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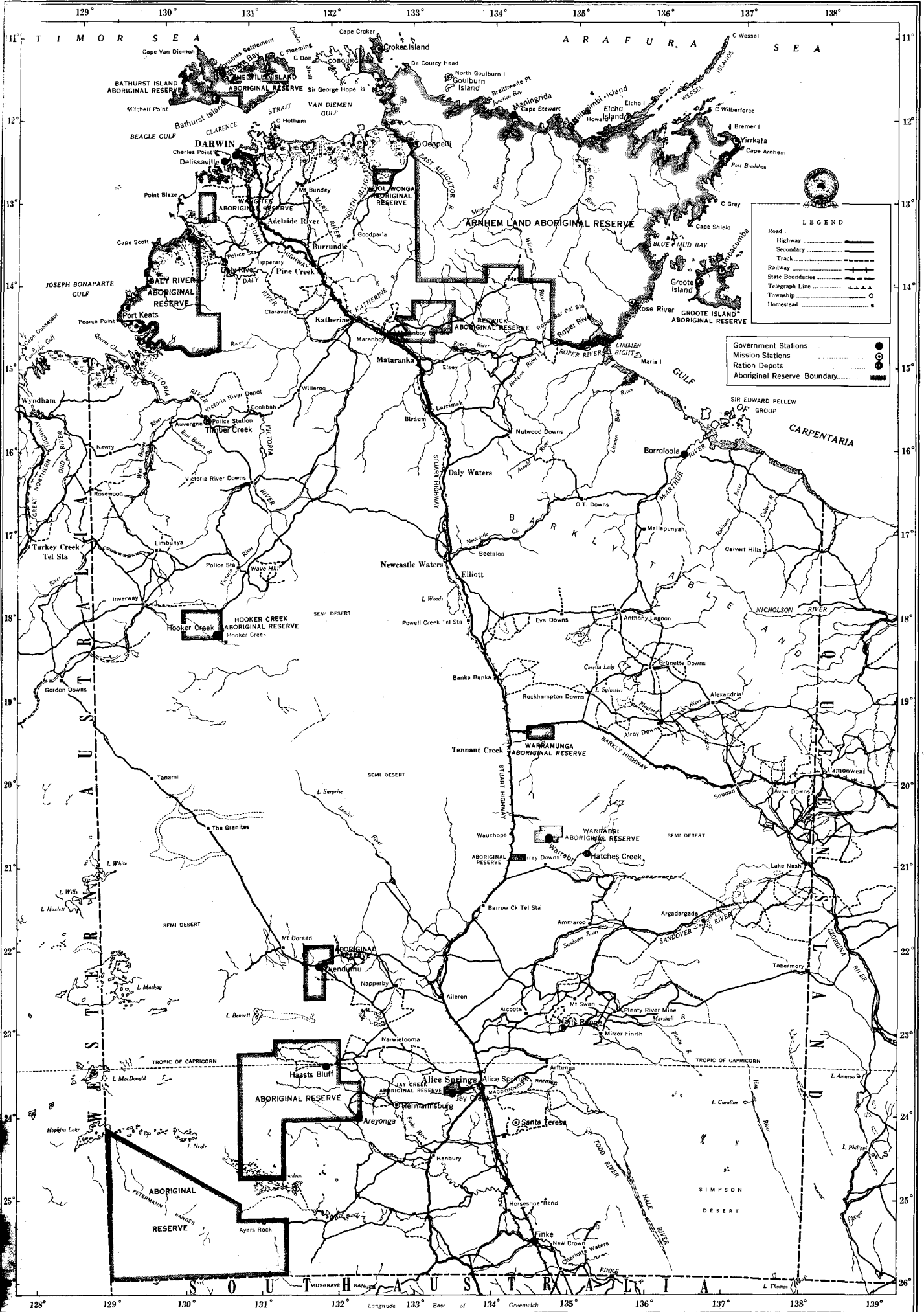
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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER 1.—GENERAL INFORMATION—	
Physical Features	7
Climate	8
Population and Settlements	8
History	8
Current Development	8
CHAPTER 2.—ADMINISTRATION—	
Section 1.—Constitutional Structure	8
Section 2.—Administrative Organization—	
Northern Territory Administration	8
Other Commonwealth Departments and Instrumentalities	9
Judicial Organization	9
Police	10
Penal Organization	10
Section 3.—Public Finance	10
CHAPTER 3.—MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC UTILITIES—	
Local Government	11
Urban Planning and Development	11
Town Roads and Streets	11
Parks and Reserves	12
Sanitation and Garbage	12
Mosquito Control	12
Fire Fighting	12
Burial Services	12
Water Supplies	12
Electricity	13
Commonwealth Cold Stores	14
Housing and Accommodation	14
Housing Loans Scheme	14
CHAPTER 4.—TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS—	
Railways	14
Road Transport	15
Omnibus Services	15
Motor Vehicle Registration and Licensing	15
Air Transport	15
Sea Transport	16
CHAPTER 5.—LAND—	
Land Legislation	17
Forms of Land Tenure	17
Land Administration	18
Land Distribution and Development	18
Survey	19
CHAPTER 6.—PASTORAL INDUSTRY—	
General	19
Seasonal Conditions	19
Beef Cattle	19
Philippines Cattle Trade	20
Stock Movement	20
Stock Diseases	21
Noxious Animals	23
Desert Country Experiment	23
Legislation	23
CHAPTER 7.—AGRICULTURE—	
Research	23
Rice	24
Pineapples	24
Tobacco	24
Peanuts	24
Sorghum	24
Vegetables	25
Fruit Growing	25
Pasture Grasses	25
CHAPTER 8.—WATER USE—	25
CHAPTER 9.—FORESTRY—	
General Description of Forests	25
Description of the more Valuable Species of Timber	26
Current Activities	26
Output of Sawn Timber	27
CHAPTER 10.—MINING—	
General	27
Legislation	27
Mineral Production and Development	27
CHAPTER 11.—MARINE INDUSTRIES—	
Fisheries	29
Pearling	29

CONTENTS—continued.

