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1957

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Commissioner of Native Welfare

FOR THE

Year ended 30th June, 1956

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

PERTH :

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1957

The HON. J. J. BRADY, M.L.A.

Minister for Native Welfare

●

Sir,

*I submit herewith the Annual Report for the Department of
Native Welfare for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1956.*

S. G. MIDDLETON,

Commissioner of Native Welfare

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE

Annual Report of the Commissioner

ADMINISTRATION

Staff

The authorised establishment of the permanent staff of the Department as at 30th June, 1956, was as follows :—Head Office, 16 ; Field Division (inc. institutions), 22. Twenty temporary officers were employed in various welfare and clerical capacities, including 9 of aboriginal descent.

The distribution of permanent officers was as follows :—

	Commis- sioner	Deputy Commis- sioner	District Officers	Assist- ant District Officers	Patrol Officers	Assist- ants	Clerks- in- Charge	Senior Clerks	Clerks	Typistes	Total
Head Office	1	1	....	....	....	....	1	3	4	3	13
Southern District ....	....	....	1	....	....	1	....	....	....	....	2
Central District ....	....	....	1	2	1	1	....	....	....	....	5
North Central District ....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....	....	....	....	3
North West District ....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2
Northern District ....	....	....	1	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	2
											27

During the year there were 9 resignations and 2 dismissals resulting in 8 replacements. Vacancies in the Field Division (*i.e.*, welfare staff) are difficult to fill because of the dearth of trained personnel. It may be anticipated that to some extent at least the position in this respect will be improved by the appointment to the University of Western Australia last year of Dr. Berndt, anthropologist, who has taken charge of the anthropological section of the Department of Psychology at the University. Dr. and Mrs. Berndt (the latter also a doctor of anthropology) have spent a number of years in the Northern Territory and in the East Kimberleys living with and studying aborigines and have written several books on the subject of their studies. It is planned that in addition to the work at the University to which Dr. Berndt was appointed, he will be available to conduct short courses in anthropology for the benefit of school teachers, missionaries, native welfare officers and others concerned with the education, training and welfare of native children. If full advantage is taken of this splendid service, this State will be in a position to offer to interested personnel some of the opportunities that are provided by the Sydney University and the School of Pacific Administration in Sydney to native welfare staffs of the Northern Territory and Papua-New Guinea.

Functions and Duties

The Department of Native Welfare is, by the provisions of s. 4 of the Native Welfare Act,

“charged with the duty of promoting the welfare of the natives, providing them with food, clothing, medicine and medical attendance, when they would otherwise be destitute, providing for the education of native children, and generally assisting in the preservation and well-being of the natives.”

An additional duty imposed on it by s. 6 (*f*) is, *inter alia*,

“to exercise such general supervision and care over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of the natives as the Minister in his discretion considers most fit to assist in their economic and social assimilation by the community of the State, and to protect them against injustice, imposition and fraud.”

Natives who successfully apply under the provisions of the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, 1944, are given a certificate which gives effect to s. 6 of that Act which states :—

“Notwithstanding the provisions of the Native (Welfare) Act, 1905–1954, or any other Act the holder of a Certificate of Citizenship shall have all the rights, privileges and immunities and shall be subject to the duties and liabilities of a natural born or naturalised subject of His Majesty,”

which means that legally he is no longer a native, is not subject to legislation enacted specially for natives and does not for any purpose whatever come under the jurisdiction of the Native Welfare Department.

The powers, functions and duties of all field officers, from District Officers to Patrol Officers, are basically similar.

Those in charge of districts and sub-districts are responsible for the smooth administrative function of the areas under their control, the interpretation and administration of the Native Welfare Act and Regulations and the maintenance of an efficient office of the Department at the Headquarters from which they operate. Each officer is required to maintain contact with the natives of his administrative district and to do this he must be independently mobile. All districts and sub-districts are now equipped with motor vehicles for this purpose. As he acts as agent for natives in all facets of their physical, social and economic welfare, the field officer covers a wide range of duties and functions. As a matter of normal welfare responsibility he works in close co-operation with the Health, Education, Child Welfare and Legal Departments, confining himself strictly to the interests of native or natives concerned and refusing, however strong the pressure may be, to accept the role of the policeman, the health authority, the truancy officer or the prosecutor. Consequently, he is sometimes subjected to severe criticism by certain persons “with an axe to grind,” but this must be regarded as being an occupational hazard, because he cannot afford to lose face with the native people he represents.

The cost of district administration and contact work with natives in the Field for the year totalled £14,629, exclusive of salaries and wages. Field Officers covered 109,706 road miles on tours of duty and inspection, during the course of which all mission and most pastoral stations were visited and the native inmates and employees and their families respectively were seen. Since the native population is spread over practically the whole of the State on an average ratio of 1 to every 45 square miles, the task calls for considerable physical fortitude in addition to the high sense of duty which the nature of the work demands.

The five districts into which the State has been divided for administrative purposes are each in charge of a district officer; sub-districts are manned by assistant district officers or patrol officers, according to size of native population, degree of contact with civilization, etc. The following table sets out current Field Staff dispositions :—

Sub-district.	Field Staff.	No. of Missions.	Population.		Totals.
			Full Blood.	Mixed Blood.	
<i>Northern District.</i>					
(In charge of District Officer stationed at Derby.)					
East Kimberleys	Patrol Officer	3	1,744	202	2,946
West Kimberleys	District Officer and Patrol Officer	4	1,759	152	1,911
South-West Kimberleys	Assistant District Officer	3	628	409	1,037
<i>North-West District.</i>					
(In charge of District Officer stationed at Port Hedland.)					
Pilbarra	} District Officer and Patrol Officer	1	1,895	717	2,612
Gascoyne					
<i>North Central District.</i>					
(In charge of District Officer stationed at Geraldton.)					
West Murchison	District Officer and Patrol Officer	1	170	967	1,137
East Murchison	Assistant District Officer	3	561	586	1,147
<i>Central District.</i>					
(In charge of District Officer stationed at Perth.)					
Central and Metropolitan	Assistant District Officer and Patrol Officer	2	29	1,244	1,273
Eastern Goldfields	Assistant District Officer and Patrol Officer	7	1,350	600	1,950
<i>Southern District.</i>					
(In charge of District Officer stationed at Narrogin and Patrol Officer.)					
<i>Nil</i>		4	215	2,070	2,285

DEPARTMENTAL BUILDINGS

Some improvement in the situation of residences for field officers was made during the year by the completion of houses at Wyndham and Derby, the money being made available from unexpended loan funds held for the Department at the Treasury. At the time when the Field Division was first established in 1949 no houses were available for Departmental use. Two field officers in Perth and Narrogin were provided with houses under the Commonwealth-State rental scheme; the arrangement did not provide that the houses would be available to the Department, but only to the officers to whom they were allocated. (The Perth house was lost to the Field Division when the officer was promoted to a senior executive position at Head Office.) Subsequently houses were allotted to the Department at Port Hedland, Broome and Derby, and quarters are being provided for a single officer at Meekatharra. District Officers stationed at Geraldton, Perth, Narrogin, and Kalgoorlie and all junior field officers with one exception at Derby are required to provide their own accommodation, a factor which further complicates the staffing of field posts.

Departmental offices have been set up at every district and sub-district headquarters, *viz.*, Perth, Narrogin, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Meekatharra, Carnarvon, Port Hedland, Broome, Derby, and Wyndham.

POPULATION

The estimated population of aborigines and part-aborigines who were classified as natives under Section 2 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905-1954, is 21,298 (see Appendix No. 3 for details). It can be accepted that the figures quoted in respect to the districts and sub-districts are reasonably correct, but the estimated 6,000 nomads "living beyond the confines of civilization" could be inaccurate since the figure is little better than a guess which has been carried on from year to year since 1949; prior to that year the estimate was 10,000.

There are 15,298 full-blooded aborigines and part-aborigines deemed to be "natives" within the meaning of the Native Welfare Act, living within the confines of civilization. One generation ago—according to the Annual Report of 1926—the figure was 14,378, so it would appear the increase is negligible. It is noteworthy, however, that whereas in 1926 the relative totals were full-bloods 12,194 and half-castes 2,193, today they are 8,351 and 6,974 respectively. It will thus be seen that the full-blood population has decreased in one generation by nearly one-third while the half-castes have increased more than threefold in the same period. Indications are that the general decline of the full-blood population may have stopped and is now at least static in most places and increasing in others. Where they are fully conditioned to European food, daily wearing of clothing and to some extent have become immune to the illnesses and diseases introduced by white civilization—particularly influenza, measles, and such complaints with epidemic characteristics—their population is increasing. This is particularly noticeable on mission stations and pastoral stations where they are well cared for and in places where medical attention and treatment is readily available, which is now the general rule.

Natives of the Central Desert region are gradually drifting in to the missions and pastoral stations of the marginal area fringing the desert. Some continue the migration beyond into the more closely settled areas where they often pose a difficult social, economic and welfare problem for all concerned. In the north their first point of contact is the Pallotine Mission at Balgo Hills, about 180 miles in a direct line south from Hall's Creek; those to the north-east move in to Wallal, Anna Plains, and the recently established La Grange (Pallotine Order) Mission; Jigalong Mission, which is situated on the rabbit-proof fence between Roy Hill and Mundiwindi, attracts natives from the central desert area; further to the south the newly-established Wiluna Mission already has a fairly large population of ex-desert natives and Cosmo Newbery Mission (near Laverton) is one of their first points of contact to the south. The Warburton Ranges Mission is located near the centre of the so-called desert, approximately 150 miles from the South Australian border.

ANTHROPOLOGY

During early 1955 two parties of anthropologists conducted expeditions to the Kimberleys region of the State. Dr. Helmut Petri and Dr. Gisela Odermann carried out an ethnological survey of natives in the area south of Broome on behalf of the Frobenius Institute of Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany. Dr. Andreas Lommel and Mrs. Lommel did similar work in the Kimberleys north and west of Gibb River Station, including the copying of aboriginal rock paintings which was executed by Mrs. Lommel, who is a very accomplished artist. The Department was represented by the Commissioner at a private exhibition of Mrs. Lommel's paintings at the residence of the German Consul in Perth, Dr. Serrazin, and by prior agreement three large albums of photographs taken by the Petri expedition were recently received by the Department from the Frobenius Institute. The Institute's generous gesture is much appreciated.

A member of one of the expeditions related some interesting and enlightening experiences which typify to some extent the results of impact of civilization on the primitive aboriginal. He reported that during the first few weeks of the linguistical and anthropological researches they had definitely to face a lot of distrust. Most of the aborigines kept out of their way and it was difficult for them to find suitable men for linguistic recordings. It took them a long time to ascertain the cause of the distrust, but when at last an atmosphere of mutual friendship and trust had been established, one of the leading men told the anthropologists that the natives had at first mistaken them for journalists and professional cameramen. There were special reasons why they had a particular dislike for the Press and their representatives, he said.

A couple of years ago a group of journalists who had passed through the Western Kimberleys and the Pilbara district took a particular interest in "blackfellow law." They questioned the aboriginals in a very friendly manner and even promised to keep secret everything they learned. This encouraged the natives to lead the "strangers" to their secret bush-places and to allow them to take photos of their sacred boards and bull-roarers. Several weeks or months later, however, the natives of one station noticed by chance that the journalists had not kept their word, but had published all the pictures of the sacred boards in the "Western Mail," as the native informant called it. (As "Western Mail" has become a general term for all newspapers, it was not known definitely in which paper the photos had actually appeared.) One day two middle-aged natives noticed a little uninitiated boy sitting in the kitchen yard of the homestead playing with the copy concerned and looking at the photo of the sacred boards. As all the natives on this station were still bound by the laws and taboos connected with their traditions and their ceremonial life, this incident caused a considerable stir, and it was thereupon decided not to entrust any more secrets to white men who showed interest in "blackfellow law."

The scientist continued: "How far these statements of an aboriginal are correct in the white man's way of thinking, I don't know. In any case they reveal a certain degree of disappointment the blackfellows had to experience with white people who took a more than superficial interest in their laws and ways of living. So they suspected that we would let them down in the same way, and it was a rather tough proposition to convince them that we had nothing to do with newspapers and illustrated reviews, that we wanted to study their language and to learn something about their law for its own sake. Articles dealing with aboriginal ceremonial life in popular reviews and papers may be occasionally quite useful from an educational point of view. On the other hand, they are liable to raise a lot of trouble in blackfellow communities, where the ancient beliefs and traditions are still alive.

"As far as we could notice, most of the natives concerned have never experienced missionary or any other educational activities. The majority worked for the station as stock boys or doing odd jobs and they appreciated that the manager never interfered with their social laws or ceremonial performances. This may be one of the reasons why they respected him particularly, and considered him as a 'good Boss.' We have been rather impressed that they seemed to be quite pleased with their actual standard of living and that they did not care particularly for improvement in the line of modern social and economic welfare. On the other hand I am almost sure they would accept willingly any reforms and improvements, as long as they didn't mean a disruption of their traditional social and spiritual life.

"These natives, though in contact with white civilisation since two generations or even more, definitely struggle for the preservation of their ancient 'blackfellow law.'

"Not only the 'old men' but the middle and younger age levels as well have more or less the same attitude in this regard. They distrust every full-blood or half-caste who has been in too close contact with white civilisation or has undergone some school training. Those people, particularly, if they are uninitiated and keep away from the traditional social and ceremonial meetings, are considered as people 'without law, like white fellows.' Half-castes, however, who are initiated and obviously fit themselves into the blackfellow's pattern of culture, are fully accepted and their different skin does not count any more. How deeply most of them are still rooted in the ancient beliefs and customs, the following item might explain: Last January, Maori Tom, approximately 38 years old, wanted to apply for citizenship at the Native Welfare Office in Broome. When the District Officer informed him about the native Act and Regulations which provided that aboriginals with citizenship rights are not allowed any more to enter native camps, to join ceremonies, corroborees, etc., Maori Tom withdrew his application at once.

"In this context, the Northern aboriginals' rather confused ideas of Donald McLeod and his native fellow-travellers might be of some interest. Most of our men described the McLeod team as a 'cheeky mob of Communists.' Obviously they did not have a clear conception of the term 'communists.' Two Jehovah's Witnesses, who, during last year's winter, happened to delay at Anna Plains Station for a couple of hours, were considered by the blackfellows as Communists too. Most of the blackfellows, the sophisticated people in particular, were frightened of McLeod and the more active members of his Yandeyarra Co-operative near Port Hedland. According to rumours and intertribal gossip, they used to organize raids on the native camps in the De Grey River area and east of it, in order to kidnap middle-aged and young men, and to make them work for their own purposes. We have never been able to check up whether those raids actually took place or whether they were nothing else than a legendary tale. Nevertheless, a remarkable fear of the McLeod mob and its various activities was a fact. When we suggested to the aforementioned Maori Tom to join us in a trip to Port Hedland he refused. Obviously he was frightened to go. He told me two tribal brothers of his, doing a cartage job for McLeod and living on the outskirts of Port Hedland, might kidnap him and stop him from returning to Anna Plains in due time. When I questioned Maori and other Anna Plains and Wallal natives about the reasons of their resentment against Donald McLeod and his people, they usually told me: 'The place is like a jail, the boss and his boys like policemen, too much work and no tucker at all.' Furthermore they seem to distrust every one of their countrymen who has ever been with McLeod, or has only been in touch with him.

"They pretend that those full-bloods and half-castes have betrayed the old customs and traditions of their forefathers and, consequently, are people 'like white men, without law.' They consider them as a sort of outcast and don't accept them any more. When I once asked two middle-aged men of the Anna Plains blackfellow community, whether they would welcome their countrymen coming back from Donald McLeod, they told me: 'No, they might better go to Broome or Hedland and mix up with town people.'

“ As far as I could notice, they are scared too that McLeod's fellow-travellers might come in one of the next days and do some prospecting in the Anna Plains country.

“ In general, however, they did not give too many thoughts to the far-away living Donald McLeod and his various activities. In their own country they seem to feel pretty safe. There are other events and problems of modern aboriginal life which worry them more, which encourage a feeling of unrest and affect in a way the traditional social balance.

“ The native community of Anna Plains is a rather complex one from a linguistic and ethnographic point of view. Only half of its members belong to the local Njanjomada tribe. There have settled down amongst them individuals and families belonging to various tribes of the North-West and of the interior of Western Australia as well. Among those migrants, the latter ones, the people coming from the sand-hill and spinifex-country north and south of the Canning Stock Route turn out to be a bit of a hot spot. The local Njanjomada call them ‘ Yulbari-dja ’ (= South-from = people from the South), and obviously, there are unadmitted tensions between the established local group and those who used to drop in quietly, and try to dominate in ceremonial life. On the surface, however, the common life seems to be smooth and peaceful, and station work is not affected at all by this antagonism.

“ Furthermore this influx of the so-called ‘ Yulbari-dja ’ from the southern desert countries makes it almost certain that in the area between the De Grey River and the Wiluna-Meekatharra District, there are at least six or seven different native languages not yet known and never recorded.”

NATIVE RESERVES

During the year £7,158 was spent on improvements to camping reserves for natives throughout the State, bringing the total since the scheme was first inaugurated in 1949 to £24,416. A four-compartment shelter hut of timber and iron construction with bitumen floor and fireplace in each, together with an ablution-sanitation-laundry block built to Public Works plan and specifications under contract were adopted during the year as standard essential facilities on camping reserves. Although some natives live either permanently or for long periods on reserves, this Department has no intention of promoting their permanent segregation by providing cottages or other living accommodation for them on camping reserves. Natives requiring such accommodation may apply for a house to the State Housing Commission ; many have done so as may be seen by the reports and statistics of the Field Division officers which follow.



NATIVE MOBILE WELFARE CLINIC WITH MR. AND MRS. JOHN HALFORD IN CHARGE

Towards the end of the year Treasury approval was obtained for the purchase of a mobile welfare clinic (see photograph). Its purpose is to assist natives living on reserves to improve their living conditions in every practicable way but particularly with respect to camp and physical hygiene, sanitation, child and infant welfare, housekeeping, the better spending of wages, child endowment, etc. The clinic is in charge of a married couple whose previous experience includes a term of service at the Derby Leprosarium and work in the Kimberleys and the Northern Territory.

FINANCIAL

The Department's statement of receipts and expenditure for the year is set out in detail in Appendix 2 to this report. Revenue collections totalled £24,474 and expenditure £418,139. Comparative expenditure figures since the present administration took charge of the department in 1948 are :—

Year.	£
1948-49	129,605
1949-50	192,611
1950-51	211,603
1951-52	204,012
1952-53	180,616
1953-54	256,321
1954-55	393,060
1955-56	418,139

The greatest increase in expenditure is due to the payments of grants-in-aid to missions and the subsidisation of mission inmates, both of which have been subjected to the sharp rises in recent years as a consequence of the Government's policy of putting natives and native missions on parity with white children in institutions subsidised by the Government. Additional assistance to missions which is not usually extended to other institutions is the grants-in-aid to cover capital costs of buildings, provision of water and electric light and power supply, etc. In general practice the Department recoups missions for expenditure on plant, equipment, building materials, etc., and the missions provide labour requirements. In odd special cases, *e.g.*, where a mission is being transferred to another site, a lump sum spread over a given term, is approved. Road and water transport and communication equipment are subsidised by the Department on a £ for £ basis.

Missions receiving grants-in-aid are not bound by legal documentation and have complete ownership of the property provided ; an unwritten "gentleman's agreement" that the property will at all times be used for the benefit of natives is regarded as sufficient justification for the expenditure of public moneys for that purpose.

In 1948 the subsidy rate paid by the Government for both adults and children in missions was 3s. per inmate per week. The following table sets out the increases since then :—

Year.	Inmate Subsidy Rate.				Departmental Expenditure		Total.
	Adult.	From.	Child.	From.	Subsidy, etc.	Grants-in-aid.	
	p.w. s. d.		p.w. s. d.		£	£	£
1948-49	4 0*	1-1-49	4 0	1-1-49	6,798	Nil	6,798
1949-50	4 0*	....	4 0	....	11,577	7,530	19,107
1950-51	4 0*	....	4 0	....	20,111	12,378	32,489
1951-52	4 0	....	....	1-1-51	35,318	10,587	45,905
	9 0 to 12 6†						
1952-53	10 0	1-12-52	....	....	41,746	19,741	61,487
1953-54	10 0	....	22 6	1-10-53	75,872	17,119	92,991
1954-55	10 0	....	30 9	1-7-54	112,183	48,495	160,678
			35 9	1-12-54			
1955-56	10 0‡	....	35 9	1-4-55	158,426	42,989	201,415
			40 0				
				Totals	£462,031	£158,839	£620,870

* Or bulk rations where requested. † Missions graded—A. 12s. 6d., B. 10s., C. 9s. according to facilities provided. ‡ Increased to 25s. as from 1-7-56.

Grants-in-aid approved during the year were :—

Mission.	Item.	Amount.
	Projects carried forward from 1954-55	6,216
Wandering	Boys' dormitory. Girls' classroom	3,500
Balgo	Hospital, bakery, boys' dormitory, water supply	6,250
Fitzroy Crossing	Movie projector for school, basic furniture for dormitories, huts for indigents, boys' bathrooms and lavatories	2,843
Wongutha	Dormitory-dining block	5,000
Kurrawang	Sewerage and drainage for dormitory, sick bay and basic furniture for same	3,373
Forrest River	Kitchen-dining room, water supply	1,758
Lombadina	Windmill and tank	425
Holy Child Orphanage	Extensions to dormitory	1,000
La Grange	Kitchen-dining room, ablutions and lavatories	3,856
Wiluna	Dormitory, ablution blocks	3,000
Wotjulum	Store and truck	908
Sunday Island	Electric Light Plant and fittings	1,593
Beagle Bay	Sewerage and drainage system for Mission	3,017
Gnowangerup	Drainage system for Mission	250
		£42,989

N.B.—Expenditure on incompletd projects carried forward to 1956-57 Vote totals £13,895

On an average throughout the year 2,000 natives, mostly children, are accommodated on mission stations. This number represents less than ten per cent of the total native population. The expenditure on missions for the year under report of £201,415 represents 48 per cent of the Department's total expenditure ; thus nearly half of the Department's vote is expended on one-tenth of the population. Admittedly a large percentage of the remaining 90 per cent do not stand in need of the same measure of financial aid, but they must all be seen at some time during the year and this means considerable expenditure on travelling and administration costs. Those living on camping reserves and elsewhere in the settled areas must be provided with essential sanitation, ablution, laundry and other facilities and the fact that many need physical and financial relief is evidenced by the expenditure of £23,438 which is itemised under the heading "Relief to Natives" in Appendix 2.

It is hoped that the unbalanced state of the Department's vote may be to some extent remedied by missions becoming more self-supporting, as they are in Papua-New Guinea and Queensland, and that the need for grants-in-aid expenditure will be a lessening one in the future.

MISSIONS—DISPOSITION

There are 29 missions in Western Australia operating as denominational or inter-denominational charitable institutions under the control of Christian Church organisations. The denominations represented, with the number of missions each controls shown in brackets, are Anglican (1), Roman Catholic—Pallottine Order (6), Benedictine Order (2), Sisters of St. John of God (1), Methodist (1), Presbyterian (1), Churches of Christ (2), Baptist Union (1), Seventh Day Adventist (2), Apostolic Church of Australia (1), Gospel Brotherhood (1). In addition the following Protestant Interdenominational organisations are registered with the Department as native missions—United Aborigines Mission (7), Roelands Native Mission Farm, Inc. (1), Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission (1), Wongutha Mission Training Farm (1). The following table sets out the locations of the various missions, in geographical order from North to South :—

Name of Mission.	Religion.	Location.	Controlling Authority.
Kalumburu	Roman Catholic	Drysdale River	Benedictine Order, New Norcia.
Forrest River	Protestant	Cambridge Gulf	Australian Board of Mission, Perth.
Wotjulum	Protestant	North of King Sound	Presbyterian Board of Missions.
Sunday Island	Protestant	King Sound	United Aborigines Mission.
Lombadina	Roman Catholic	Cape Leveque	Pallottine Order.
Beagle Bay	Roman Catholic	Dampier Peninsula	Pallottine Order.
Derby	Protestant	Derby	United Aborigines Mission.
Fitzroy Crossing	Protestant	Fitzroy Crossing	United Aborigines Mission.
Balgo	Roman Catholic	Balgo Hills	Pallottine Order
Holy Child Orphanage	Roman Catholic	Broome	Sister of St. John of God.
La Grange	Roman Catholic	La Grange Bay	Pallottine Order.

Name of Mission.	Religion.	Location.	Controlling Authority.
Jigalong	Protestant	Rabbit Proof Fence, 100 m. S.E. of Roy Hill	Apostolic Church of Australia.
Carnarvon	Protestant	near Carnarvon	Churches of Christ.
Warburton Ranges	Protestant	Central Australian Aboriginal Reserve	United Aborigines Mission.
Wiluna	Protestant	Wiluna	Seventh Day Adventist.
Karalundi	Protestant	35 m. N. of Meekatharra	Seventh Day Adventist.
Tardun	Roman Catholic	near Mullewa	Pallottine Order.
Cosmo Newbery	Protestant	near Laverton	United Aborigines Mission.
Mt. Margaret	Protestant	Mt. Margaret	United Aborigines Mission.
Kurrawang	Protestant	near Kalgoorlie	Gospel Brotherhood
Cundeelee	Protestant	30 m. N. of Zanthus	Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission.
New Norcia	Roman Catholic	New Norcia	Benedictine Order.
Mogumber	Protestant	Mogumber	Methodist Overseas Mission.
St. Francis Xavier	Roman Catholic	Wandering	Pallottine Order.
Norseman	Protestant	Norseman	Churches of Christ.
Gnowangerup	Protestant	Gnowangerup	United Aborigines Mission.
Marribank	Protestant	near Katanning	Baptist Union.
Wongutha Farm Training School	Protestant	near Esperance	Private (R. W. Schenk).
Roelands Native Mission Farm	Protestant	Roelands	Roelands Mission Farm (Inc.)

