teachers to deal with this menace.

4. Employment.

There has been an improvement in the employment position in the District during the year under review. This is due chiefly to two reasons, firstly the increased line maintenance programme of the Railways which has provided employment all along the Great Southern and spur lines for natives on fettling gangs, and secondly to the stepped up activities on the Great Southern Comprehensive Water Scheme on which currently 33 adult natives are employed.

During the year, because of retrogression in the coal industry, the six natives employed in the coal mines at Collie were retrenched. This was a great blow as the experiment which had only begun during the year and which was proceeding most satisfactorily was connected to the programme of housing for natives which has suffered a set back as a result. However, two natives have since been re-employed at the mines and it is hoped that gradually more will be taken on.

Still by far the majority of working natives are employed in pastoral and farming pursuits. The position as far as these employees is concerned is as reported last year and the year before, with this difference that, apart from New Australians, more white labour appears to have become available to farmers in the district, many of whom now exclusively use white labour whereas formerly they depended on native labour. Several employers, however, still employ natives only for shearing and allied occupations arranging in advance for such employment by the payment of a sub. on the next season's wages.

The most difficult employment season is mid-December to mid-February. During this period, most farmers have completed their harvesting and farming operations for the year and take their annual holiday.

Mill employment in timber mills is becoming increasingly popular with natives and I have found natives employed in groups of from two to six men at various timber mills throughout the Great Southern and South-West.

Wages are satisfactory, award rates and the basic wage being the rule throughout the District. No case of under-payment was detected during the year under review.

5. Housing and Living Conditions.

There has been a considerable improvement in the District in this respect.

During the year the State Housing Commission's policy of providing homes for suitable natives has been implemented and nine homes for natives have been completed of which eight are occupied, sixteen more are under construction or nearly completed in the District. This tangible evidence of the Government's

purpose to do something positive towards improving the living conditions of natives has had a remarkable effect not only on those fortunate natives concerned, but also on the generality of natives. Now that proper housing seems to be a reality many natives seeking permanent employment as a means of qualifying for a home; several have made personal approaches to me to be considered for homes and generally there is a feeling of hopefulness amongst the Southern natives. Seventeen further names have been submitted from this District for the provision of S.H.C. homes.

Apart from the above, those natives employed at centres up and down the Great Southern and spur lines on the railway gangs are provided good tented accommodation by the Railway Department, this accommodation in the cases of married employees being two tents connected by a timber and iron kitchen structure separating the two tents.

At the Pipeline camps similar accommodation, which includes beds and duckboard floors is provided.

At the timber mills, generally, small timber cottages are provided for native employees. Where this is not so, reject timber planking is given to natives to construct their own little shanty.

Some farmers of the District who are anxious to retain the services of native employees have provided quite satisfactory accommodation on their properties, but the number of these would not exceed 20 throughout the Great Southern and South-West and are confined to those cases where the native employee is employed all the year round. As most natives still are only able to find seasonable jobs their living conditions are confined to tents which are easily put up and removed in order to provide the mobility required in such instances.

For those who by reason of their circumstances have to live on native reserves, the Department this year has provided increased and improved facilities. In instances, at Wagin, Gnowangerup and Kojonup the town water supply has been connected to the Native Reserve and laundry ablution and sanitary facilities provided in an attempt to provide better living conditions for these reserve dwellers and for itinerant natives using these reserves. A further set of such facilities has been provided on the Narrogin Reserve making two sets of facilities on this Reserve.

To assist in maintaining cleaner conditions on reserves the Department is paying certain local authorities for rubbish removal services on the reserves at Gnowangerup, Narrogin and Borden. In all cases the Department meets the cost of existing sanitary services.

6. Rationing.

The following table shows the number of natives and places at which they are rationed :—

| | Males. | Females. | Children. | Total. |
|-------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|
| Boyup Brook | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| Albany | 1 | 1 | Nil | 2 |
| Narrogin | 1 | 1 | Nil | 2 |
| Collie | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| Roelands | 1 | 1 | Nil | 2 |
| Gnowangerup | 4 | 1 | Nil | 5 |
| Mt. Barker | 2 | 2 | Nil | 4 |
| Burekup | 1 | Nil | Nil | 1 |
| Katanning | 1 | 1 | Nil | 2 |
| | 16 | 8 | 3 | 27 |

Rations are issued to destitute and aged natives and in many cases to tide families over periods of long illness or imprisonment of the breadwinner.

In the absence of any Mission or Institution in the District which provides a home for aged natives their rationing is imperative.

7. Welfare Bodies.

No new welfare body working for the betterment of local native conditions was formed during the year under review. The existing welfare groups are at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Mt. Barker, Kojonup and Collie.

The functions and objects of these welfare groups have been outlined in a previous Annual Report.

Achievements by these bodies since my last report are the construction of a second cottage, a two room building with verandah by the Narrogin District Native Council, on the local native reserve as a residence for a native family. The Katanning Native Welfare Committee have also completed a second cottage

on the Reserve, a four roomed building made from materials which formerly comprised the school at Minding near Wagin. This Committee plan two more cottages as funds and materials become available. The Committee has provided a first-aid kit for the native reserve and also a wheel-chair for an aged native woman who was a cripple and unable to use her legs. Second-hand clothing sales are held by the Committee to raise funds for their various projects, and again this year an excellent Xmas Party for the natives of the town and district was provided by the Committee. A picnic was also arranged and held at Tambellup.

The Konjonup Native Welfare Committee has an ambitious project for the native reserve at Kojonup ; they plan to build a community hall, with large fireplace, connected to the town's electric supply, to serve as a recreation centre for the reserve residents and also as a place where the Welfare Committee members can meet the natives for informal talks and discussions. This Committee has also held second-hand sales to raise funds for their building project on the reserve and have also held a very successful Xmas Party for the local native residents. This Committee has pressed very strongly for housing for natives at Kojonup and sent a delegate to Perth to interview the Minister for Housing in this connection.

These various Committees have within their various spheres of influence taken up cudgels on behalf of their local native populations. As a result they have in some cases been responsible for a change of attitude towards the native. This is an important achievement.

8. Conclusion.

During the year under report 30 natives of my District, including children, have been granted Citizenship Rights by the Boards constituted to deal with the applications of intending Citizenship Rights holders. During the same period 10 Exemption Certificates were granted to natives. New legislation passed during the year will confer on about a dozen native ex-servicemen Citizenship Rights.

However, the year under report has seen considerable progress in such matters as employment, housing, education and living facilities on reserves. Unlike at this time last year there is definitely a spirit of hopefulness prevailing. It is not too much to hope, therefore, that in keeping with the progress being made in the field of native welfare, it will not be too long before further legislative amendments concede to the native people of the State the right to call themselves Citizens, and to enjoy the privileges and responsibilities of full citizenship, which at the present time is a tempting and elusive *El Dorado* especially to the status-conscious hybrid of the Southern portion of the State.

C. R. WRIGHT WEBSTER,

District Officer, Southern District.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Introduction.

District Boundaries.

Until September, 1954, this District contained three Sub-districts with Headquarters located at Perth, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. At that time the Murchison Sub-district was excised from the Central District and, with some adjustment to its North and South boundaries, it became the new North Central District under the charge of a District Officer directly responsible to the Commissioner.

It had long been felt that the Murchison area was too big and complicated to be effectively administered as part of a district which already contained the huge area of the Eastern Goldfields as well as the metropolitan and near country areas and the change was a warranted step in decentralisation.

Legislative Amendments.

Since the long-awaited amendments to the Native Administration Act, 1905-47 came into force on 30th December, 1954, and on 20th May, 1955, the period of observation has been too short to gauge with accuracy their effect on Native Welfare in this District. Many of the provisions repealed had been administrative deadwood for years and pruning them off the Statutes has left no scar ; but for the rest it is possible at this stage only to point to indicative trends. The employment permit system died without a death rattle and left few mourners. It has rarely achieved in this District its object of regulating working conditions for the benefit and protection of native employees. In the minority of cases where employers are likely to exploit the illiterate unsophistication of fullblood natives, such as some in the Eastern Goldfields, more positive statutory measures than those previously contained in the permit statutes may be necessary.

Repeal of the Natives' Medical Fund originally provided in Section 37 of the Act has not yet had a noticeable effect on the medical treatment of natives, but it can be anticipated that, from now on, additional numbers of natives will be thrown on their own resources to meet medical expenses, which were formerly covered by employers' contributions. Those most affected are station natives whose £4 or £5 a week and keep hardly furnish the wherewithal to meet ordinary sickness expenses at current hospital and doctor's rates. In this respect I have had to widen my interpretation of the Departmental responsibility to "provide natives with . . . medicine and medical attendance, when they would otherwise be destitute."

The principles embodied in the amendment of Section 61, which dealt with Natives' legal rights before the Courts, do not seem to be understood by some Perth Magistrates. Their simple effect is to give natives complete equality with other persons before the Courts, with this additional safeguard that, in his discretion, a protector may appear to assist a native at his trial. That he will do this as a matter of duty when he considers a particular native requires such assistance, does not seem to have been sufficient for some Magistrates, who have insisted on Departmental representatives being present whether their own judgment of the circumstances requires their presence or not. If my Officers were to return to automatic representation of natives in court the purpose of the amendment would be defeated.

Natives have been told that if they wish for advice from Departmental Officers concerning the charges against them they should ask for an adjournment in order to communicate with this office. Several have already taken this course and in not one case has advice been refused, although the officers have still found it unnecessary to go into court.

Missions.

The contribution of Christian Missions towards Native Welfare must once again be acknowledged and it is in no derogatory sense that I draw attention to the increase in financial nourishment of these Institutions during the year. They are now being fairly provided with the means to carry on their task which was shouldered at a time when their financial resources were slight and it now can be justly expected that the conduct of these Institutions should be placed on the highest plane of efficiency.

In the relevant sections of this report a just appraisal of each Mission has been attempted. I trust that worth has been recognised and that where criticism is made it will be realised that it is intended to lead to improvement.

These remarks are offered as introductory comment on the subject matter of the main body of the report which has been compiled from the reports submitted by officers in charge of the two Sub-districts.

It only remains for me to acknowledge the efforts of all of my staff during the year under review.

PART I.—ADMINISTRATION.

I. Staff.

At the beginning of the year a change of policy was effected when the two members of the female welfare staff were transferred from Head Office to the Central District Office. This arrangement resulted in better co-ordination of their activities with those of the male Field Officers.

Eight personnel were lost to the District Staff during the year (excluding the staff of what was formerly the Murchison Sub-district) and five replacements made. There were five resignations and three transfers.

Mr. J. J. Harman was promoted from Cadet Patrol Officer to Patrol Officer Grade 1 as from 1st July, 1954, and Mr. George Howard, clerical assistant (temporary) was appointed to the classified Public Service position of Assistant to the District Officer.

The total field and clerical staff on strength at the 30th June, 1955 was seven, disposed as follows :—

District Head Quarters, Perth—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| District Officer | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Mr. B. A. McLarty. |
| Welfare Assistant (T) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Mrs. E. M. Relton. |
| Assistant to the District Officer | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Mr. G. Howard* |
| Clerical Assistant (F) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Miss M. B. Hunter*. |

Central Sub-District, Perth—

| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Patrol Officer Grade 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Mr. J. J. Harman. |
| Cadet Patrol Officer | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | Mr. C. A. Taylor. |

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District, Kalgoorlie—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|
| Assistant District Officer | | | | | | Mr. A. O. Day. |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|

* Natives.

2. Missions and Institutions.

Central Sub-District.

Bennett House—(Departmental Welfare Transit Hostel). Miss Anne Sewell succeeded Miss J. Davis as Officer-in-Charge on 4th August, 1954. She is assisted by Miss Lilian Anderson. Misses Sewell and Anderson are natives.

During the year 429 welfare cases used the facilities of the house, averaging 8.4 persons per week.

Most of these cases were in Perth for medical attention.

Methodist Mission, Mogumber.

Superintendent—Rev. E. A. Clarke, Religion—Methodist.

At present 82 children, 76 of whom are subsidised by this Department, are inmates of the Mission ; 68 children are housed in dormitories in groups of 17. A cottage mother is in charge of each group. The remaining children are housed with the four married Mission Workers.

This number is the maximum number that can be accommodated at the Mission. Materials for two cottages are already at the Mission and will be erected as soon as possible.

During the year a good deal of material progress has been achieved. "Hull Cottage" was completed. Work was commenced on the new office and canteen. Renovations to existing buildings were done. The Public Works Department commenced work on the bore and have reached a depth of 700 feet. Bright prospects are held that a supply of good water will be found.

A major task for the coming year is the erection of a new babies' creche and maternity home.

The Mission now has 12,00 acres under cultivation and is running 200 breeding sheep. Seven miles of rabbit-proof fencing and some subdivision has been done. Four native farm workers are employed.

Two Education Department teachers have charge of the school which has 60 children in Infants to Standard VII. The children engage in all sporting activities. Boy Scout and Club meetings are arranged for the boys and Brownies and Girl Guides for the girls. A movie picture is shown once per fortnight.

In general the health of the children has been quite good. During the year a severe epidemic of virus influenza was experienced. The treatment of trachoma requested by the Health Department has been completed.

Rev. Clarke and his staff, which number 19 and include one native woman dedicated to the Church this year, have achieved a great deal since 1951. Apart from the material progress they have gradually gained the confidence of the natives and have gradually broken down the strong dislike and distrust the natives had towards this Institution when it was a Government settlement.

New Norcia Mission.

Superintendent—Lord Abbot Gregory Gomez. Religion—Roman Catholic.

This Institution consists of two orphanages—St. Mary's Orphanage for Boys and St. Joseph's Orphanage for Girls.

Eighty-six girls are inmates of St. Joseph's Orphanage, of whom 76 attend school. Advanced pupils are taught sewing, needle-work and several are being taught to play the piano. It is also intended to commence a typewriting class.

Work was commenced on a new two-storey brick building adjacent to the present girls' orphanage. When this building is completed this orphanage will be able to cater for 125 inmates.

Twenty-nine boys are inmates of St. Mary's Orphanage and all attend school. No improvements were made to this section, but the Lord Abbot intends to make certain additions to the orphanage as soon as he can.

Three qualified teaching Nuns have charge of the education of both the boys and girls.

During the year Professor Ida Mann visited both sections twice. On her first visit a large number of children were found to be suffering from trachoma and treatment was commenced immediately. Her second visit six months later showed that treatment had been very effective, so much so that 85 per cent. were cured. The travelling Dentist attached to the Public Health Department also visited both sections twice.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.*Wongutha Mission Training Farm, Esperance.*

Superintendent—Mr. R. W. Schenk. Religion—Interdenominational.

This Institution came into being late in 1954 when Mr. Schenk proposed to develop two blocks of land in the Esperance district into an Agricultural training school for native boys of post primary school standard. The land is situated in an area where intensive farming development is taking place and is only a short distance from the Agricultural Research Station at Gibson's Soak.

Prospective inmates are expected from six other Missions in the Sub-district, and it is proposed to provide for them a two year course of farm practices, arithmetic, social studies, animal husbandry, physics, elementary chemistry, carpentry, plumbing, mechanics and the elements of saddlery, blacksmithing and welding.

Limited finance has restricted the development of the Mission and its staff has faced the dual difficulty of developing the farm to provide the basis of practical training and at the same time establishing accommodation facilities. Some relief to this situation was provided by an arrangement with the Agricultural Department whereby the boys will have their practical field work on the research station and the Mission can now concentrate on establishing classrooms and dormitories.

The Mission is still in the very early developmental stage, but, as it aims to provide practical training at a time when the employment potential is expanding, it holds high promise for the future.

Church of Christ Aborigines Mission, Norseman.

Superintendent—Mr. A. Griffiths. Religion—Church of Christ.

This Institution has made significant strides during the last year. Truly excellent accommodation in the form of separate bedrooms for the girls is contained in a large building under the one room. Also in this building is a flat for the supervising couple, and modern bathrooms. By "separate rooms," is meant that an attempt has been made very successfully to get away from the "dormitory style" and to encourage a more homely atmosphere. The following excerpt taken from the Superintendent's report is in no way prejudicially coloured :

"The building is modern, the bedrooms painted in pastel shades, curtains and bedspreads make it all very attractive. This building is well constructed in every detail with modern bathrooms and hot and cold water service the accommodation is already taxed to capacity and some thought is being given to extensions."

The children catered for by the "separate bedroom" idea cannot, of course, each have a bedroom to themselves. However, a minimum number with a faction colour live in the large rooms that have been built.

All school-age inmates travel each day by bus to the Norseman State and High Schools. This method of scholastic education is attainable at only two of the Missions in the Goldfields and it is obviously of great advantage in the aims of assimilation. The Superintendent quotes cases where the aboriginal children have been invited home for weekends and for outings by the white children and their families. An excellent white-aboriginal relationship is engendered by this system of scholastic education, which should be encouraged at every turn.

The Mission is aiming to become more self-sufficient by producing meat and vegetables at the Institution and 700 acres have been fenced for this purpose. More lawns have been planted and a tennis court provided is a great attraction. Volley-ball courts are under construction and it is hoped to provide septic tanks installation throughout the Mission. Fifty children are provided for.

This Mission would appear to have a bright future under the present Superintendent.

Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cundelee.

Superintendent—Mr. R. S. Stewart. Religion—Interdenominational.

Cundelee Mission, near the trans-line, 30 miles from Zanthus, deals with a fullblood population, many of whom are primitive desert people. Its small school contains 21 aboriginal children.

The Superintendent of this Mission has been hindered to some degree throughout this year by lack of staff and also considerable number of staff changes. Despite this, some considerable advance has been made with buildings, and a single man's quarters being used temporarily as a dispensary, have been completed. There are now two main Mission Workers' houses as well as improved quarters for single men.