	PAGE.
CHAPTER 12.—SOCIAL SERVICES—	
Commonwealth Social Services Benefits	29
General Welfare	29
Home for Aged and Infirm Persons	29
Houses for Part Coloured Persons—Alice Springs and Darwin	29
State Children's Council	29
Accommodation of Part Coloured Children in Other States for Education and Training	30
Pre-School Education	30
Recreational Facilities for Young People	31
Library and Film Service	31
Health	31
Commonwealth Employment Service	32
CHAPTER 13.—EDUCATION—	
General	32
Primary and Secondary Education	32
School Buildings and Equipment	32
Staff	33
Educational Allowances and Other Awards	33
School of the Air	33
School Transport	33
Expenditure on Education	34
Apprenticeship	34
Adult Education	34
CHAPTER 14.—WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—	
Aboriginal Policy	34
Administration and Control	35
Population	35
Reserves	35
Settlements	35
Education	38
Health	38
Employment	39
Missions	40

STATISTICAL APPENDICES.

	PAGE.
APPENDIX I.—MINISTERS AND ADMINISTRATORS—	
1. Commonwealth Ministers and Departments responsible for the Administration of the Northern Territory	42
2. Administrators since the Commonwealth assumed control	42
APPENDIX II.—POPULATION (EXCLUDING FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINES)—	
1. Classification by Race	43
2. Particulars of Births, Deaths and Marriages during the years 1951–52 to 1955–56	43
APPENDIX III.—CLIMATIC CONDITIONS—	
1. Normal Mean Maximum and Minimum Temperatures	44
2. Normal Average Rainfall	44
3. Monthly Rainfall for year ended 31st December, 1955	44
4. Reliability of Annual Rainfall over 40-year period	45
5. Normal Mean Relative Humidity	45
APPENDIX IV.—HISTORICAL SUMMARY	46
APPENDIX V.—LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY	47
APPENDIX VI.—LEGISLATION	48
APPENDIX VII.—DEPARTMENTAL ORGANIZATION—	
1. Northern Territory Administration: Classified Positions and Salaries and Staff engaged at 30th June, 1956	49
2. Organization Chart	facing page 54
APPENDIX VIII.—JUSTICE—	
Cases tried before the Courts of the Territory during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56—	
(1) Supreme Court	55
(2) Police Courts	55
APPENDIX IX.—POLICE—	
1. Police Districts at 30th June, 1956	56
2. Police Duties performed during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	56
APPENDIX X.—PENAL ESTABLISHMENTS—	
Number of Persons Committed to and Discharged from Prison during 1955–56	57
APPENDIX XI.—PUBLIC FINANCE—	
1. Revenue during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	58
2. Administrative Expenditure during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	59
3. Capital Works and Services Expenditure during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	61
4. Total Expenditure	61
5. Other Commonwealth Departments—Revenue and Expenditure	61
APPENDIX XII.—WATER SUPPLY—	
1. Number of Consumers	62
2. Operating Costs and Revenue	62
3. Annual Pumping Statistics	62
APPENDIX XIII.—ELECTRICITY UNDERTAKINGS—	
1. Tariffs at 30th June, 1956	63
2. Generating Capacity of Plants and Consumption during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	63
3. Operating Costs and Revenue for the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	63

STATISTICAL APPENDICES—continued.

	PAGE.
APPENDIX XIV.—HOUSING LOAN SCHEME—	
1. Applications received during period 1st July, 1954 to 30th June, 1956	64
2. Dissection of Approved Loan Applications	64
3. Statement of Expenditure and Receipts	64
APPENDIX XV.—ROADS—	
Classification and Mileages	65
APPENDIX XVI.—MOTOR VEHICLES—	
1. Vehicles Registered during 1955–56	66
2. Licences in force at 30th June, 1956	66
3. Revenue for the year 1955–56	66
APPENDIX XVII.—AIR TRANSPORT—	
1. Air Passenger and Freight Traffic during 1955–56	67
APPENDIX XVIII.—SHIPPING—	
Volume of Shipping and Cargo handled at Port Darwin during 1955–56	68
APPENDIX XIX.—LAND—	
1. Land Distribution according to Tenure	69
2. Distribution of Land held under Leasehold	69
3. Rentals on Leases	69
4. Land Applications	69
5. Assistance to Primary Producers	70
APPENDIX XX.—ANIMAL INDUSTRY—	
1. Livestock Returns, by District, at 30th June, 1956	71
2. Imports of Livestock during 1955–56	71
3. Exports of Livestock, by Destination and Route, during 1955–56	71
4. Value of Cattle Exported during 1955–56	72
5. Exports of Skins and Hides during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	72
6. Number of Livestock Slaughtered at Darwin and Alice Springs during the years 1951–52 to 1955–56	72
7. Number of Stock Dipped and Sprayed under Government Supervision, during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	72
8. Registration of Brands and Marks during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	72
9. Map showing Stock Routes, Bores, &c.	facing page 72
APPENDIX XXI.—AGRICULTURE—	
1. Fruit Production during the year ended 30th September, 1955	73
2. Vegetable Production during the year ended 30th September, 1955	73
APPENDIX XXII.—MINING INDUSTRY—	
1. Quantity and Value of Minerals Produced during the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	74
2. Value of Metals as a Percentage of Total Output	74
3. Metal Prices at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	74
4. Production by Fields and Localities during 1955–56—	
(i) Gold	74
(ii) Wolfram	75
(iii) Copper	75
(iv) Mica	75
(v) Tin	76
5. Number Employed in the Mining Industry at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	76
APPENDIX XXIII.—MARINE INDUSTRIES—	
1. Fishing Licences Granted and Revenue Collected	77
2. Pearl Fishing Licences Granted	77
3. Production of Pearl Shell	77
4. Number of Persons Employed in Pearl Fishing in Darwin-based Industry	77
APPENDIX XXIV.—HEALTH—	
1. Patients and Attendances at Hospitals during 1955–56	78
2. Number of Operations Performed during 1955–56	78
3. Aerial Medical Services during 1955–56	78
4. Infectious Diseases—1955–56	78
APPENDIX XXV.—PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION—	
1. Enrolments and Attendances at Pre-School Centres during 1955–56	79
2. Pre-School Centres: Staff Employed at 30th June, 1956	79
APPENDIX XXVI.—COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE—	
1. Number of Persons seeking Employment and Vacancies filled during 1955–56	80
2. Vacancies Registered, by Industry, during 1955–56	80
3. Vacancies Filled, by Industry, during 1955–56	80
APPENDIX XXVII.—EDUCATION—	
1. Details of Expenditure for the years 1954–55 and 1955–56	81
2. Enrolments of Primary and Secondary Pupils	81
3. Enrolments and Attendances during 1954–55 and 1955–56	81
4. Children under Instruction at 30th June, 1956: Classification by Age—	
(i) Departmental Schools	82
(ii) Convent Schools	82
5. Grade Numbers in Departmental Schools at 31st December, 1955	83
6. Teachers Employed in Departmental Schools at 30th June, 1956	83
7. Exhibitions awarded in 1955	83
8. Schools attended by Exhibitioners at 30th June, 1956	83
APPENDIX XXVIII.—WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—	
1. Estimated Distribution of Aboriginal Population at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	84
2. Number of Wards Employed, by Industry, at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	84
3. Aboriginal Reserves at 30th June, 1956	84
4. Population of Government Settlements at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	85
5. Population of Mission Stations	85
6. Part-Aboriginal Children in Care of Missions	86
7. Teachers in Schools for Aboriginal Children at 30th June, 1955 and 1956	86
8. Enrolment and Attendance at Schools for Aborigines during 1955–56	87

Expenditure on Education.