Particulars of the above missions, together with details of Departmental service on their behalf, are contained in Appendix No. 4.

LEGISLATION

The legislative amendments and enactments which came into force in May, 1955, resulted, as anticipated, in the smoother functioning of the Department's administration of natives. Over a year of experience with the Act in its present form has proved the contention frequently expressed by the writer that the removal of "administrative deadwood" and the restrictive and punitive clauses from it and the Regulations would result in more effective and positive welfare work, and a much better understanding between natives and their official representatives. Field Staff members, relieved of the burden of clerical and investigational work which was inseparable from the permit and other systems formerly in use, have been able to maintain more direct and personal contact with natives, individually and collectively, assisting them by representation where necessary in courts, with their social services applications and payments, interceding with employers on their behalf in respect to wages and working conditions, helping them to obtain homes and, at every point of their contact with other people "protecting them from injustice, imposition and fraud."

The improvements do not, however, go far enough to make the native "free and equal in dignity and rights," and much remains to be done. Whether the principles outlined by the Declaration of Human Rights—so often quoted but seldom practised where natives are concerned—will be given legislative recognition by the present generation of adult authority is a matter of speculation; personally, after reading the current media of public and Parliamentary expression I doubt it. But the indisputable fact remains that the one and only solution to the problem posed by the presence and conditions of our coloured minority is their total integration, absorption, assimilation or whatever it may be called at all reasonable economic and social levels. The solution to the problem they present is simple enough, if a solution is really desired. The lead must be given by legislative amendments, encompassing the following:—

- (i) The repeal of sections 150 and 151 of the Licensing Act which makes specific reference to natives;
- (ii) The amendment of section 18 (d) of the Electoral Act so as to remove the disqualification of aborigines from exercising the franchise and, secondly an amendment to section 38 giving persons legally classified as natives the right to optional instead of compulsory enrolment and voting;
- (iii) The repeal of the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act, which would no longer be necessary; and
- (iv) Repeal of those sections of the Native Welfare Act which impose obligations and restrictions on natives as such, or which, because of the effect of the foregoing amendments, would become redundant.

SECTION "A"

District Reports

CENTRAL DISTRICT.

Introduction.

In the presentation of this report there has been a departure from previous practice under which I had compiled a report for the District as a whole. The two sub-districts are self-contained and differ so markedly in their geographical environment, the composition of their native populations and the nature and scope of native welfare work required for each, that I have decided this year to present in complete form the reports submitted by the officers in charge.

To complete the picture for the whole District it only remains for me to deal with those subjects appertaining specifically to the District Headquarters and to comment on such matters as may require special remark or may have a general application to the District as a whole.

District Headquarters

Staff.—At the close of the year the headquarters staff was as follows :—

District Officer	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. B. A. McLarty.
Assistant Welfare Officer	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Mrs. E. M. Relton.
Assistant to District Officer	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Mr. G. Harwood.
Typiste (attached from Head Office)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Miss J. R. Beckett.

Patrols (District Officer's Inspections) :—

1. New Norcia and Mogumber Missions	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	218 miles
2. Central Sub-district	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	757 „
3. Eastern Goldfields Sub-district	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,375 „
4. Central Sub-district	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	717 „
5. Northam-Toodyay (special)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	134 „
6. Goomalling (special)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	204 „
									<hr/>
									Total
								
								
								
									3,405 „
									<hr/>

Metropolitan Welfare Liaison.—Increased field activity throughout the State, medical surveys (particularly T.B. and trachoma), improved availability of medical services to natives and increasing awareness by natives of the importance of medical treatment have all resulted, in the past few years, in a vastly increased number of natives coming or being referred to Perth for specialist medical attention. Bennett House has provided the necessary accommodation for women and children and the Y.M.C.A. Hostel has given invaluable help in accommodating adult men. The task of co-ordinating and arranging hospital admissions and discharges, clinic appointments, follow-up supervision, personal welfare, pensions and sickness benefits and transport, has fallen largely to the Assistant Welfare Officer, who has been engaged on a more than full-time job. It has involved close liaison with hospital almoners and authorities in charge of such institutions as the Crippled Children's Home, Lady Lawley Cottage, Home of Peace, Hillcrest Maternity Hospital, Golden Age Post Polio Clinic, etc.

Statistics have not been kept, but the number of personal cases dealt with during the year has mounted into the hundreds. In all cases the utmost co-operation has been extended by the staffs of hospitals and other institutions concerned.

General Comments

Legislative Amendments.—This year has provided a better opportunity to estimate the effects of amendments to the Native Welfare Act which came into operation in May, 1955.

The loss of what was described in last year's report as "administrative dead wood" has brought no ill effect that is noticeable in this District and it has relieved the members of the Field Staff of some of the time-consuming, burdensome duties which formerly afflicted them. This particularly applies in the case of legal representation of natives in courts of petty sessions. The majority of natives before Metropolitan Police Courts are the same recurrent customers whose lengthy experience of the administration of justice renders Departmental representation on their behalf quite redundant.

It is apparent that during the past year the native population of Fremantle Gaol has reached a number not formerly attained, but there is no evidence that this can be attributed to the abolition of the more restrictive sections of the former legislation. Nor can it be aligned with the diminution of Departmental representation of the natives before the Courts.

Some metropolitan welfare bodies would have it otherwise, however, and insist that some native inmates of the gaol would not have been there had they been properly represented. These allegations appear to have been based on the untested statements of the natives themselves. The case of every native who requested Departmental enquiry was closely investigated. Of something like 60 cases investigated, severity of sentence was evident in three or four and action was taken to have these sentences remitted or reduced. These were all from country centres where Departmental representation would have been impracticable in any case. In one case (also from a country court) incorrect conviction was established and as the native had already served his sentence, he was awarded *ex-gratia* compensation by the Crown.

The principal effect of these amendments, so far as they bear upon this District, is that they have cleared the way to devote more time and attention to positive measures such as the native housing programme, the development (even though in a small way) of native industrial enterprises, and active co-operation and assistance in large scale health measures.

Housing.—This subject is covered by Mr. Tilbrook's report, which, however, makes no mention of two significant developments observed during the year.

The first of these is the connection between housing and permanent employment on regular wages (as opposed to the sometimes more lucrative, but fluctuating, seasonal work). In every case a steady, but moderate, income has enabled the native householders to adapt themselves to their new financial commitments much more readily than those whose earnings are intermittent, even though the latter group may earn as much or more over the whole year.

The second point of major interest is that two local government authorities (Quairading and Bruce Rock) have applied their interest in their local "native question" along practical lines. In each case the Road Board concerned has not only supported applications to the State Housing Commission by some of their own native employees, but has arranged to deduct the fortnightly instalments from their wages so that the native tenants know that the balance of their wages is for current living expenses. One Board also pays the natives' recurrent electricity and water rates on the same basis and the other has enrolled them for hospital benefits in the same way.

These arrangements make it possible for regular payments to be kept up without difficulty and also give the natives an opportunity to accustom themselves to financial commitments new in their experience.

Native Industrial Projects :—The efforts of the officers in charge of the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district to establish "home industries" to relieve unemployable full blood natives from part or whole dependence on the State are to be commended, but so far have been hampered by two principal restrictions.

One is the economic factor implied in the very limited market so far established for the disposal of native handicrafts. At the close of the year under review negotiations were in progress for extension of this market to the Eastern States.

The other limiting feature is the restriction imposed on this Department through its legislation which prevents it from acting effectively as a marketing agent for the aborigines engaged in handicraft manufacture. It is empowered to receive and sell the property of an individual native, but not for a body of natives, and it has no authority to expend its funds, even temporarily, on advance payments.

A solution to a number of practical problems will have to be found before any really effective development of these projects can be achieved.

Adoptions.—One feature of the years' activities which is not of special significance, but is of general interest, is that white families are beginning to turn their thoughts towards the legal adoption of native children. Several enquiries have been received and by the 30th June three cases were in hand. Of these one was withdrawn when the child's mother withdrew her consent and the other two are proceeding.

Native Social Activities.—The Coolbaroo League has continued to function to good purpose in the metropolitan area by holding regular dances and other social functions and has showed some enterprise in establishing a natives' curio and handicrafts shop in the centre of the city. The League has sponsored dances and social evenings for natives at several country centres and the beneficial effect of these healthy social activities is beginning to be noticed. At two other towns natives have formed social clubs independently of the Coolbaroo League.

In all cases support and assistance is being given by police officers, interested white persons and authorities controlling public halls.

The immediate physical benefit is a noticeable improvement in the natives' standard of dress and deportment, but a much more important result is the psychological benefit they receive from expending their energies in healthy social activities and finding an outlet for their social and recreational needs in an atmosphere which it is impossible to create in their camps.

These remarks may serve to introduce the detailed reports of the year's activities which follow in the words of the officers in charge of the two sub-districts.

(Sgd.) B. A. McLARTY,

District Officer, Central.

CENTRAL SUB-DISTRICT

Introduction

This is my first report as Assistant District Officer—Central and is based, unfortunately, on only three months in the District. Many of the problems within the sub-district have already come to my notice, but there are some with which I have not yet had time to come to grips. The native people living within the sub-district are 99% hybrids who present widely diversified aspects of welfare work not strictly native welfare. However, closer contact with these people is leading to a better understanding of their problems and methods of overcoming the defects in their way of life.

Patrols

A series of ten patrols was carried out in the Sub-district, covering 52½ days actually on patrol during which period 6,285 miles were covered. Details are :—

No.	Area.	Miles.
1.	Eastern and North Eastern Wheatbelt	965
2.	Kellerberrin-Tammin-Mukinbudin	551
3.	Kellerberrin-Tammin-Shackleton-Goomalling	515
4.	Kellerberrin-Tammin-Shackleton-York	564
5.	Kellerberrin	441
6.	Goomalling-Merredin	467
7.	Moora	366
8.	Moora-Dandaragan-Watheroo-Miling, etc.	1,187 (two trips)
9.	Eastern Wheatbelt	894
10.	Pinjarra area	335
		6,285

A number of the patrols above were undertaken to ensure that all adult natives attended compulsory x-ray clinics operated by the Department of Tuberculosis Control with their mobile units at various towns. Staff changes precluded a completely efficient patrolling programme from being followed.

Missions and Institutions

Two Missions are situated within the sub-district, they being the Methodist Mission, Mogumber, and New Norcia Mission.

Three Departmental Institutions, namely Alvan, McDonald and Bennett House, are operated in the Sub-district, but only one, Bennett House, comes under the control of this office.

Bennett House (Departmental Welfare Transit Hostel).—Miss Anne Sewell continued as O.I.C., assisted during the year by various other coloured women. The number of persons availing themselves of the services offered by this Hostel was 399, most of whom were in the city for Outpatient medical treatment. A large number of children awaiting hospital treatment was accommodated here pending their admission to Princess Margaret Hospital.

Methodist Mission, Mogumber.—Superintendent : Rev. E. A. Clarke. Religion : Methodist. At the 30th June, 1956, there were 87 children at this Mission 81 of whom are being subsidised by this Department and six by parents or from other sources. The waiting list for admission to this Mission is probably in the neighbourhood of 20 and it has been noticed on patrol that more and more parents are considering the undoubted advantages of placing their children in this institution. However, the accommodation is strictly limited until new buildings are completed late in August, 1956.

The two Education Department teachers cater for all educational requirements and a number of recreational groups and clubs for the children are well established.

From my own meagre knowledge of this Institution, I would say that the Rev. Clarke has made tremendous progress over the past five years, both in the material sense and with its inmates. The numbers of native parents who wish to voluntarily place their children in the Mission is concrete evidence of the goodwill in which they hold the Mission and its work.

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.

St. Mary's Orphanage caters for 44 boys, an increase of 15 over figures for the same period a year ago. All boys attend school on the Mission.

St. Joseph's Orphanage is a haven for 89 girls, most of whom attend school at the Orphanage. Girls are also given the rudiments of domestic training in the workshops of the Convent and Orphanage. Extensions to the girls' Orphanage in the shape of new dormitory, dining and ablutionary facilities have greatly increased this Institute's capacity and efficiency. New school rooms are being erected where the old buildings once stood. It is anticipated that similar changes to the Boys' Orphanage will take place in the coming year.

Reserves

There is a total of 11 reserves within the Sub-district, they being situated at :—

Pinjarra.	Kellerberrin (6 miles north).	Victoria Park.
York.	Northam.	Bennett House.
Badjaling.	Moora.	Mogumber.
Merredin.	Mukinbudin.	

The reserve at Toodyay, originally an old native cemetery, has been cancelled.

The reserve at Moora received attention during the year as the water supply had proved to be unfit for human consumption. The Public Works Department are proceeding with the search for potable water and in the meantime water is being obtained from the well on the Griffith Stock Reserve. It appears likely that the windmill from the reserve well will have to be erected on the Stock Reserve Well as no other suitable source of water has yet been found.

The Northam Reserve in Cemetery Road came under fire from the Northam Council during the year and approval was obtained for work to be done on the lavatories on this Reserve to bring them up to Health requirements.

No other capital works were undertaken on any reserves during the year.

The caretaker at the Moora Reserve continued, but there was change at Pinjarra when Mrs. Elsie Kearing took over from Mrs. Molly Michaels, who left the Reserve to work on a farm.

Protectors

Following is a list of Protectors within the sub-district, not including Honorary Protectors for the whole State, who are usually shown in Head Office report :—

Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	....	4
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	....	2
Church Dignitaries and others	....	....	....	....	....	6
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	....	2

A point of note is the sharp decrease in the number of Police Protectors within the Sub-district. More patrolling and the excision of the permit to employ system from the Act have made this possible.

Vehicles

W.A.G. 2655, Dodge 15-18 cwt. utility, has given fair service as a patrol vehicle during the year. However, it is particularly expensive to run (the average miles per gallon of petrol is in the neighbourhood of 12) and is badly in need of an engine overhaul.

A new vehicle, a Volkswagen Combi, has been applied for to replace the Dodge, but it is not yet known whether this application has been approved. The Volkswagen Combi has many advantages over the Dodge. The makers guarantee 30 miles per gallon over all conditions and this from a vehicle with a 1-ton payload and which can also carry 10 passengers as a bus. It would be invaluable in the carrying out of more detailed welfare work on patrol and in the metropolitan area.

Public Relations

Our relations with the various Government Departments with which we deal have been very good indeed. The State Housing Commission, Child Welfare Department, Health Department and the Tuberculosis Control Department have all co-operated readily with this office and in return have received the utmost assistance.

With regard to local authorities, liaison has generally been good. A number of these bodies are taking an active part in the setting up of natives in State Housing Commission houses and from this excursion into active native welfare, have learned not a few of the problems which beset this office in the normal course of duty.

Relations between this office and the Moora Road Board—never very good—have reached a stage where we may hope for some improvement in their views on the activities of natives and this office.

Country and metropolitan hospitals have been visited where possible and their special problems have received prompt attention. Several country hospitals with which a closer liaison is kept, have acted as informants from whom reliable reports on welfare of native children may be obtained.

Several police officers in country towns too have shown an active interest in native welfare problems and this interest is being nurtured in the hope that real co-operation and usefulness to the native community may result.

Among the churchmen who have shown similar feelings are Rev. J. Pickerill of Bruce Rock and the Rev. D. M. McCaskill of Meckering. The Rev. Pickerill, who is also a Protector of Natives, has exerted a particularly beneficial influence among natives camped in the Bruce Rock, Shackleton and Kwolyin areas.

Natives—Vital Statistics

Full Bloods—				Others—			
Male	....	....	17	Male	....	....	265
Female	....	....	8	Female	....	....	265
Children	....	....	4	Children	....	....	714
Total	....	....	29	Total	....	....	1,244

Grand Total—1,273.

Health

This aspect of native welfare is receiving greater attention each year. In the year just finished surveys carried out by the Public Health Department have covered nearly every native resident in the Sub-district for trachoma and tuberculosis, and although the incidence of trachoma has been high, the incidence of T.B. has been low. At a recent compulsory T.B. Clinic at Moora, only one case of T.B. was found from 163 natives x-rayed.

At the end of the year, arrangements were well in hand for the immunisation of native children with Salk vaccine against the possible ravages of polio.

Generally, therefore, the standard of health throughout the Sub-district is becoming higher and with the assistance of the proposed mobile welfare clinic, it should improve more, especially when this unit visits each camp and instruction is given in elementary hygiene, etc.

With regard to hospital and medical facilities, the situation is good. Nearly every centre has its own doctor and hospital and each of the larger centres has a dentist and in some cases, optician.

Natives are not hesitant in availing themselves of the facilities provided, although in many cases they are quite unable to pay for them.

Education

It is with pleasure that I place on record the fact that all native children of school age are attending school. Attendances generally are good, but there are a few parents who neglect to ensure that their children attend school regularly. At the 30th June there was one committal case covering the four children of Thomas and Ida Hayden of Doodlakine, pending. This action had been instituted by the School Welfare Section of the Education Department and was being taken under Section 18 of the Education Act.

Headmasters of schools visited on patrol were all pleased with the appearance and scholastic work of their native pupils and reported that in many cases the native children outstripped their white neighbours in these endeavours as well as in sports.

Employment

At the end of the year under review, a serious un-employment situation had developed within the Sub-district. It is true that the whole population, both coloured and white, has been affected by the lack of jobs, but natives in particular suffer more because of their colour. Casual labouring jobs are no longer to be found and since at least half of the coloured men in the Sub-district depend on this type of work, they are now thrown on the State for support. Exact numbers of unemployed are not known, but from applications made in the metropolitan area, they must be considerable. I have found on recent patrols that the situation is equally as bad in the country areas as in the city.

Apart from those affected as above, the bulk of the working force among the natives is engaged in rural employment of some kind. In the metropolitan area, a number of juniors are employed by various firms and hospitals are employing native girls as nursing aides etc. This office was recently advised by one firm employing two native lads that they would be forced to consider retrenchment of one of the lads shortly, but another firm already employing one native boy took on another.

Wages paid to full-time rural workers are between £12 10s. to £15 per week with part keep and accommodation (generally) supplied. Others employed on a casual basis receive £2 10s. per day. Workers in the metropolitan area receive at least the basic wage and some engaged in more arduous tasks receive a margin over and above this sum.

Housing

It is in this field, perhaps, that the endeavours of this office have been best rewarded.

At the close of the financial year 33 State Housing Commission homes were occupied by tenants of native descent within the sub-district, an increase of 25 over the same period of last year. The exact position is set out in the attached Appendix A.

With regard to the actual conditions of each individual native tenant, I can only say that the scheme is as much of a success as is possible when one takes into consideration the fact that very few of these people have ever lived in real houses before. In only one home that I visited could it be said that camp conditions prevailed. For the rest, a genuine attempt had been made in each instance to keep the house up to the standard of fair type white occupants.

It is a fact that most of the families find the financial commitments on the houses a severe drain on their limited income and in some cases have fallen behind with their repayments, but so far satisfactory arrangements have been made for these arrears to be repaid over a period.

One of the biggest problems associated with the taking over of a State Housing Commission home by a native family is the provision of furniture for the new house. To alleviate this situation the Commissioner provided for assistance to the extent of £30 to be given for the purchase of secondhand furniture and for furnishings for approved, selected housing applicants. As a result of this action, assistance has been given to six home occupants and has been approved for six more. Natives assisted under this scheme are deeply appreciative of the help, without which they would have been left with not even the bare necessities in their homes. Donated furniture and furnishings have also helped natives in this predicament.

Altogether the housing situation is quite bright and I am hopeful that when the occupants of these homes have been in the the houses for some time, they will "grow" into the responsibilities associated with home occupancy and ownership.

Rationing

There are no ration stations maintained within the Sub-district, but a small number of aged indigents are rationed at various reserves—3 at Merredin, 1 at York and 1 at Bassendean. In addition, temporary relief was granted to those in need during the year. There has been an increase in the temporary rationees in the last three months, due, no doubt, to the unemployment situation.

Metropolitan Social Welfare

The Coolbaroo League has been active throughout the year and has held fortnightly dances in various towns as well as in the metropolitan area. They have a new native handicraft shop at 110A Barrack Street, Perth, and should do well in the new set-up.

The Native Welfare Council has again participated in a street appeal, this time in conjunction with two Missions. A considerable sum was collected and has been added to funds already in hand.

(Sgd.) H. R. TILBROOK,
Assistant District Officer, Central.

Appendix "A"

Central District Housing Applications

Deferred.	Withdrawn.	Outstanding.	House Completed or Under Construction, 30-6-56.			
			Name.	Date.	Type.	Rent (p.f.).
A. Bropho, N.	C. Garlett, I. W. C. Gillespie, J. L. D. Hayden, H. A. Hayden, H. B. Kickett, A. H. A. Narrier, F. A. Winmar, K. A. Yappo, P. A. Yappo, P. (deceased)	D. Abdullah, M. D. Cross A. Garlett, W. A. Henry, L. C. Hansen, W. R. A. Lawrence, M. W. C. McPhee, R. B. Moody, E. A. Prior, P. A. Pickett, J. H. A. Phillips, R. B. A. Quartermaine, T. A. Yarran, C.	D. Anderson, K. A. Blurton, J. F. D. Bodney, C. C. C. Bateman, M. H. A. Calraget, L. W. C. Dick, T. R. A. Davis, T. W. C. Forest, T. A. A. Garlett, P. S. A. Gygup, J. H. A. Garlett, H. A. Gygup, R. J. D. Harris, K. C. Hume, J. D. Hume, S. P. C. Indich, H. A. Kickett, R. A. Lawrence, T. D. Layland, J. A. Levatt, C. A. Mippy, N. A. McHenry, W. A. McHenry, B. A. Nelson, A. A. Narrier, F. G. A. Pickett, J. C. Pickett, B. J. C. Parfitt, N. C. Phillips, A. P. A. Turvey, G. A. Winmar, W. A. Yarran, T. M. A. Yarran, L. †	25-1-55 12-55 23-6-55 22-3-53 7-55 2-1-56 9-6-56 15-9-52 21-5-56 22-2-54 8-8-55 30-6-56 15-12-54 13-5-54 5-56 2-9-55 2-7-53 22-11-53† 1-8-55 30-6-56 25-5-55 9-55 11-5-56 6-56 7-56 7-54 26-11-54 9-9-55 7-54 24-6-55 30-4-56 6-56 22-11-53	79 79 C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. 79 79 C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. 79A 16C W.D. C.S.R.H. C.S.R.H. 79A C.S.R.H. 79A 79A 79A 79A 79A 79A 79A 79A 79A C.S.R.H. 79A 79A C.S.R.H.	£ s. d. 6 4 0 5 13 0 5 14 0 5 2 1 1 11 0* 5 1 10 4 18 9 5 6 0

A. Native in Law. B. Exempted. C. Citizenship. D. Quadroon or less.
 * Paid by N.W.D. † Evicted 15-10-55. ‡ W.D. Evicted Sept., 1955.

Appendix "B"

Mogumber Methodist Mission

The year under report has not seen any spectacular development at the Mogumber Methodist Mission, but there has been a continual development of the children and the environment in which they live. We ended 30th June, 1955, with 75 subsidised children and six for whom we receive Child Endowment, but no subsidy. This year we have 81 subsidised children and the same six unsubsidised. One of the most pleasing features of the roll is that during the last year the discharges were Phyllis Wynne who was over 16 and returned to her parents, Lola May Garlett who returned to her parents, David and Mitchel Abraham who went to the mother, now Mrs. Laurie Mogridge, Ruby Narrier who went home for the Christmas holidays and did not return. The pleasing feature is that of these, three young children were able to go to their own homes. I regret but one thing, that in spite of my writing to the parents concerning the children and their physical and spiritual wellbeing, I have not received one reply either from the children or from their parents. The only one who has corresponded with me is Stella Morrison.

I believe that the final solution to all our problems as well as the native's problem is spiritual. I am trying to interest our church in those who leave us and to carry on where we have to leave off.

During the same period to offset the five discharges there have been ten admissions, of these seven are the children of Mrs. Stack who came with them and is assisting with their care.

The health of the children, except for chronic cases, has been excellent during the year. Except for an epidemic of mumps and influenza there has been no serious trouble with health. All the children have been immunised against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis. Except for the last named, these have been done by our own staff. During the Christmas holidays dental treatment was carried out by the Education Dental Clinic. The Officer doing the work was Mr. Laurie Ng from the Malay States.

The following are chronic cases—Iris Kelly, Louie Sampey, Matthew Anderson, Barry Garlett and Glenys Garlett. Except for Iris Kelly, the others have suffered from rheumatic fever and consequently have a heart condition following. We are thankful for their steady improvement.