Another Mission worker has recently arrived from Canada.

It is unfortunate that some considerable opportunity in respect of offering the natives a self-supporting industry is being allowed to go unheeded at this Mission. For some years contracts to cut sandalwood have been held and good areas of wood are available. A Forestry Officer from Kalgoorlie went to the Mission when the industry was first begun and supervised and organised cutting and cleaning. Orders, however, have fluctuated to some extent, but not necessarily as the result of a fluctuating population of natives there. Insufficient supervision of the natives in this work is maintained, and the Superintendent pleads lack of staff. There is, however, a distinct danger that the Forestry Department in the near future will be forced to cancel the contracts now held by the Mission. The industry of pulling and selling sandalwood can be very lucrative and caste people engaged in this work in the Laverton district make an excellent living from it.

The unfortunate but undeniable facts are that the natives at Cundelee put little effort in sandalwooding, but this could be a result of lack of sufficient encouragement. An example is that the heavy horse which had been obtained and used for tree-pulling was lent by the Mission to a native so that he could take it away for his annual holiday. The arrangement was that he return it in about a month. During that month, of course, no pulling could be done, and the horse's condition would naturally deteriorate. However, ultimately the horse, untethered, and not in a paddock, strayed on to a railway track and was killed by a train, so that the sandalwood industry suffered a further blow.

The Mission has as yet been unable to replace the horse.

Another quite lucrative industry is that of woodcutting (for firing and under contract with the Commonwealth Railways). It is now engaged in by a white man, but the Forestry Department has intimated that it would be prepared to let the contract to Cundelee Mission if it thought that an efficient work service could be maintained by the Mission, and natives. The indications given by the sandalwood project are not indicative of this being a possibility.

For personal reasons, this Mission desires to have as little contact as possible with Kurrawang Mission, and its staff associate with the Mr. Brewer featured in previous reports from here. It is almost impossible to expect any co-operation between these Missions, though for the good of the natives such co-operation is essential. These prevailing unfriendly associations have very deep-rooted causes. Medical services at this Mission are not efficient and numerous natives coming from there to Kalgoorlie are in poor shape dentally, while ear infections are rife. Ablutionary facilities for children at Cundelee are primitive and inadequate.

The environment of children in the school at this Mission, while the best the Institution can provide, is by no means a satisfactory one and views of the outside world, especially in respect of occupations open to them are extremely limited for these children.

Kurrawang Native Mission.

Superintendent—Mr. W. Sharpe. Religion—Gospel Brotherhood.

This Mission displays some excellent, if not magnificent, buildings, and the building programme has been constantly under way during this year. A power-house of stone with an excellent concrete floor and which will be sound-proofed with special caneite panels to avoid inconvenience to the Mission staff, will be completed shortly. The Superintendent's house has been completed for some time and now has a lawn and flower garden. A second house for a staff family is almost completed and quite ready for occupation.

An orchard and vegetable garden are flourishing, as well as poultry and eggs are sold to the natives from the Mission store.

Seventeen children are temporarily housed in a large, unlined, corrugated iron dormitory and on the verandah of the Superintendent's residence. However, it is expected that the dormitories for the children will be constructed soon. An ablution block with showers, wash troughs and changing rooms is completed, but the water has not been connected to most of the facilities as no drainage is yet completed. As a result, the block is not yet in general use.

The children of school age from Kurrawang go by bus to State Schools in Kalgoorlie, each day and teachers there have commented very favourably on the way the children are "turned out".

The initial role of this Mission was to act as rationing agent and to minister to the needs of indigent natives camped on the reserve on which the Mission is situated. For this purpose the Government provided the Mission with materials for a ration store and ablution block.

A secondary role, the institutional care of native children, has developed over the past two years and has now become the Mission's primary task. It is hoped ultimately that this Mission will provide accommodation for children from all over the Sub-district who attain secondary schooling standards.

A financial grant was made to assist in the construction of a dormitory, but only after there had been considerable delay in consideration of the plans and specifications by the Government technical officers. However, the Superintendent was notified in December, 1954, of approval of his application and it is disappointing to record that so little progress has been made in the construction of the dormitory facilities in the subsequent six months.

It is natural that natives in contact with the Mission make comparisons of what they see and the contrast in living quarters is unfortunately the basis for dissatisfaction among them.

There is no doubt that despite this, the children at the Mission are living in better conditions than those of the camps where they previously dwelt, but this improvement is surely not all that is necessary of a Mission. Completion of the dormitory facilities will bring the care of children to a satisfactory level and will give the Superintendent the opportunity to study more closely the needs and attitudes of the adult natives on the reserve.

United Aborigines Mission, Mount Margaret.

Superintendent—Mr. K. R. Morgan. Religion—Interdenominational.

Ninety children are catered for by this Mission and all receive their scholastic education at school there. One of the teachers, Miss May Miller, was herself as a child, an inmate of this Mission.

Stable staff has assisted this Mission during the past year and the usual welfare work has been done. The hospital is staffed by a triple-certificated nurse, Miss A. Hurst, and it has catered for numerous minor ailments during the past 12 months. During the epidemic of mumps, it was found necessary to solicit the aid of the Leonora District Hospital and two nurses were sent to Mount Margaret to assist briefly with the emergency. As is known, 20 children were recently tested for yaws at this Mission and all showed positive. This problem is now receiving attention from the medical authorities.

It is true that the Mission is grossly under-staffed and overcrowded to cater for the number of children now there, but the detection of such a large incidence of yaws by a visiting doctor is indicative of the lack of proper medical supervision which has obviously gone on for some time. The Matron there recently admitted that she has constant trouble with head lice amongst the children. It is well understood that in the crowded conditions and the inadequate ablutionary facilities existing at this Mission, very little else can be expected, especially with the inadequate staff available. These facts may be unpalatable but observations show that young men and women, brought up in the Mission over the last 20 years can be found everywhere through the Goldfields living in the same wurlies and in the same conditions as the primitive nomads. Most are tribally accepted, but some are not. Their living conditions are not necessarily the result of their Mission training only and shortage of employment and the type of accommodation provided on stations may have contributed to their reversion to nomadic conditions.

Nevertheless the Mission would do well to consider seriously whether its impact on tribal life has been compensated by any real substitute and whether it is implanting in the inmates sufficient character stabilisation and knowledge to assist them to cope with the adverse economic conditions they face on leaving the Mission.

Some improvement in opportunity has been brought about by the Mission's policy of sending post primary children on to the Roelands Mission so that they can attend the Bunbury High School.

United Aborigines' Mission, Cosmo Newbury.

Superintendent—Mr. H. C. Lupton. Religion—Interdenominational.

The Mission is at present catering for a few aged rationees and is offering part-time employment for able-bodied natives who might otherwise be unemployed because of the lack of need for more labour on surrounding stations. It is hoped that this Mission may act as a training centre for young people especially boys, who may leave the Warburton Ranges after schooling, to drift Westwards in search of employment. If Cosmo Newbury can successfully train these lads, and it would appear that this can be done, then their chances of obtaining a better type of employment are improved although in this Sub-district, they are still far from rosy.

During the year children of primary school age were transferred to Mount Margaret Mission to attend the school there.

Most of the year's activities on the Mission were devoted to establishing its pastoral assets and it was only near the end of the financial year that approval was given to transfer older children from the Warburton Range Mission to Cosmo Newbury for practical training.

United Aborigines' Mission, Warburton Ranges.

Superintendent—Mr. H. E. Green. Religion—Interdenominational.

A change in management took place at this Institution when Mr. Green succeeded Mr. F. Currier Jones as Superintendent in March, 1955.

An official inspection of the Mission was made shortly after the handover, the previous visit having been four years earlier, and it was possible to make a comparison of conditions obtaining on each occasion.

Whilst there had been some physical improvement in the provision of buildings the general situation had deteriorated. The hopes held earlier that the Mission would develop a self-supporting economy for natives of this area had not materialised and there is evidence that the strict segregation of children in the Mission homes, their education at primary standard and the fact that they were bodily accustomed to a European diet all unfitted them to live in the completely tribal life outside the Mission.

It was decided therefore that as children approached puberty, the facilities of Cosmo Newbery Mission should be available to them to provide practical training for their economic absorption elsewhere than at the Warburton Ranges.

The general administration of the Mission required improvement, but as Mr. Green had been in charge for only a short time that could not be laid to his charge.

The staff of this Institution live in probably the most adverse physical environment in the State and are to be commended for their zeal. They are conscientious in their physical care of the inmates and medical services are carried out to the best of their ability.

3. Protectors of Natives.

Appointments were held during the year as follow :—

| | Central. | Eastern Goldfields. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Departmental Officers | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Mission Superintendents | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Church Dignitaries and others | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Police Officers | 14 | 6 | 20 |
| Total | 28 | 16 | 44 |

The services and assistance of those persons are appreciated.

Honorary protectors for the whole State have not been included in the above figures as they are usually shown in the Head Office report.

4. Patrols.

District Officer's Inspections.

| | Miles. | Miles. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| 1. Metropolitan Native Welfare | | 741 |
| 2. Methodist Mission, Mogumber | | 194 |
| 3. Murchison Sub-district— | | |
| Private vehicle | 804 | |
| Official vehicle | 1,118 | |
| | | 1,922 |
| 4. Eastern Goldfields Sub-district— | | |
| Private vehicle | 837 | |
| Official vehicle | 947 | |
| Chartered aircraft | 750 | |
| Train | 278 | |
| Mission vehicle | 56 | |
| | | 2,968 |
| Total | | 5,825 |

Central Sub-District.

| No. | Area. | Miles. |
|-----|--|--------|
| 1. | Eastern wheatbelt | 674 |
| 2. | North-Eastern wheatbelt | 487 |
| 3. | Eastern wheatbelt | 396 |
| 4. | Eastern wheatbelt and Moora | 786 |
| 5. | Northern wheatbelt | 844 |
| 6. | Moora | 255 |
| 7. | Moora-New Norcia-Goomalling-York | 521 |
| 8. | York | 184 |
| 9. | Pinjarra | 226 |
| 10. | Pinjarra | 135 |
| | | 4,508 |

Despite the fact this Sub-district did not have a patrol vehicle for five months of this year, details show that all towns and districts where natives are living were visited at least once. This is a considerable improvement compared with the previous year.

During this year the method of patrolling was altered. It was found that more work could be achieved by staying at one centre for several days even after scheduled patrol matters had been dealt with. It was in this way that a substantial amount of Welfare Work was completed.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

Three patrols only were completed during this year, and in addition, one trip was made with the District Officer, during a survey. This number of Patrols is totally inadequate to meet the requirements, especially in such matters as co-ordinating the work of Missions.

5. Reserves.

Central Sub-District.

At the following centres Crown land has been set aside as Native Reserves :—

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| Pinjarra | Moora |
| York | Mukinbudin |
| Badjaling | Toodyay |
| Merredin | Victoria Park |
| Kellerberrin | Bennett House |
| Northam | Mogumber. |

During the year the reserve at Mukinbudin was created and a reserve at Gunyidi was cancelled.

No additional buildings were erected on any of the above reserves. However, general maintenance work was done at Bennett House and Moora.

At Moora, Merredin and Pinjarra, where large numbers of natives congregate, one native at each reserve has been appointed to keep the facilities clean and tidy in return for a small wage. In such cases hand-brushes and brooms have been supplied.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

There has been no change during the year.

6. Buildings.

Extensive renovations to Bennett House were carried out during the year.

7. Vehicles.

On the 10th December, 1954, Dodge Utility W.A.G. 2655 was transferred to Perth for use in the Central Sub-district as a Patrol Vehicle. At that time extensive panel-beating and painting was necessary. On the 4th April, 1955, Plant Engineers commenced this work and the vehicle was returned on the 17th May.

From the 1st July, 1954 until the 22nd November, transport was dependent upon Bedford Utility W.A.G. 1760, but as this vehicle was attached to Head Office, such transport was not always available.

Cadet Patrol Officer Reynolds was given permission to use his own car on official business and thus relieved the problem to a very great extent.

To gain an indication of the importance of transport not only for country patrol, but for metropolitan running, W.A.G. 2655 has travelled 5,090 miles whilst Cadet Patrol Officer Reynolds travelled 3,096, a total of 8,186 miles.

W.A.G. 877, International utility at Kalgoorlie, has completed over 13,000 miles and is in good running order. A small four-wheel drive vehicle, however, would be superior and more economical to run.

8. Public Relations.

Central Sub-District.

This aspect of administration and welfare of natives is most important and I am happy to report that our relations with other Government Departments, local authorities, hospitals, hostels, social organisations and interested private individuals are quite good in respect to this Sub-district.

Special mention should be made of the State Housing Commission, Health Department, Lands and Surveys Department and the Child Welfare Department. By personal contact between officers of these Departments and the District Officer and Field Officers of this Sub-district, it has been possible to explain the extent of our responsibilities toward natives and thus to work harmoniously with these Departments for the common good of the natives.

A liaison between this Office and the Commonwealth Employment Service still exists and natives are able to avail themselves of the services offered by that Department.

In our relations with local authorities there have been no untoward incidents which might cause unnecessarily harsh feelings. Several Road Boards are assisting the natives where possible, whilst the remainder are content to let matters continue as in previous years.

Both the York Municipal Council and the Moora Road Board protested against native housing, but these protests were short-lived.

The Assistant Welfare Officer has established a very close liaison with hospitals and Institutions in the metropolitan area, which, for our part, has made the arrangements for the treatment of native patients a straight-forward matter.

With regard to country hospitals, Field Officers have endeavoured to keep contact with these hospitals and assist where possible.

I should like to mention the co-operation received by the Y.M.C.A. and R.S.L. Hostels when this office has had the task of finding temporary accommodation for male natives whilst in Perth for medical attention.

In January of this year the West Perth Rotary Club proposed a scheme to assist native boys to obtain apprenticeships. This proposal was accepted and one such lad was placed at Forward Down Pty. Ltd., as an apprentice moulder.

A committee of interested persons at Shackleton headed by the Rev. J. Pickerell is most anxious to assist the natives in that area. At present their chief function is to hold a clothing store each month when numerous articles of clothing are sold to the natives.

Mr. Cleve Spence still continues to assist natives to obtain houses. Another block of land at Morley Park is being purchased by a native at York, who wishes to settle in the metropolitan area. From the money received for the sale of land, owned by him, to natives, Mr. Spence will assist the native to furnish his house once it is erected. This money is to be repaid by the native and will be used to assist other natives in turn.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

There is a great potential in this Sub-district to obtain active assistance from the Goldfields public in matters pertaining to native welfare. The previous officer at this station apparently kept considerable contact with influential people who were of assistance to this office. It may well be understood, however, that while such contact did a great amount of good and was very useful, it took considerable time to maintain.

9. General Administrative Functions.

On the 20th May, 1955, amendments to the Native Administration Act came into force, but the change came about too late in the financial year to enable its effect on the administration of this District to be felt.

PART II.—NATIVES.

I. Vital Statistics.

The following figures represent estimates of population as at the 30th June, 1955 :—

| Sub-district. | Full Bloods. | | | | Others. | | | | Total. |
|--------------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------|---------|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| | M. | F. | C. | Total. | M. | F. | C. | Total. | |
| Central | 17 | 8 | 4 | 29 | 292 | 265 | 693 | 1,250 | 1,279 |
| Eastern Goldfields | 484 | 408 | 370 | 1,262 | 200 | 150 | 250 | 600 | 1,862 |
| Totals | 501 | 416 | 374 | 1,291 | 492 | 415 | 943 | 1,850 | 3,141 |

District Total.

| | Adult Males. | Adult Females. | Children under 16. | Total. |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|--------|
| Full bloods | 501 | 416 | 374 | 1,291 |
| Others | 492 | 415 | 943 | 1,850 |
| Total | 993 | 831 | 1,317 | 3,141 |

This year it has been possible to estimate reasonably accurately the numbers of natives more or less permanently based on main centres throughout the Central Sub-district.

The situation in the Eastern Goldfields is much more fluid as the majority of natives are nomadic and the same analysis of population statistics cannot be produced.

2. Health.

Central Sub-District

During the year under review some considerable improvement was made with regard to this important aspect of Native Welfare.

It is pleasing to report that, with the exception of two or three small centres, the Public Health Department, through Professor Ida Mann, has completed a survey of this Sub-district to gauge the incidence of trachoma. This survey, which extended over a period of two years, revealed that approximately 65 per cent. of the natives were suffering from trachoma in various stages.

Treatment for this disease, which consists of daily dosages of sulphadimidine tablets, has been administered at New Norcia Mission, Methodist Mission, Mogumber, and at Pinjarra. Steps are now being taken for other centres to be treated in the coming year.

Several natives have very advanced trachoma and arrangements are being made for those natives to attend Royal Perth Hospital.

A serious epidemic of virus influenza occurred at the Methodist Mission, Mogumber, during the year. Cases of measles, mumps, influenza, etc., were common throughout the Sub-district, but never reached epidemic proportions.

The York Municipal Council arranged a diphtheria immunisation six times during the recent epidemic and enlisted our assistance to ensure native children were immunised. Such assistance was given and all native children at York have now been immunised.

During the year three serious cases of malnutrition of babies were reported. The parents were directly responsible for two cases and with their consent the two babies were placed in founding homes. The parents of the third case retained the child under supervision of the local doctor.

Considerable attention has been given to sanitation. Where possible the local authorities have agreed to service latrines, not only those latrines on Native Reserves, but also on private land. This Department meets the cost of sanitation services on Reserves and natives on private land are directly responsible for payment themselves.

As reported under "Reserves" three natives at Moora, Merredin, and Pinjarra have been engaged to keep clean the latrines and other facilities provided on Reserves.