Expenditure on general education services, which does not include buildings, furniture, equipment and maintenance, totalled £139,052 in 1955-56. Main items of expenditure were—

	£
Salaries	86,499
Transport of children	11,745
Primary and secondary travelling and book allowances	9,337
Fares, travelling, removal, &c., teachers, administration staff, new appointees	6,902
Correspondence tuition	4,506

The cost of education for each pupil, based on average attendance for the year ended 30th June, 1956, was £77 12s. 5d. This figure excludes expenditure of a capital nature (buildings, furniture, equipment, &c.) and expenditure on the education of apprentices, but includes expenditure for children enrolled in the correspondence school and the salaries of administrative staff. In 1954-55 the expenditure was approximately £65 17s. 3d. per pupil. The increase of £11 15s. 2d. is due to the higher cost of salaries, transport, fares, removal expenses, boarding and book allowances.

Apprenticeship.

The *Apprentices Ordinance* 1948-1952 has been in operation for seven years. It provides for a Board consisting of a chairman and a representative of the Commonwealth—both appointed by the Administrator, a representative of private employers in apprenticeship trades and two representatives of employees in apprenticeship trades. A Secretary to the Board and Registrar of Apprentices is also appointed by the Administrator. During 1955-56 the Board held nine meetings.

Fifty-two apprentices were registered at 30th June, 1956, compared with 43 at 30th June, 1955. The following table gives details of apprentices employed in the various trades:—

Trade.	Apprentices employed at 30th June, 1956.
Carpentry and Joinery	13
Plumbing	3
Refrigeration	2
Fitting and Turning	11
Motor Mechanics	14
Electrical Fitting	5
Hairdressing	2
Printing	2
	—
	52
	—

As there are no trade schools for technical education in the Northern Territory, apprentices undertake correspondence courses with technical correspondence schools in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. To supplement the correspondence tuition, classes organized by the Education Branch are held at Darwin, Batchelor and Alice Springs, and the theoretical work of the apprentices is closely supervised. Two apprentices completed their indentures during the year.

Adult Education.

Approval was given for the establishment of evening continuation classes at Darwin and Alice Springs in May, 1950, and the first classes were formed a few months later. The appropriate regulations made under the South Australian Education Act were to apply in principle to classes in the Northern Territory, although it was agreed that the school committee in each town should discharge the functions of the local committee whose establishment was provided for in the South Australian Regulations.

At 30th June, 1956, there were ten classes in Darwin with a total enrolment of 180 students and five classes in Alice Springs with a total enrolment of 81 pupils. The subjects studied are of two types—

(a) vocational, in the sense that they are assisting the students to improve their occupational status; and

(b) home crafts.

Among the former are commercial subjects such as typing and shorthand and a group of subjects which are being studied by Commonwealth employees in preparation for Public Service Examinations; tutorial classes for apprentices also come within this category. Woodwork and dressmaking comprise the second group.

The classes are well attended and meet to some degree the needs of the two towns in the wide field of adult education. This is particularly so in the classes which are preparing candidates for the Third Division Commonwealth Public Service Examination.

CHAPTER 14.—WELFARE OF ABORIGINES.

Aboriginal Policy.

The policy of the Commonwealth Government is to direct and encourage the re-establishment of the aborigines so that they will eventually be assimilated as an integral part of the Australian community.

The legislative basis for this policy is contained in the *Welfare Ordinance* 1953. Under Section 8 of the *Welfare Ordinance* the Director of Welfare has the specific duty in respect of the aboriginal population "to promote their social, economic and political advancement for the purpose of assisting them and their descendants to take their place as members of the community of the Commonwealth". The Ordinance thus abandons the merely "protective" approach of the *Aboriginals Ordinance* in favour of a positive "welfare" policy; it abandons the method of defining such terms as "aboriginal" and then making classes of persons covered by the definition subject to special legislation unless they obtain exemption from it. It assumes that aborigines as well as other Australians in the Territory have full citizenship as a right and that this right is to be withheld only in cases where an individual is in need of special care and assistance. The Ordinance provides for an appeal to an independent tribunal by any individual against committal to the care of the State as a ward.

Provision for measures for the gainful employment of persons declared as wards under the *Welfare Ordinance* is made in the *Wards' Employment Ordinance* 1953, which was assented to by the Governor-General in Council on 22nd September, 1953. Further details of this Ordinance are given in the Section headed "Employment".

Neither of these Ordinances had been brought into operation at 30th June, 1956, because of the preliminary work that had to be completed.

The bulk of the work on the census of wards, to enable the compilation of the Register of Wards required by the *Welfare Ordinance*, was completed during this period, together with the initial drafting of the regulations under the two Ordinances. The Administration held discussions with the Pastoral Lessees Associations and other employer and employee organizations in the Territory, on the general principles to be applied in framing the regulations under the Ordinances.

The task of the Welfare Branch in bringing aborigines to a stage where they can be accepted as full citizens in the community is essentially social in character. The real job lies in changing social attitudes, values and institutions, customs and standards of living and in inculcating an interest in European forms of work and its rewards. This

must be looked at as a long-term task which for its successful achievement requires not only the co-operation of wards themselves but the full support of all members of the community.

Since the European population of the Territory now slightly outnumbers the aboriginal, and since a continued influx of Europeans may reasonably be expected, there will be a challenge in educating the changing European population to receive as full members of the community those aborigines who advance in their manner of life and in their ability to handle their own affairs.

Administration and Control.

Pending the proclamation of the Welfare Ordinance, native affairs in the Northern Territory continue to be administered under the provisions of the *Aboriginals Ordinance* 1918-1953 and the Regulations made thereunder.