The educational work under Mr. Ingram and Miss Edgell shows steady if not spectacular improvement. The Mission is indeed fortunate that two such people are in charge of the secular education of our children. This year there was none recommended for secondary education but that was due to the fact that those who completed primary education had not had an opportunity in the early school years. Next year we hope that Richard Wilkes may be admitted to the Narrogin District High School. Discipline in the school is excellent.

To help the girls who finished primary education and could not go on to secondary education, nine were enrolled in the Perth Technical Correspondence School in the courses of Home Management and Sewing. The former lessons are being done under the guidance of Miss de Munck and the latter with the help of Mrs. Clarke. The girls are slow with their work but the results so far have been excellent, most of the marks being above 90 per cent. These girls are the senior girls in the cottages, and in the morning get their practical experience in that way. They work in a different home each month but live in their own cottages. This is to give the experience of working with different white women and also to obviate any tedium. The girls under 16 are given ten shillings a week and those over 16 one pound a week as pocket money. They are fed and clothed by the Mission. This work I believe is a valuable aid to these girls.

To meet the need of the pre-school children a play centre has been started. Miss de Munck has all these children from nine o'clock until midday and is running the centre as a kindergarten. By this means we are endeavouring to overcome the handicap of the children and prepare them for school. There has been a noted improvement in their behaviour, their relationship one with another and their speech. This has proved well worth-while.

We have continued the cottage system started early in 1955. There are four cottages with about 17 children in each. The Hull Cottage and Old Kindergarten and Hospital are fully self-contained family units. There is a white cottage mother and older girls and mixed younger sexes in them all. Miss Alice Chadd, who is herself of native extraction, has a group of 18 boys for whom she cares, but who eat in the old dining room as there are no kitchen or eating facilities in her cottage. There are children living in the homes that are occupied by Clarkes, Dangers, Lovells and Mr. Mayor. These children are mainly older boys who need the care of a father as well as a mother.

I believe there has been a marked improvement in the children's ability to mix with white people. This was clearly seen at the fifth anniversary and it is also seen when visitors arrive.

But I am also mindful that the years of adolescence will bring their problems to our charges and it is going to take careful guidance and patience to lead our girls and boys through these years.

I regret that we had the moral failure of two girls but I also believe that it is only by meeting temptation now that they will develop the fibre to stand on their own when they leave here. It may be easier to run the station without adult natives, but I think our children would be missing a lot if they had no contacts with the older people of their own race.

This year has seen the enrolment of Guides and Brownies and the Investiture of Scouts and Cubs. We have 17 Guides, 16 Brownies, 13 Scouts and 14 Cubs. Officers came from Perth to perform the ceremonies which were combined in the open air under the pine trees. These companies all have full uniforms and meet each week for training and once a month for Church Parade. Here again we are trying to fit them for citizenship.

Building

Last year saw the opening of the Hull Cottage and this year we have been concentrating on the building of the new Maternity Home and Babies' Creche. This we anticipate to be ready for use later in the year and to serve a big need in this part of the State. It has accommodation for a four bed maternity ward and facilities to handle ten babies. We still continue to improve the older buildings on the station. Improvements have been done to most of the buildings.

Our building has provided valuable training in the handling of tools to our native employees. Most of them when they come to us have no knowledge of the use of tools, but when any of the carpenter gang leaves us they are able to use these tools proficiently. We anticipate building a replica of the Hull Cottage next year.

Bore

Once again we have been disappointed in the bore, particularly as it seemed that we would have some success with it. The following from the Department of Public Works shows the position: "The bore had been drilled and cased to 272 feet with 8 inch casing, and to 754 feet with 6 inch casing which seized fast at this position. The contractors were given permission to use and complete with 5 inch casing. Some months' delay was occasioned waiting manufacture, and supply of this 5 inch bore casing. Later the 5 inch casing was inserted and drilling then proceeded to 850 feet and the casing to 808 feet, where it had cut off collapsing sands, enabling drilling ahead to 850 feet. A short delay in drilling operations occurred—some 30 hours owing to an accident to the Drill Foreman, and on resumption the 5 inch casing was found jammed fast. After considerable effort it was found impossible to move the casing and so the 5 inch casing was cut at 727 feet and withdrawn and finally the 6 inch casing perforated between 508-511 feet and a bronze mesh

screen inserted 21 feet long to exclude the sand. Test bailing proved 7,000 gallons a day of water that showed 76 grains per gallon and almost neutral acidity." The Department is now preparing plans to pump the water from the bore to the station.

Agriculture

As we have 1,200 acres of land under cultivation it was decided that this year further development be postponed and we concentrate on the improvement of that already done. This has been done and all the land top-dressed and added pastures—particularly Lupins sown. We are finding that the land is costing more to bring into production than was anticipated. We have 500 sheep and 150 lambs this year and they are doing well. We also have 40 pigs, 21 cattle, four horses and 200 fowls. This provides an avenue of animal husbandry for our older boys.

Spiritual

There has been the continued witness of our spiritual work. In Sunday services, mid-week fellowship, evening devotions and personal witness we have tried to win our charges to a personal allegiance to Jesus Christ. This year we have instituted the old Methodist Class Meetings. In the free discussion of the class we are trying to give the children confidence and a means of expression.

We have been delighted by the decision of five older girls who have been admitted into Trial Membership of our Church. This says well for the future.

E. A. CLARKE,
Superintendent.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS SUB-DISTRICT

Introduction

Herewith is a brief report of native administration and welfare in the Eastern Goldfields Sub-district for the period 1st July, 1955, to 30th June, 1956.

Administration

Staff.—A.D.O. Day was in charge of this Sub-district until the 26th March, 1956. From that date the writer has been the officer in charge. Assistant Patrol Officer Hardwick was transferred to Kalgoorlie on the 10th April, 1956.

Missions

Wongutha Mission Training Farm Inc.—Situated near Gibson Soak and about 24 miles from Esperance, this Mission, although still in its infancy, has made excellent progress over the past twelve months. It is an Interdenominational Mission and has Mr. R. Schenk (Jnr.) as its Superintendent.

The purpose of the Mission is to train native youths in general farm management to enable them to obtain employment and for some to take over farms themselves. Five boys were taken into the Mission this year. Their training consists of practical work—building and general farm work—and class work—English, Arithmetic, Animal Husbandry, Social Studies and Farm Practices and Crafts.

During the year the Mission through its able staff has almost completed the Dormitory Block. A further 100 acres of clover were sown and 125 acres cleared, of which 40 acres has been ploughed. An orchard of 64 trees has been planted and a poultry section commenced.

The ultimate aim is to have forty boys at Wongutha and on the present rate of progress it will not be long before the Mission's object will be achieved.

Churches of Christ Mission, Norseman.—Superintendent—Mr. A. Griffiths. Religion—Church of Christ. Situated seven miles from Norseman, this Mission caters for children only. At present 70 children are cared for in an excellent manner. Those children of school age attend the Norseman State and High School and this in itself has made a considerable difference to the children. Not only has it been a step towards their social assimilation, but also has greatly improved their scholastic and general education.

Under the competent superintendence and direction of Mr. Griffiths the Mission itself has continued to improve. A new kindergarten and infant health clinic was completed recently. In his desire to make the Mission self-supporting, Mr. Griffiths has considerably developed farm stock, poultry and vegetable gardening activities.

Kurrawang Mission.—Superintendent—Mr. W. Sharpe. Religion—Gospel Brotherhood. This Mission situated eleven miles from Kalgoorlie fulfils two purposes—the institutional care of children and the rationing and medical needs of approved indigent natives. Thirty children are cared for at present. Those of school age attend the Kalgoorlie State and High Schools. Those not of school age, and they number six children, attend the kindergarten at the Mission.

During the year the dormitory block for girls and boys was erected. Only painting and some interior fittings are to be completed. The sanitary-ablution-laundry block was also completed and is now in use by the adult natives. A house formerly used for staff quarters at the Brown Hill School, Kalgoorlie was shifted to the Mission.

Thirty adult natives are rationed at Kurrawang. In addition station natives out of work frequent the Mission camp site.

Australian Aborigines Evangelical Mission, Cundeelee.—Superintendent—Mr. R. S. Stewart. Religion—Interdenominational. Cundeelee Mission is 130 miles east of Kalgoorlie and 30 miles north of Zanthus on the Trans-line. This Mission cares for school age children and is responsible for rationing natives who formerly frequented the Trans-line. Twenty-five children reside in dormitories and attend school at the Mission. The Education Department provides a teacher. During the year a girls' dormitory and a staff cottage were erected. The water storage position was also improved.

Due to several reasons the Mission has only been able to organise spasmodically the adult natives to pull and clean sandalwood. It is considered that under proper management this industry could become a useful occupation for the natives and provide them with a regular income.

During the year one boy was transferred to Wongutha Mission.

United Aborigines Mission, Mt. Margaret.—Superintendent—Mr. R. Nash. Religion—Interdenominational. A change in management took place at this Mission when Mr. Nash succeeded Mr. Morgan in December, 1955.

Eighty-five children are inmates of this Mission. School age children attend school at the Mission School, which is conducted by the Education Department, which provides three teachers at this Mission. The Mission also has a kindergarten.

Mt. Margaret Mission is responsible for the rationing of some 25 indigent natives.

The Mission Hospital plays an important role at Mt. Margaret and during the temporary closure of the Laverton Hospital its services were called upon by many natives working on adjoining pastoral stations and those resident at Laverton.

During the year the Mission commenced building a large dining room-kitchen and this building is now almost completed.

United Aborigines Mission, Cosmo Newbery.—Superintendent—Mr. H. C. Lupton. Religion—Interdenominational. This Mission, situated 60 miles north-east of Laverton, is still in its infancy as a Mission and has not commenced any extensive native welfare work as yet. During the year the Mission was training three native youths in pastoral work and four native girls in domestic work.

The principal work performed at the Mission this year has been the development of the Mission as a pastoral holding. A considerable amount of fencing was done and the water position for stock improved. Maintenance work was also done on Mission buildings.

At the close of the year under review an important change was made in respect of this Mission and the Warburton Ranges Mission. It was decided to transfer native welfare work from the Warburton Ranges Mission to Cosmo Newbery Mission. This will mean the establishment of dormitories, schoolrooms and staff quarters at Cosmo Newbery.

Cosmo Newbery Mission is responsible for the rationing of twelve adult indigent natives.

United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges.—Superintendent—Mr. H. E. Green. Religion—Interdenominational. This Mission is situated 400 miles east of Laverton. During the year one official inspection was made. The Mission caters for about 80 children, who attend school staffed by two Education Department teachers. The Mission also conducts a hospital and rations twenty indigent natives.

Approximately 700 sheep and a small herd of goats are at the Mission. It has a small poultry section and a vegetable garden.

The remoteness of the Mission, the resultant transport difficulties and in particular the lack of industry and employment for the natives at the Mission has concerned the Department for some time. Following the inspection in March this year it was decided with the concurrence of the Education Department and the Federal Council of the United Aborigines Mission to transfer all the children from the Warburton Ranges to the Cosmo Newbery Mission. It was similarly decided to transfer all the aged indigent natives.

During the year it has been estimated that 500 natives have visited the Mission. These natives have come either from the Rawlinson Ranges or from Ernabella Mission in the Northern Territory.

Protector of Natives

Apart from Mission Superintendents there are only three other Protectors in this sub-district. They are Mr. J. Shepherd of Mulga Queen, Mr. G. Boaden and Rev. D. Davies of Southern Cross. These three have a keen interest in native welfare and have co-operated excellently with this office.

Patrols

Nine patrols were undertaken this year. Particulars are as follows :—

Patrol No.	Area.	Mileage.
1.	Norseman and Esperance	1,133
2.	North Country—Stations and Missions	1,650
3.	Coolgardie and Southern Cross	406
4.	Laverton-Cosmo Newbery-Mulga Queen	1,073
5.	Mulga Queen-Warburton Ranges	1,943
6.	Southern Cross	300
7.	Coolgardie	104
8.	Cundeelee Mission	312
9.	Mt. Margaret-Laverton	506
		7,427

As details show, almost the entire district was patrolled at least once during the year. This represents a considerable increase on previous years and as will be seen further in this report, a considerable increase in field welfare work has resulted.

Reserves

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

Norseman,
Coolgardie,
Southern Cross.

During the year negotiations were commenced to have Reserves declared at Laverton, Leonora and Kalgoorlie.

Buildings

Endeavours were made during the year to obtain a larger office, which has become necessary due to increased staff. It was suggested that the adjacent room now being used as a storeroom by the Police Department be obtained by this Department. After consideration by the Police Department the proposal was rejected.

Vehicles

In October, 1955, W.A.G. 877, an International Utility, was transferred to another district and a new Land Rover, W.A.G. 3718 provided. This vehicle is ideally suited for this sub-district and the position now is quite satisfactory.

Public Relations

During the year the idea of forming a Native Welfare Committee of various voluntary native welfare workers of Kalgoorlie was freely mentioned. It is thought that during this coming year a committee will be formed. This will mean that the various welfare workers can pool their resources and unify their work, thus gaining a better result.

Contact has been maintained with those people who are or could be of assistance to this office and to the natives.

Natives—Vital Statistics

Classification.	Male Adults.	Female Adults.	Children under 16.	Total.
Full Bloods	500	450	400	1,350
Other Bloods	200	150	250	600
Total	700	600	650	1,950

Health and Medical Services

Some isolated surveys over recent years have thrown some light on the health of natives in the Sub-district. It is considered, however, that a more realistic approach could be made in this regard.

During the year cases of Trachoma, Yaws and Venereal Diseases were found. Influenza and colds were common. An epidemic of influenza occurred at Laverton last winter. An analysis of medical services for natives in the Eastern Goldfields is worth recording.

With the exception of Wongutha Mission, where it is not necessary at present, six missions have qualified medical staff who are able to cater for the less serious complaints. At Laverton, Leonora, Menzies Kalgoorlie and Norseman natives can avail themselves of the hospitals at those centres. At Kalgoorlie, Leonora and Norseman there are medical practitioners.

During the year it was arranged by the Public Health Department for the medical practitioner at Leonora to visit Laverton, Mt. Margaret Mission and Menzies at least once per month to visit and consult natives at those places.

Station employers have readily transported sick natives to hospitals.

With some exceptions stations have provided sanitary facilities, but such facilities are only provided on one mission for the adults. All missions have facilities for their child inmates.

The language barrier poses many problems for those of the medical profession in this district, but it is noted that without exception they have treated the natives with understanding and sympathy.

I should like to record my appreciation to the Laverton Ambulance Committee, who have unselfishly and without discrimination transported natives over great distances to receive medical attention.

Recently at Kalgoorlie an opportunity was given to natives to have their chests x-rayed. An arrangement was made for several natives to be x-rayed each week. Under this scheme 30 natives have been x-rayed to date. Three suspects were found for which further tests were ordered but results are unknown as yet.

Education

As reported, several Missions have schools at the Mission and at other Missions the children attend town schools. Native children attend State Schools at all centres in this Sub-district. An accurate census has been obtained of the number of children attending school in this sub-district and the analysis is as follows :—

Place.	Primary.	Secondary.	Total.
Laverton	17	2	19
Mt Margaret	83	....	83
Leonora	12	....	12
Kalgoorlie	14	7	21
Coolgardie	20	....	20
Cundeelee	21	....	21
Norseman	25	6	31
Warburton Ranges	80	....	80
	272	15	287

Native Labour and Employment

This aspect of native welfare has been one of concern to this office over the past year. The problem has been fully investigated and measures have been recommended to cope with the situation. It is important that the economic welfare of the natives be assured as it has been found that further constructive welfare work cannot be undertaken unless this goal has been reached.

In this area natives are employed principally in the pastoral industry. However, even at busy times all the natives who could work cannot be so absorbed and in some parts of the district wages and conditions are poor as a direct result.

It has been found that natives in the Kalgoorlie, Menzies and Leonora pastoral areas can obtain employment under varying conditions, but there still remains a small surplus of labour. It is true, of course, that many of the natives in this area are unskilled for station work. During the year two specific steps were taken to offset this problem.

First, at Mulga Queen, the natives were organised to collect 140 lb. of mulga seed for the Forests Department. In doing so these natives obtained £560, which amount is being paid to them over varying periods by the Protector of Natives at Mulga Queen.

Secondly, it was decided to encourage the natives to make weapons and curios for sale. Enquiries made revealed that there is a steady demand for native weapons and a market was quickly obtained. The principal obstacle confronted was that the success of this project depended on the natives being paid immediately for their weapons. However, even though the Department is empowered under its Act to receive weapons from individual natives and sell them on their behalf, it has no authority to expend Departmental funds to purchase them. It became necessary then to look to a private body to finance the scheme. Such an arrangement was made at the close of the year and arrangements also made for the large scale production of weapons at Mulga Queen, Cosmo Newbery and Cundeelee.

It will be seen therefore that this project will very really assist natives who would otherwise be unemployed.

The employment of caste natives in this Sub-district presents no great problem. Some are permanent station hands and others obtain work with local Road Boards and with the W.A.G.R. A group of caste natives at Laverton are successfully engaged in the sandalwood industry.

An ex-pupil of Mt. Margaret Mission, who has qualified as a nursing sister, is now the Matron of Leonora Hospital.

Crime

There was a small number of offences involving liquor committed by natives this year. These were mainly confined to Kalgoorlie.

At the close of the year a native woman from the Warburton Ranges Mission was arrested on a charge of wilful murder of her grandson. Upon committal at Laverton the Crown Law entered a nolle prosequi.

Housing

Throughout the Sub-district the full-blood natives still live in primitive "wurlis" except where quarters are provided, as on stations.

The opposite is the case with the mixed bloods. At all centres the majority or in some cases the whole of these people are living in standard dwellings.

Rationing

During the year the Department, through Missions at Cosmo Newbery, Warburton Ranges, Mt. Margaret, Cundeelee, Kurrawang and an agent at Mulga Queen, supplied rations to adult indigent natives. In this way an average of 150 natives was fed and clothed by the Department.

Tribal Activities

As far as is known by this office no large scale corroboree was held in this Sub-district during the year. A small gathering of natives occurred at Kurrawang in May and it is understood that some small ceremonies were performed.

Since my association with this Sub-district it has appeared to me that whilst native law is rigidly adhered to at Cundeelee and the Warburton Ranges it has become for many in the more settled areas a law in name only. The impact of white civilization, its conditions and laws, the work of the Missions have all contributed towards the breakdown of tribal law and customs.

(Sgd.) J. HARMAN,
Assistant District Officer, Eastern Goldfields.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Introduction— Ministerial Visit

In the four days, 9th to 12th June, the Hon. Minister for Native Welfare, accompanied by the Commissioner, the District Officer, and Mr. E. M. O'Brien, M.L.A., made a tour of inspection of the District. Travelling by road, the party called at Missions, Reserves, individual dwellings and other points of interest in that considerable area extending from Geraldton to Wiluna. Although subsidiary to the main purpose, such visits provide valuable guidance to District Officers, as they provide an opportunity to discuss with senior officers many aspects of local administration.

District Boundaries

Apart from a slight extension of the northern boundary to take in those seven stations in closest proximity to Jigalong Mission, the extent of the District remains as described in last year's Report.

General

The record of the year's activities, as detailed under the appropriate headings below, show a period of quiet progress. There have been no spectacular gains, but neither, I feel, have there been any losses, and, all things considered, it can be regarded as a satisfactory year.

Administration

Staff.—There have been three resignations, with three subsequent replacements during the year. Staffing difficulties resulted in the closing of the Meektharra office from 26th November, 1955, to 11th April, 1956. During this period the East Murchison Sub-district was administered from Geraldton, but this provided no real substitute for having representatives on the spot at Meekatharra. Now that the Meekatharra office is again functioning, field officers there have re-established contact with natives, missions, local authorities and stations in the area. The present disposition of staff is as follows:—

District Headquarters, Geraldton—

District Officer	....	....	....	F. E. Gare.
Assistant (F.)	....	....	....	Mrs. E. McKay.

West Murchison Sub-district, Geraldton—

Assistant District Officer	....	....	J. A. Paquin.
Patrol Officer	....	....	R. H. Nye.

Office Accommodation

Geraldton.—The Public Works Department's plans referred to in last year's report have been postponed, if not cancelled, and the District and West Murchison Sub-district Offices are still located in two rented rooms at 151 Marine Terrace.

Meekatharra.—The rented, and unsuitable, office is still being used, but a contract has now been let for the converting of the Medical Officer's old house to a combined office and single quarters. The site selected is in the main street, at a point not far distant from the native reserve.

Missions

The three Missions operating last year are carrying on their good work, and in addition, the Wiluna Seventh Day Adventist Mission was officially proclaimed a Native Institution on 20th January, 1956. The origins of this Mission were described in the last Annual Report.

In the belief that these Missions are effectively carrying out a difficult and most important part in this State's scheme of native welfare, more attention will be devoted to them in this report than was the case last year.

Pallotine Mission School. Tardun.

This Mission is situated south of Mullewa, and was established, and is conducted by the Pallotine Order. Father Omasneier is the Acting Superintendent.

The capacity of 80 children is always taxed to the utmost, and there is a considerable waiting list at this moment. It enjoys an enviable reputation among the responsible native population of the district, and children who complete a term at the Mission leave with a sound educational, moral and spiritual foundation, and a noticeable air of pride and self-respect.

The Mission School has now been operating for almost eight years, and as Father Girke, who has been at Tardun for more than five years, is now commencing extended leave, it seems to me to be an appropriate point at which to review the whole history of the Mission, together with its aims, policy and methods. At my request, therefore, the Mission staff has been kind enough to prepare the following report. It is quoted in full.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that this Mission is so self-supporting that it has never had a Grant-in-Aid from the Government.

Historical Survey.—The beginnings of the mission school go back to the year 1928 when a wheat farm was established with the idea of supporting the Beagle Bay Mission. Soon, however, it was realised that there was ample scope for a mission in Tardun itself and we may say that from the early '30's this was ever in the mind of the various Superiors at Tardun. Economic difficulties however precluded the realisation of this plan until the years immediately subsequent to the close of the war. Under the superintendency of Fr. G. Vill, an admirable opportunity was seen in the disposal of the Air Force camp in Geraldton, the buildings of which would be suitable as immediate but temporary dormitories, classrooms, etc. As it was, enough equipment was procured from this camp to set up the whole mission school with modern facilities. The buildings were dismantled on the site by the mission staff and thence transported to the mission and re-erected. It was officially opened on 12th September, 1948. Accommodation was provided for 80 children, both boys and girls.

The Mission, then comprises a twofold aspect, namely, a farm and Mission School, and it may be well to point out here that it is the opinion of the Mission staff that before a Mission station such as ours is contemplated some definite economic foundation must be at hand, otherwise the work and the inmates will suffer as a result. This has been borne out by experience and was the reason why the farm in Tardun was worked for so many years without the logical completion of the Mission school.

Aim of the Mission.—The aim of the Mission was set forth in the address of welcome of Fr. Vill on the opening day—'To conduct a boarding school for native and half-caste children similar to those for white children in cities and towns throughout Australia.' To carry out this aim it was necessary to depart from many of the existing ideas with regard to the education of natives. The first step was that the children were to be sent or brought with the consent of their parents. They were to have the school holidays at home with their parents for, as Fr. George said 'We aim also to influence the parents' and at the present stage this is best done through their children. Hence by educating the children and at least influencing the parents some positive contribution was to be made to a solution of the 'Native problem.' In this connection we should state the Mission regards the 'native problem' as a social one rather than a coloured one. As human beings and hence children of the same Heavenly Father these people are our equal. There is no need to make them so. But due to a set of circumstances historical, economic and to some extent man-made, on their part and ours, they have not had the opportunity to avail themselves of the advancements of modern life. It is our wish to provide them with this opportunity and thus 'integrate' them into the Australian way of life. We use the term 'integrate' designedly, in preference to 'assimilation,' the term now in current use. 'Integration' implies the existence of two separate elements which must be moulded to an homogeneous whole at the same time retaining their individual entity. 'Assimilation,' on the other hand, means the absorption of one of the elements, in this case the natives, and their ultimate disappearance. The native peoples have a way of life all their own which is vastly different from ours. Therefore, we believe that this must remain intact insofar as it is not prejudicial to the education of these people, and their ultimate elevation to the standards of the white population. It must not be thought that we set the white population up as the standard on a colour basis. Many of our ways and customs they must learn, not because they are the white man's, but because they are the ways of a normal human being who is meant to be happy and contented.

The mission staff comprises three priests, five brothers and four sisters. For the past five years Rev. Fr. Girke has been Superintendent of the mission, one priest teaches the senior classes, and one priest is in charge of the boys, at present 39 in number. One Sister does the cooking for the whole mission, one teaches the infant classes and two are devoted to the care and education of the girls. Since the inception of the school a continuity of staff has been maintained as far as possible and this is a big factor in the education of the children. For it ensures a certain stability, and facilitates the formation of some orderliness and discipline. The five brothers are engaged in the working of the farm.

Education.—The number of children at the mission at present is 80. These are divided into working boys and girls, and school children. There are 47 in Standards II, I, and infants, and 25 in Standards III, IV, V, VI. There are five working boys between the age of 14 and 16 and three working girls in a similar age group. Education is carried on at these two levels. When speaking of education we must preface our remarks by certain principles that guide the mission staff in their work.