With regard to medical and hospital services the lot of the natives in this Sub-district is quite good. Most natives live in close proximity to both services and avail themselves of them.

Where Health Inspectors are operating, their interest, assistance and co-operation towards the natives and Field Officers have been obtained.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

Very little knowledge has been tabled on the health of natives in this Sub-district, but services are meagre and surveys are urgently required. This Office has little, if any, time at its disposal to assist doctors and the hospital, even at Kalgoorlie, where a considerable amount of contact work and camp visiting in respect of medical problems are required.

The recent survey by the District Officer has thrown some light on this great need and the recent detection of well-established yaws at Mount Margaret Mission is a further indication that all is not well with the health of natives here.

A high incidence of eye complaints, serious ear infections, skin diseases, bronchial and nasal disorders are merely some of the conditions which show that the health of natives in the goldfields is far from good.

Regular medical inspections of the Missions and the possibility of establishing a Flying Doctor Service have been suggested to the Public Health Department.

3. Education.

The education of native children in the Central Sub-district is catered for by two missions and local town schools.

Fifty-six children attend school at the Methodist Mission, Mogumber, and 105 attend school at New Norcia Mission, making a total of 161, which is an increase of 20 on last year's figures.

Accurate figures of children attending town schools are not available for the entire Sub-district, but the approximate figure would be 190.

Almost all of the school-age children whose parents have been contacted in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district are at school. The very low incidence of school-age native children not receiving lessons is one of the brighter aspects of native administration in the Goldfields. It has not been possible to contact nearly as many schoolmasters, who have native pupils, as desired.

4. Native Labour and Employment.

Central Sub-District.

Very little change has taken place in the situation which existed last year. The trend, mentioned in last year's report, of natives seeking permanent work has continued. The following list of towns with the number of natives working in permanent, all-the-year employment, either with the W.A.G.R., Midland Railway Co., Co-op. Bulk Handling, local authorities and farms, bear evidence of this fact :—

Coorow, 3 ; Watheroo, 2 ; Coomberdale, 3 ; Moora, 4 ; New Norcia, 4 ; Goomalling, 2 ; Wongan Hills, 2 ; Jennacubbine, 1 ; Meckering, 2 ; Tammin, 1 ; Merredin, 1 ; Bruce Rock, 3 ; Shackleton, 3 ; Kwolyin, 1 ; Quairading, 6 ; Greenhills, 2 ; and York, 5.

Other natives are engaged in seasonal farmwork and clearing contracts. Such natives, in some cases, prefer this intermittent type of employment, whilst others accept it as no permanent work is available in their particular town.

The problem of unemployment of young native lads still exists in some country centres. Employment opportunities are scarce enough for white lads so it is little wonder that native boys with low standards of education find it difficult to obtain work. The Main Road Department is one avenue where such lads

can obtain employment, but as such employment necessitates travelling, some are reluctant to leave their home towns where they are usually members of the local football teams. They do manage to obtain casual odd jobs around the towns and sometimes engage in clearing contracts with adult natives.

At the larger centres there are still those adult natives who are quite happy to perform several days' work and rely on their relatives for subsistence.

At present three natives are apprentices in the metropolitan area ; one an apprentice carpenter, another an apprentice cooper and a third an apprentice moulder. Two other lads are employed with industrial firms in the metropolitan area. Two youths who were engaged in the fibrous plaster trade have left and returned to the country.

Twelve girls were employed as domestics in the metropolitan area during the year. One girl is employed as an office assistant with a private firm. Three girls are nursing at Royal Perth Hospital. One girl is attending Teachers' Training College.

During the year a situation developed in East Perth to which some publicity was given and which became the subject of a conference between Departmental officers and representatives of the Unions connected with the building industry. About 12 male natives of undesirable character were employed by a certain builder in East Perth under contract conditions, being paid £2 per day, worked and were allowed to live in a condemned house owned by the builder. This builder did not apply for a permit to employ natives nor did he cover the natives under Workers' Compensation Act. The natives were not Union members.

Several complaints of being underpaid were received from the natives, but as no records were kept by the builder there was no evidence to support such claims. An investigation was held into this matter. The builder was advised to cover the natives as prescribed by the Workers' Compensation Act and to keep records of the times each native worked. He failed to do so. The natives were told of this and it was suggested to them that they obtain work elsewhere. Several did, but the majority stayed with the builder as such type of employment suited their style of living in as much as they only worked when they wanted to.

This information and our attitude was made known to the building trade unions and they decided to investigate the matter themselves and decide what action they would take. This Office has no knowledge of any further action taken.

Eastern Goldfield Sub-District.

To give a truly clear picture of employment conditions on the Goldfields it would be necessary to quote a considerable number of station reports. There is a small number of pastoral employers, especially around Leonora, who treat natives well and where good living conditions and wages pertain. For the rest of the Sub-district however, it is not at all uncommon to find no quarters provided and an average wage of about £4 per week paid.

On such stations as this "keep" is often meagre, unvaried and of poor quality. These circumstances are due at least in some part to the fact that the natives are, generally speaking, of a primitive type from whom little efficient work can be expected. They are due in part also, to the fact that there are more workers than jobs available and the employers trade on this fact and will continue to do so.

With a constant influx of part-trained natives from the Eastern areas it would seem that this unsatisfactory state of affairs is likely to continue more or less indefinitely.

As far as natives are concerned there is an adverse economic situation in the Eastern Goldfields, brought about partly because their numbers are in excess of the requirements of industry and partly because of their lack of skills. These factors naturally given an undue advantage to employers and I feel that until time, education and the general social progress of these natives take effect, some sort of statutory safeguard of their interests is desirable.

5. Crime.

Complete statistics are not available for this year's report.

6. Projects—Housing.

Central Sub-District.

A very definite step was taken by the State Housing Commission in this regard during the financial year. The position is best reviewed by studying the details set out in Appendix A.

As seen, seven persons with native blood have received State Housing Commission homes in this financial year. In addition, eight homes are under construction.

I feel that to comment at this stage on the response and attitude of natives housed would be unjust as I feel sufficient time has not elapsed to draw a fair comparison. There have been three serious cases of arrears in instalments and three minor cases out of a total of 15 occupants. Again some occupants have very little furniture whilst others are in a better position.

There have been no adverse reports received at this Office of the conduct of the occupants once they have been housed.

Concerning the five monocrete houses erected at New Norcia in 1953, mentioned in last year's report, the Lord Abbott is very satisfied with the response of the occupants and likewise the native occupants still continue to look after the homes.

During this year the Department purchased from the Government Surplus Stores a supply of basic furniture which included 40 single beds. This furniture is being resold to the natives at the same cost price on an each basis. During the year several private individuals donated furniture and household utensils to this Office for distribution to natives in houses. Such donations are very useful and are being distributed equally amongst the new occupants.

Eastern Goldfields Sub-District.

The caste population in this Sub-district tends to be half-caste or lighter, and there is little incidence of dark-caste persons. These caste people segregate themselves almost completely from the fullbloods and even from those fullbloods who have received lengthy Mission training. Almost all of them have small houses or shacks of European type construction in the main towns. It is a rare occurrence to find one camping in the vicinity of fullblood natives or, living in a poor-type structure. By this it is not meant to imply, however, that their living conditions are necessarily good and the houses they have in the major towns are often dirty and disreputable looking.

In Kalgoorlie they rent old and dilapidated cottages and there is no great shortage of housing for any caste native who is seriously desirous of finding a place to live. Similarly, there is no shortage of small houses in the other major towns if the caste people are genuinely interested to obtain one.

7. Rationing.

No large scale rationing of natives is conducted in the Central Sub-district. Rations are being provided to aged natives and as a temporary assistance to other natives when they are faced with circumstances which would otherwise have them destitute.

In the first case stated three male aged natives have received weekly rations for the past twelve months. In the second category 18 males, 17 females and 41 children received rations at various times during the year and for varying periods.

The situation of indigent natives in the Eastern Goldfields came under serious review during the year and a change in policy has resulted.

Formerly fixed quotas of rations were provided at Mission Stations and other rationing points, distribution being left to the discretion of the persons in charge.

This system served to encourage, rather than prevent, the nomadic movement of indigent natives and provided no practical means to offset begging by natives in towns.

At the close of the year plans were in hand to allot indigent natives to definite approved centres, and to arrange bulk cooking at those points to prevent communal sharing of rations with other natives.

8. Tribal Activities.

Large gatherings of natives have occurred from time to time during the past year at Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Cundeelee and Kurrawang for tribal activities. These seem to be in no way waning.

Large gatherings such as the one which occurred at Laverton very recently always pose severe administrative problems. Invariably with aborigines camping in fairly crowded conditions, epidemics and illnesses break out. Emergency measures are then called for. Even at the sign of an epidemic it is unreasonable to withhold some considerable amount of attention and even material assistance, as by the time it has a proper hold, a lot of damage has been done. The natives are not by any means beyond capitalising on this fact and there is no doubt that in at least one instance they have unsuccessfully tried to force the issue

during the past year in the Goldfields. About 60 natives travelled from Kurrawang and the area around Kalgoorlie, to Cundelee where they arrived destitute and requested rations. Before starting out for the Mission, for the purposes of a tribal ceremony, they all realised full well that they would be penniless and without food on their arrival. There is no doubt they counted on forcing the issue, counted on the fact that the Mission and the "Government" would not allow them to starve. In fact, the Mission at the "Government's" direction, did force them to walk back to Kalgoorlie. There were, however, the shrewd few who carried, unbeknown to the rest, sufficient money with them to provide for their rail fares back to Kalgoorlie and they duly arrived by train. There is no doubt, however, that had assistance been provided in respect of food or train fares, they would have spent this money en route or at the Mission Stores.

It is not always possible however, without personal investigation to be so positive and hard in respect to these gatherings. The point to which the natives will go to force the issue must be judged, and this cannot always be done from the office chair. These large corroborees consequently cause a severe administrative problem.

Kurangara is a well-established and universally accepted corroboree in this Sub-district. There are practically no natives except a few who have considerable Mission training and have become opposed generally to corroborees, who in any way fight against this state-wide tribal activity. More still is being learnt of this corroboree which here involves very little friction or trouble between natives.

There are, however, many tribal practices on the Goldfields which are very definitely repugnant to western concepts. It would seem that their elimination, necessarily desirable, will disappear only with the improved social education of the fullbloods.

9. Metropolitan Social Welfare.

Previous annual reports have stressed the need for a recreation centre in Perth, and, as mentioned, the New Coolbaroo League, composed of natives, were taking action in that direction. During the year, the Native Welfare Council of W.A. took it in hand, and, with the co-operation of other societies, directed toward the advancement of native welfare, organised a street appeal which netted £525. Other funds have been added to this, and, I understand, a substantial amount is now in hand.

(Sgd.) B. A. McLARTY,

District Officer—Central.

Appendix A.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Housing Applications.

| Deferred. | Withdrawn. | Outstanding. | House Completed or under Construction, 30th June, 1955. | House Occupied. | | | | £ s. d. |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---------|
| | | | | Name. | Date. | Type. | Rent (p.f.) | |
| A.—Bropho, N. C.—Gillespie, J. L. | A.—Yarran, T. A.—Garlett, I. W. B.—Kickett, A. A.—Narrier, F. (Sen.) | A.—Garlett, P. S. A.—Abdullah, M. A.—Gygup, R. J. A.—Nelson, A. A.—Henry, L. C.—McPhee, R. D.—Cross, F. A.—Narrier, F. (Sen.) A.—Prior, P. A.—Davis, T. A.—Garlett, H. A.—Calgaret, L. W. A.—Winmar, K. B.—Yappo, P. A.—Yarran, C. C.—Phillips, R. B. A.—Lawrence, M. A.—Garlett, W. B.—Moody, E. | C.—Parfitt, D. N. A.—Pickett, J. H. C.—Indich, H. C.—Dick, P. R. A.—Narrier, F. G. A.—McHenry, W. A.—Blurton, J. F. A.—Garlett, H. | D.—Anderson, K. C.—Parfitt, H. A.—Harris, K. A.—Gygup, J. H. A.—Kickett, R. C.—Hume, J. A.—Mippy, N. C.—Forrest, T. C.—Bateman, M. H. A.—Lawrence, M. M. A.—Pickett, J. A.—Yarran, L. C.—Phillips, A. P. A.—Turvey, G. D.—Bodney, C. C. | Oct., 1954 Dec. 1954 25-10-54 22-2-54 2-7-53 13-5-54 25-5-55 15-9-52 22-3-53 2-11-53 26-7-54 2-11-53 July, 1954 24-6-55 June, 1955 | Type 79 Type 79 S.H.A. C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. Type 79 C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. S.H.A. Type 79 S.H.A. S.H.A. S.H.A. Type 79 Type 79 | 5 2 11 5 14 0 5 1 10 5 13 0 6 4 0 5 13 2 4 6 3 5 13 11 5 16 3 5 6 0 | |

A. Native in Law.

B. Exempted.

C. Citizenship.

D. Quadroon or less.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Introduction.

The North Central District came into being as a separate administrative entity on 25th October, 1954, and comprises, very broadly speaking, that area known as "The Murchison." It has been divided into two administrative Sub-Districts—the West Murchison, and the East Murchison. District and West Murchison Headquarters are situated in Geraldton, and on 18th January, 1955, a Departmental Office was opened in Meekatharra, this being the Headquarters of the East Murchison Sub-district.

Geographically, the District extends from the latitude of Dongara in the South to the Tropic of Capricorn in the North, and from the mouth of the Murchison River in the West, to the Northern Territory border, although, for practical purposes, the patrol area finishes a little East of Lake Carnegie. This very considerable area was formerly divided between the Central and North-West Districts, but the great distances involved made administration from Perth and Carnarvon, respectively, very difficult. The creation of the new District has enabled a more positive approach to be made to native welfare problems, particularly those peculiar to this area.

The most important single event of the year was, of course, the proclaiming of the Amendments to what is now the Native Welfare Act. This was more than a mere District matter, however, and the overall effects and implications will no doubt be treated elsewhere.

PART I—ADMINISTRATION.

1. Staff.

With the establishment of the new District, it was to be expected that staff changes would be considerable. In fact, practically no continuity at all was possible at the time of the changeover. The present staff consists of a District Officer, Patrol Officer, and Office Assistant at Geraldton, and an Assistant District Officer, and Office Assistant (of part-aboriginal descent) at Meekatharra.

2. Institutions and Missions.

Following my initial visit to Wiluna, it was recommended that a Departmental Hostel be established there, to cater for the numerous children in the area not attending school. The proposal was approved in principle, and negotiations commenced for suitable premises.

At this stage the West Australian Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists became interested in the project, and this interest has culminated in the arrangement discussed below under the heading of Karalundi Mission. The need for a Departmental Institution at Wiluna now no longer exists.

There still appears to be a need for such an Institution elsewhere in the District, if the requirements disclosed by a recent thorough survey of the West Murchison Sub-district are to be satisfied. This matter will be referred to again under the subject of Education.

As there are at present no Departmental Institutions operating in the District, it is evident that here, as in other Districts, subsidised Christian Missions are providing the staff and facilities for those existing Institutions which cater for native welfare. At present there are three of these. They will be touched on but briefly here, as it is anticipated that more detailed information will be published elsewhere.

Pallotine Mission School, Tardun.

This Mission is situated some 35 miles South of Mullewa, and caters for children of school age. At present there are some 80 inmates, filling it to capacity. Most of the children are subsidised by this Department, some are subsidised by the Child Welfare Department, and in a few cases non-native parents are directly responsible, financially, for their children.

The Mission is soundly run, and is fulfilling a most useful purpose in the community. It is desired to record sincere appreciation for the unfailing help and co-operation which the Superintendent extends to this Office.

Karalundi Mission, Crystal Brook.

In existence for not much more than a year, this Institution, some 35 miles North of Meekatharra, has made rapid progress. The immediate building programme has been almost completed, and there are now 34 children in residence.

The Assistant District Officer, East Murchison, did not reach Meekatharra until late January, and, for various reasons, has not been able to complete full coverage of his Sub-district. In two patrols he has travelled 2,165 miles and has covered those areas which needed the most urgent attention, namely Jigalong and Wiluna.

In addition, the District Officer has travelled 2,760 miles by road in completing two comprehensive tours of inspection, extending, in each case, as far as Wiluna, and including all townships in the District.

The foregoing mileages do not include those emergency visits which are an inevitable feature of work of this nature. These, however, have been kept to a minimum, and wherever possible matters requiring attention are listed for action on scheduled routine patrols. At all times Field Officers have exercised the utmost economy consistent with efficiency.

5. Office Accommodation.

The Geraldton Office is located in two rented rooms centrally situated in the main street. It is understood that the Public Works Department intends to renovate a very old building on the outskirts of the business section of the town, with the object of providing additional Governmental accommodation. If this scheme is proceeded with, it is understood that office accommodation for this Department will be provided there.

At Meekatharra also, an office is being rented for the time being. It is quite unsuitable for what is required there, and application has been made for the erection of more suitable premises. At the moment the matter is in the hands of the Public Works Department.

6. Reserves.

As part of the survey being made of the District a review of existing Native Reserves has been carried out. As explained earlier, the review is not yet complete, but some changes and improvements have already been made or proposed.

Wiluna.

On the recently created "Bondini's Reserve" a windmill has been erected over the existing well, and water is pumped into an overhead storage tank on a steel stand.

From here it gravitates to two shower enclosures, each with two shower roses. In addition, the multiple panstead lavatory proposed some time ago is now in operation. All of this work was carried out by local contractors, the total cost being a mere £271.

At Christmas time there were some 250 natives camped on this Reserve, most of them, of course, being transients.

Meekatharra.

As far back as 1951 detailed plans had been completed for the equipping of the town reserve with sanitary, ablutionary and shelter facilities, but no contract was let until April of this year. The work is now proceeding, and should be completed shortly. The cost will be in the vicinity of £2,200.

