

LOCKHART A MODERN SETTLEMENT

Unique Experiment Succeeds

Probably very few of our readers know of the successful experiment being carried out on the Lockhart River in Queensland—an experiment that is proving just how well the Aborigine people can manage their own affairs, provided they have the guidance and co-operation of their white neighbours. Writing to *Dawn*, the Secretary of the Lockhart River Aboriginal Christian Co-operative Society (Mr. Billy Brown), said:—

“Through the Rev. W. A. Clint, Director of Co-operatives for the A.B.M., we at Lockhart River have had several copies of *Dawn* which is placed in our co-operative office and reading room for our members to read.

We are all very interested in reading *Dawn* and hearing about our people in other parts and it may be of interest to our people in N.S.W. to know something about our Co-operative Society. We are just celebrating our first birthday, and the end of this week will be holding our first Annual Meeting.

We are governed by a Board of Directors, five of whom the members elect and two are appointed by the Bishop of Carpentaria. The Board elects its own President and Secretary.

The Superintendent of the Lockhart River Mission, Mr. J. Warby and the Rev. W. A. Clint, act as our advisors for the Registrar of Society for Queensland.

At a recent meeting of the Board we decided to buy two more luggers—in all, we will now have three luggers. We hope to pay these boats off over a period

of 2 to 3 years. All the business of the Co-operative is run by the Board of Directors and we have our own banking account with the Bank of Thursday Island.

We believe that we are the first Aboriginal Co-operative Society to be registered and also, that we have the only boats on the Australian coast manned by aborigines with aboriginal skippers.

All our luggers are engaged in the trochus shell industry. As soon as we get a good Cattle Manager, the aim is to develop a cattle business within our Co-operative Society.

Agriculture and farming will also be developed co-operatively.

Our members would be very interested to hear from aborigines in other parts and know what they are doing.

Our co-operative is Christian because all our people are Christians and we believe that by working together for each other we can do the things God wants us to do.



Whatever you do, don't light that fire or old Father Christmas will go up in a puff of smoke! What a hazardous life he has, climbing up and down chimneys.