On the part of the children there seems to be a resentment against the white man in general, sometimes at the conscious level, more often unconsciously. Another trait, not general but very widespread, is a lack of appreciation of home life and all that it entails, viz., stability, devotion to one's parents and brothers and sisters, care of property, etc. On the part of the educators, the first principle is the old axiom that 'good must be done and evil avoided' from which follows that henceforth they will have certain obligations. They must be shown that there are certain things which must be done, and the only foundation on which such an obligation can be made to rest is a religious one. It is our opinion that any education carried out without a religious background is doomed to failure, and even more so in the education of native

children before whom we cannot place any standard that betokens the superiority of the white people. It must be a standard of reference outside of both peoples and this can only be God. If they can be made to see that they have the same destiny as a white man, that as children of God they are equal, much would be achieved in removing that inferiority complex which impedes their entry into normal human relationships. Another principle which is actually only an application of the above is that their happiness and contentment will be found in the setting up of a family unit. This principle will receive further treatment when we speak of the working boys and girls.

With regard to the school children, the curriculum followed is that set down by the Education Department for ordinary primary schools. We have not followed the special curriculum for native schools and results show that in general the children are able to conform to this standard, although a decided weakness in arithmetic is to be noted. English is perhaps the next weakest subject while Art and Music are well developed. They receive a daily instruction in the religious principles that should guide their life and from the outset, on their entry to the mission, habits of cleanliness and honesty, good conduct, fair play, purity of life and respect of authority are inculcated. The daily tasks that occur in the dormitories, classrooms, kitchen etc., are assigned to the children that they may learn what has to be done, and what is more important, how it is to be done.

In the senior classes particular stress is on the function of the family in human life. Here we believe is the crucial point and also the starting point in any attempt to educate the natives. It may be observed that the educators in the cities are gradually coming to the same conclusion in their diagnosis of the causes of juvenile delinquency.

The children who appear in the Children's Court are the children of broken homes, or homes where parental control is non-existent. Therefore the boys are taught the responsibility that devolves on them when once they decide to marry. They must provide for the wife and children; they must work to do this. Before the girls is laid the ideal of motherhood as the natural completion of their desires. On quite a number of girls this has a strong effect and they really manifest a desire to be the mother of a real family.

This programme of education is carried a stage further with the working boys and girls. At 14 they leave school and the boys are then put to work with the brothers on the farm where they can learn all the everyday tasks that occur in the seeding and harvesting of wheat, in the care of sheep, pigs, cattle, etc. The girls have an opportunity to learn cooking and needlework under the care of the sisters. But behind all this is a regular weekly instruction which amplifies what we have already said about the senior classes. At this stage, also, such instruction is more profitable because it is more relevant. The nobility of parenthood of both husband and wife is shown them, for, in fact, parenthood means for most of them co-habitation and nothing else. The unity and indissolubility of marriage is pressed home, namely that when once married they are married for life to procreate and educate their children. The early education of the children is in the hands of the mother. She it is who should first teach matters of hygiene, honesty, fair play, etc. The father plays his part by providing, and in a suitable way, for his wife and children. Around this principle are built instructions on drinking, work, the payment of debts, respect of law and authority.

Now throughout their stay at the mission the children may mix and play freely together. When I say freely I do not mean promiscuously, but a certain freedom of spirit is developed by which they feel, in some way, at home. Particularly with the older boys and girls a liberal atmosphere is engendered and we may say that in no major point have we been disappointed. This last statement can also be attributed in some degree to the spirit of confidence that exists between the staff and the children. To sum up we may say that they are taught to live in such a way that they will be fit to receive citizenship rights.

A secondary aim of the mission is to influence the parents of the children who stay at Tardun. The parents, as yet, not realising the benefits of education, can only be made to see it in a practical way in their children. Hence, from the beginning, the children were sent home for the Christmas holidays. At first it was feared that they would not return and this was verified in not a few cases, but now the experiment has proved itself for every child that goes home for Christmas returns to start school the following February. Before they leave a break-up concert is held to which all the parents are invited, that they may see their children actually performing to an audience. An active participation in the Mullewa Show has developed a sense of pride in the parents of the children whose work is displayed. The parents are free to come and see their children whenever possible and occasionally a circular letter is sent out, outlining the aims and activities of the school. All these things have helped to gain the confidence and co-operation of the parents and to show them in some way what life should and could mean for them and their children.

The Farm.—The mission is to some extent provided for by a farm. As we stated before, the provision of a sound economic background is a necessity, otherwise the work is hampered and the children suffer as a result. During the first 20 years about 9,000 acres were cleared and 10 miles of fencing erected. At the present time about 2,000 acres of crop are sown annually. The work is done by the brothers, members of our Society, with the assistance of the working boys. Plant on the farm includes two tractors, four trucks, in addition to modern farming machinery. A flock of sheep in the vicinity of 3,000 is run. Milk and butter is supplied from 25 cows and a piggery varying from 30-60 pigs is kept. The farm is equipped with a carpenter's shop and machine shop, so that most repairs can be done on the place and at the same time offer the working boys an opportunity to learn the various facets of farm life.

Conclusion.—For those boys who wish to and show the necessary ability, a hostel, The Pallotine Mission Centre, has been built at Fifth Avenue, Riverton, Perth, and was opened in May, 1955. Here those boys who attend High Schools and Technical Schools or who are apprenticed to trades, may live under our supervision so that the education begun in Tardun may be completed.

Looking back over the years, a short span in such an undertaking, we may lay claim to some success in trying to bridge the gulf between the native people and the white population. An evidence of this is in the fact that this year we were able to send one girl, Miss Adeline Shea to the Dominican Ladies College, Dongara, to begin her secondary studies. Any success must be due to the unfailing efforts of the staff, which has not been changed to any great extent in the last five years.

Finally, I should like to tender our thanks to the Department of Native Welfare and especially to our District Officer, Mr. F. E. Gare and his staff, from whom we have received most cordial and willing co-operation. The financial help given us at all times by the Department has made it possible to conduct this school on lines similar to other colleges in this State."

Karalundi Mission.

Located on the Great Northern Highway, just north of Meekatharra, this Mission is conducted by the Seventh Day Adventist Conference.

It was established only a little over two years ago, and since then has made remarkable progress. It now has 78 children, and hopes to cater for 100 before long. A report prepared by Mr. Louis, the Superintendent, is quoted hereunder :—

"Inmates."

(a) Total number	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	78
(b) No. of pre-school children	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	2
(c) No. of native children attending school (3 white children also)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	74
(d) No. of natives employed on Mission	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	7
(One lad full-time on general farm work. One woman full-time in charge of girls and laundry. One girl unable to learn at school being taught domestic work full-time. Three lads part-time on dairy. One lad (spastic) part-time, general help).										
(e) No. of indigent natives	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	Nil

Education.—The standards taught, and the number of native children in each is as follows :—

Lower Infants	....	....	....	28	Standard III.	....	....	....	....	3
Upper Infants	....	....	....	23	Standard IV.	....	....	....	....	3
Standard I.	....	....	....	4	Standard V.	....	....	....	....	4
Standard II.	....	....	....	7	Standard VI.	....	....	....	....	2

Commencing with this month the special curriculum for Coloured Schools is being used, and practically all the children will be able to reach the standard set, while some will go beyond. The general progress of the children is very encouraging, and the three teachers engaged in the teaching of the children are confident of good results at the end of the year.

Training.—Provision has been made in the home of the Superintendent for the teaching of general housework to the girls, and the results thus far have been very satisfactory. Apart from the usual needlework that is taught as a general school subject, the senior girls are being taught elementary dressmaking along the lines set out in the Technical School Correspondence Course. They are also being taught to do fancywork, with which to occupy their leisure hours.

Most of the older girls have been taught breadmaking, and they in turn are teaching others. Quite a high standard has been reached. The girls bake the bread for the Mission. We hope to start cooking classes for the girls in the coming fiscal year. A number of the girls make very good butter and are now teaching others to do the same.

A group of the older boys have been formed into a carpentry class and we plan to have this in full swing in the very near future.

We started a class of elementary motor mechanics for the boys but owing to pressure of work this had to be dropped for the time being. Early in the coming fiscal year, however, it will be started again.

Some of the boys milk the cows and attend to the separating while others help in doing the odd jobs around the Mission.

Health.—Last year the Government Dentist visited the Mission and stated that the teeth of the children here were the soundest he had inspected in this area. The Doctor at Meekatharra expressed himself as being very pleased with the general health of the children when they were taken in to him once every three months for eye inspection. He also stated that trachoma here was gradually being stamped out. Our trained nurse is doing a very fine work and is kept busy every day attending to the general medical needs of the children.

Grants-in-Aid.—We have had a very busy building programme this year. Two additional cottages have been erected to accommodate the staff. The three-roomed Government School at Big Bell Mine was dismantled and transported here, and will have been re-erected by the end of July. A clinic and bakehouse are in the course of erection, and owing to the crowded condition of our dormitories the verandahs have been closed in for the winter months. We hope to have additional dormitories for the year 1957, as we believe our numbers will reach round the one hundred mark. Also we hope to have a General Assembly and Recreation Hall in the not too distant future.

General—As we look back over the past year we are conscious of the guiding hand of God in the progress seen on the Mission, and we greatly appreciate the help given by the various officers connected with the Department of Native Welfare. We also appreciate the interest shown by the officers of the Education Department. We feel confident that the coming year will see a consolidating of the work done this year, and a further growth and development of the Mission in all its various departments.

In last year's report mention was made of the plans, involving Wiluna, of the controlling body of this Mission. Since then, the Wiluna Mission has indeed come into being and is commented on separately below. However there is one aspect of the work which should perhaps be mentioned here.

When the Wiluna branch of the Mission was first contemplated, it was realised that the problem of tribal differences between the Wiluna and Meekatharra natives would require careful handling. This was accomplished most successfully by the Mission authorities and, already, nearly all children of school age in the Wiluna area are voluntarily at Karalundi. They make up half of the total enrolment there. What this really means is indicated by the following : In September 1955 I talked with the family of Jacky and Maudi near the Wiluna Native Reserve. During the conversation I noticed that three of their small children were clutching live lizards, which were to form part of the approaching meal. This was a perfectly normal practice. The children were inadequately clad in rags and were dirty and unkempt. In April, 1956, I took particular note of these same children, now with the surname of Jackman, in the classroom at Karalundi. They were clean, well dressed, glowing with health, brightly intelligent, and enthusiastically demonstrating their recently acquired learning by reading from the blackboard. Such a transition, which is typical of many, must give great satisfaction to the Missionaries who, by their painstaking and devoted efforts bring such benefits into the lives of these children.

Wiluna Mission.

As explained above, this institution was founded as a complement to the Karalundi Mission. The aims of the Mission, and accomplishments to date, are set out in the following report from Mr. Vaughan, the Superintendent :—

“ In September of last year, 480 acres on the commonage of Wiluna was acquired for the purpose of a native mission by the West Australian Conference of Seventh Day Adventists.

It is planned to take in elderly native people, family units and pre-school age children.

The programme of work up to date has received active support of natives living on a Reserve about four miles away. Each day the natives are transported to work, and are doing an excellent job of work clearing fencing, helping to build, and gardening on the new site. The garden is supplying fresh vegetables for the three hot meals and drinks supplied each day to the native workers. A marked improvement in the health and habits and even in the outlook of these people is generally noted.

Forty of the school age children have been transported to the Karalundi training school 150 miles away. There are about 40 adults and children receiving Government rations at present, although at times the number grows owing to indigent natives needing aid after hospitalisation, and to other natives travelling through.

At the present time, a shed which has been converted into living accommodation, is used by white workers to provide the nourishing meals, and to carry out the building programme. The first dormitory is on the way towards completion, and it is now the purpose of the Mission that a kitchen, clinic room, bathroom, septic toilet block, white workers' house and native cottages will be reected from the material ordered and on hand.”

This brief report does not do full justice to the work which has been accomplished at Wiluna. The successful transfer of the Wiluna children has been referred to earlier. In addition, a most noticeable change has occurred in the outlook of those “ unemployable ” natives being rationed on “ Bondini's ” Native Reserve. A year ago these people appeared to be an apathetic and even despondent group. Now their school-age children are being educated at Karalundi, and they themselves are taking a lively and active interest in the Mission station being established at Wiluna.

The work of the Mission authorities in this whole area has resulted in a great change for the better in the future prospects of both children and adults.

Aborigine Rescue Mission, Jigalong.

This institution is conducted by the Apostolic Church, with Pastor I. J. Hewitt in charge. It is situated some 300 miles north-east of Meekatharra and has been in existence for some ten years.

A number of factors have combined to delay the completion of the improvement plan indicated in last year's report. An exceptionally wet winter last year interfered with the carting of the building material from Meekatharra. Later, the Superintendent was away for several months and apparently little progress could be made during that period. However, the building programme is now approaching completion and it is confidently anticipated that the official opening ceremony will take place in July.

The new buildings consist of two dormitories each 40 ft. x 18 ft. It is intended to add 10 ft. verandahs to these later. Two additional staff houses have been completed and are occupied. A new school of two class-rooms, together with a teacher's room and store is almost finished and a new children's dining hall should be in use very shortly. A new kitchen adjoins the hall.

Thus the Mission has virtually been re-modelled and from now on should be in a position to cater much more effectively for the welfare needs of the children. The adults remain a problem and will continue to be a problem for as long as they camp in close proximity to this part of the Mission. Possibly a solution will be to transfer the rationing depot to the old Marramunda homestead, which has been acquired by the Mission recently.

There are at present 54 children on cash subsidy, and bulk rations are provided for 61 adults. These latter will soon be replaced by the new cash subsidy for adults.

Education.—Forty-three children attend school. They are very retarded educationally and cannot be divided into definite school standards. Most of the children are roughly at the infants' standard, the most advanced being no further than second class standard in some subjects. The teacher attributes the lack of progress to the language difficulty, which still exists with many of the children. In the past the children have spent much of their leisure time with the adults and there has been little incentive to speak English except in school.

Health.—A fully trained sister is included in the Mission staff, and the Flying Doctor from Port Hedland makes periodical visits. Health generally is good. During the year the Public Health Department's Mobile Trachoma Unit detected a 30 per cent. infection and arranged for the necessary treatment.

General.—With the additional buildings now about to come into full use, it should now be possible for this Mission to make more progress than it has in the past.

Protectors

The number of Protectors of Natives in the District is as follows :—

West Murchison—					
Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	2
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	1
Church Dignitaries	....	....	....	....	1
Anthropologists	....	....	....	....	1
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	4
					—
Total	....	....	....	....	9
					—
East Murchison—					
Departmental Officers	....	....	....	....	2
Mission Superintendents	....	....	....	....	3
Police Officers	....	....	....	....	3
					—
Total	....	....	....	....	8
					—

The overall total of 17 is smaller than last year's—a development which is consistent with reduced administrative work, due largely to the abolition of the permit to employ system and to a rational and thorough patrol programme.

The help given by Protectors is appreciated and I would like to place on record my thanks to them.

Patrols and Vehicles

By November, 1955, sufficient was known of roads and native population distribution throughout the District to establish, with some degree of accuracy, a schedule of annual station patrols, giving due regard to efficiency and economy.

This programme provides for a visit to each station employing natives at least once a year. With the abolition of the permit to employ system and many of its associated features the character of a station inspection has changed to some extent, but an annual visit is still amply justified. In many cases, particularly in outlying areas, such a visit provides the only real opportunity a native has to discuss his problems

with a welfare officer. Again, many natives are not fully aware of their various entitlements and a field officer can assist these people to obtain them. Examples are certain Social Services Benefits, medical attention for chronic ailments, education for children, etc.

A continuing function of patrolling is the obtaining of up-to-date information which will assist the field office in its capacity of labour exchange. Station files are taken on patrol and details of each station's employment potential, wages paid, standard of food and accommodation and any other relevant facts are brought up-to-date at each visit.

As the schedule allows only one visit a year to most stations, it is important that all welfare matters be investigated at the time of the visit. In order that this may be achieved, a set of Standing Patrol Instructions has been compiled. These enable even comparatively inexperienced field officers to complete all patrol duties without omissions. Individual patrols carried out were as follows :—

District Patrols—	Days.	Miles.
No. 1—Geraldton-Wiluna-Jigalong	20	1,800
No. 2—Geraldton-Meekatharra	6	658
No. 3—Geraldton-Wiluna	20	1,387
No. 4—Geraldton-Wiluna	5	1,017
Totals	51	4,862

Patrols 1, 2, and 4, were inspections by the District officer. In addition he accompanied the Assistant District Officer, East Murchison, on his Patrol No. 1, in ten days covering 1,005 miles in the Lake Carnegie area. Patrol No. 3 was carried out by the Geraldton Patrol Officer while the Meekatharra office was closed.

West Murchison Patrols—	Days.	Miles.
No. 1—Bringo-Mullewa-Pindar	2	198
No. 2—Mingenew-Mullewa-Northampton area	4	437
No. 3—Area north of Mullewa and Yalgoo	18	1,358
No. 4—Area south of Mullewa and Yalgoo	15	1,405
No. 5—Mt. Magnet-Sandstone area	16	1,331
No. 6—Northampton-Mullewa area	5	525
Totals	60	5,254

These patrols included single visits to 76 stations and more frequent visits to Tardun Mission and all townships and populated sidings in the Sub-district. The latter visits deal increasingly with individual and family welfare, particularly involving the care and medical treatment of children.

“Emergency” running was kept to a minimum and, in fact, only two such trips outside the Geraldton area were necessary. Each of these involved the transfer of a very sick child from the Mullewa Hospital to the Geraldton Hospital, suitable ambulances not being available at the time. The total Sub-district mileage was thus in the vicinity of 5,500 miles, a figure very much the same as last year's. A Land Rover was used for by far the greater part of this distance and again proved admirably suited for the work. There were no accidents, and no damage to vehicles.

East Murchison Patrols—	Days.	Miles.
No. 1—Cue-Sandstone area	11	662
No. 2—Wiluna-Carnegie area	10	1,005
No. 3—Wiluna	3	258
No. 4—Upper Gascoyne area	8	838
No. 5—Upper Ashburton area	9	923
Totals	41	3,686

The fact that the Meekatharra office was unmanned for almost five months, meant that the patrol programme for this Sub-district could not be fully completed. Nevertheless, 53 stations, all three Missions, and all townships and populated sidings were visited.

In this Sub-district too, only two “emergency” trips were necessary. One involved attendance at a Court case in Cue and the other the transport of some children to Karalundi Mission.

This programme entailed a total effective Sub-district mileage of a little under 4,000 miles, this being somewhat greater than last year's.

During the year it became necessary to replace the Land Rover at Meekatharra with a conventional drive utility. This complicated the planning of economical patrol routes, but as an additional Land Rover has now been approved for this District the utility has been transferred further south where roads are better. This vehicle was involved in an accident north of Meekatharra recently, and is now undergoing repair in Perth. Fortunately the A.D.O. escaped injury.

Public Relations

Departmental relations with other Departments, local authorities, members of the various professions and the general public have varied from satisfactory to extremely cordial. There have been no real disputes and the general tendency appears to be one of continuing improvement.

Particular mention is made of the willing and able co-operation which has always been extended by the local District Officer of the Child Welfare Department.

The District Officer of the Commonwealth Employment Service has also been extremely helpful, both in his particular field and in assisting with any problems concerning Commonwealth Social Services.

Various organisations in Geraldton have shown an increased interest in the question of native welfare, and a number of invitations to address meetings on the subject have been received and, of course, accepted.

Prejudice against natives themselves still comes to the surface on occasion. The most glaring case occurred at Mullewa when both barbers suddenly refused to cut the hair of coloured people, some of whom had been regular clients for years. The ban was all embracing and included many with full Citizenship Rights. Despite wide publicity, extending at least throughout Australia, the barbers remained adamant. They were loath to discuss their action and at no time have made any clear public statement as to why the ban has been imposed.

Reserves

Progress with the improvements indicated as being necessary in the last annual report has not been very impressive, but something has been achieved, as is shown below :—

Geraldton.—Funds have now been made available for the erection of a standard ablution and laundry block, and action now rests with the Public Works Department. Application has also been made for a four-roomed shelter to replace the three very old and disintegrating huts there now. Two panstead lavatories are in use, and regular sanitary and rubbish removals are carried out at Departmental expense.

This reserve is now used almost exclusively by transients—people visiting Geraldton for medical treatment, on holiday or for seasonal work such as pea and tomato picking.

Mingenew.—This reserve is well equipped with ablutionary and sanitary facilities, and these are in constant use. As the local authority had declined to carry out either rubbish or sanitary removals, it has been necessary to appoint and pay a native caretaker to carry out these functions. The man selected has carried out his duties most conscientiously.

There are still a number of families residing on the reserve, which is used also by transient natives.

Mullewa.—Progress on the new reserve here has been painfully slow, apparently because the Public Works Department has been too busy elsewhere. However, funds have now been made available for an ablution and laundry block and two W.C.'s. Application has also been made for a standard four-roomed shelter building.

Mullewa is a transport junction and is visited by large numbers of natives. The equipping of the new reserve is urgently required, both as a welfare measure and in the interests of public health. The old reserve, several miles from the township, is about to be cancelled, the windmill, tank and stand having been donated to the Wiluna Native Mission.

Yalgoo.—The old unused reserve has been cancelled and a new one created on a more suitable site. Funds were not available during the year for the erection of sanitary facilities, but a progressively minded Local Authority offered to erect two lavatories, payment to be made in the next financial year. Needless to say, the offer was accepted.

Mt. Magnet.—Here again funds were not available for needed improvements, but it is hoped that some progress will be made in the coming year. Ablutionary, laundry, sanitary and shelter facilities are required.

Mt. Magnet is a transport junction, and is a township which is growing rapidly at the moment.

Meekatharra.—This is an important transport centre, and serves a very large pastoral area. It has a considerable resident and a large transient native population.

The ablution, laundry, sanitary and shelter facilities mentioned in the last report were completed during the year, and have proved ideal for the needs of transient natives and hospital out-patients.

As an experiment, six cyclone type stretchers have been installed in the sleeping accommodation and two mattresses, with washable covers, are being supplied to one room, which will be used exclusively by out-patients. The average travelling native carries his own swag.

As in previous years, the five permanent dwellings built by natives on the reserve are occupied. The owners continue to pay their own expenses for water, and rubbish and sanitary removals.

Wiluna.—The water, ablutionary and sanitary facilities remain as described last year. Regular sanitary removals are carried out by the local authority at Departmental expense.

For practically the whole of the year it has been necessary to ration some forty "ex-desert" natives on this reserve. Mr. Vaughan, of the Wiluna Mission, has distributed the food and clothing and, at the same time, has achieved very noticeable improvements in the living conditions and habits of the recipients.

Application has been made for funds to erect some form of shelter on this reserve. It has gradually been denuded of its natural growth of trees, and now provides little or no natural shelter.

Other reserves at Peak Hill, Cue, Payne's Find, Tuckenarra, Wilgie Mia, and Northampton have been little used and have no special facilities.

Appreciation

I would like to record many thanks to the Clerk in Charge and his Section Leaders for the unfailing co-operation they have extended to this District throughout the year. It is a comforting thought to field officers remote from Head Office, to know that any reasonable request to the clerical staff for information or assistance will be met promptly, efficiently and willingly.

Native Welfare—Vital Statistics

The checking of census particulars is a regular feature of patrol work and naturally results in considerably fluctuating population totals. A thorough check in the West Murchison Sub-district has been possible, and has resulted in a slight reduction in the total. This is due to the movement of individuals and, to a lesser degree, corrections of recorded castes. Staffing difficulties have interfered with the census check in the East Murchison Sub-district. However, from the patrols completed and from information obtained from station people and other sources, the following figures are considered to be reasonably accurate. They are little changed from last year's.

Area.	Full Bloods.				Others.			
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.
W. Murchison	84	62	24	170	219	217	531	967
E. Murchison	216	194	151	561	160	132	294	586
Total	300	256	175	731	379	349	825	1,553

This table indicates Sub-district totals to be :—

West Murchison	....	....	1,137
East Murchison	....	....	1,147

The District total therefore is 2,284. The numbers of male and female children in the figures quoted in the table above are approximately equal.

Health

West Murchison Sub-district.—In general, the remarks made in the last annual report still apply. Natives living permanently on stations are usually in good health, and any sickness is detected by the employer and appropriate steps taken.

Adults living in or near townships seem to have little serious illness but the same cannot be said of the children. Too many native mothers are either ignorant of proper child welfare care or are not convinced of its value. Many children appear to suffer from the results of inappropriate diet, unsuitable clothing and insufficient personal cleanliness. Such mothers are the ones most likely to benefit from the Infant Health Clinics conducted by the Public Health Department, but, unfortunately, they are the mothers least likely to attend.

Inadequate housing is still the cause of many bronchial complaints and a lack of facilities normal to the average white family makes general cleanliness difficult.

East Murchison Sub-district.—A noticeable improvement has occurred in the general health situation at Wiluna. This is due to two factors. Firstly, a ration depot has been set up at Bondini's reserve for necessitous cases, and this has eliminated the malnutrition which in earlier years undermined the health of some natives. Secondly, the Superintendent of the Wiluna Mission has done sterling work in distribution of these rations, treating minor ailments, supervising the overall health and hygiene of the reserve residents and in giving the former "unemployables" an interest in life and an aim to work for.