The designation of the Branch was changed to the Welfare Branch and an important development occurred when the Public Service Board approved the re-organization of settlement staff involving the raising of the status of settlement superintendents to the Third Division, and providing for additional staff whose main responsibility is to provide practical training of aborigines, working as a team under the superintendent.

In January, 1956, administration of aboriginal education in the Northern Territory was transferred from the Commonwealth Office of Education to the Welfare Branch. Following the transfer, approval was given for the appointment of a senior education officer and clerk in Darwin, and a district education officer in Alice Springs, but neither position was filled during the year.

Special training courses have been developed through the Australian School of Pacific Administration at Mosman, N.S.W., and within the Administration itself for all field staff, including settlement staff, to give them an insight into the nature and basis of aboriginal traditions and tribal structure.

Population.

The information provided by the census completed at 30th June, 1956, may be regarded as having a reasonably high degree of accuracy. It revealed that there were 15,211 full-blood aborigines in the Northern Territory at 30th June, 1956, whose names were actually recorded by patrol officers engaged in taking the census. It is estimated that this includes 95 per cent. of aborigines in the Northern Territory, the 5 per cent. not included comprising a few nomads in marginal areas, natives about whom insufficient information was supplied to include in the census, and births in the Kimberley district for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1956. Of these 15,211 aborigines 10,009 are adults, that is, sixteen years of age and over (males 5,105 and females 4,904) and 5,202 are children (males 2,629 and females 2,573).

Comparing the aboriginal population in the Northern Territory with the European population of Australia the following figures emerge:—

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION.

	Under 16 Years.	16 and under 60 Years.	60 Years and Over.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Northern Territory, Aborigines	34.2	58.4	7.4
Australia, Europeans ..	29.9	57.6	12.5

UNDER 16 YEARS GROUP SHOWN AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 16 TO 60 YEARS GROUP.

	Percentage.
Northern Territory, Aborigines	58.5
Australia, Europeans	51.9

BIRTH RATE (REGISTERED BIRTHS ONLY).

	Per Thousand.
Northern Territory, Aborigines—total	27.02
Northern Territory, Aborigines (excluding Kimberley district, for which births were not registered in 1956)	29.36
Australia, Europeans	28.2

The birth-rate is reasonably high amongst the aboriginal population. There has been a considerable decline in infant mortality in recent years and a substantial increase in the expectation of life. It can be expected, therefore, that the aboriginal population will continue to increase year by year, the increase being due in part to an overall reduction in mortality and perhaps in part to an increase in the birth-rate. Because reliable statistics do not exist for the past, any conclusions that may be drawn about the vitality of the population must be based largely on assessment.

Reserves.

During the year, there was no alteration to the area of country set aside as reserves for the aboriginal population; there are still seventeen reserves and the total area of the reserves is approximately 67,000 square miles.

During the year preliminary investigations were made into the needs of aborigines living on reserves who require further attention by either mission bodies or the Government. As a result of these investigations, it has been decided to open a ration, trade and health depot at Maningrida, a waterhole on the east bank of the mouth of the Liverpool River in Arnhem Land.

Other peoples whose needs appear to require some attention are the tribes of the Blue Mud Bay and Trial Bay areas, and the area north of Mainoru Station adjacent to the Bullman waterhole on the Wilton River. Owing to shortage of patrol staff, however, it was not possible during the year under review to conclude full investigations into these areas. Similarly there may be a need for a settlement or mission north-east of Alice Springs in the Sandover River area.

Patrols of the reserves were, in the main, restricted to settled areas. An exception was the inquiry into activities of pearling luggers operating off the Arnhem Land coast in the Gulf of Carpentaria and at Entrance Island off the mouth of the Liverpool River. As a result of these investigations, the masters of three pearling vessels were charged with unlawful entry into the territorial waters adjacent to the reserve and all were found guilty and fined.

The experience and resources of technical branches of the Administration were called upon to investigate the potential of certain areas on the reserves. This applied particularly to the pastoral possibilities of Haasts Bluff, Yuendumu and Hooker Creek; the timber potential of Melville Island; and the agricultural prospects of Bagot, Delissaville, Beswick Creek and Snake Bay.

Settlements.

There are twelve government settlements in the Territory; eleven are located on aboriginal reserves while one, Delissaville, is not a proclaimed reserve. Population figures for the various settlements are given in Table 4 of Appendix XXVIII.

The behaviour of the aboriginal population on the reserves and settlements has been generally good.

There was a number of minor incidents on the two town reserves of Alice Springs and Darwin, following the consumption by aborigines of alcoholic liquor. Less than 25 per cent. of the total number who appeared before the courts on charges of drinking liquor were found within reserves when arrested.

Following the appointment of more agricultural specialist staff on settlements, there has been an increase in the production of vegetables on all settlements. The following table, which gives the total production of fruit, vegetables, meat, milk and eggs on settlements during the

year, indicates the value of agricultural production in meeting subsistence requirements and in providing training for the aborigines:—

Produce.	Value.
<i>Southern Division:</i>	
61,129 lb. fruit and vegetables	£ 3,203
140,998 lb. meat	5,970
2,758 gallons milk	1,103
289 dozen eggs	93
	<hr/>
	10,369
	<hr/>
<i>Northern Division:</i>	
20,622 lb. fruit and vegetables	1,259
13,490 lb. meat	1,667
455 gallons milk	182
64 dozen eggs	23
2,860 lb. fish and crabs	417
9,500 super. feet timber	712
	<hr/>
	4,260
	<hr/>

The following is a brief account of the activities and main developments on settlements during the year:—

Bagot.—Situated on the outskirts of Darwin, this settlement provides for aborigines in transit and those employed in the town or by the defence services.

The population of Bagot showed a steady increase during the year due chiefly to the continued movement into the Darwin town area of aborigines from the Liverpool-Blyth River areas.

An important development in the agricultural activities was the appointment in October, 1955, of an experienced market gardener with a wide knowledge of tropical agriculture. Under his direction the garden area has flourished and further development took place of a pasture area for a dairy herd.

This officer also supervised the preparation of a sample sisal fibre from plants grown on the settlement. Tests made by the Fibre Division of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization indicated that the fibre was of sufficiently good quality to merit further investigation into its possible use in fibrous plaster manufacturing.

Additional buildings erected or commenced during the year were a recreation hut consisting of two "Sidney Williams" huts with a total area of 60 feet x 50 feet, and a new laundry equipped with troughs, coppers, &c.

The morale of the population was maintained at a high level. The two teams from the settlement who competed in open sporting competitions in Darwin both reached the grand finals.