This town is the centre of a very large pastoral area, and the reserve is used constantly by travelling natives, many of whom attend Meekatharra for medical attention.

Mt. Magnet.

The existing reserve has a water tap, but no other facilities. It is too far from the township to be of any practical use, and a more suitable area is now being selected. It is intended to recommend that the new reserve be equipped with sanitary and ablutionary facilities, and if possible, with some form of shelter. Application has been made for £1,000 for this purpose in the 1955-56 Estimates.

Mt. Magnet is a centre of a considerable number of natives, and is frequently visited for medical and other reasons. Unlike most townships in this area, it is growing at the moment—mainly because of the proximity of the amazingly rich "Hill 50" gold mine.

Yalgoo.

Here again, the existing reserve is too far from the township, and as it has no water supply, is completely unsuitable and never used. Negotiations are almost completed for a more suitable area on the other side of the town where there is a good water supply, and where several old natives are already resident. It is hoped to erect sanitary facilities here as soon as possible, and provision for £100 has been made in the 1955-56 Estimates.

Mullewa.

The existing reserve is too far from the town and is rarely, if ever, used. Negotiations for a more suitable area have been long drawn out, mainly, apparently, because of the infrequent meetings of the local authority. However, complete agreement on a site and suitable water supply was reached recently, and acquisition of the land in question is now proceeding. It is hoped that ablutionary and sanitary facilities will be erected on the new reserve before long, and for this purpose an amount of £800 has been included in the Estimates. Mullewa has a considerable resident native population, and is also visited by many people for medical, business and recreational purposes.

Mingenew.

Arrangements for the erection of ablutionary and sanitary facilities on this reserve were completed while Mingenev was still part of the Central District. The buildings were well planned, and have now been in use for some eight months. The cost is understood to have been in the vicinity of £700.

A number of families reside permanently on this reserve, and it is also used by people visiting the town for various purposes.

Geraldton.

Application has been made in the Estimates for £600 to provide this reserve with an ablution block. Two panstead lavatories were provided for in the previous Estimates, and have now been in use for some time, although they lack the finishing touches.

This reserve is used by three resident families at the moment, each of which has applied to the State Housing Commission for a home. The reserve is also used by transient natives, visiting or passing through Geraldton.

In addition to those listed above, there are also reserves at Peak Hill, Cue, Payne's Find, Tuckanarra, Wilgie Mia, and Northampton. These are rarely used, and have no special facilities.

The foregoing detail makes it clear that, in this State, at least, Native Reserves are not provided for the purposes of segregating natives from the rest of the community. Whenever negotiations are opened with a Local Authority for approval to use a particular piece of land as a reserve it is pointed out that such reserves, and any facilities which may be erected on them, are intended primarily for travelling natives. It is stressed that those native families which live permanently in the townships are encouraged to set up their own houses on their own blocks of land. In other words, that a policy of assimilation is followed in this matter, as in all others.

PART II—NATIVE WELFARE.**I. Vital Statistics.**

With the changed boundaries consequent upon the establishment of this District, existing census particulars for the area became unreliable, and a complete check has been commenced, in conjunction with the patrol programme.

As the whole of the West Murchison Sub-district has been patrolled under this programme figures for that area are reasonably accurate. The East Murchison Sub-district has not yet been fully covered, but the totals shown have been arrived at by consulting all available sources of information, and should be fairly reliable.

Population as at 30th June, 1955, is shown below :—

| | Full Bloods. | | | | Other Bloods. | | | | Grand Total. |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------|--------|---------------|---------|-----------|--------|--------------|
| | Male. | Female. | Children. | Total. | Male. | Female. | Children. | Total. | |
| W. Murchison | 103 | 81 | 39 | 223 | 232 | 214 | 540 | 986 | 1,209 |
| E. Murchison | 233 | 201 | 148 | 582 | 143 | 121 | 279 | 543 | 1,125 |
| Total | 336 | 282 | 187 | 805 | 375 | 335 | 819 | 1,529 | 2,334 |

These figures indicate that aborigines of the full-blood still out-number caste natives, though only slightly, in the East Murchison, but that caste natives greatly predominate in the West Murchison. The very small number of full-blood children is again evidenced, as is the prolific birth-rate of caste natives. In this regard, however, it should be noted that many caste parents with Citizenship Rights do not have their children included on their Certificates, and the apparent birth-rate as shown in these statistics is somewhat inflated.

2. Health.

Although it is probable that the majority of natives in this District have enjoyed reasonably good health during the past year, the overall position cannot be regarded as being entirely satisfactory. The least satisfactory features occur at each extremity of the "civilization scale," namely, in the desert natives from East of Wiluna, and in those people living more or less permanently on the outskirts of towns.

At Wiluna, for the past two years, there have been epidemics of virus influenza, and on both occasions three deaths occurred. A month or so after the last epidemic there were two more deaths both infants, from bronchial complaints. Some, perhaps all, of these deaths can be attributed to the fact that the parents of the sick children, and the sick adults themselves, did not realise just how serious was the complaint from which they were suffering. In some cases medical attention was sought too late, and in two cases at least, death occurred before anyone in authority was notified of sickness.

At this stage it should be mentioned that the local Police Protector, and the hospital staff, have been most conscientious and humane at all times, and the thanks of all natives in the area, and of this Department are due to them.

A little later in the year Trachoma was found to be prevalent in the natives camped near Wiluna, and the Public Health Department carried out full-scale treatment, this Department assisting where ever possible.

It can thus be seen that at Wiluna there is a need, from the health point of view alone, for considerable welfare work. The decision of the Karalundi Mission to establish a branch at Wiluna was therefore most timely, and it can be anticipated that really beneficial results will attend this move.

At the other end of the scale, there has been too much sickness, sometimes followed by death, among the children of those more sophisticated natives living on the outskirts of townships such as Mullewa and Geraldton. Bronchial complaints and gastric upsets have been the most frequent illnesses, and these are related directly to the standard of living of the parents. Generally speaking these people are able to afford ample nourishment for their families, but too many of them live in tents and humpies, with completely inadequate ablutions and sanitation.

An improved standard of housing is clearly required, and most of the families concerned have lodged applications for the "Intermediate" or Type 79 house being erected in some centres by the State Housing Commission. So far none of these homes has been allotted to this District, but it is hoped that there will be some progress in that direction in the coming year.

In between the "desert" and the "town" groups is that large body of natives who are in more or less permanent employment on pastoral properties. These people work and live under fairly constant supervision, and any serious illness is usually detected in time to enable the case to be effectively hospitalised. Generally speaking, those families living on stations providing good food and quarters enjoy better health than those in casual employment in townships.

It is possible that cases of Trachoma are scattered throughout the District, but as the eradication of this disease is already receiving the energetic attention of the Public Health Department, it is confidently anticipated that any remedial steps necessary will be taken by that authority in the near future.

The abolition of the Natives' Medical Fund has thrown the responsibility of paying for ordinary medical treatment on to the native patient, unless he can be regarded as being destitute. Recent moves by the West Australian Branch of the British Medical Association would appear to indicate that not all such accounts have been met. A number of stations have shown a gratifying desire to cover their native employees under some recognised Medical Benefit group scheme, and suitable enquiries are now being made.

3. Housing.

As was mentioned under the last sub-heading, there is a desperate need for houses for those people living permanently in townships situated in the Western part of the District. Last year the State Housing Commission evolved what appeared to be a practicable solution to the problem, in the "Intermediate" type house, and it is understood that numbers of these have been erected in other parts of the State, although none have been allocated to this area yet.

At the moment a total of 19 applications have been made for this type of house, the applicants being located as follows:—Northampton, 2; Mullewa, 6; Geraldton, 9; Morawa, 1; and Mingenev, 1.

It is hoped that a tangible start on this project will be made in this area in the coming year.

In the Eastern part of the District the housing situation is not so serious. Most of the townships there are on the decline, due to the reduced mining activity, and old houses and building material are more readily available. The standard of native housing in these towns is not high, but is generally much better than that found further South and West.

The coming year should show some positive advances in solving the housing problem in this District.

4. Education.

In the belief that an adequate education lies the main chance for native children, a careful enquiry has been made into the facilities available to them in this District.

The number of natives-in-law attending school as at 30th June, 1955, is shown below. The names, ages, parentage, caste, and scholastic attainments and prospects of every one of these children have been recorded in this office, in order that any child worthy of it shall be given the opportunity for higher education.

| Centres. (East to West.) | Primary. | | | | Secondary. | | | | Total. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------|--------|
| | Mission Schools | Denomi- national Schools | State Schools | Total | Mission Schools | Denomi- national Schools | State Schools | Total | |
| Geraldton .... | .... | 8 | 25 | 33 | .... | 3 | 5 | 8 | 41 |
| Northampton .... | .... | .... | 11 | 11 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 |
| Galena .... | .... | .... | 14 | 14 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Mingenew .... | .... | .... | 17 | 17 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Mullewa .... | .... | 14 | .... | 14 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 |
| Tardun | 71 | .... | .... | 71 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 71 |
| Morawa .... | .... | .... | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Yalgoo .... | .... | .... | 9 | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 |
| Mt. Magnet .... | .... | 3 | 18 | 21 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 21 |
| Cue .... | .... | .... | 4 | 4 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Meekatharra .... | .... | .... | 20 | 20 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 |
| Karalundi | 28 | .... | .... | 28 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28 |
| Wiluna .... | .... | .... | 10 | 10 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 |
| Jigalong | 37 | .... | .... | 37 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| | 136 | 25 | 130 | 291 | .... | 3 | 5 | 8 | 299 |

It has been found that with very few exceptions native parents send their children as day pupils provided they live anywhere within daily reach of school. With these families the existing facilities are used automatically as their children become of school age.

This is not to say, however, that these children all have equal opportunities with the average white child. Too often the homes in which they live are so sub-standard that it is extremely difficult to maintain an adequate standard of cleanliness. Furthermore, quarters are usually so cramped, and lighting so poor, that it must be virtually impossible to complete homework in the way in which it should be done.

Here again, then, is the need for improved housing evident.

For those native children whose parents work on stations, or anywhere else distant from a school, there are two possible methods by which they can receive an education—bearing in mind that few, if any, native parents are capable of supervising the Education Department's correspondence courses.

The first possibility is that they board with relatives or friends in some town, and attend school there. This system is used quite frequently and in some cases works out very well. At other times it does not, however, as the house to which the child is sent may be considerably sub-standard, and is often overcrowded.

The second possibility is for the child to enrol at a Mission, and attend school there. By enabling this to be done the Christian Missions in this State are carrying out a noble work, a fact which the Government fully realises, and recognises tangibly by extensive Grants-in-Aid, and by a weekly cash subsidy per child which, in the past year, has reached a realistic scale. In addition to providing a standard education such Missions are able to guide the child spiritually, and to influence him generally towards a better way of life.

As mentioned earlier, there are at present three Missions in this District, and in addition a branch Mission is being established at Wiluna. When this latter becomes fully operative it seems that the East Murchison will be adequately catered for, as there will then be no reason why a native child should not attend one of other Mission at Jigalong, Karalundi, or Wiluna. In the West Murchison, however, Tardun is the only Mission operating, and this Institution is now full to capacity. The recent survey has indicated that in this area there are some 112 children on stations, 41 being of school age, and the remainder being younger.

Thus there are more than 40 children in this area who at the moment are missing that primary aid towards assimilation, a formal education, and more such children are reaching school age every year. The solution would appear to be the establishment of another Institution somewhere in this locality. If no

Mission body is able to undertake this work in the near future a Departmental Institution is the only alternative, and application has been made in the Estimates for £20,000 for this purpose. Whether this sum will be available remains to be seen, but public funds can hardly be put to better use.

It has been found that all teachers are genuinely interested in their coloured pupils, and give ready co-operation with this office whenever asked. Similarly, of course, Field Officers of this Department assist teachers in any way possible.

5. Employment.

Over the past year, Australia, as a whole, has experienced a period of "over-full" employment, and generally speaking, this has been the position in Western Australia, too. As a result, it can be said that there has been sufficient employment available for native workers. There have been brief local exceptions, but these do not alter the general situation.

Those natives working in or near townships usually receive award rates. This also applies to a number of stations, particularly those which engage natives for short periods only, for mustering and shearing. Any contract work undertaken by natives is usually at standard district rates also.

Wages paid by the more outlying stations vary considerably. Some pay award rates, and as a result are usually able to hold a stable labour force. Others pay much less and may have difficulty in retaining labour. However, it does not necessarily follow that the payment of a comparatively high cash wage automatically makes that station popular with natives. It may do so, particularly with caste natives, but with those of the full-blood other factors, such as "the Boss," meaning his general attitude, "tucker," and to a lesser extent the "country" play an important part. Thus, although wages in this District vary from better than award rates to as low as £2 per week, plus keep, no blanket statement can be made to the effect that those people receiving the latter rate are being exploited. It is a fact that instances of exploitation do occur at times, and it is obviously one of the duties of our Field Officers to detect such cases, remedy the situation as far as possible, and to make sure that the native employee fully understands the position. Once that is achieved, the native concerned is free to choose to remain in his employment, or to seek another position.

If he decides to follow the latter course, the services of this Department as a labour exchange are available to him. Similarly, prospective employers can and do apply to our Field Officers for any labour which they may require, and a system of records has been instituted at both Geraldton and Meekatharra to facilitate the more efficient carrying out of this function. Stock firms, and to a lesser extent, the Commonwealth Employment Service, also perform this duty. The latter Service has been used increasingly by Citizenship Rights holders, and those people of a more independent outlook.

The number of natives employed by the Railways Department in this area has increased considerably over the past year. As housing is often provided with these positions, they can be regarded as being particularly suitable for those native families who would otherwise be camped in humpies near townships.

The Main Roads Department employs a number of natives in regular positions at quite satisfactory wages. Some well-paid positions at the "Hill 50" gold mine at Mount Magnet are also filled by natives.

In fact, there appears to be a healthy and growing tendency to judge such workers on their industry, rather than on their colour or civic status.

6. Rationing.

With the gradual extension of the application of Commonwealth Social Service Benefits the necessity for providing food and clothing to individual indigent natives is diminishing. However, there are still a considerable number of people at Jigalong Mission who would be destitute, but for Departmental assistance, and it has also been necessary recently to provide for a number of "desert" natives at Wiluna.

Regular issues as at 30th June, 1955, were :—

| | | | | | | |
|----------|------|------|------|-----------|------|--------------|
| Jigalong | .... | .... | .... | 61 adults | | |
| Wiluna | .... | .... | .... | 20 adults | .... | 20 children. |
| Yalgoo | .... | .... | .... | 4 adults | .... | 5 children. |

In addition cash subsidy was being paid for some 70 children at Tardun Mission, 35 at Karalundi Mission and 64 at Jigalong Mission.

7. Civic Status.

The recent legislative amendments giving full citizenship to certain servicemen and ex-servicemen, and enabling natives, at the discretion of the publican, to obtain lodging in licensed premises, mark some progress. At the same time natives in the Southern part of the State lost much of the protection which Section 61 previously afforded them.

The reasoning which considers these people able to hold their own in the complicated processes of criminal law, and yet denies them full civic status is difficult to follow.

The changing attitude of the average country policeman to this question of citizenship is of interest. A few years ago many of these Officers swore that they would "give it away" if all natives were given full citizenship. Since then considerable numbers of natives have, in fact, gained this status under the provisions of the Citizenship Rights Act, and in some smaller country towns a position of extreme confusion often exists. It is possible, in one family, for the father to have Citizenship Rights, the mother to have an Exemption Certificate, which exempts her from any restrictions or disabilities under the Native Welfare Act, but still entitles her to its privileges, for the older children to be included in the father's Certificate, and for the younger children still to be natives-in-law. Add to this the varying definitions of "a native" in other State and Commonwealth legislation, and it is no wonder that a conscientious policeman, himself often a Protector, is sometimes heard to mutter that he wishes all people could be treated on an equal legal basis. Citizenship by Certificate just does not seem to work in practice.

There is another aspect of this tragic legal classification with families which should not be overlooked. In the instance quoted above the father, as a full citizen, is not eligible for assistance under the Native Welfare Act, and is expected to have contact with this Department only as a normal member of the community. In practice, many such people still ask our Officers for assistance in various directions, and this help is readily given, provided the expenditure of public funds is not involved. The wife, as an Exempted native is in a most peculiar and uncertain position, as it has been authoritatively held that she is entitled to all benefits under the Act, while being exempt from its restrictions and disabilities. In practice such persons are assisted on the same basis as if they were natives-in-law. Whether they are treated as "natives" under the Licensing Act depends to some extent on their caste, but mainly on their standing with the local police. The younger children of our hypothetical family, as natives-in-law, are, of course, entitled to all the benefits of the Act, but the older children, as Citizens, are not. That this can be most unfortunate is evidenced by a recent instance at Mount Magnet. There, a young lad, suited by age, intelligence, education, aptitude, and ambition to become a skilled carpenter, has been condemned to a life of unskilled labour because he could not exist on the wage paid to an apprentice. His parents are unable to subsidise him and this Department has no statutory authority to do so.

It is entirely possible that the legislature is till lagging well behind enlightened public opinion on this question. No valid agreement has ever been advanced to show that the existing law of the land, properly applied, could not cope with the real or fancied situations which would follow removal of discriminatory legislation against natives.

An example of this is to be found in the question of the "Ministerial Warrant." This much used provision in years gone by, was the instrument by which hundreds of natives, some in need of assistance, but many merely "too cunning to break the law" were incarcerated in primitively equipped settlements for indefinite periods. Under more enlightened administration this unholy device became utterly discredited, and it has not been used for years. Legislatively, however, it was abolished only six weeks ago.