Regarding eye treatment the Public Health Department's Mobile Trachoma Unit commenced a systematic survey of the major portion of this Sub-district just prior to the end of the financial year. It is understood that this Unit will gradually work westward through the whole of the Murchison area. This Department naturally renders assistance wherever possible, and in Meekatharra the A.D.O. carried out daily follow-up treatment for the final week of the course to enable the Unit to proceed to other areas.

Housing

West Murchison Sub-district.—At this time last year no building had taken place in this District under the State Housing Commission's scheme for providing homes for coloured people. Since then the following progress has been made :—

Centre.	Applicant.	Classification.	House Occupied.
Northampton	D. Corbett	Native in Law	February, 1956
Northampton	J. Councillor	Native in Law	February, 1956
Mullewa	A. Phillips	Citizen. Rights	December, 1955
Geraldton....	R. Thompson	Native in Law	April, 1956
Geraldton....	R. Oakley	Exempted Native	June, 1956
Morawa	N. Harris	Citizen. Rights	September, 1955

In Geraldton a further house is now in course of erection for C. Mallard and J. Dann's deposit has been paid and his application approved.

L. Ryder of Northampton has also lodged a deposit, but it is not known yet if the application has been approved. The same applies to D. Brown of Mingenew.

In regard to the houses already occupied, the tenants are completely satisfied with their new dwellings and are taking a pride in their appearance. Not one complaint of any sort, from any quarter, has been received at this office since the houses were occupied.

Unfortunately, the cost of these houses is now in the vicinity of £2,000 and with rates of repayment approaching £3 per week, they are out of reach of many native families.

The housing problem is therefore still a very real one and there appears to be a need for something between the bag and tin humpy and the Type 79A house (which is a very practical design).

East Murchison Sub-district.—The position here is much the same as reported last year. Small houses and used building materials are more cheaply and readily available than nearer the coast and the standard of many natives' homes, though not really satisfactory, is better than further west. The capital cost of such homes is very low. They vary perhaps from £50 to £150, and while these are available the £2,000 Type 79A house will have little appeal.

Education

The practice of carefully recording the personal particulars and educational records of all native children in the District has been continued—irrespective of where they are or whether they are attending school or not. The number of native children attending school as at 30th June, 1956, is shown below :—

Centres.	Primary.				Secondary.				Grand Total.
	Mission Schools.	Denomi-national Schools.	State Schools.	Total.	Mission Schools.	Denomi-national Schools.	State Schools.	Total.	
<i>West Murchison Sub-district.</i>									
Geraldton ....	....	15	19	34	....	1	8	9	44
Northampton ....	....	....	11	11	....	....	....	....	11
Galena ....	....	....	13	13	....	....	....	....	13
Walkaway ....	....	....	3	3	....	....	....	....	3
Dongara ....	....	....	....	....	....	1	....	1	1
Mingenew ....	....	6	5	11	....	....	....	....	11
Mullewa ....	....	11	4	15	....	....	....	....	15
Tardun	68*	....	....	68	....	....	....	....	68
Morawa ....	....	....	3	3	....	....	....	....	3
Yalgoo ....	....	....	11	11	....	....	....	....	11
Mt. Magnet ....	....	2	1	3	....	....	....	....	3
Sandstone ....	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....	1
Cue ....	....	....	5	5	....	....	....	....	5
Meekatharra ....	....	....	17	17	....	....	....	....	17
Wiluna ....	....	....	6	6	....	....	....	....	6
Karalundi	74	....	....	74	....	....	....	....	74
Jigalong	43	....	....	43	....	....	....	....	43
	185	34	99	318	....	2	8	10	328

* Plus a number not natives in law.

The total of 328 is an increase of 29 over last year's figure. The general comment made last year under this heading still holds good.

The number of children in outlying areas still not attending school is considerable but is being progressively reduced. The most noteworthy change during the year under review has been the voluntary transfer of some 40 school-age children from the Wiluna area—some from as far east as Lake Carnegie—to Karalundi Mission.

In the East Murchison Sub-district there are some school-age children still on stations, but as Karalundi expands it should be able to cater for most of these south of the 26th parallel. For those further north, Jigalong Mission, with its new buildings, and more positive policy, should suffice.

Facilities are still not adequate in the West Murchison Sub-district. There is always a considerable number of children waiting to enter Tardun and parents, so far, have shown no interest in sending their off-spring to Missions outside their own area. Instead, there is a growing tendency for mothers to move to townships (Mullewa in particular), to allow their children to attend day schools. The male parent sometimes remains on the station and visits his family occasionally. Very often, however, he also moves to the township and relies on short term work for a livelihood.

This trend often results in the overcrowding of already inadequate accommodation, or the erection of further unsatisfactory shelters. It has added to the problem of maintaining health and hygiene at anywhere near a satisfactory standard. Needless to say, the scholastic progress of children attending school in such circumstances leaves much to be desired.

Looking on the brighter side, the trend indicates the increasing value which native parents are placing on education for their children.

Employment

For the greater part of the year under review there has been ample work available for all employable natives. Within the last month or so, however, there has been a gradual change in the situation, and it is now sometimes very difficult and at times impossible to place a native seeking casual unskilled work. There is also a slight, but possibly increasing, pool of unemployed station workers. In view of the fears in some quarters of some wide-spread unemployment throughout the State, this matter is being watched very closely. Advantage will be taken of Commonwealth benefits wherever such action is justified, and a very satisfactory liaison has been established with the Geraldton branch of the Commonwealth Employment Service in this regard.

The conditions applying to work on stations remain very much as reported last year ; that is, generally satisfactory, but with a few exceptions. In the pastoral industry natives are largely dependent on the goodwill of employers, and the law of supply and demand for their remuneration and conditions of employment. The old Permit to Employ System has now been abolished for more than a year, but there seems to have been no really effective move made by the Trade Union movement to interest itself in this matter.

A further slight increase has occurred in the number of natives employed by the West Australian Government Railways in this area. However, the apparently increasing unemployment in the southern part of the State has resulted in a more plentiful supply of white labour, and natives whose work has not been entirely satisfactory may soon find it difficult to hold these positions—particularly if their service is broken by absences for seasonal work such as shearing.

As has been stated before, the housing usually provided makes this work particularly suitable for natives with families. Furthermore, there is absolutely no discrimination, either for or against coloured workers and each employee's progress depends entirely on his own merit and effort.

The Main Roads Department is another very satisfactory employer and many natives have worked for it for years. Usually, tented accommodation only is provided and this means that the worker's family must remain at home. Weekend leave and transport facilities appear to be liberal, however, and the work is popular with natives.

In Geraldton, a certain amount of wharf work is available, and each season there is an influx of coloured people to assist in the pea and tomato picking.

Rationing

Under the previous heading a certain amount of recent unemployment was indicated. This necessitated a temporary supply of rations to some unemployed natives, mainly at Meekatharra. Such supplies are not made until every other avenue is explored, but when they do become necessary, they are made as an outright grant and no subsequent recovery action is taken.

Full advantage of the Commonwealth's Social Service Benefits is still taken and there has been little change in the permanent ration list. As at 30th June, 1956, the position was :—

Geraldton	....	....	....	1 Adult
Yalgoo	....	....	....	4 Adults and 5 children
Wiluna	....	....	....	20 Adults and 20 children
Jigalong	....	....	....	61 Adults

These figures are kept under constant review, but no reduction has been possible to date. Short-term rationing has increased slightly during the year. Brief periods of unemployment and sickness have contributed towards this and another factor has been the necessity to maintain the dependants of several men gaoled for various offences. In none of these circumstances is this expenditure treated as recoverable.

Crime and Justice

Once again it is possible to report that there has been no serious crime committed by a native in this District during the year under review. There has been a multiplicity of prosecutions on minor charges, a large proportion of them occurring at Mullewa. This township, and that of Meekatharra, provide an interesting contrast. Both have considerable resident and transient native populations, but the number of natives charged with offences in Meekatharra is very small.

Tribal Activity

Jigalong and Wiluna remain the main centres of tribal activity. At both centres Missionaries are now operating, but no drastic, unrealistic prohibitions have been imposed. Rather, a gradual diminution in intensity is anticipated.

During the year, Miss Ruth Fink, Senior Research Fellow in Anthropology on the staff of the Western Australian Psychology Department, has carried out research in Mullewa, and in the station country north of Mullewa and Yalgoo. It is understood that Miss Fink hopes eventually to extend her research to the Wiluna area and, possibly, to Jigalong also.

F. E. GARE,

District Officer, North Central.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Introduction

This is my seventh Annual Report as District Officer in charge of the Southern District.

The impact of legislative amendments and enactments which came into force towards the end of the previous year was only very slightly felt during the year under report. This is because many of the provisions excised from the Native Welfare Act were in fact not used or applied in the Department's dealings with natives, *e.g.*, compulsory medical examinations, removal of natives under warrant, removal of camps from near townships, penalising enticing of natives from service.

Other amendments such as the discarding of the employment permit system, the marriage of natives without the need for the Commissioner's sanction, the permissibility of natives pleading guilty in Courts without the presence and approval of a protector, the scrapping of prohibited areas for natives, have all been taken as a matter of course by the native people.

Certainly the Act in its present shape makes for more flexibility in administration and this is felt by none more than by the field staff in the country areas. It remains now for these changes in legislation and for the improving outlook on native administration to be carried to their logical conclusion by further legislation providing a civic status as a birthright to the native people of the State, a birthright which but for State legislation is theirs by virtue of the provision of the Commonwealth's Nationality and Citizenship Act.

Administration

Staff.—There has been no addition to the staff of the Southern District during the year under report, but it is expected that before long a Patrol Officer will be appointed to augment the field staff of the District (since materialised).

The staff of the District comprises the District Officer as the only field officer, the Assistant to the District Officer, and the Office Assistant who is the shorthand-typiste.

There has been only one change during the year, Mrs. P. Underwood having resigned and been replaced by Mrs. L. D. Jones, who joined the staff on 15th August, 1955.

I would like to record here my appreciation of the valued and efficient assistance so willingly given me by my staff.

Patrols

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

Six major patrols of the three patrol areas of the District were carried out, involving 4,721 miles of travel and 50½ days on the road. Twenty-four minor patrols and trips for special purposes were made during which 4,372 miles were travelled. Altogether 78 days were spent on patrol covering a total mileage of 9,093 miles. The importance of these patrols and of the system of patrols cannot be over-estimated. As in previous years, patrols enable contact to be maintained with the native population of the District. The practice of calling on Local Authorities, Protectors, members of Native Welfare Bodies, and at Schools, Missions, Hospitals, farms and other places of employment was continued. The goodwill so essential between the Department and the native people of the District was maintained via the medium of these visits. The contacts with the general public made possible by these patrols, also assist the field officer to keep the case for native welfare before the public eye, with the assistance of native welfare groups functioning locally, and with the co-operation of the local press.

Protectors of Natives

There are 31 Protectors in the Southern District, comprising two Departmental Officers, four Mission Superintendents, four Ministers of Religion, three laymen and 18 Police Officers. The District Protectors, as in other years, have given valuable service during the year under report.

In a previous annual report I have explained how the protectorship system operates for the benefit of the natives of the District and there is no need to repeat myself here. Suffice it to say that Protectors form a most useful liaison between the natives of their respective areas and the field staff of the District in between patrols when the field staff cannot themselves contact the natives.

Reserves

Excluding Missions there are 18 Native Reserves in the Southern District. During the year under report no Reserve has been cancelled. In the same period only one new Reserve has been gazetted—at Ongerup.

Three Reserves, those at Busselton, Broomehill and Wandering, are not used by natives. The gazettal of two new Reserves at Beverley and Collie is imminent; at both places the natives are in residence at the new sites. That at Collie has already had a reticulated water supply provided, while at Beverley a soak on the Reserve provides an unlimited supply of water; when present arrangements are finalised this water will be pumped by windmill to the ablution and laundry block to be constructed on the Reserve.

New facilities are also contemplated at Narrogin. This and the Collie Reserve will be the first two Native Reserves in the Southern District to have septic system toilets.

Four new conveniences have been approved for the Mt. Barker Reserve where there are no conveniences, though at times up to 90 natives have been in residence on the reserve here. There is no water supply on this Reserve, but the town's new water scheme is expected to be completed in the middle of 1957. When completed the scheme will be extended to the Reserve and so put an end to the present difficulty, which is being overcome by carting water under arrangements made by the Mt. Barker Native Welfare Committee, from nearby properties into the two water tanks provided by the Department on the Reserve.

Improvements during the year under report are the connection of the Tambellup Reserve to the town's reticulated water scheme and at Gnowangerup the construction of two further conveniences as the existing two were found to be insufficient.

At Woodanilling a set-back was experienced. The Local Authority, which has been providing water for the local native reserve into the tank supplied by the Department, decided to discontinue the service, which as yet I have not been able to have replaced.

At Williams the Reserve has been found to be quite unsuitable due to waterlogged and damp conditions. Arrangements are pending to secure a new site after inspection of possible sites in conjunction with the officers of the Local Authority.

In regard to the new Reserve at Pingelly, gazetted last year, two conveniences have been erected during the year but there is no water supply as yet. However, the Great Southern Pipe Line is under construction towards Pingelly from Narrogin. When this is completed an ablution and laundry block and septic system convenience will be recommended for the Reserve at this well populated native centre.

The overall position is that five native reserves in this District have reticulated water supply and ablution, laundry and lavatory facilities. Three reserves have a reticulated water supply and lavatories without ablution or laundry facilities. Five reserves have lavatories only provided but no water. Two of these, however, have a suitable water supply in close proximity to the reserve.

Missions

The same four Missions as in previous years are functioning within the Southern District. These are the Roelands Native Mission Farm (Inc.) (Interdenominational), the United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup (Interdenominational), the Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission near Katanning (Baptist) and St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering Brook (Catholic). All these Missions cater exclusively for children.

There is great need for a home for aged and indigent natives needing a home in their old age. The only Mission whose declared policy is to provide a home for aged natives in due course is Marribank Baptist Mission, but as yet there is no indication whatever of this policy being put into effect. This is something the Mission Authorities could well consider giving early implementation to ; there are many elderly natives, some married, some single and some widowed for whom a home in their old age would provide a sorely needed comfort.

All Missions in the District have made progress during the year under review, some more than others. Generous Government assistance has, to a great extent, assisted in this progress.

The Missions' contribution to the welfare of a section of the native people, namely the children who comprise twenty per cent of the children attending school in the district, cannot be overestimated. This will be seen from the accounts below of the activities of the 4 Missions of the District.

Roelands Native Mission Farm (Inc.)

Total inmates 83.

No. of Boys at Mission (State) School	....	....	....	....	26	}	51
No. of girls at Mission (State) School	....	....	....	....	25		
No. of boys at Bunbury High School	....	....	....	....	6	}	22
No. of girls at Bunbury High School	....	....	....	....	16		
Boys awaiting employment	....	....	....	....	3	}	4
Girls awaiting employment	....	....	....	....	1		
Girls employed by Mission	....	....	....	....	3		3
Children under school age	....	....	....	....	3		3
								83

Total number of inmates is 83 as against 76 last year—an increase of seven. During the period under review there were 15 admissions and 13 discharges.

Education.—The 73 children attending school from the Mission receive a State School education. The 51 children attending school at the Mission School, which is staffed by Education Department teachers, are making satisfactory progress. Seven of these are expected to attend Bunbury High School next year.

Of the 22 children from the Mission who were attending High School at Bunbury, 2 have withdrawn. Of the remaining 20 children 10 are 1st year, 7 are 2nd year and 3 are 3rd year students. One of the three 3rd year scholars will sit for the Junior Examination this year. Last year the 3 girls who sat for the Junior Examination failed to pass.

Health.—The overall position of the health of the children at the Mission has been satisfactory. No. illness of a serious nature amongst the children required attention. Medical attention is provided by Bunbury doctors.

Dental attention again this year was provided during the Xmas vacation by the School Dental Service's Unit which, under Mr. Rankine, visited the Mission. Other cases requiring attention were dealt with by two Bunbury dentists.

During her visit to the Mission Dr. Ida Mann found a high incidence of Trachoma amongst the Mission children. This was satisfactorily dealt with by blanket treatment.

Sport and Recreation.—The Mission property is situated on hillsides which precludes the provision of suitable and level sports grounds, yet children from the Mission have performed very creditably in competitive sport in the surrounding districts. The boys play football, the girls hockey ; both play tennis. Three Mission boys attending Bunbury High School played for their school in the Inter School Football Carnival in Perth and two girls similarly participated in the Inter School Hockey Carnival in Perth—both competitions open to High Schools only.

In the athletic field, the Mission School team for the sixth consecutive year won the B. section trophy in the Annual District School Sports. At the Bunbury High School's Annual Athletic Meeting a Mission lass won the Junior Athletic Championship.

But the best recreational treat of the year for the Mission children is the Xmas vacation at the Mission's Beach Home at Dunsborough.

Besides the above, regular film evenings are held and the Mission also has a Boy Scout Troop which during the year attended two weekend camps conducted by the Boy Scouts' Association of the District.

A feature of the year is the ex-students' re-union, held this year during Easter and to which many native folk who were not ex-inmates come. The attendances at these re-unions indicate the esteem in which the ex-students of the Mission hold their Alma Mater.

Improvements.—During the year the Mission, after considerable prior preparation to meet State Electricity standards, was connected to the State Electricity Commission's electric supply. This has proved a great boon.

The acquisition of a bulldozer has assisted development on the farming side of the Mission's activities. Approx. 60 acres of land have been cleared and seeded with Clover and Rye Grass and approximately 2 miles of rabbit fencing has been installed. A further tennis court is to be provided and land cleared for a new recreation ground, which though it will not be level will be a great asset on the Mission.

Ex-Trainees.—Of the 13 children discharged from the Mission this year 2 were very young children returned at the parents' request; of the remaining 11 children :—

- 2 boys accepted farm employment,
- 2 boys accepted employment with the W.A.G.R. at Collie,
- 2 girls accepted domestic employment,
- 2 girls commenced training as nurses at the Royal Perth Hospital,
- 1 girl commenced training at Royal Perth Hospital as a Nursing Aide,
- 1 girl commenced training at the Teachers' Training College,
- 1 girl accepted position as Mission Assistant.

The Mission Superintendent has drawn up an analysis of results achieved with ex-trainees of the Mission since its inception in 1941, 15 years ago. This is so interesting that I include it in my report in the Superintendent's own words.

“ The first group of native children was accepted into the Mission home in October, 1941, and as this particular section of the Mission activity has been proceeding now for nearly 15 years, I have summarised the living standard of those who have passed through this particular home. This summary analyses the 65 children who have finished their course of training. Of this number 78% are living in standards equal to the white community, while 22% have gone back into camp conditions. The 22% may be summarised as follows :—

- 9 per cent. represent girls who have married and their husbands have not or are not able to provide suitable accommodation,
- 4 per cent. subnormal and represent special cases,
- 9 per cent. have of their own choice drifted back into camp life.
-
- 22 per cent.
-

Further analysis of the occupation of the 78 per cent. who are living in conditions equal to the white community, is set out as follows :—

Domestic and farm work	....	....	....	....	....	....	46 per cent.
Married—female	....	....	....	....	....	....	16 per cent.
Trades and professions....	....	....	....	....	....	....	22 per cent.
Own farm and share farming	....	....	....	....	....	....	6 per cent.
Missionaries and Mission Assistants	....	....	....	....	....	....	10 per cent.
							100 per cent.

Although it is early at this stage to procure an all-over picture of the results obtained from those who have attended Bunbury High School, it is interesting to note that of the 11 who have left, five have entered a trade or profession, while two are assisting in Mission work and four have entered domestic and farm employment. Not one of this number has returned to camp life, although one boy did return for a time, but at the direction of the District Officer of Native Welfare, he came to the Mission and we were able to re-equip him with clothes and obtain suitable employment.

Those entering trades and professions represent 22 per cent. of the total number living in conditions equal to white standards, while the percentage of those leaving High School and entering trades and professions, five out of eleven, represents 45 per cent., in comparison, an increase of 23 per cent.

From this information one can visualise in the future, an improvement in the number entering trades and professions, as the benefit of secondary education is realised, and the co-operation and assistance is received from Welfare organisations and the Native Welfare Department.”

The foregoing will indicate that breadth of vision and planning are being applied in the administration of this Mission.

United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.

Total inmates—34.				
Number of boys	....	....	....	16
Number of girls	....	....	....	18
Number attending school	....	....	....	15
Number under school age	....	....	....	19

During the year under report there were six new admissions to this Mission. The year ended with the same number of inmates as at the end of last year—34.

The school age children from this Mission attend the Gnowangerup State School to which a school bus service from the Mission is provided. As yet no child from the Mission has been academically advanced enough to proceed to career employment.

For the under school age children a kindergarten was commenced this year and serves to keep the little ones usefully occupied during the day.

The health of the inmates has on the whole been good, there being no serious illness treated during the year. The Gnowangerup Doctor attends the Mission children and the School Dental Service calls once a year.

The Mission provides a valuable service to the coloured community of the district through the maternity ward on the property. This is in charge of a qualified sister and during the year 15 native babies were born at the Mission's Maternity Ward. As the Gnowangerup District Hospital does not accept native maternity cases this facility provided by the Mission is a great boon to native mothers. During the year a septic tank was installed for the use of the Maternity Ward.

Some modest expansion has taken place during the past year. The nursery for toddlers has been completed and accommodates 16 children, a single lady worker and a married couple. Besides, two shade houses and a playground fitted with playground equipment have been added to the nursery block. A further intermediate nursery has been planned and Government financial aid requested. A new laundry and drying room have also been constructed during the past year. A drainage system has been planned and Government financial assistance to meet the full costs of the system has been approved.

The children have an annual holiday camp at Xmas on the coast at Bremer Bay.

The Mission staff also attend to the spiritual needs of the natives of the District, going as far afield as Ongerup and Borden, 36 and 22 miles away respectively to provide religious services for the natives of these places. It also provides an annual treat for the district natives in the shape of a huge Xmas tree with presents of food packets. I was present last year whilst these festivities were progressing; they were much appreciated by the crowd of persons present from as far away as Tambellup, the next township, 22 miles off.

During the year under report the Mission for the first time, I understand, has made an attempt at cultivation. A tractor has been purchased with the object of putting in wheat and also oats as cow feed. The Mission has five cows and three calves but no sheep.

There are no longer adult natives residing on the Mission property. These have shifted to the new native reserve in the town which has been provided with facilities in the shape of lavatories, a laundry and showers.

Marribank Baptist Aborigines Mission.

Total inmates—35.				
Number of boys	....	....	....	19
Number of girls	....	....	....	16
Number of children attending school	....	....	....	15
Number of children under school age	....	....	....	20

The number of inmates shows an increase of six on last year when the year ended with 29 children in the Mission.

Fifteen children attend school on the Mission property, the teacher being provided by the Education Department. The majority of the children at the Mission (20 out of 35) are under school age. I would like to see some older children at the Mission, placed there voluntarily by their parents at the request and through the persuasion of the Mission Superintendent. This will permit of regular organised sport on the Mission and the older children would also be able to assist the staff with the younger ones.

The Mission provides a film evening once a fortnight for the children besides an occasional games evening.

A kindergarten is conducted on the Mission in the mornings. This is attended by 12 children under school age.

The health of the children has given no cause for concern during the year, though I am disturbed at the fact that nine children had to enter hospital for the treatment of sores. During the year the children were immunised against diphtheria. The Schools Mobile Dental Unit visited the Mission and attended to the dental needs of the children.

There was little additional building activity during the year for the reason that the Mission is very well off for buildings and accommodation. An extra room was added to the cottage occupied by a lady staff member to provide the extra accommodation required for the children who share the cottage with her under the cottage mother system.

In other respects the position at this Mission is much the same as reported in my Annual Report last year.

Earlier in this report I have dealt with the need for a home for the aged at one of the Missions. This Mission, because of its central situation in the district, is best suited for the purpose.

On the farming side 2,000 acres of the property are now cleared, 300 of this since the inception of the Mission. At present a bulldozer is dozing a further 400 acres, half of which it is intended to clear in the forthcoming year. £700 of superphosphate was used during the year and the last wool clip was 32 bales of wool from a flock of 1,000 sheep.

The Mission supplies its own milk, meat and eggs off the property.

St. Francis Xavier Native Mission, Wandering Brook.

Total Number of inmates—61.

Number of boys	....	....	....	....	25
Number of girls	....	....	....	....	34
Number of children attending school	....				59
Girls employed on Mission	....	....			2

This represents an increase of 31 over last year, the figures for that year being 30 inmates only. This increase is due to the admission of boys for the first time. Hitherto the Mission had been catering for girls only till such time as buildings to accommodate boys were constructed. This has materialised during the year under report, a boys' dormitory, including staff quarters and very up-to-date facilities, being built with Government and Lotteries Commission assistance, a very fine recreation room adjoining the dormitory block. A new classroom also was added.

This extra accommodation for boys was available from the commencement of the 1956 school year and already the accommodation is taxed to the utmost. For want of room several new admissions have had to be declined and it is hoped to build another classroom and dormitory this year, as well as a new sewing room and a recreation room for the girls.

This increase in the number of inmates is due to the drive and initiative of the Mission Superintendent, Fr. Wellems, who made trips into the surrounding districts and was able to persuade native parents of the benefits of a mission education and training for their children.

The number of children attending school (59) is rather large for one teacher to cope with and an addition to the staff of another Nun-teacher is expected. The children are progressing under their present teacher and it is hoped next year to have two girls advanced enough to proceed to Alvan House to continue with commercial courses.