Delissaville.—This settlement is situated on the western side of Darwin Harbour in fair agricultural country. The population consists of the remaining people of the Waugait tribe and did not fluctuate during the year.

Activities were confined to agricultural and marine projects. During the year the garden area was extended to cover a total of ten acres, and the following new buildings were commenced or erected:—replacement pump house, lighting plant building, garage and workshop, and school showers and latrines. In addition, a set of playground equipment was manufactured on the settlement and erected in the school yard. A new bridge was constructed across the Delissaville Creek to give all-weather access to the camp area. The remaining "Econo" hut units to house the population were erected and the old black iron huts were dismantled.

Under the guidance of the part-time matron, sewing classes were conducted for the older girls and a considerable number of garments was made. Woodwork classes were commenced for the senior boys of the school under the instruction of the assistant manager who is a qualified carpenter.

Snake Bay.—The only government settlement on Melville Island, Snake Bay is situated on the shore of an attractive bay with good fishing, timber and farming prospects.

The main project at Snake Bay is timber-milling, and the development of this project and the related forestry programme are carried out in close consultation with the forestry officer. During the year a total of over 13,000 super. feet of timber was milled. This consisted of cypress pine, blood wood, woollybutt, messmate and paper bark and small quantities of white cedar and swamp mahogany. An attempt was made during the year to introduce exotic varieties of pines. Although the early experiments were not encouraging, an area of ten acres was cleared and this is being planted out gradually with seedlings of the indigenous variety of cypress pine.

The agricultural work on the settlement was increased with the clearing on Banjo Beach, one mile from the settlement, of 2½ acres of good soil adjacent to a permanent swamp of good water. This farm area contains pigs, goats and poultry and will also be developed as a garden area to supplement that at the settlement. The original goat herd of mixed breed has been replaced by a herd of Saanens.

Progress was made on the building of the superintendent's residence and the store. A start was made on the new camp area and the construction of a weatherboard cottage.

The settlement water supply, consisting of a spring just above the high water mark on the beach, was increased by extending and raising the retaining wall.

A feature of the year was the birth in the settlement clinic of an aboriginal child, the first to be born under the supervision of the newly appointed nursing sister.

Beswick Creek.—This settlement of approximately 300 people is about 250 miles south-east of Darwin and to the east of Katherine, across one of the main aboriginal routes into Arnhem Land. It has agricultural, livestock and some pastoral possibilities.

The aborigines at Beswick Creek come from areas as far apart as Mainoru Station and Pine Creek, and there is a tendency for them to return periodically to their district of origin. The population therefore fluctuates.

A notable event at Beswick Creek during the year was the appointment of an Acting Superintendent, Third Division, the first appointment under the new establishment. Under his direction, the settlement has taken on an atmosphere of industry and encouraging development. Thirty acres of land have been cleared for the planting of sorghum and peanuts, while a new area of three acres adjacent to the settlement was cleared for the growing of the settlement's agricultural requirements.

Projects commenced during the year were a piggery, goat yard and milking pens, the fencing of a holding paddock for stock, the building of suitable stock yards, and the opening of a canteen in part of the store building.

The airstrip, which had been cleared by settlement labour last year, was condemned as unsuitable by the Department of Civil Aviation. A new site had to be chosen and work has commenced on the clearing of a new airstrip.

Hooker Creek.—Approximately 130 aborigines of the Northern Wailbri group are accommodated at this settlement which lies in an isolated position on the southern flank of the Victoria River District. It has some pastoral and subsistence farming possibilities.

The pastoral potential of the area was examined by officers of the Animal Industry Branch and it is estimated that a herd of from 1,000 to 1,500 head could be accommodated within the reserve area. Investigations of Crown land to the south of the reserve in the Winnecke Creek area are being made with a view to increasing the cattle holding capacity of this area.

During the year, the new school building was completed, but it could not be used owing to delays in completing two staff residences.

A second bore was sunk in the settlement area, supplementing the original bore which was working to capacity. A coolroom, which was erected during the year, has improved the storage conditions for beef and vegetables.

Areyonga.—This settlement lies near the eastern boundary of the large aboriginal reserve which occupies about 8,000 square miles, midway between Alice Springs and the Western Australian border. The 180-mile road to the settlement from Alice Springs passes the Hermannsburg Mission.

There is a steady increase in the population at Areyonga since the settlement came under full government control. The additional aborigines have moved in from the Petermann Ranges.

During the year the superintendent's residence was completed, and work continued on the infirmary, ablution block, office and single men's quarters.

A second bore, to supplement the original bore, was sunk and water obtained at 113 feet at the rate of over 1,000 gallons per hour.

An interesting and successful experiment was the employment on a contract basis of young aboriginal men in clearing and stumping approaches to the airstrip.

Owing to lack of water facilities adjacent to the settlement, it has not been possible to develop the pastoral potential of this area, the cattle requirements for the settlement being obtained from adjacent pastoral properties and from Haasts Bluff.

Haasts Bluff.—Over 400 people of the Pintibi tribe are on this settlement which lies about 50 miles north-west of Areyonga and in the same aboriginal reserve. There is no settlement beyond it to the west. It has good pastoral possibilities and provides subsistence agricultural activities.

The development of the pastoral project on this reserve continued throughout the year with the sinking of three new bores and the acquisition of 34 stud bulls from Narrandera, New South Wales. A boundary fence between Glen Helen and the reserve was completed, providing better control and ensuring that the good pastures of the reserve are used only by the Haasts Bluff cattle. A drafting yard was erected near the homestead, and stock yards were commenced at Papunya and five other areas adjacent to bores.

Owing to the unsuitability of the water for human consumption at the existing settlement, it was decided to seek a new settlement site in the area. Accordingly in May, 1956, a site adjacent to Papunya bore was selected and boring commenced to provide additional water supplies.

Jay Creek.—This small aboriginal reserve of 116 square miles is a few miles west of Alice Springs and has 147 people. This is Aranda country with an admixture of Wailbri and Luridja immigrants.

The water supply at this settlement is a serious problem. In December, 1955, the Director of Water Use examined the situation and, at the end of the period under review, test holes were being sunk in the bed of Jay Creek in an endeavour to establish the amount of water conserved in the sands of the creek after each wet season. The failure to find a satisfactory solution to the water problem is hampering development. After many failures, a bore sunk two miles west of the settlement located a small supply of water which, on analysis, proved to be unsatisfactory for either human or stock consumption.

During the year a coolroom was installed and new latrines erected in the camp.