The psychological aspect of the "Warrant" system was forcibly brought home to me some time ago, when I read the Departmental file of a middle-aged aboriginal charged with murder, and subsequently convicted of manslaughter. This man's life had been warped by repeated and morally unjustifiable detentions, and his eventual serious crime may, in no small measure, have been due to a bitter and rankling sense of injustice.

If a trained psychiatrist were to check through the official sheaves of paper recording the lives of these unfortunate people it would be surprising if he did not marvel that so much injustice could result in so little violent reaction.

8. Crime.

No serious crime has been committed by any native in this District in the year under review.

There have been numerous minor offences, usually involving liquor, but as there have been so many discriminating laws directed specifically and solely against natives, this is not surprising.

It is too early to accurately assess the effect of recent legislation abolishing the special safeguards relating to confessions and pleas of guilt. However, it is only fair to say that so far we have not heard of any instance of any police officer taking unfair advantage of the situation. On the contrary, all officers approached have readily agreed to continue to notify this Department's local representative whenever any native is charged with any but the most trivial offences, or when the native has expressed a wish to be represented in Court.

9. Tribal Activity.

Fascinating though the subject may be, Field Officers of this Department just do not have the time to conduct ethnological research on any realistic scale. Our enquiries must, of necessity, be confined to those more obvious features which obtrude into the daily life of the aborigines.

The eradication of injurious and repugnant tribal practices is not always an easy matter, but there is no doubt that by the application of sound common sense this object can be gradually, but nevertheless steadily, achieved.

In the West Murchison there is little of the old tribal lore left, but in parts of the East Murchison its effects cannot by any means be disregarded. Jigalong is the main centre of tribal activity, and its influence extends South past Wiluna, and, to a diminishing degree, in other directions, too. There are a number of unsatisfactory features bound up in this activity, if the matter is regarded from a civilised viewpoint, and in the coming year it will be necessary to give some positive attention to this aspect of administration.

10. Conclusion.

Most of the advances which have been made in the cause of Native Welfare have been achieved gradually. It has been necessary to progress step by step, sometimes against the apathy of public ignorance, sometimes against blind prejudice, and sometimes against the bitter opposition of vested interests.

Overall progress can therefore be assessed only over a period, but there can be no doubt that in the past five or six years, achievements of fundamental importance have been made in Western Australia.

As a brief illustration of only one aspect of this progress the following two incidents are recounted. They deal with the obligation of the State to protect the person of the individual.

A respected pastoralist, and one of the most satisfactory employers in the locality, was having a friendly discussion with the Patrol Officer (West Murchison). Inevitably, the conversation dealt with the native question. One remark of the pastoralist took the Patrol Officer somewhat aback, as he had but recently come to this country—"Ah yes, your Commissioner is probably alright, but he has taken from us our means of discipline. Before he took over we could physically chastise any native who was cheeky or lazy, now we can't."

A station manager, who recently arrived from another State, was recounting his labour troubles to the Assistant District Officer (East Murchison). "Where I came from," he said, "if a native won't do his work properly, we belt him. If I did that over here you would probably see that I was charged with assault." The Assistant District Officer agreed that he would do just that.

(Sgd.) F. E. GARE,

District Officer—North Central.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

Introduction.

The year under review, 1954-1955, has seen many changes in this District. Staff has been completely changed and the District boundaries altered by the creation of the new North Central District.

PART. I—ADMINISTRATION.

I. Staff.

Late in October, 1954, the District Officer, Mr. F. E. Gare, was transferred to Geraldton to take over the new North Central District and as from 4th November, Mr. H. R. Tilbrook, Assistant District Officer at Broome (Northern District) was transferred to Port Hedland to take over the North-West District, as Acting District Officer, Mr. A. O. Day, the Assistant District Officer at Port Hedland was transferred to Kalgoorlie in the Central District. Mrs. I. B. Thompson continued at Marble Bar as Welfare Assistant and Mr. R. E. Winder continued at Carnarvon as Office and General Assistant.

On the 26th March, 1955, Mr. E. B. B. Parker arrived at Port Hedland to take up duties as District Office clerk and on the 29th June, 1955, Mr. M. J. Reynolds arrived to take a position as Cadet Patrol Officer.

The Headquarters of the District was moved from Carnarvon to Port Hedland, the former Headquarters being considered to be too far from the centre of the District and its main native population. The Carnarvon office has not been staffed, except by the office assistant, since late October, but applications have been called for a Patrol Officer for this office.

2. District Boundaries.

With the creation of the North Central District and the subsequent posting of an Officer to Meekatharra Sub-district, a large part of the Port Hedland patrolling area has been excised. The area adjacent to and including Jigalong Mission has been included in the Meekatharra patrol area. This has considerably reduced the patrolling area and unproductive mileage with the Pilbara Sub-district.

The Northern boundary of the District remains unchanged.

3. Patrolling.

The number of patrols carried out in this District suffered considerably through changes in Staff and weather conditions. After the end of October, there was only one Field Officer in the whole District and for two months whilst the writer was on bi-ennial leave, no patrolling was done. Subsequently patrolling was restricted by an overlong wet season and even when roads were passable the unique situation in the Pilbara District due to the activities of D. W. McLeod rendered station inspection, etc., virtually impossible.

4. Missions and Institutions.

Jigalong.

Aborigines Rescue Mission.—All matters concerning this Mission are now dealt with from Meekatharra and Geraldton.

Carnarvon.

Churches of Christ.—Due to the transfer of District Headquarters from Carnarvon to Port Hedland, and the fact that the Sub-district Office at Carnarvon has not been staffed for the last nine months, liaison between this Mission and District staff has considerably lessened. However, the Mission continued to be an excellent native Institution. More than 80 school age children drawn from all over the Gascoyne, Ashburton and Upper Murchison districts are being educated and cared for at the Mission. In addition there is a kindergarten section which cares for the pre-school age children.

The State school attached to the Mission is functioning well, with satisfactory results.

In March of 1955, the Mission lost one of its most able members in Superintendent S. Reeson, who resigned to take over a plantation in the Carnarvon district. Many of the younger generation of natives in the Gascoyne-Ashburton Districts will have good cause to remember this outstanding Mission worker and the whole Institution is a monument to his personal achievements. I would like to place on record here the thanks of the natives of this District and myself for the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Reeson.

Riverdale Native Institution, Nullagine.

This Institution owes its existence to the large group of natives mining independently in the Pilbara District whose children have hitherto received no education. Riverdale Cattle Station was purchased under Section 6A of the new Native Welfare Act, mainly because of the homestead buildings which are situated on freehold blocks in the town, which are suitable for use as a children's hostel. The Station could have been run by adult stockmen. However, owing to circumstances beyond the control of this Department the original concept has been temporarily shelved and the Station is to be run on Institutional lines for the time being. It is hoped that native children will be boarded here and attend a State school to be established in the town.

So far, an Officer-in-Charge, Mr. R. B. Miles, has been appointed and the job of clearing up two years of neglect is in progress. As the Institution was only established at the end of May, 1955, there is very little to report. The butcher shop, which this Station operates for the town, is being satisfactorily operated.

5. Reserves.

A considerable amount of money has been spent on improving reserves in this District during the past year. In addition money has been allocated for further works which, unfortunately, will not be completed until some time in the next financial year.

At Carnarvon £200 had been allocated for improvements to showers and the provision of laundry facilities, etc. This will make this reserve one of the best in the State.

At Onslow the new water supply and showers, etc., have made this reserve at least habitable and the natives find the facilities of great benefit especially in the summer.

Roebourne reserve suffered a major setback in the cyclone which struck the town on January 1st of this year. Immediate steps were taken to have the damage repaired and all repairs were completed in June at a cost of £400. The reserve is again functioning satisfactorily.

At Port Hedland funds have been approved for facilities to be erected on a new reserve at the two-mile, adjacent to the Native Hospital. When these are complete a very real need will have been met as itinerant natives and out-patients at the hospital will have shelter.

At the twelve-mile ration reserve an attempt has been made to erect two huts on a day labour basis, but this has proved to be a most expensive failure as the funds (£491) have been spent and neither building is finished. Steps have been taken to complete this work in the next few months.

The reserve at Marble Bar is no longer used by natives and the facilities provided are in a delapidated condition, for this reason. It is anticipated that a use will be found for this reserve in the near future.

At Nullagine the establishment of an Institution in the town has obviated the necessity for providing amenities on this reserve.

6. Protectors.

The number of active Protectors in this District, apart from Departmental Officers, has been limited to two, both being Police Officers. These two men operate ration posts at Roebourne and Onslow respectively and have co-operated most whole-heartedly with the Department and its Officers. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their assistance during the past year.

PART II.—NATIVES.

I. Native Mining Activities.

Since the formation in June, 1951, of the major group engaged in surface mining with D. W. McLeod, their fluctuating fortunes have brought them into prominence throughout Australia and the attendant publicity has for better or for worse brought to the natives themselves an awareness of their plight.

During the year under review the Company formed by Mr. McLeod, ostensibly to promote the betterment of his native associates, went into voluntary liquidation. By September, 1954, a state had been reached whereby the adults of the group had been unable to feed their children and from the 19th of that month this Department took over the responsibility of rationing the children and has continued to do so to this day.

That any person, black or white, should have to admit that they are unable to provide the barest necessities of life for their children is a very sad state of affairs indeed, but when they have reached this state through mismanagement of their affairs by whites and their own refusal to face this fact, then it is time for their affairs and problems to be taken in hand by more experienced and competent persons. By December, 1954, the native leaders of the group had realised that steps must be taken to reduce their desperate plight and to this end Ernest Mitchell, the actual leader of the native people, proceeded to Perth with Mr. McLeod and at a conference with the Commissioner and myself a decision was made that this Department would take over and manage the affairs of the group.

Unfortunately, I was on biennial leave at this time, and it was not until the middle of February that the fullest use was made of this opportunity. Contact was immediately established with the main group and arrangements made for the sale of mineral already produced and the supply of stores, etc., on credit from a local Port Hedland firm.

Thus, from a nearly starving group, the natives concerned were immediately transformed to a self-sufficient, progressive and happy community, a state of affairs that lasted until the end of May. The Commissioner visited this District in April and during his visit consolidated the position with these natives by creating a firm agreement between the natives and this Department with regard to the marketing of their mineral and purchase of their various requirements. The Pilbara Native Society was formed from this meeting.

However, this ideal state did not last, and with the return of Mr. McLeod to the District early in May, discord arose between the natives, their leaders, McLeod, and this Department. At a meeting held late in May the natives of the Pilgangoora group decided to once again accept McLeod as their business manager, and so the Department withdrew from the Group Marketing Scheme.

The problems created by a development of this nature call for special treatment, and I believe that only through patience and example can these people be won back to a normal way of life.

2. Education.

The awareness of the adult natives today that lack of education imposed a heavy handicap on them is evident and every native child within reasonable distance of a school is sent to school by its parents. There is no doubt in the minds of the natives as to the benefits which accrue from the ability to read and write and to understand the white way of life.

In this District the problem is to bring the school to within reach of the children. The parents will not countenance having their children removed from their care entirely and until such time as hostels are established in towns near large concentrations of natives, the bulk of children belonging to these groups will remain uneducated.

A move in this direction has been the acquisition of Riverdale Station, Nullagine, for use as a Children's Hostel, and steps have been initiated for the purchase of a building in Marble Bar for the same purpose. (The building was later withdrawn from sale.—S.G.M.)

In Roebourne, the reserve children attend State school, and this system is functioning satisfactorily, but until a Mission is established the children of natives employed in the hinterland of Roebourne and the tablelands cannot receive adequate schooling.

The situation in the Gascoyne is fully catered for by the Carnarvon Mission, which has its own State school, and the Junior High School in the town itself.

3. Health.

Generally, the standard of health and medical services throughout the District has improved, with the result that natives today are better catered for than ever before.

The annual outbreak of virus influenza and the extremely unseasonable weather since early January to the end of June, has resulted in more deaths than usual, but not one could be directly attributed to neglect.

4. Employment

Throughout this District demand for native labour cannot be adequately met. (See introductory remarks.—S.G.M.)

There is an increasing number of requests for domestics in all parts of the District and some very high wages are quoted for good house girls. Female native cooks in the Pilbara District receive £8 per week, plus keep on stations, whilst in the towns house girls are paid £1 per day plus meals, extraordinary figures when one considers that 15s. per week was considered adequate as recently as five years ago.

For males, the seasonal demand cannot be met in any part of the District, but generally there is a sufficiency of labour during the off season. In the Pilbara, there are alternative avenues of employment not open to those resident in the Ashburton and Gascoyne Districts, namely, mining and buffle seed picking. Pilbara natives avail themselves of these opportunities and there are quite a number of independent miners and seed pickers.

On stations, and even in the towns, the demand is for skilled and semi-skilled men, such as windmill men, truck drivers, garage hands, carpenters' labourers, and the like.

5. Rationing.

For some years this District has had very few rationees, but the year has resulted in so many changes, especially in the Pilbara, that we now have some 20 or more adults and 35 children on the ration lists.

The 12-mile reserve is now a ration post for aged indigents of the McLeod group of natives, and some 12 adults and four children are rationed. A further 30 children are being succoured by this Department at a camp at Pinnacles, some 75 miles North of Port Hedland. The accounts are forwarded to the parents of these children monthly. No payment has yet been made by them or from their "manager," D. W. McLeod.

In Roebourne and Onslow a small number of aged indigents are maintained at Departmental expense.

6. Conclusion.

This is my first Annual Report as Acting District Officer of this District. I have not been able, through special circumstances, to patrol the District as adequately as I would have liked, but with assistance now at hand I trust that improvement will be noted on future occasions.

The natives within the District are appreciative of work being done on their behalf and I look forward with confidence to earning their goodwill in the coming year.

(Sgd.) H. R. TILBROOK,
Acting District Officer, North-West.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Introduction.

I have pleasure in submitting my fourth Annual Report in respect to this District.

During the year visits to this District were made by Mr. S. G. Middleton, Commissioner, and Mr. F. W. G. Andersen, Deputy Commissioner. On both occasions I was able to accompany them on patrols covering the District generally, and matters of interest and import concerning native welfare, were able to be fully discussed "on the spot," and considerable assistance was possible to me as a result.

In reviewing the year's progress, changes and shortage of staff are still the main reasons for being unable to maintain a satisfactory programme of work within the District. For four years I have experienced great difficulty in obtaining adequate staff to cope with the duties involved, and changes have been necessary, which have not assisted smooth administration. De-centralisation cannot be truly effected until this staff difficulty has been overcome.

Location.

District.—Comprises the East and West Kimberleys, and is classified for purposes of Departmental Administration as the Northern District.

Northern District Officer.—Situated at Derby.

Office, Assistant District Officer, Northern.—Situated at Broome.

Office, Patrol Officer, Northern.—Situated at Wyndham.

PART I.—ADMINISTRATION.

I. Staff.

J. Beharell, J.P.—District Officer, Northern ; J. Paquin—Assistant District Officer, Northern ; A. Down—Patrol Officer, Northern ; Patrol Officer to be appointed to Northern District Office ; Mrs. J. Beharell—Temporary part-time Clerk/Typist ; Mr. C. Martin—Clerical Assistant, Broome Office ; Bobby—Native Assistant, Northern District Office.

During the year ended, Mr. J. Hendrickse, Patrol Officer, was transferred to the North Central District, Mr. H. Tilbrook, Assistant District Officer, was transferred to the North West District as Acting District Officer, and Miss Y. Coleman resigned to take up duties in her father's business.

Mr. A. Down, Patrol Officer, relieved Mr. Hendrickse, Patrol Officer, at Wyndham, but has tendered his resignation, to take effect as from the end of July.

Mr. J. Paquin took over the duties of Assistant District Officer, Northern, from Mr. Tilbrook, transferred, and is resident at Broome.

No Clerk/Typist being available locally, Mrs. Beharell was engaged on a part-time basis for these duties at Northern District Office.

No appointment of a Patrol Officer, to be stationed at Derby, eventuated during the year, which considerably increased the duties of the District Officer.

2. Missions.

The following Missions are situated in the Northern District :—

| | | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|--------------------|
| Beagle Bay Mission | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| Forest River Mission | .... | .... | .... | .... | Church of England. |
| Holy Child Orphanage (Girls) | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| Kalumburu Mission, Drysdale | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| La Grange Mission | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| Lombardina Mission | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| Pallotine Mission, Balgo | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| St. John of God's Convent | .... | .... | .... | .... | Roman Catholic. |
| United Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy Crossing | .... | .... | .... | .... | Undenominational. |
| United Aborigines' Mission, Sunday Island | .... | .... | .... | .... | Undenominational. |
| Wotjulum Mission | .... | .... | .... | .... | Presbyterian. |

Beagle Bay Mission.

A patrol to this Mission was made with Mr. Middleton during his visit to the District. Father Leo. Hornung, the Superintendent, the Sisters of St. John of God, and other members of the staff, assisted in every way to make our visit both interesting and informative.

Great credit is directly due to Father Leo. for the amount of progress this Mission has made during the year. New buildings have been erected, septic system is being installed throughout the Institution, and reports from the supervisor of Native Schools, Mr. Thornbury, show that this aspect is receiving attention, and with his able and constructive guidance, progress is being made in that sphere. Sister Theresa, who is in charge of the school is keen, and shows an unflagging interest in her work.

Total population at this Mission as at 30th June, 1955, was 172 persons. This number includes 55 boys and 26 girls under the age of 16 years.

Dr. B. Cohen, Government Medical Officer, stationed at Broome, has interested himself in the health of the inmates, to their benefit.

Forrest River Mission.