The health of the children has been good and each child is medically examined annually, a doctor pays regular visits to the Mission. It has been arranged for the School Dental Unit to visit the Mission.

One of the major problems of the Mission—water—has now been solved. A large dam was completed during the year under report and as this dam conserves 2 million gallons of water and is now full, an adequate all-the-year-round water supply is assured.

Improvements planned for the near future with promised assistance from the Lotteries Commission are the installation of a hot water system, a large capacity washing machine and wringer, a typewriter for the girls interested in the commercial course and also playground equipment.

The Mission's farming activities keep pace with its progress in other directions and the Mission is self sufficient in regard to produce, meat, milk, eggs and vegetables for the staff and inmates.

Natives—Population

Below are population figures for the District ; these figures are not exact.

Classification.	Adults.		Children under 16.		Totals.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Full Bloods	59	51	56	49	215
Other Bloods	484	433	595	558	2,070
Totals	543	484	651	609	2,285

Health

In spite of adverse living conditions amongst the majority of natives of the District, the general health of the native people is good. The children, as usual, suffer the annual scourges of scabies in the winter and sore eyes in the summer. This year, however, I noticed a diminished incidence of sore eyes amongst children living on reserves and am at a loss to explain this other than by the fact that many reserves now have adequate water supplies and ablutional facilities available. Possibly more frequent washing of face (including eyes), and hands may have an important bearing on the question.

During the year two events of note took place, namely the survey of the major Great Southern centres for trachoma followed up later by a chest x-ray survey for tuberculosis. The trachoma survey team under Dr. Ida Mann unearthed a high incidence of trachoma amongst the coloured people examined ; exact figures were not provided nor is it known what measures have been taken by the Department of Public Health to treat affected natives.

The chest X-ray Survey detected two cases of T.B. amongst natives, both adult males who have been admitted to Wooroloo for treatment. In both cases T.B. Allowances are being paid to the families of the afflicted men. With the possible exception of Katanning, I believe that there was an almost 100 per cent. attendance of adult natives at the Chest X-ray Clinics in the Great Southern. I personally visited Woodanilling, Wagin, Kojonup, Williams and Narrogin District to ensure the attendance of natives at these centres.

Whilst natives generally continue to make full use of medical and hospital facilities available to them, I am disappointed at the poor response to my requests and advice re joining one or the other of the various Friendly Societies with a view to securing hospital and medical benefits. There are not a half dozen cases in the District of natives who have joined. Reluctantly I am forced to the conclusion that regular instalment payments is something most natives, with their seasonal fluctuation of employment, are not prepared to undertake.

Education

This year complete statistics of native children attending schools within my district are not available, as has been the case in the past two years, but based on last year's figures and making allowance for expected increases, there should be at least 650 native children attending school throughout the Great Southern and South West. Actual figures last year were 589 children attending school, which was an increase of 144 on the year before.

This year there has been a noticeable increase in the number of children attending school on and from Missions ; the four Missions between them have 162 children attending school. This number represents a quarter of the total number of children attending school in the District.

Whilst some parents appreciate and avail themselves of the opportunities for the education of their children, others evince little interest and have repeatedly to be spoken to on the irregular attendance and the unsatisfactory dress and turnout of their children at school. Fortunately this latter category is in the minority.

During the year under review the Education Department through their school welfare staff have taken a strong attitude with defaulting parents and summonses under Section 16 and Section 18 of the Education Act have been issued. Two cases are pending for committal under Section 18 (these children have since been committed and placed in Missions).

Field Staff in the District consider it one of their most important duties to encourage the regular attendance of native children at school and to check on the progress of these children when schools are visited on patrols.

During the year three boys only from this District proceeded to McDonald House to further their secondary education. One girl (ex Roelands Mission) has commenced training at the Teachers' Training College. With the present trend throughout the District where there are promising children coming along in the lower classes, it may confidently be stated that in three or four years Alvan and McDonald Houses will not adequately be able to cope with the number of native children with legitimate claims for admission based on academic progress at their respective schools.

Employment

Under this heading, I regret to report, there has been some deterioration since my last report. Availability of employment in the field most suitable to native labour, namely agricultural work, has sharply fallen off. There are several reasons for this ; first the established farmer, who in recent years was prepared to spend money on further clearing and for getting more land ready for cropping, seems now to have curtailed his spending in this direction. There has been much less of this type of work—chopping down, clearing and burning off—available. It is generally considered that this drop in spending by the farmer is due to the drop in wool prices.

Another reason for the dropping off in native employment in the pastoral field is the employer resistance to native employees which I have noticed is growing up amongst the farming community. Farmers with less money to lay out are not prepared to pay out " subs " and store advances which most native farm labour demands before commencing work. The farmer finds that he can now obtain white labour which in recent years has been gradually becoming more increasingly available ; much of this is New Australian labour.

The retrogression in the coal industry has resulted in there now being no natives employed in the coal mines at Collie.

There are still several natives in the Great Southern employed on the Railway, but even here the number has dropped in comparison with last year. Many natives who for the first time last year took jobs on the Railways have this year gone back to agricultural work, giving up permanent employment for spasmodic occupation. This is difficult to understand, particularly as in many cases good cottages and tented camps are provided with railway jobs, chiefly fettling.

There has also been a falling off in the number of natives employed in the Great Southern Comprehensive Water Scheme ; whereas last year 33 adult natives were so employed, this year there are a bare half dozen.

It is hoped that with the recent introduction of the native to the facilities of the Commonwealth Employment Service, the position will be improved, but it is too early to forecast whether the native will readily avail himself of these facilities.

Wages remain satisfactory ; it is the rule, rather than the exception for natives to be paid award rates and the basic wage.

Housing and Living Conditions

The year under review has shown the greatest advance in the housing of natives since the State Housing Commission began its scheme of housing natives in special type homes specially constructed for the occupation of coloured families.

The table in Appendix " A " will prove most helpful in studying the position at a glance.

From Appendix " A " it will be seen that there are in this District 29 families of aboriginal blood provided with good homes. The number of homes occupied during the year is 17 and there are still seven persons awaiting homes. There are two homes completed and unoccupied ; these are at Brunswick Junction and Mt. Barker. One home is under construction at Narrogin. One native has been evicted from his home at Collie and one has voluntarily vacated his home at Wagin.

Apart from these homes provided by the State Housing Commission there are several native families housed in Railway cottages up and down the Great Southern and spur lines ; Brookton, Popanyinning, Dumbleyung, Lake Bidy, Duranillin, Tambellup, Kojonup, Darkan, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Borden and Williams are the rail centres and sidings at which cottage accommodation has been provided for native railway workers. At other places, including several of the above, good tented accommodation has been provided by the Railway Department for its native employees.

At the Pipeline Camp and at timber mills, generally, good accommodation, usually tented in the former case and timber cottages in the latter, are provided.

Besides the above some farmers who are employing natives on a permanent or semi-permanent basis provide cottage accommodation on their properties for native employees.

But the majority of natives still reside, either on reserves or on the property on which they happen to be employed at the time. These persons for the most part live in wretched conditions only too well known to need repetition here.

The Department is doing all it can to help the position on native reserves by providing ablution, laundry and sanitary facilities where numbers warrant these. The progress in this regard has been discussed earlier in this report under the heading " Reserves."

But the problem of actual living conditions of natives on reserves and properties where no accommodation is provided poses a problem for which a solution is difficult to find. Field Officers make repeated attempts at encouraging native families to improve their actual living conditions, offering advice and suggestions

as to how to do so, but at the present stage of development of most natives it is too much to expect any radical changes in conditions or improvement. I believe, however, these will come gradually as the result of closer contact with the white population and with the opportunities that follow in the wake of education of the younger generation of natives.

Rationing

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

	Place.	Adults.	Children.	Total.
Albany	2	<i>Nil</i>	2
Collie	4	3	7
Gnowangerup	8	3	11
Katanning	3	4	7
Mt. Barker	3	<i>Nil</i>	3
Narrogin	2	2	4
Roelands	3	3	6
Wandering	1	1	2
Williams	1	<i>Nil</i>	1
		27	16	43

Rations are only provided for indigent and destitute natives and to families whose breadwinners are in prison or have been incapacitated due to a long period of illness.

Public Relations

Contact is being maintained with well-meaning persons and groups at major centres in the District. These contacts have convinced me that at the major centres of the Great Southern and South West and in the country areas outside of these centres there is a sizeable body of public opinion kindly disposed towards the native and his problems and in full accord with the efforts and policy of the Government and this Department in our work for the welfare and assimilation of the native people. Unfortunately these people are not as militant or vociferous as those who for one reason or another are critical of natives and of the Native Welfare Department.

No new welfare groups or bodies have been formed during the year under review but it is hoped that at Collie, through the good offices of the Apex Club of Collie, a Native Welfare Association will be formed there in the not too distant future.

It is a fortunate circumstance that during the year under review "Aboriginal Welfare" is the National service scheme of the Apex Clubs of Australia. These Clubs numbering about 90 and representing as they do the cream of the younger men of their communities, are in a position to materially assist in the overall scheme of uplift of the native people, by their influence on public opinion, apart from any other positive approaches they may be able to make in other quarters.

By invitation of the Collie and Bunbury Apex Clubs I visited these places and addressed Club members (at the latter place, in support of the Commissioner) on the subject of native welfare. A date has also been set for a similar visit to Albany as the guest of the Albany Apex Club.

The inevitable reaction to these addresses and the discussions that follow them is the swing to the view that assimilation of the native people is the only proper solution to the native problem. It is usually admitted on all sides, after such meetings—to use an oft-heard expression—"how little we knew" of the Department's functions and of the problem constituting the native question.

Public relations work must therefore remain an essential part of a field officer's duties for it is by this means that he can ensure that there exists within his district informed opinion on the important aspects of native welfare with its co-related problems.

The Native Welfare Associations at present functioning in the Southern District are located at Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning, Gnowangerup, Kojonup and Mt. Barker. These groups are functioning, some actively and some not so actively. Arrangements are in hand for visits to two of the groups which appear to be falling off in interest.

All groups have differing methods of functioning, but each has a common end, namely the welfare of the natives of their respective districts.

At Kojonup the Community Hall on the Reserve has been completed by the Native Welfare Council there and at Mt. Barker a two roomed cottage has been built for a native widow with young children. This is in addition to a single room cottage built for an aged couple on rations. Other existing buildings built on reserve are 2 cottages, each, at Katanning, Narrogin and Collie built on the native reserves at these places by the local Native Welfare groups.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

Staff

Staff movements have been numerous and have no doubt contributed to an inability for the administration here to be as effective as could be desired. There were two transfers from the District and two resignations during the year. Staff employed as at June, 1956, were :—

Mr. M. J. Reynolds	Patrol Officer.	} At Carnarvon.
Mr. R. E. Winder	....	....	....	....	Clerk-Assistant.
Mr. A. O. Day	....	....	....	....	District Officer.
Mr. D. R. Stuart	....	....	....	....	Welfare Assistant.
Mr. E. Roberts	....	....	....	....	Patrol Officer.
Mr. E. B. B. Parker	Clerk-Assistant.	

Aborigines have been employed at Riverdale from time to time.

Institutions

Carnarvon Mission.—Denomination, Church of Christ. Superintendent, Mr. D. Hammer. Many of the amenities at this Mission are excellent and those that cannot be thus described are providing for the inmates better conditions than would otherwise be the case. The new Superintendent, Mr. D. Hammer, who is by no means new to this field of endeavour, should receive credit for a great deal of most satisfactory re-organising and planning during this year.

Accommodation for the children at Carnarvon Church of Christ Mission has been constantly improving over the years and this year under review is not an exception. There is, of course, some of the accommodation which requires improvement and renovating and the severe problem of having an influx of inmates which is constantly greater than the egress is requiring that further dormitory facilities be provided. However, an increasingly large proportion of the accommodation is reaching the stage where it can be regarded as approaching the ideal. This mission is an institution which is continuing to improve and offer greater service in regard to native welfare.

Riverdale Native Hostel, Nullagine.—During the first portion of the year 1955–56, this hostel was under the management of a married couple, whose services were dispensed with when it became apparent that certain local influences were successfully impeding the hostel's development. Since November, 1955, it has been at irregular and varying period in the charge of Mr. Stuart. Native staff has been employed to assist in maintenance of the institution. It is not at present catering as a hostel for any children.

Proposed Mission at Roebourne.—As early as 1953, or before, the establishment of a mission at Roebourne was contemplated. On more than one occasion there seems to have been hope of this requirement becoming an actuality. However, disagreements as to the suitability of the site have hindered its progress. In the whole of the North-West District no locality requires the benefit of a well run institution more than Roebourne. This need has become even greater in the two ensuing years and a further indication of this may be seen in the section devoted to education and housing. At present the Department is awaiting the provision of a suitable water supply.

Reserves

The policy of improving facilities on reserves has been carried into effect at Port Hedland, where a two-roomed hut, primarily for the use of hospital out-patients, two double unit shower rooms and two septic system lavatories have been constructed.

Maintenance has been effected at Roebourne, Onslow, and Carnarvon reserves.

Rationing

Throughout the District during the year, an average of approximately 50 natives has been provided weekly with basic rations which, almost without exception, the natives agree are ample and of good quality. The only needs that some complain are not filled are a sufficiency of meat and sugar, both of which items an aborigine normally prefers in greater quantities than the average European. The diet scale was provided by the Health Department.

These rations have been issued to the aged and infirm and to children where there has been insufficient support forthcoming due to their being orphans or without adequate normal parental support.

Protectors

In addition to staff, there are now eight Protectors of Natives in the District, namely, one Missionary, two Police Constables, and five lay Protectors. All have proved most helpful from time to time and their services are appreciated.

There has been a noticeable trend for more lay persons of a suitable type to offer their services as Protectors and this is most gratifying.

Vehicles

Three vehicles have been used in 1955-56 and are still on charge. All are 10 cwt. Landrovers. All three vehicles are now in good condition and have given good service. Being four-wheel drive vehicles they have made what would be difficult patrolling easy and otherwise impossible patrolling possible.

Vital Statistics

The particulars of the native population in the North-West District are as follows :—

Classification.	Adults.		Children under 16.		Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Full Bloods	846	664	231	154	1,895
Other Bloods	208	188	156	165	717
	1,054	852	387	319	2,612

The figures quoted above must be regarded as an approximation only.

Housing

It would be unwise to try to cover this subject on an overall district basis as the sweeping generalisations would be of little value. Centres will therefore be listed.

Port Hedland.—This town is divided more or less distinctly in population into town natives and those who camp outside the town proper. The details of the numbers and family groups are not known. It would appear however that many of those living in the town are holders of citizenship rights of exemption certificates. Others camp at what is known as "The One Mile," a group of shanties on privately leased land. Few as yet use the new town reserve established by the Department.

Numbers of persons of aboriginal descent amongst the caste population live in reasonable type houses in the town. Some occupy S.H.C. accommodation. Those who make an earnest endeavour here to improve their living conditions are gradually being well housed. Almost all those who now find themselves in S.H.C. accommodation are proving by the manner in which they live that they can assume the responsibilities expected of them in their new environment. Their houses are well kept, with gardens, curtains, etc., and furniture. They are accepted in the areas in which they live and no instances of colour prejudice have been recorded from amongst their whiter neighbours.

Marble Bar.—Natives live in tents and "wurlis" on the reserve, which is provided for camping purposes only. In the environs of the township a number of natives live in fairly good type humpies, almost invariably unlined and of corrugated iron. There is little or no chance of new S.H.C. accommodation being built at this town which has a static or even waning population.

Nullagine.—This area is frequented almost entirely by fairly primitive type natives and no housing in the general meaning of the word exists. Most natives are satisfied with brush shelters and tents which suit their nomadic ways of life.

Roebourne.—Roebourne still contrasts severely with Port Hedland. Very few caste natives and no full bloods live in the town. Across the river almost three quarters of a mile from the town is the reserve which often caters for as many as 150 natives. On this reserve are numerous small unlined corrugated iron huts, almost all painted with whitewash. They provide shelter from much of the rain and some of the colder winds in winter. They are poorly lit and poorly ventilated; all are self built. In fact they represent in the main the efforts of one man named Tumbler. He builds "on contract" for other natives as often as not receiving in payment nothing but their continued goodwill. Considering his age and capabilities they represent a good effort. As they house about 60 children they represent an extremely weak spot in the housing of natives in this district. The huts are unhealthy by reason of their construction and are overcrowded. They do much to hinder any opportunities the natives might have in this area of attaining some small measure of social acceptance and assimilation.

The persons occupying them are, however, of a type who could not be regarded as suitable applicants for State Houses, or even intermediate type houses. From these humpies on a reserve, almost a mile from their school, native children numbering over thirty, walk to school each day. It is not a good environment from which to begin their education and advancement towards possible assimilation and for this reason the Department is trying to establish a mission on a site near the town.

Onslow.—Very few natives live permanently at this centre. Those who do for a time dwell here live in small tents at the native reserve or on the outskirts of town. The Patrol Officer, Mr. M. J. Reynolds reports : "The Onslow Reserve is now equipped with deep pit lavatories and showers, but no shelter sheds are present."

Carnarvon.—The Carnarvon Reserve is now well equipped with an ablution block, bringing it to quite an appreciable standard. A Nissen hut erected several years ago is in poor repair, but at least provides shelter for visiting hospital patients. Two other open front sheds also supply shelter. A road has recently been constructed to the reserve and it is open to the view of passing motorists. An attempt has been made to have the natives grow grass and trees on the reserve, which has been quite successful. Wind and dust is a menace to natives camped on the reserve and it is hoped that the planting of grass and trees will help to control this.

In almost all of this district the principle of housing natives in State Housing Commission homes is impracticable at this stage and will probably be so for many years to come. The two reasons are : first, that the centres and towns at which most natives live are unlikely to receive the advantage of having these houses constructed at them, due to their remoteness and only slowly growing population. Secondly, the natives in this district are mainly fairly unsophisticated full bloods, who would not be suitable or willing applicants.

Health

This district is served by a truly excellent medical organisation. Of course, much remains to be done, but that which is achieved amongst natives is a credit to the work of the Public Health Department and a monument to the doctors and hospital staffs concerned. That their hard and constant work assists to keep natives in better health is illustrated by an excerpt taken from this year's Annual Report of the Gascoyne sub-district, from where the Patrol Officer has stated : "In the 1953-54 Annual Report (the last report from this office) it was stated 'The prevalence of trachoma detected during the year at the Carnarvon Mission was possibly attributable to the difficulty now encountered in controlling the fly pest.' An inspection by Mr. and Mrs. Tremearne of the Public Health Department, recently at the Mission, revealed that only eight children suffered from active trachoma. Flywire is in evidence on most buildings and would largely contribute to such a small percentage of trachoma cases."

This improvement of flywiring, and it is presumed other methods of reducing the fly menace, has been brought about by the Mission authorities.

Of the Gascoyne, Mr. Reynolds has reported : "No epidemics have occurred among natives here and their general health is good. Most deaths which have occurred resulted strangely enough from heart complaints in middle-aged natives. Very few child deaths have occurred. Stations in this district are very diligent in regard to having sick natives attend hospital as soon as possible. A recent trachoma survey resulted in about thirty natives in the Carnarvon area being treated. This disease was found to be more prevalent among half-castes living in the East Carnarvon area than full-bloods living on the reserve and stations. This is a disease that must be constantly checked. Only recently an old native was sent to Perth from Carnarvon for treatment for blindness caused by trachoma. Early attention would have prevented this."

Education

This district only has one mission operating within its boundaries, that of the Church of Christ at Carnarvon. This Mission caters well for the educational needs of native children within a large area containing the Gascoyne.

No problem exists here and the work being done at the Mission in respect of education is to be commended. Patrol Officer Reynolds, whose administrative sub-district includes Carnarvon and Onslow as well as the hinterland stations, reports : "Standards V and VI from the Mission State School attend the Junior High this year. This is an excellent move towards assimilation, but it is considered that native children should commence schooling at the Junior High at an earlier age and so become accustomed to their white play-mates and vice versa. Several native children other than those from the mission also attend the Junior High School.

Three native children attend the Onslow State School.

It is evident from the small portion of the Ashburton already patrolled that there is a great need for the proposed mission at Roebourne, as a large number of children of school-age are living on stations in this area. If this new mission is established the educational facilities in this district should be satisfactory."

Education within this district is fraught with such contrast that it is unwise to generalise. At Port Hedland the native population which lives in and adjacent to town is well served by a convent and a State school and native children attend both of these. However, at a camp about 27 miles from Port Hedland there are approximately 30 children living in a camp being run by members of Pindan Pty., Ltd. (D. W. McLeod, Managing Director). The native leaders of the "Group" (Pindan Pty., Ltd.) refuse to send these children to the State School, maintaining that there are undesirable influences in connection with

living conditions which would affect the children if they camped near the town. They suggest further that they are financially unable to support that number of children at Port Hedland where it would be impossible to "live off the bush" to any extent. They say that they intend to establish a school at the camp. It is feared from past experience and judging by present indications, that this "hope" is destined never to become an actuality.

In the Roebourne area and extending down into the Ashburton is a large tract of country containing at least 40 children of or near school age who receive no education at all. It is impracticable for them to live with friends or relatives at the Roebourne reserve as living conditions there are already unsatisfactory and grossly overcrowded. In almost every instance parents are keen to have their children educated but at present there are no facilities within a reasonable distance of them which are available. The remote mission at Carnarvon, in addition, is already becoming over-crowded.

The small number of native children in the Nullagine and Marble Bar areas is at present being satisfactorily catered for by the State School at Marble Bar and Jigalong Mission to the far south east, with the exception of about six who live with their parents on stations between Nullagine and Roy Hill. These people, however, are of a nomadic type who benefit least from school facilities because of their itinerant habits.

Employment

Probably the best conditions of employment for natives in this district exist in the Gascoyne. They become progressively worse towards Onslow, being the most unsatisfactory between Onslow and Roebourne, including the Tablelands. Wages in this latter area average about £3 10s. a week and working conditions and amenities are poor. Travelling still further north towards Port Hedland conditions again improve with wages and amenities in the Pilbara district, while not as good as those in the Gascoyne, better than average for the whole district.

There is reasonably good and ample employment offering at most times of the year in the Gascoyne with award rates not uncommon. Stations where wages and conditions are poor for this area are still finding it difficult to procure and keep native labour. Natives in this area have recently taken an interest in mineral prospecting and further development in this field can be expected.

The impact of unemployment in the south is being felt by the natives here but to only a very small degree. It is by no means becoming a significant problem as yet.

Conclusion

The diversity of circumstances in connection with native welfare in this area necessitates entirely different kinds of field work from place to place. For instance, a reasonably inexperienced field officer must learn to deal not only with reasonably well-educated natives of relatively light caste, whose problems are connected with direct social assimilation in the towns in which they live, but with desert full-bloods of a very primitive nature. This makes the task complicated and difficult.

A. O. DAY,
District Officer, North-West District.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Introduction

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

The period from November, 1955, to February, 1956, I was absent on leave.

Patrolling has been limited by shortage of staff.

A housing programme for European staff, which has been initiated, should greatly assist in attracting Officers to this District. When this scheme is completed, all Officers will have their own accommodation at Derby, Broome and Wyndham.

At the commencement of this year Moola Bulla was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Goldman. Their occupation of this station coincided with the departure of the natives thereon. The natives concerned were cared for by Welfare Officers of this Department, who arranged for some to go immediately to employment, and the transfer of the remainder to the United Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy Crossing.

Administration

Staff.—J. Beharell, J.P.—District Officer, Northern.
C. A. Taylor—A/Assistant District Officer, Northern.
C. Martin—Assistant, Broome.
Mrs. J. Beharell—Clerk/Typist, Derby.

During the twelve months under review, Mr. J. A. Paquin, Assistant District Officer, was transferred for relieving duties at Port Hedland, and later to Meekatharra.

Mr. A. Down, Patrol Officer, resigned and left the District at the end of July, 1955.

Mr. W. A. R. Dickson was appointed in November, 1955, and dismissed in March, 1956.

Mr. L. Wylde was appointed on a part-time basis at Wyndham to relieve Mr. Down (resigned), and continued in this position for approximately twelve months.

Missions

The following Missions are situated in the Northern District :—

Beagle Bay Mission	....	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Forrest River Mission	....	....	....	....	Church of England.
Holy Child Orphanage (girls)	....	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
La Grange Mission	....	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Lombadina Mission	....	....	....	....	Roman Catholic.
Pallottine 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	....	....	....	....	Prebyterian.
United Aborigines' Mission, Derby (to be gazetted as a Mission as from 1st July, 1956)	....	....	....	....	Undenominational.

Beagle Bay Mission.—Patrols were made to this Mission during this year. On all occasions improvements were noticeable, and these applied particularly in respect to better conditions for the inmates.

Rev. Father Leo Hornung, Superintendent, departed on leave, and Rev. Father John McGuire has been acting in that capacity.

A distinctly pleasing feature is the provision of stoves in each of the 25 native homes on the Mission. A plan to rebuild all these houses is under way, and the few already completed at the time of my last visit were very satisfactory.