The boundary between Simpson's Gap and the reserve was fenced. The small herd of cattle on the reserve continued to do very well.

Phillip Creek.—In June, 1956, all aborigines were transferred to the new settlement at Warrabri and Phillip Creek was closed.

Warrabri.—Situated between Murray Downs and Singleton Stations at a point approximately 24 miles south-east of Wauchope, this settlement consists of lightly timbered desert and is typical spinifex country.

Preliminary reports made by officers of other branches of the Administration indicate that it has considerable agricultural potential and that the area can carry a small herd of cattle.

Ample water was obtained by sinking two bores, both of which were tested at over 1,500 gallons per hour. Analyses show the water to be suitable for all purposes.

Construction of the settlement was commenced in May, 1955, and at the end of the period under review four residences had been completed and the following buildings were at various stages of construction: dining room and kitchen, infirmary, recreation hut, administration block, sister's quarters, technical training centre, garage and storeroom. Materials for four additional residences and a school unit were on the site.

An interesting and encouraging feature of the building programme was the manner in which the aborigines attached to the construction unit adapted themselves to the various duties which were allotted to them. They showed excellent aptitude for various types of work such as carpentering, plumbing and painting, and in a very short time they could be safely left to many tasks without supervision.

An area of approximately seven acres was cleared for an agricultural project. A small garden, established whilst the construction unit was at the settlement, indicated the great agricultural possibilities of the area.

Progress has been made in the planting of trees and lawns.

The aborigines from Phillip Creek have settled down well in their new environment and fully appreciate the adequate and permanent water supply now available to them.

Yuendumu.—This settlement occupies a reserve of 850 square miles on the fringe of pastoral settlement 175 miles north-west of Alice Springs. It has over 500 people in comparatively early stages of contact with civilization. Under irrigation the soil is fertile and will grow vegetables, citrus and vines. The reserve has possibilities for cattle raising.

Employment is found on adjacent pastoral properties for some of the able-bodied aborigines, and others are encouraged to go as far afield as the Barkly Tableland. With a view to training the able-bodied males in stock work, it is proposed to establish a small herd of cattle on the area. Inspections have been made by officers of the Animal Industry Branch, and bore sites selected. When vehicles are available, work will commence on the erection of the boundary fences between Mount Allen and Mount Doreen stations.

The agricultural project is reasonably successful, but this area is subject to plagues of insects which cause setbacks in the early planting months of March, April and May.

It is proposed to establish a citrus orchard at Yuendumu and 90 trees have been ordered from a southern nursery. Grape vines will also be planted.

During the year a new "Hawkesley" school was erected to cope with the increasing demand for education of the aboriginal children.

Workers employed at Yuendumu constructed a tennis court from local materials in their leisure hours. This amenity has proved most popular and is greatly appreciated by all members of the settlement staff.

Under supervision of the works foreman, four aboriginal assistants manufactured a total of 3,500 cement bricks which will be used in the construction of the infirmary and sister's quarters. The bricks were of a high standard and the success of this experiment indicates that, with proper supervision, the aborigines could manufacture all the bricks required for their own houses and ablution blocks.

A new meat house and cutting-up room have been constructed near the coolroom.

Bungalow.—Accommodation for approximately 250 people is provided at this settlement which is on the outskirts of Alice Springs. It serves as transit accommodation and also houses aborigines employed in Alice Springs.

As it is proposed to transfer this settlement to a new site in the near future, there has been little activity of a developmental nature.

During June, 1956, the erection of a temporary classroom was commenced using a "Sidney Williams" hut as a basis for the construction. This building was urgently required to relieve congestion in the present school.

During the year a nursery was established at Bungalow for the growing of trees and shrubs for other settlements. Since its commencement the nursery has provided many hundreds of trees for beautification purposes on other settlements in the southern division.

Amoonguna.—An alternative site for the Bungalow settlement has been chosen in an area south of the McDonnell Ranges between Emily's Gap and the Todd River. This has been given the aboriginal place name of Amoonguna.

During the year under review activity on the new site was restricted to the finding of a water supply. The first two bores were abandoned after failure to obtain water at depths of up to 300 feet, but the third bore was successful, giving a capacity of 1,200 gallons per hour at 218 feet. A fourth bore proved unsuccessful, but a fifth is showing promise of a supply of good water.

The area is being surveyed so that the fencing of the settlement may be commenced.

Soil samples analysed indicated that the area may be intensively developed for agricultural and citrus growing purposes; other activities proposed include pig and goat raising and a poultry project.

Education.

Recent estimates indicate that there may be 3,000 aboriginal children of school age in the Northern Territory. At 30th June, 1956, there was a total enrolment of 1,635 aboriginal children in the special schools which have been established to meet particular needs and which are conducted by three groups—the government, the missions and certain pastoralists.

The special aboriginal schools are looked upon as an interim measure, designed to bring the children to a level where they will be able to attend the same schools as other children in the Territory.

At present there are twelve government schools with 581 pupils, thirteen mission schools with 1,033 pupils and two small subsidized schools on pastoral properties with 21 pupils.

Of the government schools, nine are on government settlements, one is at Hatches Creek, and two are located on the pastoral properties of Murray Downs and Elkedra. Teaching staff increased during the year from 21 to 24. A new school was opened at Elkedra in 1955; the new four-room school at Warrabri has almost been completed; and two additional classrooms and conveniences were provided at Yuendumu.

In January, 1956, the Welfare Branch assumed control of the government schools from the Commonwealth Office of Education, which had since July, 1950, acted as the

agent of the Administration in conducting the schools. The Commonwealth Office of Education continues to assist with such technical matters as the development and production of special readers and syllabuses for the schools.

The thirteen mission schools receive government assistance in several forms: a grant of £750 per annum for each trained teacher employed; supplies of special readers and syllabuses; technical advice and assistance; and, under certain circumstances, capital grants for school buildings.

Under the new policy designed to encourage the establishment of schools on pastoral properties, there are now two subsidized schools conducted by pastoral managements. In addition, two government schools have been established on pastoral properties. The subsidized school previously conducted at Lake Nash closed during the year on the death of the teacher, but is expected to re-open in 1957.

An experimental kindergarten class has been functioning at the Bungalow school for approximately two years. The results achieved from this experiment have been excellent, and illustrate the advantages to be gained from the early introduction of the aboriginal child to the school situation and to such important aspects as hygiene and the use of the English language. Some further references to the extension of activities on settlements for pre-school education are given in the section of the report dealing with pre-school education; reference is also made there to the training of selected aboriginal girls as pre-school teaching assistants.