A visit was made by Mr. Middleton, accompanied by myself during the year. We were met by Mr. France, who had recently taken over as Superintendent, and his wife. The Rev. K. Coaldrake was absent on furlough, and had just relinquished his Superintendency.

It was felt that there remained a good deal for Mr. France to do in order to bring this Institution up to satisfactory standards, which would warrant the continuation of large sums of money being spent on it by the Government.

Mr. France has since resigned, and Mr. Jamison has been appointed as Superintendent. The Rev. K. Coaldrake resumed after furlough as Chaplain.

The most progressive and pleasing feature of this Mission's activities for the year, continues to be the Government School, which is under the control of Miss E. Thomas, who has steadfastly and ably continued the work she began several years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Jamison have been Mission Workers at this Mission for some years, and their interest in native welfare, and desire to co-operate with this Department, are fully appreciated.

This Mission is the only one in the District conducted by the Church of England.

Holy Child Orphanage.

This Institution is situated at Broome, and is conducted by the Sisters of St. John of God, for native girls.

Children of school age attend school at the Broome Convent, which is conducted also by the Sisters of St. John of God Order.

Recent grants-in-aid have assisted this Institution by way of providing a new truck and tanks.

Mother Gabriel is in charge of the Orphanage, and with the able assistance of several Sisters, the children's welfare is in very capable hands.

Kalumburu Mission.

This Mission was visited by me for the first time when I accompanied the Commissioner, Mr. Middleton, during his tour of this District. It is the most isolated of all Missions in this area, being situated in the most North-West point of this State, and unapproachable except by 'plane and bi-ennially by boat.

It is doubtful whether such isolation is a good thing for the ultimate assimilation of the inmates, but I was favourably impressed with my first view of the conduct of this Institution. However, time did not permit of a thorough investigation into the whole of the activities thereon, and a further visit will be made at the earliest opportunity.

The Mission is conducted by the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. Until recently Father Nosedá was the Superintendent, but is believed he has now left and Father Sanz has relieved him.

Approximately 93 inmates are being subsidised at this Institution, which, according to the latest figures available, has a total population of 201 persons.

La Grange Mission.

This Mission was formerly a Ration Depot conducted by this Department, but as from the 1st January, 1955, it was taken over by the Pallotine Order of the Roman Catholic Church, to become an Institution known as the La Grange Mission, under the Superintendency of Father Francis Huegel, who is capably assisted by a nursing sister, Miss Evans.

As at the 30th June, 1955, there were 86 persons at this Institution. Owing to the fact that the Superintendent is not routing his correspondence correctly, I have no record of the number of subsidised inmates at this Mission.

Sister Evans is conducting a school and caring for the sick. Her welfare work is well-known and highly regarded, for she was stationed previously at Pallotine Mission, Blago. This Mission is fortunate to have the services of such a capable person.

During wet weather La Grange is entirely isolated, and the road to Broome impassable. In order to get sick patients to hospital, serious consideration should be given for the construction of an all-weather airstrip in this area.

Lombadina Mission.

Situated approximately 45 miles North of Beagle Bay Mission, this Institution is conducted by the same Order, namely, the Pallotine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. Father John Herold has been the Superintendent for some years, and is ably assisted in the work at this Mission by the Sisters of St. John of God.

I visited this Institution with Mr. Middleton in September, 1954, and it was pleasing to note the progress which had been attempted since my previous visit.

Since that time I have been advised that a new hospital, fully equipped, has been built, and is being used. Also, a new store building has been erected. Grants-in-aid have assisted the Mission in these projects, and the purchase of a Dodge Utility. Further assistance was given by grants-in-aid for the purchase of a refrigerator and kitchen louvres.

During February of this year this Mission suffered severely from a cyclone. The Superintendent reports that three windmills were blown down and damaged beyond repair, and three others partly damaged. Workshops were demolished and the paper bark roofs of most buildings blown away.

The spirit of the Mission is adequately shown in the Superintendent's report, where he states the repairs to the roofs have been completed, and three new windmills have been erected, and a further two repaired. Only one remains incomplete, but parts for same are awaited.

Total population as at 30th June, 1955, 74 persons and of these 32 are being subsidised by this Department.

The Sisters conduct school at this Mission, but Mr. Thornbury was unable to make his annual visit of inspection this year, owing to rain making the road from Beagle Bay impassable.

Pallotine Mission, Balgo.

This Mission is situated well South of Halls Creek. It has been established for some sixteen years by the Pallotine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. Father A. Bleishwitz, the Superintendent, is at present on furlough and Father Kearney has been relieving in his absence.

I have visited this Mission twice during the year, the first time in company with Mr. Middleton and later during a routine patrol.

The type of native in this area is considerably less assimilated than in other parts of the District, and the Mission fulfils a necessary contact point for them.

It is difficult to describe the utter barrenness of the surrounding country, but during my last visit Father Kearney stated the sheep numbers had increased, and great success had been obtained in horse breeding, for which the country seems ideally suited.

Unfortunately, due to illness, Miss White, a nursing sister, has been absent for periods, and finally had to leave permanently. It has meant that Father Kearney has had to carry out the full routine of the Mission unassisted. This includes school and caring for the sick. However, it is anticipated that Father Bleishwitz will be back soon, and a Brother to assist him.

There is only a monthly plane service to Balgo. In the case of sick natives, special charter trips are made to take them to hospital.

The water supply is both inadequate and mineral to the taste. It is hoped to improve these defects by damming a nearby waterhole after first deepening it.

There are approximately 120 persons at this Mission of whom 55 are subsidised by this Department.

During the year the following improvements have been effected :—

- A temporary hospital erected ;
- School building completed and in use ;
- Girls' dormitory extended by the addition of two rooms.

All buildings are constructed of local stone and mud brick walls. Local timber is used for the roof structure.

St. John of God Convent.

This Convent is situated in the township of Broome, and is conducted by the Sisters of St. John of God, under the able leadership of Mother Margaret.

School is conducted on these premises, and the children from the Holy Child Orphanage attend.

A hostel for some of the older girls employed at Broome is provided for their welfare.

Mr. Thornbury, Supervisor of Native Education, regularly inspects the school on his visits to this area.

United Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy Crossing.

This Mission is situated at Fitzroy Crossing, and has been established as such for only three years. However, a great deal of improvement was carried out by this Department before making the Institution available to the United Aborigines' Mission.

Since that time it has been unfortunate in experiencing several changes in its Superintendent, and at present is awaiting the arrival of a new one. Mr. Smoker, however, is carrying on.

During the year the following improvements have been made :—

- Girls' dormitory completed ;
- Erection of a small building to house engine plant to provide electricity for the whole Institution ;
- Small building erected for housing the milk separator.

Arrangements were made by this Department for the installation of the electrical plant and wiring, and same was completed very satisfactorily by Mr. Stone of the Public Works Department.

On the occasion of my last visit to this Mission during this year, the population totalled 56, of which 44 were being subsidised, and the remaining 12 classed as Mission Workers.

Mrs. Smoker gallantly attempts to teach school to 33 children of varying ages. There are a number of children on stations surrounding this Institution, who would attend school if able to be submitted, but owing to the present staff position this is impossible.

Much credit for the satisfactory conduct of this Mission must go to Mr. and Mrs. Walker, since resigned, and to Mr. and Mrs. Smoker, who have been tireless in their efforts towards the welfare of the inmates. It is to be hoped that the parent Council Body will make every endeavour to arrange for a more stabilised staff position in the future.

United Aborigines Mission, Sunday Island.

This Mission is situated on an Island of that name at the entrance to King Sound. It is totally isolated, and can only be approached by boat.

I visited the Mission on the 1st February, 1955, and found Mr. Power, the Superintendent, making every endeavour to conduct this Institution in a proper manner, but even so there are unsatisfactory aspects, which militate against this, and the future of such a Mission appears clouded in uncertainty, for the people are lacking the normal opportunities to become assimilated, and are prone to adopt an attitude that they are sufficient unto themselves, even disdaining to seek employment when it is available to them on or near the Island, and it is within such an unsatisfactory atmosphere that the children are being raised.

The total number of children at the Mission at that time was 56, adults numbered 78, making a total population of 134.

A pleasing feature was the arrival of Mr. Lindsay of the Education Department, to take up his duties at the school. Previously, school was conducted by Miss Langley an untrained teacher, who gave good service, but found some of the older children difficult to manage.

During the year, the school building, which is also used as a Church, has been completed, also a three roomed cottage for the school teacher.

The natives are still accommodated in dwellings of various types in the valley below the European quarters. Mr. Power assured me it was his intention, as soon as possible, to build new quarters for them in a more preferable position on the hill-top.

There is no technical training being taught to the young people of this Mission, and consideration might well be given to establishing such education, for the Island offers no natural industry to absorb the employable natives thereon.

Wotjulum Mission.

A visit was made to this Mission by me on 30th January, 1955.

Progress at this Mission is disappointing, and scarcely worth mentioning. In fact, it is very doubtful if any has been made during the past twelve months, and there are aspects of the Mission's activities which have retrogressed during that period. It is unfortunate, but the remedy must lie with the controlling Mission Body whose direct responsibility it is to create a satisfactory staff position thereon.

Conclusion.—In reviewing the year's activities in relation to Missions situated in this District, it is felt that much progress was made both in a practical way and in an appreciation of the new demands made upon them in respect to native welfare work.

The increase in the children's subsidy has had general beneficial effects for these inmates.

My appreciation is extended to all the Missions in the District, for the kindness and co-operation shown to my Officers and myself on the occasions of our visits during the year.

3. Institutions.

La Grange Ration Depot was handed over to the Pallotine Order of the Roman Catholic Church as from 1st January, 1955.

Moola Bulla Native Settlement ceased to be a Departmental Institution as from 1st July, 1955, and became the property of Mr. and Mrs. A. Goldman.

4. Protectors of Natives.

My appreciation and thanks are extended to all those persons who assisted my Officers and myself in the capacity of Protectors of Natives during the year.

5. Patrols.

It was my intention and desire this year to arrange patrols, which would cover the District fully, and thus make more contact with our native population.

As in previous years, this ambition could not be fully realised, for the Officers to carry out even a token effort in this regard were not available, and transfers occurring during that period played not a small part in disorganising each attempt to plan such systematic patrolling.

In spite of these difficulties a number of routine patrols were made through the East and West Kimberleys. It is felt, however, that more time could be spent in pursuing the welfare needs of the individual, whereas, at present, one has only time to consider them en masse.

6. Reserves.

There are many Reserves in this District, and although it will be necessary for Departmental reasons to retain some, it may be possible to relinquish others to the Crown. Consideration will be given to this matter during the coming year, for it is felt that such Reserves may be taken up by selectors and further opportunities of employment could thus be available for the native.

PART II.—NATIVES.

1. Statistics.

See separate Population Statistics return.

2. Education.

The approach by the Department of Education to this subject in relation to native children is most encouraging and progressive.

Already, on several of the Missions, trained teachers are now installed, and such a step must bring forth worthwhile results, which will give the native child an opportunity in life seldom offered him previously.

The aim to establish schools on suitable stations presents a further advancement towards bringing education into the lives of these people, and the manner in which certain stations, such as Margaret Downs (Go Go) and others, have offered their co-operation in every way is pleasing, to say the very least.

The establishment of children's hostels in towns, to absorb those of school age who live on surrounding stations, upon which it may be impossible, through lack of numbers or other reasons, to establish a school is being contemplated, and such a scheme would fulfil a great need which exists for many children at present. The day may, therefore, not be far distant when every native child will have the opportunity and resulting advantage of at least a primary school education.

Native education was once left to those who wanted to develop it, and its benefits were often doubted, but society has always, for reasons of self-interest, if for no other, educated its children so that they grow up law-abiding, with socialised aims and purposes. There is no other way it can be done.

3. Employment and Industry.

The main industries in this District are cattle, sheep and pearl fishing.

There is no surplus of employable labour in the Kimberleys, and, in fact, some employees are finding it more and more difficult to obtain sufficient numbers of employees for their requirements.

Conditions of employment, however, still leave much to be desired. The progress of improvement in this respect is extremely slow.

A contributing factor is that all approaches towards an improved state of working conditions are in the main, made to employees and not the owners, and although often sympathetic, they are unable to alter present conditions without risk of severe repercussions.

The resources of this country have been developed at the cost of the labour it employed. Men have added to their worldly possessions at the cost of other men. Such development has only one true name, and that is exploitation. It should not be permissible for any industry to depend for its success in keeping labour poor.

The basis of many social problems which confront welfare workers in relation to natives to-day is an economic one. Skin pigmentation is a minor matter, but security produced by allowing him a reasonable standard of living can overcome prejudice no matter how severe. As a Christian people we will never be able to evade the moral issues involved.

4. Medical and Health.

Native Hospitals exist at Derby, Broome, and Wyndham. In the same towns District, or European, Hospitals are also maintained by the Department of Public Health. As a layman, I have always found such a state of affairs difficult to understand, for the greatly increased costs of running two Institutions instead of one, appears unnecessary, besides encouraging a form of segregation which other Departments are trying to overcome. A convenient ward or wards within the District Hospital grounds would still enable natives to be sufficiently separated, but allow the Institution to be conducted as a single unit.

The Australian Inland Mission maintains nursing centres at Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek, and the trained nursing staff carry out their duties both satisfactorily and admirably.

The Derby Leprosarium has continued to discharge many of its patients during the year, thus giving hope to the sufferers of what has always been regarded as a dreaded disease. The administrative and nursing staff, the latter under the capable leadership of Mother Alphonsus, deserve special mention for their untiring efforts towards their native patients.

Two Flying Doctors, based at Derby and Wyndham respectively, carry out routine medical patrols of most of the Kimberley Stations once a month, but are always available for urgent calls at any time.

The close co-operation which has existed during the year between the Medical Officers stationed in this District and the Officers of this Department has been greatly appreciated, and their assistance at all times towards the welfare of the native population, has created an atmosphere of goodwill, fortunate, and very desirable.

Sanitary conditions on many stations remain as primitive as ever, and one is still told that natives would not use sanitary conveniences if they were provided, although this is not borne out by those who have even provided septic systems for their employees. This is an aspect that could be investigated by Health Inspectors when visiting this area.

5. Crime

This District has been very free of serious offences committed by natives during the year. No Courts of Native Affairs were convened.

One case of manslaughter was brought before a Jury at Derby, *Regina v. Clement Raphael*. However, a verdict of not guilty was returned. Mr. T. Franklyn, Solicitor at Geraldton, ably assisted the defendant in his trial.

Minor offences, and there were not very many of them consisted in main of charges for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and receiving liquor.

The behaviour of natives in this District during this period has been, in my opinion, of a very high standard.

6. Conclusion.

This year, not unlike the previous one, has been difficult, although in certain avenues progress was made. My concern, however, is the fact that the native is not receiving the individual attention through contact, which would assist him in the manner desired.

Only sufficient staff will overcome this problem and allow me to administer the District efficiently. Welfare work, as is well recognised, cannot be dealt with in groups, but each individual case requires its own particular solution.

Pleasing features are the manner in which natives, in increasing numbers, are coming to our officers for assistance, and the confidence being placed in the policy of this Department by the employers, who now seek to co-operate, whereas, not very long ago there existed, in many of their minds, suspicions and doubts in relation to it. Everything possible will be done to nurture and continue these relationships.

My appreciation and thanks go to those Officers who have assisted in no small way to achieve these modest results, also to all at Head Office for their able assistance and co-operation at all times, without which our task would have been considerably more difficult.

(Sgd.) J. S. BEHARELL,

District Officer—Northam.

SECTION "B"



Departmental Institutions



ALVAN HOUSE FOR GIRLS.

In this its 5th year as an Educational and General Training Hostel for Native Girls, Alvan House has achieved marked success in the University Leaving and Junior Examinations. This success has had considerable effect, not only upon the girls themselves but upon the majority of parents who are becoming more ambitious and desirous for their children to take advantage of all opportunities presented to them per medium of Alvan House. This co-operation on the part of the parents is very helpful.

The beginning of the school year, February, 1955, saw the return of 10 girls and an additional seven new inmates making a total of 17 for the first school term. At the end of the term two girls left on vacation and did not return, so that we continue the year with 15 girls in residence.

Education.

Examination Results :—

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| 1954 Leaving—Florrie Herdigan, | 5 | subject | passed. |
| 1954 Junior —Vivian Corbett, | 7 | „ | „ |
| 1954 „ —Pat. Thompson, | 5 | „ | „ |
| 1954 „ —Verna Councillor, | 5 | „ | „ |

The seven new girls this year were given a Vocational Guidance test before enrolment and the advice given by that Branch was very beneficial ; all girls were enrolled at the schools suggested.

Girdlestone High School, where commercial subjects are taught has a new course this year namely High School Certificate—a course designed to train girls as junior office assistants in the subjects asked for by employers of such girls. They comprise mainly typing, some shorthand, simplified book-keeping, English (including quite a lot of oral work), arithmetic and in addition a wider range of current topical work and social studies. It was decided that the University Junior is only necessary for those girls who wish to continue to study for an academic career. A Certificate of Proficiency will be issued at the end of the 3rd year to all girls having successfully completed this course.

The enrolment at schools is as follows :—

Girdlestone Girls' High School—

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|---------|
| 9th Standard Junior Division | .... | 1 girl |
| 8th Standard High School Certificate | | 6 girls |
| 7th „ „ „ „ | | 1 girl |

Perth Girls' High School—

| | | |
|--|--|---------|
| 9th Standard Junior Technical Division | | 3 girls |
| 8th „ „ „ „ | | 1 girl |
| 7th „ „ „ „ | | 2 girls |
| 7th „ „ „ „ | | 1 girl |

One girl is a school prefect at Perth Girls' School and two are class prefects at Girdlestone High School.

Sporting.