A trained Sister is in charge of the hospital. The Mission keeps in daily contact with the Medical Officer at Broome by wireless. An aerodrome is being constructed by the Department of Civil Aviation near this Institution. This project is considered a very progressive step, for when completed, sick natives can be transported quickly and comfortably to Broome or Derby by air. Beagle Bay Mission is situated 85 miles from Broome, and the road is often in such condition that it is a trial to even a well person to travel it.

The school has been conducted by one Sister, aided by a native girl. It was hoped for some improvement this year by way of additional staff trained in teaching.

The Acting Superintendent's report follows :—

Annual Report of the Beagle Bay Mission for Year 1955-56.

Staff.—The Sisters number 4 ; the Brothers 6 ; Priests 2, one of whom is the Superintendent. The latter has been in Europe since end of January; however Bishop Raible has resided at the Mission continuously during this time ; the Superintendent is expected to return next November.

Population.—The number at June 30, was 181, an increase of nine over last year. There were three deaths, four births, and new arrivals account for the further increase.

Stock.—The stock continues to improve, especially with the arrival of 20 new bulls during the year. A new stockyard was built, three windmills erected, and almost a dozen cement troughs constructed.

Vegetable Garden.—Over seven acres are under cultivation and this is ample for our population. A new windmill was erected so sufficient water is assured.

Buildings.—A new power house has been built to house a new Ruston-Hornby Power Plant—50 H.P. A.C. This latter has arrived at the Mission, the foundation for same has been poured and now the installing Engineer is awaited. Total cost has been approximately £3,500. It is planned to put lighting into each of the married quarters.

Domestic Improvements.—Kitchen stoves have been purchased so that now each of our 25 homes will have a stove.

It is planned to completely re-build all the married quarters, to date four houses have been re-built, new iron, cemented throughout, and louvre windows installed, five tons of new iron and eight tons of cement is being shipped from Perth as we type this, all to be used for this project. Three 14-gallon coppers plus 400 fire-bricks, etc., have been purchased and have arrived at this Mission, all to be installed in a new laundry for the exclusive use of the boys and girls washing.

The installation of the septic tanks, paid for by Grant in Aid, has been held up due to a number of unavoidable factors, about which the District Officer has been fully informed.

The boys' dormitories have been re-plastered and restored completely.

The Department of Civil Aviation has constructed a new aerodrome at the Mission, after the rains come a grader will arrive to complete the work.

Education.—One Sister aided by a young Native girl is in charge of the Mission school. Progress is reported despite many difficulties, one of which is that new arrivals tend to "hold back" the other children. Total attendance 40.

Health.—A trained Sister has charge of the Mission Hospital and she is in daily contact per radio with the Resident Medical Officer in Broome. The latter, Dr. Cohen is vitally interested in the Mission and visits here as often as he is able. No serious epidemic was reported at the Mission, however a number of minor cases were taken to Broome on the advice of Dr. Cohen.

General.—The Mission has written to a leading building firm in Perth asking for plans and specifications for a new carpenter's shop which we plan to build this year. This is essential if we wish to continue the domestic improvements at the Mission, and it will also allow space to teach interested boys in the rudiments of carpentry together with other spheres of gainful employment.

Plans have also been sought for a tinsmith building; there is a great demand for this type of production at the Mission, we have at least 3 first-class tin-smiths among the young married natives, and we plan to have one of these as an instructor for the boys who desire to learn this useful trade.

Mr. Beharell (District Officer) visited the Mission during Easter Week, and the writer found him very encouraging and helpful, and he takes this opportunity of publicly thanking him. Mr. Taylor accompanied Mr. Beharell.

In conclusion the Mission wishes to thank the Department of Native Welfare for the many helps rendered throughout the year and we trust that the cordial relationship experienced this year will continue in the future.

(Sgd.) JOHN McGUIRE,
Acting Superintendent.

Forrest River Mission.—This year witnessed several staff changes at this Mission. The Rev. K. Coaldrake resigned as Superintendent, and for a while continued on the staff as Chaplain. Mr. W. E. Jamison was appointed Superintendent.

The appointments of Mrs. S. Hill as Nurse, Mrs. A. Johnson as Matron, also Messrs. H. Weibye and R. B. Morrow as Stockman and Launchman respectively, should considerably assist the Superintendent in conducting an efficient Mission. Mr. T. Thompson continues to carry out ably his duties as Storeman.

Miss E. Thomas, after a sterling effort for several years as Head Teacher at the State School on this Mission, was relieved by Miss L. Turner in that capacity, as from the commencement of school in 1956. Miss Turner is assisted by Misses S. Gare and C. MacDonald.

A survey by the Resident Medical Officer, Dr. Blomley, discovered many cases of hookworm among the inmates, and these are under treatment. Dr. Blomley, whilst discussing the disease with me on one occasion, remarked that the wearing of footwear would lessen the chances of infection. One case of Hansen's disease was admitted to the Derby Leprosarium.

A new girls' dormitory is under construction, which will replace the barbed wire building at present still in use. The boys' dormitory is still inadequate, and comprises a small mud-brick building which houses nine inmates, who have chaff bags filled with grass as mattresses, and sleep in home made double tier beds.

The Superintendent's report follows :—

Annual Report on Forrest River Mission.

Staff.—Superintendent : Mr. W. E. Jamison.

Nurse : Mrs. S. Hill.

Girls' Dormitory Matron : Mrs. A. Johnson.

Storeman : Mr. T. Thompson.

Stockman and Agriculturist : Mr. H. Weibye.

Launchman and Book-keeper : Mr. R. B. Morrow.

Chaplain : Position vacant.

Education Department Teachers : Miss L. Turner, Headmistress and Miss S. Gare, Assistant Teacher.

Health.—During the month of April, Dr. Blomley of Wyndham did a survey for hook-worm and found a high percentage of the inmates affected. Treatment for same was carried out during the month of May and the second week in June.

Dr. Blomley reported that the general health of the inmates was good, even though most had hook-worm.

One case of Hansens disease was found, a young girl, was sent to Derby.

More pit type lavatories have been installed to help overcome the menace of hook-worm and it is to be hoped that the whole village will have this type of lavatory before the next "wet." Five babies were born since December.

Housing.—The state of housing is still poor, but progress is being made in providing better accommodation for the families. One new house of stone construction has been built and this is proving both economical and suitable for this climate.

A new girls' dormitory is under construction and should be completed by the end of July.

The new dining room and kitchen block has been completed and was opened in February for the use of the dormitory children, school lunches, where all school children receive one meal per day, and also provides mealing accommodation for the staff.

The boys' dormitory has been disbanded, as I do not think that the accommodation in the old building suitable to house the boys in such cramped conditions. The seven boys who were in the dormitory have been boarded out with families in the village for the time being.

Application for a Grant in Aid has been submitted to build a new dormitory for the boys.

With the completion of the girls' dormitory, this will make available the girls' old dormitory, which I intend to use as a recreation hall, a long felt need for the Mission where the people can spend their leisure evening hours playing games, etc.

The completion of ablutions for each row of village houses and a laundry block has improved the facilities for the village people.

School.—The school is still conducted by the State Education Department, for which we are very grateful. The number of children attending at present is 43. Seven pre-school children are attending kindergarten. The school lunches are still maintained and proving very satisfactory and good to the health of the children. It is thought that more accommodation will be required in 1957 for the school, as our numbers are on the increase.

General Welfare.—With the increase of staff much more help can now be given in this direction. With the nursing Sister in charge of the hospital, a baby clinic has been opened and this is attended regularly by the mothers and young babies. Classes under the direction of the Sister are held also for young mothers and mothers-to-be, in the care of the babies, feeding and general knowledge.

With the support of Head Office in Perth, clothing issues for the people are increased and no one now is short of clothing. The food ration has been increased by the issues of fresh milk, fruit (fresh and dried) and green vegetables.

The girls' Matron is helping to provide suitable training to the young girls and helping to provide non-segregation to the young people in sport and recreation.

Progress.—The cattle industry of the Mission is in the capable hands of the stock and agriculturist who is stepping up the production of the beef and dairy herd. With the advent of a new batch of horses from Perth our numbers total over thirty horses to work the cattle. This also provides more suitable employment and training to the young men of the Mission. The ration of meat has been increased and it is to be hoped will be maintained.

A new tractor and farming implements have been procured and this has meant an improvement on the farming side of industry. Also a new pump for the water supply from Camera Pool has been purchased to increase the water supply.

All together I feel that the Mission is on the edge of a new era, and I feel that the people generally are responding to the help and assistance that they are receiving. This I feel, will be seen much more so, when we can get the wages scheme started that has been approved by our Board in Perth.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Department for their help and close co-operation in this work of welfare work amongst the aborigines.

(Sgd.) W. E. JAMIESON,
Superintendent.

Holy Child Orphanage and St. John of God's Convent.—These institutions are under the supervision of the Sisters of St. John of God at Broome.

The Orphanage is for girls, and the Convent conducts a school and kindergarten. With assistance in the form of Grant in Aid, through this Department, the present dormitory at the Orphanage is being enlarged. Assistance was also given this Institution during this year for the purchase of a new truck.

An interesting story of a happening among the inmates is related by the Rev. Mother Superintendent, and, in my opinion, is worthy of inclusion in this report :—

“ Some weeks before the holidays they (the children) saw a film dealing with the different types of snakes. One section dealt with the measures to be taken when bitten. They went to the beach as usual for their holidays, and snakes were plentiful. One day some of the bigger girls went off to collect bush fruit ; as they were going along a narrow track a snake sprang out and bit one of them on the ankle. They did not have a knife or razor blade with them to make an incision, so they broke a bottle in which they were carrying water and use a sharp piece of the glass for the purpose. One of them, having a clean mouth, good teeth, no cuts, etc., sucked out the poison. They then tied a piece of rag around tightly. The next problem was to get her home as they were about six miles from Broome and two miles from the holiday house. They started taking it in turns of two girls carrying her, when one of them sighted a taxi in the distance. There was much shouting and waving to attract the driver's attention, which they did. She was then brought home and thence to the hospital where, after treatment, and observation, the story ended happily.”

Children of school age at the Orphanage attend the St. John of God's Convent, and in addition, a kindergarten has been started. Recent figures reveal an attendance of 60 children at the kindergarten, which is not only fulfilling an important function in giving these young people a pre-school education, but taking them off the streets, and in a number of cases saving some from becoming declared neglected children. Such action on the part of this Convent and Orphanage is to be highly commended.

Kalumburu Mission.—Situated at the most north-west point of Western Australia, this Mission is conducted by the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church. The present Superintendent is Rev. Father Sanz.

It was found impossible to visit this institution during the year. Owing to its extremely isolated position and the fact that there is only a monthly air service, patrols to this Mission cannot be easily made. The aircraft stays only a matter of a couple of hours, which would make even a cursory inspection impracticable. A bi-annual steamer service to Kalumburu does not always fit in with this monthly 'plane service within a reasonable period before or after. There is no road which can be used.

Apart from sick natives being admitted to hospital, the inmates have little or no contact with the outside world, and it is doubtful whether such isolation will assist the natives in their ultimate assimilation. It certainly does not offer the opportunities for employment of some of them such as in most other areas where Missions are established.

It cannot be determined when a patrol will be possible to this Mission, but any opportunity will be availed of to do so during the forthcoming year.

La Grange Mission.—This Institution was taken over by the Pallottine Order of the Roman Catholic Church as from 1st January, 1955. It was formerly a Ration Depot conducted by this Department.

Father Francis Huegel has been the Superintendent since that time. The only other member of the staff was Sister Evans, a trained nurse, who combined those duties among many others, including the teaching of school. Unfortunately, for this Mission, Sister Evans has left to join the nursing staff at the Broome District Hospital.

Grants in aid to this Mission are helping to establish it as a well-equipped Institution in the way of accommodation, ablution, sanitary blocks, etc., for the inmates. A very capable contractor, Mr. Bruno Olich, has been engaged and already much work has been completed. Another 12 months will see a considerable improvement.

The lack of adequate staff is seriously affecting the work at this Mission. After 18 months of occupation, the staff is reduced to Father Francis Huegel, who cannot reasonably be expected to cope with all the aspects of Mission activities. It is unfortunate that more staff is not made available immediately, particularly for nursing and schooling.

Rev. Father Francis appears to have the fullest co-operation of the inmates, and altogether in that regard there is a very pleasing atmosphere.

This Mission is entirely cut off from Broome during wet weather, which makes the appointment of a nursing sister to be stationed there imperative. In order to get sick patients to hospital, the possibility of establishing an all-weather strip should be investigated and, if practicable, constructed as soon as possible.

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

A new workshop and sawmill has been erected during the year.

With Grant in Aid assistance a 10ft. Southern Cross windmill with a 15ft. tower and 5,000-gallon tank on a 10ft. iron stand was erected to supply water to this Mission.

During February, 1956, a cyclone, which brought 29in. of rain and lasted for two weeks, caused damage to roofs and gardens. Roofs were mainly constructed of paper bark, an application is being made by the Mission for assistance to rebuild the roofs of buildings accommodating subsidised inmates, during the next financial year.

Pallottine Mission, Balgo.—This Mission is situated on the edge of the desert, south of Hall's Creek. The Superintendent, Rev. Father A. Blischwitz, returned during the year to resume duty in that capacity. He is assisted in the work by one other priest, two brothers and two sisters.

There are approximately 138 inmates on the Institution, about half of whom are subsidised by this Department.

With Grant in Aid assistance a bakery was constructed, a hospital and dormitory for boys are in course of being built. Tanks and stands, also pumping equipment, are at the Mission for early erection.

The Mission fulfils a necessary and important point of contact, and could be described as a staging camp, for the type of native in that area is less sophisticated than in other parts, and requires the form of assimilation which the Mission offers, before proceeding into civilisation.

School is conducted by Sisters of St. John of God, who also care for the health of the inmates. The general health of all the natives for the year was reported as good by the Superintendent.

United Aborigines' Mission, Derby.—Although inactive for many years towards the full functions of Mission organisation for the native, the arrival of Mr. K. Morgan as Superintendent in place of Mr. E. Faulkner, transferred as acting Superintendent, United Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy Crossing, coincided with an application to the Minister for permission to establish a Mission. Approval has been granted for same as from 1st July, 1956.

At present, the Mission is caring for seven children. These inmates attend the Derby State School, and are accommodated in the Superintendent's home and a small cottage adjacent thereto.

United Aborigines' Mission, Fitzroy Crossing.—This Mission was originally established as a Departmental Institution, and four years ago was made available to the abovenamed.

Mr. Smoker and his wife, with the help of two other Mission workers coped admirably with the influx in July, 1955, of the Moola Bulla evacuees, and I feel it is appropriate to highly commend the actions of these few at this most difficult period. I quote from Mr. Smoker's own report :

“ This year has been a most unusual one, yet very busy and progressive. We commenced July, 1955, with four on the Mission staff and fifty-seven native inmates. Early in July approximately one hundred and fifty-seven native people arrived from Moola Bulla Government settlement. The increase was overwhelming at first, but all measured up to the extra work and responsibility and so the job of settling in was accomplished. Tents were flown in by Native Welfare and extra food stuffs arrived within a few days, thus temporary accommodation and dining facilities were arranged.

Many were the telegrams received from the managers of cattle and sheep stations throughout the Kimberleys, seeking employees. We arranged for workers to go to stations between Derby and Hall's Creek and further. The demand was so great that not all the stations could be supplied with labour.”

Mr. Smoker was given less than twenty-four hours notice, of the arrival of these people.

Sixty-two children are at present attending school, conducted by Mr. Burcham, Head Teacher, and Miss Jefferies, Assistant Teacher, both of the Education Department. This aspect has always been satisfactory and continues to be so.

An extensive building programme has been faithfully carried on during the year and grants in aid assistance have enabled progress to be made in completing or nearly completing :—

1. Boys' Dormitory.
2. School Room.
3. Dining Hall.
4. Bathroom and Lavatory Block for indigents.
5. One indigent's cottage.

A goat herd, now numbering about five hundred, supplies milk for the inmates. A large number of poultry is also kept.

Staff at this Institution by the end of the year had increased to seven full-time Mission workers and one temporary Mission worker. I have been advised that Mr. E. Faulkner from Derby will shortly assume the acting Superintendency of this Mission. Mr. and Mrs. Smoker are being released to carry out itinerant Mission duties in the Kimberleys. They will be missed for the work they have so ably carried out at this Institution, and best wishes are extended to them in their new venture.

United Aborigines' Mission, Sunday Island.—This Mission is situated on an Island of that name at the entrance to King Sound. It is a barren, isolated, island only approachable by boat.

Mr. T. Power resumed as Superintendent this year, after a period of six months' absence on leave, during which time Mr. P. Devenish acted. No additional staff was made available during that time.

Mr. Lindsay of the Education Department has continued to carry on school without adequate assistance, and as a result, each child can only receive half a day's schooling per day.

I have often reported that I can see no future for such a Mission as this one. No technical activities are being set up for the education of the children, and there is no employment offering at the Institution which will absorb the large number of young people thereon. The Mission is inadequately staffed to carry out a reasonable amount of work, which is necessary if the inmates are to be accommodated properly. Owing to its isolation, great difficulty is experienced in obtaining medical assistance. Year after year no progress can be reported at this Mission. Its continuation as such, and the granting of large amounts of finance for the continuation of this Institution, should be given serious consideration.

Wotjulum Mission.—Situated on a barren portion of the coast, this Mission, like United Aborigines' Mission, Sunday Island, is only approachable by boat.

This year the Rev. Rhys Price, B.A., resigned as Superintendent, and the Rev. J. Hartshorn was appointed.

The Rev. V. Coombes, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, visited this Mission in June, 1955. During that time the possibility of Wotjulum Mission moving to a more congenial location was considered. Opportunely, an area of land close to Derby was for sale, and preliminary negotiations for the purchase of same were entered into by the Rev. Coombes and the owner Mr. L. Lloyd.

The desirability of such a move is obvious. There is no future for the inmates at Wotjulum. The Superintendent has reported "cases for urgent hospitalisation are a great worry here because of the time it takes for the Mission launch to get to Derby. The trip takes twelve hours in good weather." Recently, a native woman who had been badly burnt, took 24 hours to arrive at hospital, as a result of the launch being held up by adverse weather conditions. Fortunately, in this case, the woman survived this experience. It has been known for the launch to have been delayed a week through bad weather.

At the time of writing this report, no decision has been made in respect to this change, although since Mr. Coombes' visit, the Rev. McDonald, Assistant General Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, also visited Derby to further investigate the property held under option of sale.

A bitumen road runs from the township to the suggested new location. The area is sufficient for an industry of cattle or sheep or both. School children could attend the Derby State School, and the hospital is close at hand to be available whenever necessary.

Mr. Coombes intimated, also, an interest in establishing an aged pensioners' home. Such an Institution is sorely needed, for many are debarred from receiving pensions because they have nowhere else to live except on aboriginal reserves, which automatically disqualifies them.

If this Mission decides in favour of a move to Derby, it is my opinion, that same would result in a big step towards the ultimate assimilation of their people, and meantime provide every opportunity for them to gain advantages such as employment in industry, schooling, qualified medical attention, and an opportunity to participate in whatever amenities are offering in the town and at the same time continuing with the home life they previously enjoyed.

Conclusion

In reviewing the activities of the eleven Missions in this District during the past year, it is pleasing to note the attitude being adopted and progress made by some. In other cases, which do not appear to be fulfilling any definite purpose towards an adequate welfare contribution for their inmates, consideration should be given as to whether their future usefulness warrants the expenditure of public monies, in the form of subsidy and Grants in Aid, and possible alternative measures which could be adopted for the benefit of the natives concerned.

My appreciation is extended to the Superintendents and staff of all Missions for the hospitality shown to my Officers and myself on the occasions of our visits.

Protectors of Natives

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

Statistics

Classification.	Adults.		Children under 16 years.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
<i>West Kimberley Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	737	651	199	172	1,759
Other than Fullblood	38	33	39	42	152
Total	775	684	238	214	1,911
<i>East Kimberley Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	688	673	194	189	1,744
Other than Fullblood	61	32	53	56	202
Total	749	705	247	245	1,946
<i>Broome Sub-District.</i>					
Fullblood	212	229	104	83	628
Other than Fullblood	83	110	108	108	409
Total	295	339	212	191	1,037
<i>Northern District.</i>					
Fullblood	1,637	1,553	497	444	4,131
Other than Fullblood	182	175	203	203	763
Total	1,819	1,728	700	647	4,894

Approximate number of nomad natives in Northern District, not included in above figures 300.

Education

A large number of native children in this District are not yet receiving the advantages of education, although parents are becoming more conscious of the need for same in their children's lives.

The proposed establishment of a children's hostel at Hall's Creek will assist to cater for the children in that area.

At every opportunity, Officers in this District encourage parents to arrange for schooling for their children.

Notwithstanding these disadvantages, it is indeed pleasing to note the increasing numbers each year who are attending school.

Employment and Industry

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

Conditions of employment are still very unsatisfactory in many cases. Accommodation for native employees on some stations and in towns frequently leaves much to be desired.

Medical and Health

Native Hospitals exist at Derby, Broome, and Wyndham. A Leprosarium is situated at Derby. In these towns the Department of Health also maintains District Hospitals for European patients.

There are two Nursing Homes, at Fitzroy Crossing and Hall's Creek respectively, under the control of the Australian Inland Mission, in which native and European patients are treated.

The Derby Leprosarium continues to show a satisfactory rate of discharge of patients. Some new admissions were made during the year. The administrative and nursing staff, the latter under the capable leadership of Rev. Mother Alphonse, deserve special mention for their untiring efforts towards the inmates.

Doctors at Wyndham and Derby carry out a Flying Doctor Service once monthly within the District, and are available for urgent calls at any time.

Sanitary conditions for natives on many stations, and in townships, continue to be as primitive and unsatisfactory as ever.

Crime

During the year no serious crimes were committed by natives in the District. One case, involving six youths on charges of breaking, entering and stealing, was the worst.

Other charges made against natives continue to be in the main for drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and receiving liquor. In most instances, these applied to the same persons on different occasions.

I am pleased to report that the behaviour of natives during the year has been most satisfactory.

Conclusion

It is difficult when one reviews the year's activities of welfare work to report in a general way what progress has been made. Much welfare work done is unspectacular and unrewarding of any immediate results, although without such effort many would not have received assistance or guidance, which eventually must assist them towards their progress of being assimilated.

It is felt that the natives in the Kimberleys are awakening to the fact that they must progress. This is evident in the desire of parents to educate their children, also, the dissatisfaction of employees with present earnings and living conditions, and the wish of many of the more progressive types to obtain Exemption or Citizenship Rights. In all, 37 Certificates of Exemption and 43 Citizenship Rights were granted during the year.

Many aged and invalid natives were assisted to obtain Social Service Pensions. In this way, they have become secure against want in their old age or infirmity.

The relationship between the natives and Welfare Officers is most satisfactory. They arrive in increasing numbers for advice and guidance. It is an important aspect of our work, and, perhaps, the most exacting, and time taking, but rewarding.

With consideration given to the staff difficulties experienced, I do feel general progress has been achieved, and look forward with confidence to even better results in the forthcoming year, when the promised additional staff is available.

My appreciation and thanks go to those Officers who have assisted in no small way to achieve the amount of work it has been possible to accomplish, and which has required of them giving co-operation over and above what could normally be expected.

(Sgd.) J. BEHARELL,
District Officer.

SECTION "B"

Departmental Institutions

ALVAN HOUSE FOR GIRLS

The year ended 30th June, 1956, shows Alvan House as being firmly established in its capacity as a hostel for native girls desirous of continuing their education through secondary courses.

Of the 15 girls in residence during the latter half of 1955 :—

Three girls completed secondary schooling and are now training as Nursing Aides at R.P.H.

Two girls did not complete their school year.

One girl completed year, but preferred to continue schooling in her home town.

Nine girls returned at commencement of school year, 1956 ; and one new admission for 1956 brought the total number of inmates to 10.

Education

End of School Year, 1955.

University Junior—Bessie Hardy—fail.

Third Year Junior Technical Examination

Perth Girls' School—Laurel Yarran, Rosemary Corbett (pass in eight subjects).

All other girls gained promotion to a higher grade for 1956.

School Enrolments, 1956.—

Perth Girls' High School—

Junior Technical Division 9th Standard—1 girl.

Junior Technical Division 8th Standard—2 girls.

Girdlestone High School—

High School Certificate Course, 9th Standard—6 girls.

High School Certificate Course, 8th Standard—1 girl.

Averil Williams—School Prefect.

Seven of these girls complete their schooling this year, two are interested in a business career and should be quite successful ; the other five wish to enter the nursing profession.

A Daisy Bates Memorial Prize for Citizenship was awarded to Laurel Yarran and presented by the President of the Native Welfare Council at their meeting in December, 1955.

Sporting

All girls play in competition sport on Saturday afternoons :—

Girdlestone High School, hockey team—four girls.

Y.W.C.A. hockey team—four girls.

Bedford Park Junior Basketball team—two girls.

They are all proficient at sport and popular with their team mates.

Prizes—1955.—Fairest and Best.—

R. Corbett—Bedford Park Senior Basketball Team.

K. Drummond—Bedford Park Junior Basketball Team.

Medical

General health good, few isolated colds, boils, etc.

Dental

Some attention needed but it is very difficult to make appointments that do not coincide with school hours.

Eyes

All girls examined for Trachoma in March by Dr. Ida Mann. Nine girls who received treatment last year—cured. One new girl given course of sulpha drugs.