Adult education classes have continued to operate at Bagot, Bungalow and Snake Bay schools, and new classes commenced at Delissaville, Jay Creek and Murray Downs. In these classes, emphasis is placed on the teaching of oral English and reading, but instruction in craft work is also introduced wherever possible, and plans are developing, as facilities become available, for training in a wide range of practical skills, including carpentry, blacksmithing, saddlery, leatherwork, home management, motor mechanics, &c.

As more children pass through the schools, opportunity is being provided for the employment in schools of more aboriginal teaching assistants. Where these are employed they are making a most valuable contribution to the education, particularly of the younger children, and incidentally in the development of their own educational standards. In addition, assistants employed for laundry and other activities related to the schools have all proved helpful in assisting in the development of the schools and have improved their own practical skills.

Health.

Considerable advance has been made in the twelve months under review in investigation and control of diseases among aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory. Approval was given for the appointment of three survey medical officers in place of one such officer in the past. In consequence, one medical officer has done survey work throughout the year and two new officers have been employed for the latter six months. The duty of these survey officers is to visit settlements, missions and cattle stations and examine all persons, whether aboriginal, half-cast or European. It is also their duty to advise on hygiene and sanitation and general public health measures of disease prevention.

On the northern missions, an X-ray survey has been part of the work and about 2,000 chest X-rays were taken in these remote areas.

All aborigines examined are immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, using Triple Antigen. It is estimated that in this manner about 10,000 aborigines have already been rendered immune to these diseases, and severe outbreaks such as the whooping cough

epidemic of 1949 should be a thing of the past. Immunization against measles is not possible and constant vigilance is necessary to prevent spread to aborigines when cases occur among the European community. All aborigines examined were also subjected to Mantoux testing and, if necessary, were protected by B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis. Follow-up injections in the immunization courses have been carried out by nursing sisters on missions and settlements, and by an itinerant nursing sister of the Department of Health on cattle stations.

In all, 38 missions, settlements and cattle stations were surveyed during the year. This involved the thorough and complete medical examination and immunization of approximately 7,500 aborigines. In addition, monthly routine visits made by air by medical officers stationed at Darwin and Alice Springs involved the medical examination of over 3,000 sick or injured aborigines.

It is planned in the next twelve months to extend these monthly visits to dentistry so that the same cover will be given in dental services. During the year, two mobile dental units visited various centres to the east and to the west of the main highway, and periodic visits were made by air to larger settlements by dental officers.

Sick and injured aborigines are cared for in the first place at settlements and missions by a trained nurse at the small hospitals provided on the settlement. Ready access for medical advice is available at all main centres by wireless, but mainly to Darwin and Alice Springs. Two departmental aerial ambulances are available at Darwin, and at Alice Springs the Flying Doctor Service has a contract with Connellan Airways Ltd. for emergency work. Aerial ambulances made 208 trips flying 107,812 miles to evacuate 294 patients.

Particular attention has been paid to diet and preparation of food by the Welfare Branch during the year. The Senior Dietician of the Department of Health has been at the Branch's disposal and has surveyed the requirements at various settlements in the Alice Springs area. There has been a decided improvement in nutritional standards at all centres throughout the Territory and the marked cases of malnutrition once seen are now a rarity.

No cases were reported of common infectious diseases. The aboriginal population is in many cases 100 per cent. protected and as a whole is better protected from whooping cough and diphtheria than most European communities.

Sixteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Extensive protection has been given by B.C.G. vaccination, but tuberculosis will remain a threat until aborigines can be trained to become hygiene conscious and the standard of housing is raised. This has already been done in some settlements. The actual incidence of tuberculosis is small compared with native peoples elsewhere in tropical parts of the world.

Hookworm infection is still common among aborigines north of the 19th parallel. Extensive treatment during the dry season has been carried out on northern missions. Each mission has been issued with a microscope to aid diagnosis, and aboriginal assistants are being trained to aid the mission nursing sisters. Particular attention has been given in the central portion of the Territory to treating the few cases detected. Further surveys in this area have lessened the fear that the disease is spreading southwards. It is evident that almost all infected aborigines in this area were infected further north.

A start has been made in a concerted effort to combat trachoma. It is extremely prevalent in the southern half of the Territory and it is also present in the north in a less severe form. Approval has been obtained for the appointment of an eye specialist to aid in the campaign. In the meantime, a campaign has been commenced along lines suggested by Professor Ida Mann for mass treatment. The effects of this treatment should be evident in the next twelve months.

Following a long and heavy wet season in 1954-55 and unusually humid weather in the dry season of 1955, transmission of malaria reached a peak not experienced since the serious outbreaks of the early 1930's. Fortunately, however, all cases were of the mild vivax type and were confined to remote areas. The Roper River area was as usual the main centre and 68 cases occurred, mainly among aborigines. Anti-mosquito measures were instituted and mass treatment given which was repeated at the end of the dry season. A normal wet season was experienced in 1955-56 with a consequent drop in the number of cases of malaria in the dry season. At 30th June, 1956, only five cases had occurred at Roper River Mission.

With the completion of the new leprosarium at East Arm, the Channel Island institution has been closed. The number of patients at the leprosarium decreased by five during the year. Very few cases are now being found on missions and settlements but, as a result of the information available from surveys at more isolated districts, it is anticipated that a small increase will occur during the coming year. The general position with regard to this disease is satisfactory and control measures have decreased the number of cases being found.

Employment.

During the year ended 30th June, 1956, the employment of aborigines continued to be governed by the Aborigines Regulations and the Aborigines (Pastoral Industry) Regulations made under the *Aborigines Ordinance 1918-1953*.

At 30th June, 1956, five aborigines were receiving full award wages and thirty-two aborigines were self-employed.

A total of 3,761 aborigines (2,826 males and 935 females) were employed at 30th June, 1956. This number, which does not include aborigines employed on mission stations, represents an overall increase of 272 over the total number in employment at 30th June, 1955. It also represents approximately 59 per cent. of the adult aboriginal population of the Northern Territory, excluding those living on mission stations.

Against a decline of 163 (56 males and 107 females) in the pastoral industry, there was a marked increase in all other industries, particularly in urban areas (79) and in employment on government settlements (172). The numbers employed in the timber industry (previously included under "miscellaneous" because of the small numbers involved) rose to a total of 73. The other industries showing increases were buffalo shooting (29), agricultural (28), mining (26) and marine (29).