The girls are all quite good and very interested in sport, most being in the "A" or "B" teams of their respective sports at school—hockey, basketball and softball ; several girls are captains of their teams. Ten girls play sport on Saturday afternoons.

Health.

The health of the girls for the current year has been fairly good. At the end of 1954 there was an isolated case of rubella and three cases of mumps ; we were very fortunate that such diseases did not affect all inmates.

After May vacation, Dr. Ida Mann examined all girls for trachoma, all but two were or had been affected. Treatment was given to all. After discussion with Dr. Mann it was decided that as all girls return home for vacations and may become re-infected, it would be wise to give a course of treatment to all girls at the beginning of the school year and again after August vacation.

A dental examination was made to all new girls and those requiring attention attend dental clinic.

Four girls who had not been immunised for diphtheria are now undergoing a course of injections.

Vocational.

Mr. Christmass continues to teach Phyllis Bennell to play the piano.

Miss Judy Schonell gives her service in teaching all girls ballet for one lesson each week.

The complimentary service being rendered by these two young and busy artists is greatly appreciated by the girls and the Native Welfare Department.

Social Activities.

Due to the initiative of some of the Central District welfare staff, contact was made with Y.W.C.A., Perth, and all girls now attend clubs there each Friday evening. This is a great step towards their assimilation, and I feel that in future all girls entering Alvan House should join the " Y " whilst they are here.

From information volunteered I find that the girls are well-behaved, very popular and well accepted. They are all very keen to belong to this association and at a ceremony I attended recently they were all enrolled as " Girl Citizens "—this ceremony was simple and sincere and will, I know, be very helpful to them in their future life.

Two of our senior girls, Bessie Hardy and Laurel Yarran, have been invited to attend a Girl Citizens' Conference at Melbourne, Victoria, during the August holidays. There will be eight delegates from W.A., accompanied by a member of the Y.W.C.A. staff. At the conference there will be girls from all parts of Australia. The two Alvan House girls are the first two girls of aboriginal descent who have ever been invited or selected to attend and take part in one of these conferences in the history of the Y.W.C.A. We at Alvan House are very proud and grateful to the Y.W.C.A. for the opportunity offered and the advance it should make in the assimilation of our native girls.

We would like to thank National Headquarters of the Y.W.C.A., Melbourne, for kindly paying all expenses for one girl for the trip and the General Secretary of the " Y," Perth, who made all arrangements.

In September last the University Guild of Undergraduates kindly invited the girls who were not here the previous year to visit and took them on a tour of the buildings and grounds.

Seventeen girls attended the Easter Camp at Bickley with the Y.W.C.A.

The boys at McDonald House visit Alvan House on the first Sunday in the month, the return visit being made to McDonald House on the third Sunday. The children thoroughly enjoy this social contact with those of their own colour and opposite sex.

Other social activities include sports meeting and football matches at W.A.C.A. ; pictures at local theatre on Saturday evenings ; surfing at Scarborough during the summer months.

At the conclusion of the school year in December, we had a happy break-up party, the McDonald House boys and various friends being invited and if enjoyment can be gauged by noise, then it was a most successful party !

All girls attend their respective churches at least once on Sundays. Church of England, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, and Church of Christ.

Visitors.

Professor Elkin, escorted by Commissioner of Native Welfare, Mr. S. G. Middleton ; Mrs. Barr and an Indonesian friend who was greatly impressed by the establishment ; Mr. Robinson of the Church of Christ Board of Missions.

Maintenance.

Various small items of maintenance have been attended to during the year.

A "Wonder Heat" was installed. It is effective and clean, but lacks the cheerfulness and sense of peace and comfort which seems to emanate from a blazing log fire.

Gardens Board now attend to our lawns and gardens, which are much improved in appearance due to this service.

To conclude I wish to say that the general atmosphere of Alvan House at present is all that could be desired. The girls are co-operative, interested, and anxious to improve in all ways.

(Sgd.) L. F. PULLEN.

Officer-in-Charge.

McDONALD HOUSE FOR BOYS.

Eight of the nine boys in residence at McDonald House as at 30th June, 1955, are attending Perth Boys' High School; the other is a student at Perth Modern School. Their ages range from 12 to 17 years, the majority in the younger group, aged 13 to 14 years.

At the end of 1954, one boy left school to take a trade apprenticeship. Four came back to continue at school in 1955. Seven new boys were admitted. During the first term of the year two of the older boys left school. One was studying for his Junior this year, and, although he had the ability to do the work, he was not prepared to do the necessary home study. Both were in the older age group when first accepted as inmates and pupils.

Education.

Geoffrey Penny sat for his Junior in 1954, and passed in eight subjects. He is now studying for his Leaving Certificate at Perth Modern School, having been granted a Teacher's Training Bursary by the Director of Education.

Of the eight boys attending Perth Boys' High School, one is in 8th Standard and the other seven in the 7th Standard. Most of these did quite well in their first terminal examination.

During the month of June, the Historical Society held an exhibition for four days in the Town Hall. Each evening, some of the students from Perth Boys' put on a play. Four McDonald House boys took part in it and it is reported that they acted their parts very well.

Sport.

The boys all play basketball at school, also football and cricket. One boy is captain of one of the football teams. Two of the boys have been selected to tour with the W.A. State Schoolboys' Football Team in Adelaide during August. G. Penny plays with the first eighteen at Modern School, and is one of their "star" players. He also took part in the 1954 State Schools' sports. He won the 16-year 100 yds. Championship and came third in the 220 yds.

The two older boys play football for West Perth Under Eighteen. G. Penny won the trophy for the fairest and best player in this Club last year, and also one or two other trophies. Most of the boys received trophies at the end of the 1954 season.

The younger boys play for North Perth Under Fifteen.

At the end of the 1954 football season, the President of the West Perth Football Club rang me to say how delighted they all were with the performance of all the boys. They played well and their behaviour was always excellent on the field, and they were very well liked by everyone.

Social Evenings.

Social evenings in the home have proved to be very popular. School-pals, Scouts, ex-Alvan and McDonald House young people, and also children from various Mission Stations and church groups have attended. During the summer months, afternoons and evenings were often spent at the beach.

"Toc H" invited the boys to a guest evening in Fremantle when a State cricketer (Mr. K. Meulemann) was the guest speaker.

Outings in private homes for the group and for individual boys have been enjoyed, also church socials.

Eight of the boys attend Scouts regularly. The senior Scouts spent two week-ends away with their troupe, and one lad went to the camp at Rottnest during the summer holidays.

The boys all attend church regularly.

A party of 19 of us visited the Roelands Mission at Easter time. All thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We are grateful to the two friends who made transport available.

The Alvan House girls visit McDonald House the third Sunday afternoon in each month. The boys visit Alvan House the first Sunday of the month. These outings are very much enjoyed by the young people.

One Monday holiday last year a most enjoyable day was spent with the Alvan House girls at Point Walter.

Health.

During May Dr. Mann examined the children to ascertain the extent of trachoma eye infection. There were 11 cases, five were quiescent and six active. The children have all received treatment.

One boy, on entering McDonald House early this year, was admitted to Perth Hospital with trachoma, but quickly responded to treatment and was soon allowed home.

Apart from that and one or two children attending the Dental Clinic, the health of the children throughout the year has been excellent.

Staff.

Miss Marjorie Conway, an ex-Roelands Mission girl, very capably assisted in the home for a few months last year. She left to take up nursing at Royal Perth Hospital. Another Roelands girl has been helping in the home this year. She is a splendid girl too, and is attending night school with the idea of also taking up nursing. Miss F. Atkins capably relieves on my day off.

Maintenance.

On the 8th October, 1954, at the invitation of the Minister of Native Welfare, Mr. Hegney, the Premier, Mr. Hawke, officially opened the additions and alterations to McDonald House. About 30 guests were invited. Delight was expressed at the big improvement to the home. It certainly is a pleasure to live in the home now.

Cane chairs, new wardrobes, new curtains and oddments of furniture now make the home very comfortable.

(Sgd.) H. STYLES,
Officer-in-Charge.

SECTION "C"



Head Office Administration



Finance.

Departmental expenditure for the year was £393,061 (*see* appendix No. 2), which exceeded our financial vote by £20,061, the excess being caused mainly by the following :—

- A. Grants-in-Aid to Missions for works of a capital nature.
- B. Provision of facilities on reserves for the use of natives camped thereon.
- C. Increase in native wages at Moola Bulla.
- D. Re-imbursments to Medical and Education Departments for medical treatment and education of natives.

An increase of 5s. per week in cash subsidy payments for children in Native Missions was granted from 1st December, 1954, raising the subsidy rate to 35s. 9d. per child per week.

A request by the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare to the Lotteries Commission for a per capita grant to Native Missions maintaining approved native child inmates, similar to that paid to Institutions caring for white State wards, (i.e., 7s. 6d. per child per week), was agreed to and the Commission fixed the grant at 5s. per child per week from 1st April, 1955. In those cases where the religious principles of a Mission body obliged it to refuse donations by the Lotteries Commission; the Government agreed to pay an equivalent sum of 5s. per child per week to compensate, in addition to the subsidy rate of 35s. 9d. per week. A financial statement of Departmental expenditure on Missions is contained in Appendix No. 5.

Under the Native Welfare Act the Minister may acquire, improve and dispose of land or buildings to the benefit of natives and action was taken under this Section (6A) to purchase Riverdale Cattle Station.

Moola Bulla Native Station was handed over to the Lands Department on 21st January, 1955, to administer until disposal was arranged. The property was subsequently sold to private interests for £100,000 and finally handed over on the 30th June, 1955.

Loan Funds expenditure was restricted to finalising accounts for boring at Moola Bulla Native Station and alterations at McDonald House.

In view of the closure of Moola Bulla as at 30th June, 1955, approval was sought and granted for Loan Funds outstanding for that Station to be transferred to a general heading for use at all Departmental establishments (*see* Appendix No. 1).

Revenue collections during the year were £61,659 mainly from the sale of cattle from Moola Bulla. This money was paid into the Consolidated Revenue of the State in accordance with established practice ; contrary to general public belief it is not immediately available to the Department for native welfare purposes.

The Natives Medical Fund.

A statement showing receipts and payments is attached (*see* Appendix No. 3).

Contributions—During the year under review 1,464 permits were issued to cover the employment of 3,863 natives. This represents a decrease of 526 permits issued when compared with the previous figures (*see* table below) and a corresponding decrease of natives covered. Consequently contributions to the Fund decreased.

In addition to the above 59 natives availed themselves of the benefits provided by the Fund by making voluntary contributions. The previous year 77 took advantage of this provision.

In 1954 session of Parliament the Native Welfare Act, 1905-54 was passed and the Act was proclaimed as a lawful measure in the *Government Gazette* on the 20th May, 1955. The repeal of the permit to employ system (Section 19) and the Natives Medical Fund (Section 37) of the Native Administration Act therefore took effect on that date. The Natives Medical Fund is now in the process of being wound up.

The following table shows details from the inception of the Fund :—

| Year. | No. of Permits. | No. of Natives Employed. | No. of Voluntary Contributions. | Net Receipts from Contributions. | Payments. | Government Grants to Fund to Maintain Solvency. |
|---------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 1937-38 | 1,071 | 3,665 | .... | 2,210 | 970 | .... |
| 1938-39 | 1,442 | 3,949 | .... | 2,532 | 2,731 | .... |
| 1939-40 | 1,538 | 4,075 | .... | 3,075 | 3,417 | .... |
| 1940-41 | 1,724 | 4,138 | .... | 3,445 | 3,595 | .... |
| 1941-42 | 1,914 | 4,366 | .... | 3,826 | 4,086 | .... |
| 1942-43 | 2,198 | 4,628 | .... | 3,905 | 3,003 | .... |
| 1943-44 | 2,453 | 5,625 | 16 | 4,360 | 3,727 | .... |
| 1944-45 | 2,364 | 5,351 | 6 | 4,571 | 6,262 | .... |
| 1945-46 | 2,427 | 5,463 | 9 | 4,301 | 4,182 | .... |
| 1946-47 | 2,521 | 5,636 | 13 | 4,304 | 4,361 | .... |
| 1947-48 | 2,755 | 5,648 | 3 | 4,357 | 3,499 | .... |
| 1948-49 | 2,805 | 6,095 | 5 | 4,564 | 3,781 | .... |
| 1949-50 | 2,844 | 6,264 | 10 | 4,652 | 3,542 | .... |
| 1950-51 | 2,625 | 5,677 | 11 | 4,358 | 6,769 | .... |
| 1951-52 | 2,417 | 5,430 | 204 | 4,522 | 6,368 | 2,500 |
| 1952-53 | 2,271 | 4,677 | 84 | 11,545 | 12,796 | 1,330 |
| 1953-54 | 1,990 | 4,785 | 77 | 11,420 | 20,836 | 9,149 |
| 1954-55 | 1,464 | 3,863 | 59 | 9,410 | 20,447 | 11,037 |

Claims Paid.

Payments to the undermentioned occurred during the year, with the previous year's figures in parentheses :—

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------|----------|
| Doctors | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £3,038 | (3,509) |
| Hospitals | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £16,609 | (16,683) |
| Sundries | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | £800 | (645) |

Government funds to the extent of £11,037 were used to buttress the Native Medical Fund for the year to enable current commitments to be met.

Trust Accounts and Investments.

At the 30th June, 1955, a total of 33 Savings Bank Trust Accounts were being administered by this Department on behalf of the natives. The number of accounts decreased by 38 over the financial year, one new account being opened and 39 being closed. The sum total held in Trust Accounts decreased by £1,034 19s. 5d., to £3,003 14s. 8d., at the 30th June, 1955.

The amount invested in Commonwealth Bonds decreased by £310 to £7,611 at the 30th June, 1955. Through the year Bonds were purchased on behalf of one native and another nine natives had their Bonds sold at their own request.

Estates.

During the year the Estates of 15 deceased natives of a total value of £496 2s. 9d., were administered by the Department. At the 30th June, 1955, there were five estates awaiting finalisation.

Maintenance.

At the 30th June, 1955, this Department was handling a total of 42 maintenance cases, 15 less than as at the 30th June, 1954.

Two new cases were started during the year, Court Orders having been obtained against the fathers. Seventeen cases were finalised, the Court Orders having expired and maintenance being fully paid.

Christmas Cheer.

As in the past at Christmas, £600 was again donated by the Lotteries Commission for distribution of Christmas Cheer for Christmas, 1954. In addition £10 was received from the Young Contingent of the Victoria League in West Australia.

These generous donations made it possible to brighten the lives of native children and destitute adult natives in Missions, Institutions and on Reserves on Christmas Day by the distribution of gifts and provisions to give added enjoyment on the festive occasion.

Lotteries Commission.

Amounts of £16,805 2s. 3d. and £2,582 7s. 6d. were donated generously by the Lotteries Commission to Native Missions and Governmental Institutions respectively conducted for the benefit of natives. It is wished to record sincere appreciation to the Lotteries Commission for their continued assistance.

Population Statistics.

See Appendix No. 4.

Housing.

The State Housing Commission has supplied the following information in respect to housing applicants of aboriginal descent :—

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Applied | 144 |
| Refused | 1 |
| Withdrawn | 11 |
| Awaiting on allocation | 71 |
| Completed or Under Construction | 29 |
| Homes Occupied | 32 |

The following particulars are given in respect to the status of the applicants :—

| | Applied. | Homes Occupied. |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| Natives in Law | 73 | 12 |
| Natives in Law (exempted) | 7 | ... |
| Citizenship Holders (not Native in Law) | 52 | 17 |
| Quadroons or Less (not Natives in Law) | 10 | 2 |
| Ex-Servicemen (not Natives in Law) | 2 | 1 |
| Totals | 144 | 32 |

Children's Court Orders and Orders issued under Section 39 of the Native Welfare Act authorising Removal and Detention of Natives.

At the 30th June, 1955, 83 orders were in force. These consisted of :—

- 82 Orders issued through Childrens' Courts.
- 1 Order issued under Section 39 of the Native Welfare Act.

Of these 83 persons under above Orders: —

- 47 were in Native Institutions.
- 10 were in subsidised Institutions declared under Child Welfare Act.
- 7 were in supervised employment.
- 19 were released on probation to parents or relatives.

Citizenship.

During the year ended 30th June, 1955, notification was received of 167 applications for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications notified since inception, 1,120. Of this number :—

- 845 applications were granted.
- 157 applications were dismissed.
- 32 applications were withdrawn.
- 33 applications were adjourned.
- 53 awaiting hearing.

N.B. All applications for Citizenship Rights by natives are heard and determined by a Citizenship Board on which there is no Departmental representation.

Exemption.

Eighty-eight applications were received during the year bringing the total applications to 939.

Of this number :—

- 909 have been granted.
- 27 have been refused.
- 3 await the Hon. Minister's decision.

At the 30th June, 1955, 527 Certificates of Exemption were in existence, the remainder having been cancelled through death of the holder, the procurement of Citizenship Rights or cancellation by the Hon. Minister.

S. G. MIDDLETON,

Commissioner of Native Welfare.

Appendix No. 1.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1954-1955.

GENERAL LOAN FUNDS.

| <i>Receipts.</i> | | | <i>Payments.</i> | | |
|---|-------------|--------------|---|-------------|--------------|
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| Balance at 1st July, 1954 | 20,397 | 10 9 | Moola Bulla Native Station—Water Supply | | |
| Unexpended balance at 30th June, 1955 | 19,964 | 18 10 | —Item R1 | 255 | 0 0 |
| | | | McDonald House—Furniture—Item R5 | 177 | 11 11 |
| | <u>£432</u> | <u>11 11</u> | | <u>£432</u> | <u>11 11</u> |

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

9th August, 1955

(Signed) C. P. MATHEA,
Auditor General.

Appendix No. 2.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1954-1955.

NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST.

| Receipts. | | | | | Payments. | | | | |
|--|---------|----|----|---------|-----------|----|---------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Grant under Section 5 of Native Administration Act, 1905-47 | | | | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund— | | | | | | | | | |
| Native Affairs Division 24 | | | | 165,964 | 15 | 3 | | | |
| North West Native Affairs Division 55 | | | | 217,096 | 4 | 1 | | | |
| Revenue Collections (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund)— | | | | | | | | | |
| Departmental— | | | | | | | | | |
| Alvan House | 457 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | |
| Bennett House | 85 | 10 | 10 | | | | | | |
| La Grange Native Depot | 208 | 15 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Moola Bulla Native Station | 32,564 | 1 | 9 | | | | | | |
| McDonald House | 199 | 17 | 1 | | | | | | |
| District Offices | 744 | 17 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Maintenance (Recoup Subsidy to Missions) | 1,035 | 18 | 11 | | | | | | |
| Relief to Natives | 473 | 18 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Bulk Rations | 121 | 3 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Native Reserves | 677 | 4 | 0 | | | | | | |
| General Administration (Permit Fees, etc.) | 1,075 | 3 | 9 | | | | | | |
| Reimbursement from Medical Department (Revenue received from Derby Leprosarium and Native Hospitals) | 24,015 | 11 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Total | 61,659 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Child Endowment (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund—Rebates)— | | | | | | | | | |
| Alvan House | 272 | 5 | 8 | | | | | | |
| La Grange Native Depot | 425 | 3 | 7 | | | | | | |
| McDonald House | 140 | 19 | 11 | | | | | | |
| Moola Bulla Native Station | 3,310 | 8 | 11 | | | | | | |
| Total | £4,148 | 18 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Institutions— | | | | | | | | | |
| Alvan House— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 2,839 | 12 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 676 | 1 | 9 | 3,515 | 13 | 10 | | | |
| Bennett House— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 1,391 | 5 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 521 | 2 | 0 | 1,912 | 7 | 3 | | | |
| La Grange Native Depot— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 4,017 | 13 | 7 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 786 | 7 | 2 | 4,804 | 0 | 9 | | | |
| Moola Bulla Native Station— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 18,113 | 8 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 12,161 | 12 | 0 | 30,275 | 0 | 2 | | | |
| McDonald House— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 4,342 | 11 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 718 | 1 | 7 | 5,060 | 13 | 5 | | | |
| Office Administration :— | | | | | | | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Broome— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 1,653 | 15 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,723 | 19 | 8 | 3,377 | 14 | 10 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Carnarvon— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 345 | 15 | 8 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,065 | 4 | 0 | 1,410 | 19 | 8 | | | |
| District Office—Central— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 480 | 3 | 7 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 2,599 | 9 | 4 | 3,079 | 12 | 11 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Central— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 589 | 9 | 7 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 2,047 | 4 | 8 | 2,636 | 14 | 3 | | | |
| District Office—Derby— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 894 | 7 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,809 | 15 | 2 | 2,704 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| District Office—Geraldton— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 1,171 | 8 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 2,566 | 0 | 2 | 3,737 | 8 | 5 | | | |
| Head Office— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 3,373 | 7 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 16,886 | 7 | 1 | 20,259 | 14 | 3 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Kalgoorlie— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 569 | 6 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,585 | 2 | 5 | 2,154 | 9 | 3 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Marble Bar— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 96 | 17 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 733 | 17 | 7 | 830 | 14 | 11 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Meekatharra— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 374 | 18 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 716 | 6 | 4 | 1,091 | 4 | 6 | | | |
| District Office—Narrogin— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 813 | 18 | 0 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 2,951 | 12 | 7 | 3,765 | 10 | 7 | | | |
| District Office—Pt. Hedland— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 2,433 | 12 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,545 | 2 | 1 | 3,978 | 14 | 6 | | | |
| Sub-District Office—Wyndham— | | | | | | | | | |
| Contingencies | 640 | 14 | 11 | | | | | | |
| Salaries and Wages | 1,009 | 19 | 4 | 1,650 | 14 | 3 | | | |
| Assistance to Missions— | | | | | | | | | |
| Subsidies and Rations | 104,022 | 15 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Grants-in-Aid | 48,494 | 17 | 9 | | | | | | |
| Blankets and Clothing | 4,423 | 0 | 9 | | | | | | |
| Medical and Transport | 3,516 | 13 | 3 | | | | | | |
| Education | 220 | 9 | 5 | 160,677 | 16 | 8 | | | |
| Boarding Out Cases— | | | | | | | | | |
| Private Homes | 666 | 15 | 1 | | | | | | |
| Other Institutions | 906 | 6 | 11 | 1,573 | 2 | 0 | | | |
| Bulk Ration Centres— | | | | | | | | | |
| Derby | 750 | 13 | 5 | | | | | | |
| Mulga Queen | 800 | 17 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Pt. Hedland | 94 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | |
| Roebourne | 13 | 19 | 2 | | | | | | |
| Turkey Creek | 388 | 13 | 6 | | | | | | |
| Wiluna | 12 | 6 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Wyndham | 1,000 | 11 | 3 | 3,061 | 2 | 4 | | | |
| Carried forward | | | | 393,060 | 19 | 4 | | | |
| Carried forward | | | | | | | 261,557 | 11 | 1 |

Appendix No. 2—continued.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1954-1955.

NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST—continued,

| <i>Receipts.</i> | | | | <i>Payments.</i> | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|----|----|--|---------|----|------|----------|----|----|
| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| <i>Brought forward</i> | 393,060 | 19 | 4 | <i>Brought forward</i> | 261,557 | 11 | 1 | | | |
| | | | | <i>Relief to Natives—</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | | Stores, provisions and meat | 6,749 | 7 | 1 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Education and Amenities | 74 | 0 | 4 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Medical : | | | | | | |
| | | | | Doctors | 517 | 6 | 9 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Hospitals | 2,852 | 19 | 2 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Sundries.... | 405 | 18 | 11 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Blankets and Clothing | 1,559 | 0 | 1 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Miscellaneous | 12 | 3 | .... |  |  |  |
| | | | | Legal Costs | 424 | 18 | 4 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Sanitations | 135 | 18 | 0 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Burials | 2,092 | 6 | 10 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Transport of Natives | 4,537 | 12 | 3 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Welfare Relief | 331 | 12 | 6 | .... |  |  |
| | | | | Rental of houses occupied by Natives | 48 | 6 | 3 | 19,729 | 18 | 9 |
| | | | | <i>Improvements to Reserves—</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | | General Expenditure ..... | .... |  |  | 6,008 | 13 | 6 |
| | | | | <i>Riverdale Station—</i> | | | | | | |
| | | | | Purchase of ..... | .... |  |  | 4,640 | 17 | 0 |
| | | | | <i>Citizenship Rights Court Costs</i> | .... |  |  | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | <i>Grants to Natives' Medical Fund</i> ..... | .... |  |  | 11,036 | 10 | 9 |
| | | | | <i>Reimbursement to Medical Department</i> ..... | .... |  |  | 66,672 | 8 | 0 |
| | | | | <i>Reimbursement to Educa- tion Department</i> ..... | .... |  |  | 23,412 | 19 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | £393,060 | 19 | 4 |

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

(Signed) C. I. MATHEA,
Auditor General.

9/8/55

Appendix No. 3.

THE NATIVES MEDICAL FUND.

Statement showing Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 1955.

| Receipts. | | | | Payments. | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---------|-------|-------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| 1954— | | | | 1954— | | | |
| July 1— | | £ | s. d. | July 1— | | £ | s. d. |
| To Balance brought forward— | | | | By Payments— | | | |
| To Contributions received | .... | 9,476 | 10 0 | Doctors | .... | 3,037 | 12 6 |
| Less Refunds | .... | 66 | 0 0 | Hospitals | .... | 16,609 | 6 2 |
| | | | | Sundries | .... | 800 | 2 1 |
| | | £9,410 | 10 0 | | | | |
| To Treasury Advance | .... | 11,036 | 10 9 | | | 20,447 | 0 9 |
| | | | | 1955— | | | |
| | | | | June 30— | | | |
| | | | | Balance carried forward | .... | Nil | |
| | | £20,447 | 0 9 | | | £20,447 | 0 9 |

Appendix No. 4.

NATIVE POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955.

| District. | Full Bloods. | | | | Other Bloods. | | | | Grand Total. |
|--|--------------|---------|----------|--------|---------------|---------|----------|--------|--------------|
| | Male. | Female. | Children | Total. | Male. | Female. | Children | Total. | |
| Northern— | | | | | | | | | |
| East Kimberley | 695 | 664 | 371 | 1,730 | 49 | 31 | 84 | 164 | 1,894 |
| West Kimberley | 966 | 871 | 634 | 2,471 | 135 | 128 | 215 | 478 | 2,949 |
| North West— | | | | | | | | | |
| Gascoyne | 260 | 178 | 144 | 582 | 118 | 92 | 224 | 434 | 1,016 |
| Pilbara | 580 | 530 | 315 | 1,425 | 115 | 115 | 130 | 360 | 1,785 |
| Central— | | | | | | | | | |
| Central-Sub | 17 | 8 | 4 | 29 | 292 | 265 | 693 | 1,250 | 1,279 |
| Eastern Goldfields | 484 | 408 | 370 | 1,262 | 200 | 150 | 250 | 600 | 1,862 |
| North Central— | | | | | | | | | |
| West Murchison | 103 | 81 | 39 | 223 | 232 | 214 | 540 | 986 | 1,209 |
| East Murchison | 233 | 201 | 148 | 582 | 143 | 121 | 279 | 543 | 1,125 |
| Southern | 61 | 52 | 105 | 218 | 481 | 428 | 1,116 | 2,025 | 2,243 |
| Totals | 3,399 | 2,993 | 2,130 | 8,522 | 1,765 | 1,544 | 3,531 | 6,840 | 15,362 |
| Estimates of Nomad Natives beyond confines of Civilisation | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6,000 |
|  | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 21,362 |

Appendix No. 5.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SUBSIDISATION OF MISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE FOR YEAR 1954-55.

| Mission. | Average Number of Natives Assisted. | | | (1) Expenditure : Subsidy. | | (2) Expenditure : Blankets and Clothing. | | (3) Expenditure : Medical, Transport, etc. | | Overall Subsistence Expenditure Equals (1), (2), (3). | | Expenditure Grants-in-Aid. | | Total Expenditure for year on Missions. | |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------|--|---------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| | Children Under 21 Years. | Adults. | Total. | Subsidy. | Per Head Per Annum | Blankets and Clothing | Per Head Per Annum. | Medical, Transport, etc. | Per Head Per Annum. | Subsistence Expenditure. | Per Head Per Annum. | Grants in Aid. | Per Head Per Annum. | Expenditure. | Per Head Per Annum. |
| Pallotine, Balgo Hills, via Halls Creek | 48 | 24 | 72 | 5,015 | £ s. d. 69 13 1 | 126 | £ s. d. 1 15 6 | 124 | £ s. d. 1 14 5 | 5,285 | £ s. d. 72 11 1 | 2,000 | £ s. d. 27 9 6 | 5,285 | £ s. d. 72 11 1 |
| Beagle Bay, via Broome | 78 | 35 | 113 | 7,884 | 69 15 5 | 235 | 2 1 7 | 85 | 15 1 | 8,204 | 73 11 1 | 2,226 | 27 9 6 | 10,204 | 91 0 8 |
| Churches of Christ, Carnarvon | 93 | ..... | 93 | 6,674 | 71 15 3 | ..... | ..... | 379 | 3 0 0 | 6,953 | 75 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 9,179 | ..... |
| U.A.M. Cosmo Newbery, via Laverton | 2 | 25 | 27 | 1,214 | 25 19 9 | 174 | 6 8 11 | 67 | 2 11 1 | 1,455 | 27 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 1,455 | ..... |
| A.A.E.M. Cundelee, via Zanthus | 20 | 60 | 80 | 2,817 | 35 4 3 | 471 | 5 17 9 | 290 | 3 12 6 | 3,578 | 40 11 1 | 334 | 27 9 6 | 3,912 | ..... |
| U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing | 35 | 25 | 60 | 2,154 | 35 18 0 | 372 | 6 4 0 | 114 | 1 18 0 | 2,640 | 36 11 1 | 2,255 | 27 9 6 | 4,895 | ..... |
| Forrest River, via Wyndham | 61 | 18 | 79 | 4,911 | 62 3 3 | 171 | 2 3 3 | 42 | 10 8 | 5,124 | 62 3 3 | 600 | 27 9 6 | 5,724 | ..... |
| U.A.M. Gnowangerup | 28 | ..... | 28 | 2,101 | 75 1 5 | ..... | ..... | 108 | 3 17 2 | 2,210 | 28 11 1 | 1,300 | 27 9 6 | 3,510 | ..... |
| Holy Child Orphanage, Broome | 40 | ..... | 40 | 3,009 | 75 4 6 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3,009 | 40 11 1 | 1,164 | 27 9 6 | 4,173 | ..... |
| Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong | 62 | 61 | 123 | 7,732 | 62 17 3 | 410 | 3 6 8 | 20 | 3 3 | 8,162 | 62 17 3 | 777 | 27 9 6 | 8,939 | ..... |
| Kalumburu, Drysdale River | 30 | 60 | 90 | 2,751 | 30 11 4 | 413 | 4 11 9 | 126 | 1 8 0 | 3,290 | 30 11 4 | ..... | ..... | 3,290 | ..... |
| Karalundi, via Meekatharra | 28 | ..... | 28 | 2,319 | 82 16 5 | ..... | ..... | 66 | 2 7 2 | 2,385 | 82 16 5 | ..... | ..... | 12,085 | ..... |
| Kurrawang, via Kalgoorlie | 20 | 15 | 35 | 1,986 | 56 14 10 | 118 | 3 7 5 | 134 | 3 16 7 | 2,238 | 35 11 1 | 781 | 27 9 6 | 9,766 | ..... |
| La Grange, via Broome | 6 | 8 | 14 | 712 | 50 17 2 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 712 | 6 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 1,493 | ..... |
| Lombadine, via Broome | 27 | 23 | 50 | 3,382 | 67 12 10 | 166 | 3 6 5 | 8 | 3 2 | 3,556 | 50 17 2 | 1,117 | 27 9 6 | 4,673 | ..... |
| Marribank, via Katanning | 27 | ..... | 27 | 1,851 | 68 11 1 | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,851 | 27 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 2,046 | ..... |
| Mogumber, Methodist | 73 | 1 | 74 | 5,372 | 72 11 11 | 9 | ..... | 9 | 2 5 | 438 | 72 11 11 | 6,740 | 27 9 6 | 12,559 | ..... |
| Mt. Margaret, via Morgans | 93 | 26 | 119 | 7,486 | 62 18 2 | 274 | 2 6 1 | 393 | 3 6 1 | 8,153 | 62 18 2 | 1,150 | 27 9 6 | 9,303 | ..... |
| New Norcia | 102 | ..... | 102 | 7,509 | 73 12 2 | 3 | ..... | 219 | 2 2 11 | 7,731 | 73 12 2 | 5,000 | 27 9 6 | 12,731 | ..... |
| Churches of Christ, Norseman | 46 | ..... | 46 | 3,570 | 77 12 4 | ..... | ..... | 330 | 7 3 6 | 3,900 | 46 11 1 | 1,166 | 27 9 6 | 5,066 | ..... |
| Native Mission Farm, Boelands | 77 | ..... | 77 | 6,109 | 79 6 9 | 23 | 6 6 | 182 | 2 2 1 | 6,294 | 77 12 4 | 2,587 | 27 9 6 | 8,881 | ..... |
| Sunday Island, via Derby | 59 | 23 | 82 | 5,055 | 61 12 11 | 144 | 1 15 1 | 86 | 1 1 0 | 5,285 | 59 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 5,285 | ..... |
| Pallotine Mission School, Tardun | 56 | ..... | 56 | 3,446 | 61 10 9 | ..... | ..... | 193 | 3 8 11 | 3,639 | 56 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 3,639 | ..... |
| St. Francis Xavier's, Wandering | 28 | ..... | 28 | 1,896 | 67 14 3 | ..... | ..... | 6 | 4 3 | 1,902 | 28 11 1 | 1,750 | 27 9 6 | 3,652 | ..... |
| U.A.M. Warburton Ranges | 100 | 20 | 120 | 2,752 | 22 18 8 | 776 | 6 9 4 | 197 | 1 12 10 | 3,725 | 100 11 1 | 260 | 27 9 6 | 3,725 | ..... |
| Wongutha Mission Training Farm | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 260 | ..... |
| Presbyterian, Wajulum, via Derby | 39 | 63 | 102 | 4,314 | 30 3 6 | 536 | 5 5 1 | 117 | 1 2 11 | 4,967 | 39 11 1 | ..... | ..... | 4,967 | ..... |
| Totals | 1,278 | 487 | 1,765 | 104,022 | 1,550 17 3 | 4,421 | 55 6 9 | 3,739 | 59 0 0 | 112,182 | ..... | 48,495 | ..... | 160,677 | ..... |

Departmental Subsidy Rates to Missions at 30th June, 1955, are :—

Children Under 16 Years.—34s. 9d. per week cash, plus 1s. per week for educational purposes, plus 5s. per week special grant to Missions which will not accept equivalent sum provided by Lotteries Commission (allowance is made for marginal Missions to accept bulk ration in lieu of cash).

Adults.—Ten shillings per week cash or alternatively bulk food provision according to a ration scale. Annual Blanket and Clothing issue according to set scale.

In addition to above the Department is responsible for cost of medical, dental, optical, funeral and transport costs of subsidised natives.

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1955
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www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/wa_prot_list.html
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