Vocational

For the third year in succession Miss J. Schonell continues to teach the girls ballet.

Six girls took part in a Ballet Concert at Assembly Hall in December.

Social

Some senior girls acted as Usherettes at Y.W.C.A. Ball at Government House. Fortnightly meetings with MacDonald House boys either at Alvan House or MacDonald House, much enjoyed by all. Combined picnic at Point Walter. Picnics at Leighton and Scarborough. Anzac Day March and Sports at W.A.C.A. Overseas Women's Hockey at W.A.C.A. Cricket Australia v. W.A. at W.A.C.A. Y.W.C.A. Friday evenings. Pictures—local theatre Saturdays. Church Fellowship meetings. Girl Citizenship Conference in Victoria attended by two girls who were well accepted in all places at all times. Annual break-up party at Xmas when approximately 45 teenagers were entertained; 20 of these being school friends, and it was very gratifying to note the excellent type of white girls with whom our girls had made friends.

Religion

All girls attend their respective churches at least once on Sundays.

One girl receiving instruction for Confirmation at St. Patrick's Church, Mt. Lawley.

Two girls sat for Sunday School Examination at Forrest Park Methodist Church.

Visitors

Sir Edward Lefroy; Mr. Lin—Welfare Department, Singapore; Mrs. Banfield—Aborigines Association, Adelaide.

Maintenance

General renovations and painting of interior and exterior of house.

Attention given to: Drainage, guttering renewed, garage floor raised to prevent seepage of water.

The house is in good condition and looks most attractive, being painted in very pleasing pastel shades.

Although the scholastic standard this year may be a little lower than that previously attained, Alvan House will continue to give native girls the chance to take their places in the social, business and professional life of their country.

(Sgd.) L. F. PULLEN,
Officer-in-Charge.

McDONALD HOUSE FOR BOYS

The commencement of the school year, February, 1956, saw the return of five boys and an additional four new boys in the home. Another was admitted at the commencement of the second term making a total of 10 boys.

At the end of the second term 1955, one boy failed to return after vacation. Later another commenced work as an apprenticed carpenter. Although happy in his work and getting on very well he failed to come back to it after the Christmas holidays.

Educational

The new inmates were given a Vocational Guidance test before being enrolled at school, all being enrolled later at Perth Boys' High School.

The enrolment at school is as follows:—Perth Modern School: Leaving—one boy; Perth Boy's High School—8th Standard Junior Division—four boys; 8th Standard School Certificate—one boy; 7th Standard Non-language Group—five boys.

One boy is a prefect at Perth Boys'. Geoffrey Penny is a Prefect at Modern School. He is expecting to go to Teacher's Training College next year. He has done very well at school. At the conclusion of last year he was awarded the Daisy Bates Memorial Prize.

Sporting

Most of the boys are excellent at sport. One being Captain of the School Senior football team, another Captain of the Junior team. G. Penny is again playing football with the first 18 at Modern School. Two of the boys have been selected to tour with the W.A. State Schoolboys' football team in Tasmania during August. One of these went to Adelaide last year.

On Saturdays the younger boys play for North Perth, under fifteen. G. Penny plays for Mt. Hawthorn Metropolitan Juniors. Several trophies were won by the boys at the close of the 1955 football season.

The Toc H. formed a Cricket Club last season. Most of the boys played with the club and one or two played particularly well. One was presented with a bat at the Annual Cricket Dinner and Presentation night.

Henry Ugle did very well in the annual Inter-school Athletic Carnival.

They are all very fond of swimming and tennis, also basketball at school.

Health

Generally speaking the health of the boys over the year has been excellent. There was one case of a fractured arm which was received while playing football at school. Another had to have two front teeth extracted because of an abscess on the gum.

Dr. Ida Mann examined the boys for Trachoma earlier in the year. There were no active cases. A course of treatment is given to each of the boys yearly just in case they may be re-infected whilst home on holidays. The new inmates are given a course of treatment on admission to the home.

A report received last year from the Acting Senior School Medical Officer said that the boys were among the best specimens examined at the school. Their hygiene was excellent too.

Social Activities

The alternative monthly visit of the Alvan House girls and the boys is always much appreciated. Some of the old boys and girls often join the young folk on these occasions.

Several social evenings have been held here in the home. A Christmas party was held on the back lawns when the Alvan House girls and other friends were invited. Mr. Jim Giblett came and showed three excellent educational films. Games and supper concluded a very happy evening.

During Easter we again visited the Roelands Mission; all thoroughly enjoyed the trip. We are grateful to the one who made his vehicle available.

Several picnics to the beach were held in the summer months.

The boys all attend church on Sundays.

Staff

Miss Lena Sandy very capably assisted in the home for fifteen months. She recently took up duties at R.P.H. as a Nursing Aide.

Miss F. Atkins continues to relieve once a week.

Maintenance

Various small items of maintenance have been attended to during the year. We are looking forward to the time when we will be able to have the block of ground at the rear of the present ground made into a sports field. A recreation room is needed badly.

Library

We are most grateful to the Rotary Club for a lovely donation of beautiful books.

In conclusion I wish to say how much I do appreciate the help and co-operation of Perth Boys', the various sporting bodies and other interested friends. Generally speaking the present group of boys are a good group, interested and anxious to improve themselves. They are very happy and are very well received wherever they go.

H. STYLES,
Officer in Charge.

SECTION "C"

Head Office Administration

Finance

Departmental expenditure for the year from moneys appropriated from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Native Welfare Trust Fund was £418,139 (*see* Appendix No. 2). The Department was able to keep its expenditure within the appropriation made by Parliament.

Departmental subsidy to Native Missions for approved native child inmates remained at 35s. 9d. per week cash. The Lotteries Commission augment this amount by 5s. per child per week unless the religious principles of the Mission oblige it to reject assistance from that source. In those circumstances the Department pays an equivalent of 5s. per child per week in addition to its subsidy of 35s. 9d.

Missions caring for approved adult indigent natives were subsidised by the Department at the rate of 10s. per adult per week cash (or in lieu a bulk ration issue on a set scale) plus a blanket and clothing annual issue. In the latter part of the year the Government agreed to substitute a cash subsidy payment of 25s. per week per head for these adult indigents to incorporate the allowances mentioned herein and to be paid from the 1st July, 1956.

The State Medical Department was reimbursed £76,785 it expended on medical matters affecting native persons. It has the responsibility for the functioning of the native hospitals at Port Hedland, Broome, Wyndham and Derby as well as the Derby Leprosarium. The Medical Department was also recouped the total amount of unpaid accounts by natives hospitalised and treated at all Government controlled and Government subsidised hospitals throughout the State. Other items covered in the amount recouped included the cost of drugs and medicines sanctioned by the Medical Department and supplied to native missions at State cost, the cost of operating travelling dental clinics, medical surveys and inter-hospital transfers of native patients.

Our Department likewise financially re-imbursed the State Education Department the amount it expended on the education of natives during the fiscal year. This covered the salaries, travelling and transfer costs of the Superintendent of Native Education and his teachers attached to Native Mission Schools, the provision of special equipment and free stock issues to schools at Native Missions.

Departmental revenue was considerably lower for the year due to the loss of revenue from cattle sales obtained from Moola Bulla Station before its closure as a Government controlled station.

Loan Fund expenditure for the year was £2,385 (*see* Appendix No. 1). Loan Funds were used to provide accommodation for Officers in the field. The State Housing Commission, because of other heavy commitments, was not able to arrange the housing of our Field Officers in the areas of the State where our decentralisation scheme of administration requires officers to be located. It was essential therefore, for this Department, in order to retain the services of its Field Officers, to use Loan Funds for housing purposes. One house at Derby was completed and occupied on the 5th July, 1956, whilst one house at Wyndham is under construction and another at Port Hedland will shortly be commenced.

Natives Medical Fund

The section of the Act which created the Natives' Medical Fund and obliged employers of natives holding permits to employ natives to contribute to it on a prescribed scale since 1937 was repealed by the Native Welfare Act proclaimed as law on the 20th May, 1955.

The Annual Report last year stated that the Fund was being wound up and the statement following shows the finances concerned during the year in this direction. Outstanding commitments at the time of repeal had to be mainly met from the Departmental vote (Native Welfare Trust Fund) which will have to meet any further recognised claims.

<i>Receipts—</i>	£	£
To balance brought forward at 1st July, 1955	<i>Nil</i>	
To Contributions outstanding at time of repeal received during year	93	
To Departmental advance from Native Welfare Trust Fund	3,400	
	<hr/>	3,493
 <i>Payments—</i>		
By Doctors	282	
By Hospitals	3,100	
By Sundries	111	
	<hr/>	3,493
By balance carried forward at 30th June, 1956	<hr/>	<i>Nil</i>

Trust Accounts

Investments.—A total of nineteen Savings Bank Trust Accounts were being administered by this Department on behalf of natives as at the 30th June, 1956. The sum total held in Trust Accounts decreased by £1,671 6s. 3d. to £1,332 8s. 5d. and fourteen accounts were closed.

The amount invested in Commonwealth Treasury Bonds decreased by £2,831 to £4,780 at the 30th June, 1956. During the year ten natives requested that their bonds be sold or transferred so they might handle their own finances.

Trust Accounts and Investments held by this Department on behalf of natives embrace the following:—

1. Monies received at this Department on behalf of native children under the age of 21 years (e.g., from deceased estates, workers' compensation or motor vehicle third party insurance claims as dependent children) for whom the Commissioner is statutorily appointed guardian and considers trusteeship of such monies desirable.

2. Monies belonging to adult native people 21 years of age or over who have elected of their own volition to have the Commissioner as Trustee, administer such monies in a trust account.

3. Amounts received from workers' compensation claims in those cases where the Workers' Compensation Board, by powers conferred upon it, order that compensation which cannot be immediately paid to a person under legal disability to give an effective discharge for payment, or which is payable to any dependant of a deceased worker, be paid to a trustee and the manner in which it shall be applied.

When natives are involved in motor vehicle accidents or suffer injury or illness liable to workers' compensation or other common law benefits, the Department makes preliminary investigations and, as required, assists or acts on behalf of the natives concerned in the procedure and negotiations up to the point of finalisation of claims and acceptance of benefits as determined.

Estates

The estates of eleven deceased natives of a total value of £476 5s. 4d. were administered by this Department for the year ended 30th June, 1956 and there were thirteen estates awaiting finalisation.

Maintenance

Maintenance cases were reduced by two from the previous year to 40 at the 30th June, 1956. One new case was recorded and three were finalised when two of the Court Orders expired and one was transferred to the Department maintaining the child.

Christmas Cheer

Donations for Christmas Cheer were once again received from the Lotteries Commission £600 and the Young Contingent of the Victoria League in West Australia £10, for distribution at Christmas, 1955.

These generous donations made it possible to brighten the lives of native children and destitute adult natives throughout the State on Christmas Day by distribution of gifts and provisions to give added enjoyment on the festive season.

Lotteries Commission

The Lotteries Commission resolved to subsidise the maintenance costs of native children in Missions under the control of church organisations, which were prepared to accept financial assistance to the extent of 5s. per child per week as from the 1st April, 1955. For the year ended 30th June, 1956, a total of £6,552 4s. 11d. in subsidy was paid to the Missions.

In addition grants for the benefit of natives, totalling £17,457 to Missions and £174 16s. to Governmental Institutions were generously donated.

It is wished to record sincere appreciation to the Lotteries Commission for their continued assistance.

Population Statistics

See Appendix No. 3.

Housing

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

Applied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	174
Refused	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Withdrawn	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	23
Awaiting on allocation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	60
Under construction	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Evicted	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	5
Homes occupied	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	81

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

	Applied.	Homes Occupied.
Natives in law	75	30
Natives in law (exempted)	14	4
Citizenship Holders (not natives in law)	63	36
Quadroons or less (not natives in law)	20	10
Ex-service men (not natives in law)	2	1
Totals	174	81

During this year Ministerial approval for the payment of a £30 allowance to natives in law taking up occupancy in a State Housing Commission home was obtained. This form of assistance enables the native to procure some of the essential items of furniture and equipment required when establishing a new home.

During the year 16 were granted this allowance.

Court Orders

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, 1956, 102 orders were in force. These consisted of :—

- 101 Orders issued through Children's Courts.
- 1 Order issued by the Governor under Section 39 of the Native Welfare Act.

Of these 102 persons under above Orders :—

- 72 were in Native Institutions.
- 10 were in subsidised Institutions declared under Child Welfare Act.
- 6 were in supervised employment.
- 14 were released on probation to parents or relatives.

Citizenship

During the year ended 30th June, 1956, notification was received of 170 applications for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications notified since inception, 1,290. Of this number :—

- 982 applications were granted.
- 192 applications were dismissed.
- 42 applications were withdrawn.
- 43 applications were adjourned.
- 31 awaiting hearing.

Responsible parents have made application in 92 cases for the inclusion of children on their Certificates of Citizenship and it is recorded at the 30th June, 1956, that 291 children are covered on the parents' certificates.

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

Exemption

252 applications were received during the year bringing the total applications to 1,191.

Of this number :—

1,134 have been granted.

57 have been refused.

At the 30th June, 1956, 717 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. C. MIDDLETON,
Commissioner of Native Welfare.

Appendix No. I

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.
Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1955-1956.
 GENERAL LOAN FUNDS.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Payments.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at 1st July, 1955	19,964	18 10	Derby Residence	364	4 0
Unexpended balance at 30th June, 1956	17,579	1 6	Wyndham Residence	2,021	13 4
	£2,385	17 4		£2,385	17 4

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

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

Appendix No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1955-1956.

NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST

Receipts.				Payments.					
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grant under Section 5 of Native Welfare Act, 1905-54	....		10,000	0 0	<i>Institutions—</i>				
Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund—					Alvan House—				
Native Welfare Division 24	....		175,924	15 3	Contingencies	....	3,406	6 5	
North-West Native Welfare Division 55	....		232,214	9 9	Salaries and Wages	....	677	13 3	4,083 19 8
					Bennett House—				
					Contingencies	....	1,123	9 1	
					Salaries and Wages	....	682	19 2	1,806 8 3
					McDonald House—				
					Contingencies	....	1,798	9 0	
					Salaries and Wages	....	822	6 1	2,620 15 1
					Moola Bulla Native Station—				
					Contingencies	....	2,029	0 11	
					Salaries and Wages	....	206	10 11	2,235 11 10
					Riverdale Hostel—				
					Contingencies	....	1,668	16 2	
					Salaries and Wages	....	1,703	8 7	3,372 4 9
					<i>Office Administration—</i>				
Revenue Collections (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund)—					Sub-District Office—Broome—				
Departmental—					Contingencies	....	535	5 0	
Alvan House	....	381	0 0		Salaries and Wages	....	2,064	13 1	2,599 18 1
Bennett House	....	101	1 11		Sub-District Office Carnarvon—				
McDonald House	....	434	1 7		Contingencies	....	1,315	11 11	
Moola Bulla Native Station	....	152	1 8		Salaries and Wages	....	1,317	3 10	2,632 15 9
Riverdale Hostel	....	510	0 2		District Office—Central—				
District Offices	....	769	19 11		Contingencies	....	297	19 9	
Head Office	....	272	4 7		Salaries and Wages	....	3,212	10 3	3,510 10 0
Maintenance (Recoup subsidy to Missions)	....	950	12 3		Sub-District Office—Central—				
Relief to Natives	....	474	9 11		Contingencies	....	854	3 0	
Bulk Rations	....	108	17 8		Salaries and Wages	....	1,820	10 0	2,674 13 0
Native Reserves	....	157	10 6		District Office—Derby—				
Reimbursement from Medical Department	....	20,095	7 4		Contingencies	....	1,946	15 1	
Section 6A—(Acquisition of Land, etc.)	....	66	17 4		Salaries and Wages	....	3,082	18 6	5,029 13 7
Total	....	£24,474	4 10		District Office—Geraldton—				
					Contingencies	....	1,068	8 1	
					Salaries and Wages	....	3,141	16 11	4,210 5 0
					Head Office—				
					Contingencies	....	2,580	17 2	
					Salaries and Wages	....	17,457	19 4	20,038 16 6
					Sub-District Office—Kalgoorlie—				
					Contingencies	....	1,954	16 3	
					Salaries and Wages	....	1,598	18 5	3,553 14 8
					Sub-District Office—Marble Bar—				
					Contingencies	....	89	13 1	
					Salaries and Wages	....	474	8 0	564 1 1
					Sub-District Office Meekatharra—				
					Contingencies	....	604	15 11	
					Salaries and Wages	....	1,204	6 8	1,809 2 7
					District Office—Narrogin—				
					Contingencies	....	880	7 3	
					Salaries and Wages	....	3,083	12 1	3,963 19 4
					District Office—Port Hedland—				
					Contingencies	....	1,956	4 10	
					Salaries and Wages	....	3,414	9 0	5,370 13 10
					Sub-District Office—Wyndham—				
					Contingencies	....	543	17 7	
					Salaries and Wages	....	522	12 4	1,066 9 11
					<i>Assistance to Missions—</i>				
					Subsidies and Rations	....	148,696	8 10	
					Grants in Aid	....	42,989	6 1	
					Blankets and Clothing	....	4,899	19 5	
					Medical and Transport	....	4,828	17 0	201,414 11 4
Carried forward	....		418,139	5 0	Carried forward	....		272,558	4 3

Appendix No. 2—continued

DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1955-56.

NATIVE WELFARE ADMINISTRATION TRUST—continued.

Receipts.				Payments.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brought forward	418,139	5	0	Brought forward	272,558	4	3
				<i>Boarding Out Cases—</i>			
				Private Homes	876	14	2
				Other Institutions	901	12	4
							1,778 6 6
				<i>Bulk Ration Centres—</i>			
				Derby	637	11	2
				Mulga Queen	996	7	1
				Turkey Creek	474	7	7
				Wiluna	1,947	4	1
				Wyndham	1,348	3	7
							5,403 13 6
				<i>Relief to Natives—</i>			
				Stores, provisions and meat	8,674	11	5
				Education and amenities	124	1	10
				Medical—Doctors	601	16	8
				Hospitals	4,988	6	5
				Sundries	249	13	1
				Blankets and clothing	2,205	11	3
				Legal costs	555	16	7
				Furniture and equipment for native houses	326	3	1
				Burials	1,964	18	0
				Transport	3,404	5	1
				Welfare relief	307	4	1
				Rental of houses occupied by natives	36	3	0
							23,438 10 6
				<i>Improvements to Reserves—</i>			
				General Expenditure			7,157 16 7
				Section 6A (Purchase of House)	150	6	9
				Acquisition machinery and equipment—Pilbara	3,447	2	1
							3,597 8 10
				<i>Grant to Natives' Medical Fund</i>			3,399 15 3
				<i>Reimbursement to Medical Department</i>			76,785 12 2
				<i>Reimbursement to Education Department</i>			24,019 17 5
							£418,139 5 0
							£418,139 5 0

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

24th September, 1956.

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

Appendix No. 3

NATIVE POPULATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1956.

District.	Full Bloods.				Other Bloods.				Grand Total.
	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Children.	Total.	
Northern—									
Broome	212	229	187	628	83	110	216	409	1,037
East Kimberley	688	673	383	1,744	61	32	109	202	1,946
West Kimberley	737	651	371	1,759	38	33	81	152	1,911
North-West—									
Gascoyne	221	155	147	523	99	87	210	396	919
Pilbara	625	509	238	1,372	109	101	111	321	1,693
Central—									
Central-Sub.	17	8	4	29	265	265	714	1,244	1,273
Eastern Goldfields	500	450	400	1,350	200	150	250	600	1,950
North Central—									
West Murchison	84	62	24	170	219	217	531	967	1,137
East Murchison	216	194	151	561	160	132	294	586	1,147
Southern—									
Southern	59	51	105	215	484	433	1,153	2,070	2,285
Totals	3,359	2,982	2,010	8,351	1,718	1,560	3,669	6,947	15,298
Esitmates of Nomad Natives beyond confines of civilisation .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	6,000
	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	21,298

Appendix No. 4

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SUBSIDISATION OF MISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE WELFARE FOR YEAR 1955-56.

Mission.	Average Number of Natives Subsidised.			(A) Expenditure : Cash Subsidy and Rations.		(B) Expenditure : Blankets and Clothing.		(C) Expenditure : Medical, Transport, etc.		Overall Subsistence Expenditure Equals (A), (B) and (C).		Expenditure : Grants in Aid.		Total Expenditure for year on Missions.	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
	Children.	Adults.	Total.	Subsidy.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.	Blankets and Clothing.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.	Medical, Transport, etc.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.	Subsistence Expenditure.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.	Grants in Aid.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.	Expenditure.	Per Head Per Annum of Total No. in 3.
Pallottine, Balgo Hills via Hall's Creek	52	24	76	£ 5,785	£ s. d. 76 2 4	104	£ 1 7 4	165	£ s. d. 2 3 5	6,054	£ s. d. 4,569	£ s. d. 10,623	£ s. d. 10,623	£ s. d. 10,623	
Beagle Bay via Broome	81	35	116	8,774	75 11 2	220	1 18 1	175	1 10 2	9,169	722	9,891	9,891	9,891	
Churches of Christ, Carnarvon	91		91	8,540	93 16 11			700	7 13 10	9,240	1,447	10,687	10,687	10,687	
U.A.M. Cosmo Newbery via Laverton	4	25	29	1,329	45 16 7	165	5 13 9	76	2 12 5	1,570	21	1,591	1,591	1,591	
A.E.M. Cundeelee via Zanthus	23	45	68	3,291	48 7 11	333	4 18 3	283	4 3 3	3,907	645	4,552	4,552	4,552	
U.A.M. Fitzroy Crossing	87	64	151	7,340	48 12 2	500	3 6 3	161	1 1 4	8,001	3,166	11,167	11,167	11,167	
Forrest River via Wyndham	63	26	89	6,275	70 10 1	304	3 8 4	166	1 17 3	6,745	1,759	8,504	8,504	8,504	
U.A.M., Gnowangerup	33		33	3,223	97 13 4	10	6 1	92	2 12 1	3,325		3,325	3,325	3,325	
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	40		40	3,571	89 5 6					3,571		3,571	3,571	3,571	
Aborigines' Rescue Mission, Jigalong	58	61	119	10,467	87 19 2	391	3 5 9	45	7 6	10,903	8,046	18,949	18,949	18,949	
Kalumburu, Drysdale River	31	57	88	4,208	47 16 4	445	5 1 2	10	2 3	4,663		4,663	4,663	4,663	
Karalundi, via Meekatharra	50		50	4,423	88 9 2			291	5 16 5	4,714		4,714	4,714	4,714	
Kurrawang, via Kalgoorlie	21	24	45	3,054	67 17 4	213	4 14 8	95	2 2 3	3,362	2,128	5,490	5,490	5,490	
La Grange, via Broome	29	35	64	4,063	63 9 8	569	8 17 6	61	19 0	4,693	81 6 6 } 3,856	22 1 4 } 8,549	103 7 10 } 8,549	8,549	
Lombadina, via Broome	34	24	58	4,128	71 3 5	180	3 2 1	51	17 7	4,359	425	4,784	4,784	4,784	
Marribank, via Katanning	34		34	3,212	94 9 5			201	5 18 3	3,413		3,413	3,413	3,413	
Mogumber Methodist	77		77	7,681	99 15 1			234	3 0 9	7,915		7,915	7,915	7,915	
Mt. Margaret, via Morgan	93	26	119	10,311	86 12 1	424	3 11 3	404	3 7 10	11,139	4,362	15,501	15,501	15,501	
New Norcia	108		108	9,383	86 17 7			433	4 0 2	9,816		9,816	9,816	9,816	
Churches of Christ, Norseman	56		56	5,709	101 18 11			538	9 12 2	6,247	39	6,286	6,286	6,286	
Native Mission Farm, Roelands	81		81	8,187	101 1 6	6	1 6	290	3 11 7	8,483	157	8,640	8,640	8,640	
Sunday Island, via Derby	53	24	77	6,101	79 4 8	203	2 12 9	18	4 8	6,322	1,224	7,546	7,546	7,546	
Pallottine Mission School, Tardun	68		68	5,364	78 17 11			56	16 6	5,420		5,420	5,420	5,420	
St. Francis Xavier's, Wandering	33		33	2,447	74 3 0			18	10 10	2,465	3,500	5,965	5,965	5,965	
U.A.M., Warburton Ranges	60	20	80	6,181	77 5 3	370	4 12 6	151	1 17 9	6,702		6,702	6,702	6,702	
Wiluna*								50		50	1,015	1,065	1,065	1,065	
Wongutha Mission Training Farm*	2	1	3	71	22 13 4	14	4 13 4	5	1 13 4	90	5,000	5,090	5,090	5,090	
Presbyterian, Wotjulum, via Derby	44	51	95	5,579	58 14 6	449	4 14 6	60	12 7	6,088	908	6,996	6,996	6,996	
Totals	1,406	542	1,948	148,697	76 6 8	4,900	2 10 4	4,829	2 9 6	158,426	42,989	201,415	201,415	201,415	

* In course of establishment

Departmental Subsidy Rates to Missions at 30th June, 1956.

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.

Adults.—10s. per week cash or alternatively bulk food provision according to ration scale, plus an annual blanket and clothing issue according to a set scale. (Note.—This subsidy is replaced by 25s. per week cash payment from 1st July, 1956.)

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

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