Despite a continuing slump in the buffalo hide market and particularly low prices, there was a revival of the buffalo shooting industry, which has always looked to the aboriginal population for shooters, skimmers, salters, etc. Those engaged in the industry during the year included two part-aborigines in the north-eastern corner of the Arnhem Land Reserve under the supervision of the Welfare Branch. The complete failure of the buffalo hide market will almost certainly bring an end to operations in this industry for a number of years, but it is expected that those aborigines employed in the industry will be readily absorbed into other industries.

During the year under review several new timber mills were established and other mills, including the mill at the Snake Bay Settlement, were re-opened. Mills located at Mataranka, east of Pine Creek, on the Coburg Peninsula, on the Finnis River and at Snake Bay, provide employment for aborigines as cutters, trimmers, mill-hands and truck drivers.

Some aborigines were signed on as crew members of pearling luggers and others found employment as crocodile shooters.

Increased activity on government settlements, particularly in building, agricultural and live-stock projects created many new avenues of employment and, as stated above, absorbed an additional 172 aboriginal workers.

As in previous years, aboriginal stockmen were in popular demand for droving operations, and some were engaged during the year on wages of from £7 to £10 per week plus keep.

Two conferences were held during the year, between the Director of Welfare, his senior officers, the Northern Territory Master Pearlmen and the Secretary of the Northern Australian Workers Union in the first instance; and the Commanding Officers of the Armed Services in the Northern Territory in the second instance. In the first case, the conference dealt with—

- (a) the employment of part-aborigines under the age of 21 years in the pearling industry in a training capacity and at wages below the adult basic wage;
- (b) the training of wards for absorption into the pearling industry.

The conference with the Armed Services discussed matters relating to recruitment of aboriginal labour, wage rates and training of aborigines as wards-in-training.

During the year consideration was given to ways and means of training aborigines in shallow water diving (up to twelve fathoms) and a pearl-shell recognition. Following negotiations with the Royal Australian Navy and other interested bodies, including Mr. E. Eldred, the Managing Director of Breathing Appliances Company Limited, of Melbourne, a pilot school was conducted at the Elcho Inland Mission Station in May, 1956. The objects of this school were, first, to establish whether aborigines could be trained to operate modern free-swimming diving equipment safely; secondly, to determine whether their keenness and enthusiasm would be sustained under consistent work pressure; thirdly, to find out whether Elcho Island is a suitable area for a diving school, and finally, to study local conditions. At the conclusion of the school, Mr. Eldred reported that aborigines were easily trained and learned very quickly to operate in depths of up to 70 feet. He also reported that those who took part in the school were most enthusiastic throughout, and that Elcho Island would be a suitable place to establish a school for training divers. A full school is being planned for October, 1956, and this is intended to be a forerunner to a number of schools in future years. The equipment used at the pilot school is being modified in the light of the experience gained, and it is expected that new equipment designed to suit local conditions will be ready for the October school.

Missions.

There are seven mission authorities working among the aboriginal people of the Northern Territory.

For part-aboriginal children, there are four institutions in the Territory: St. Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs (Australian Board of Missions); Retta Dixon Home, Darwin (Aborigines Inland Mission); Croker Island (Methodist Overseas Mission); and Garden Point, Melville Island (Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Mission). There are 334 children and 40 adults in these institutions. In addition, the Australian Board of Missions cares for 21 part-aboriginal children at St. Francis House, Semaphore, South Australia.

There are fourteen mission stations for full-blood aborigines. Of these, the Church Missionary Society, the Methodist Overseas Mission and various Roman Catholic Missions each conduct four; one is conducted by the Finke River Mission (Lutheran); and one is an undenominational station conducted by Mr. F. H. Gray. Over 4,600 aborigines are in regular contact with these missions. In addition, there are resident missionaries at three

government settlements, Areyonga and Haasts Bluff (Finke River Mission) and Yuendumu (Home Missions Board of the Baptist Union of Australia).

Owing to the serious shortage of patrol staff in the Welfare Branch, it was not possible during the year under review to make thorough inspections of missions. Visits made were for the purposes of urgent enquiry or other special reasons and invariably were of such short duration as to preclude any realistic appreciation of the missions' progress. While the primary interests of missions are spiritual, they have accepted responsibility as agents of the Commonwealth Government in regard to education, health and economic programmes, and the financial relationship of missions and the Government has been placed on a basis of payment for specialized services. Subject to certain general conditions, the Government under this relationship has agreed to pay to the mission an amount of £750 each year in respect of each teacher, nurse, agriculturalist and pastoral instructor whom that mission employs. For each aged and infirm person maintained by a mission, the Government pays the mission £1 6s. 11d. per week which is the same amount as that paid to pastoralists for the same service. For each eligible child, the Government pays to the mission child endowment plus an additional 4s. 4d. per week. In addition, the Government gives financial assistance for mission building projects, including the erection of schools, hospitals, residences, stores, &c., and some financial assistance for approved economic projects.

As a result of this financial arrangement, which operated for the first time during 1954-55, greater attention is being paid by the missions to the material aims of the native welfare policy, and food production from agricultural and pastoral pursuits is increasing. Missions, however, are still experiencing difficulty in recruiting the number of trained personnel required to attract the maximum amount of subsidy available under this system, particularly in regard to teachers and nursing sisters. While most missionary societies are endeavouring to overcome the shortage of trained staff, education and health services on some missions are still not satisfactory.

The cost of government assistance to missions has increased sharply since 1952-53, reflecting the response of the missions to the incentive to improve education, health and economic services. In 1952-53, the financial assistance was £125,898; in 1953-54 it was £143,426; in 1954-55 it rose to £166,244; and in 1955-56 it totalled 162,080.

The following is a brief account of the work of the various mission stations:—

Daly River.—In May, 1955, the erection of the new Roman Catholic mission on the Daly River was commenced. All labour was provided by the mission authorities and materials purchased from funds made available by the Government. At 30th June, 1956, a little over twelve months after the missionaries moved into the virtually untouched bush, the mission was almost complete with all facilities adequately catered for.

The buildings completed or near completion are a kitchen-dining room unit; an infirmary; a school; a boys' dormitory; a girls' dormitory; a convent; a presbytery; a recreation centre; and a garage and workshop. The buildings have been erected on sound lines and extend along the northern bank of the Daly River at a point approximately three miles downstream from the police station.

This mission will be unique in that it is not proposed to congregate adult aborigines on the mission, but to draw into the mission the children of the area whose parents are gainfully employed on the farms in the district. The mission will also provide a much needed health centre for the Daly River district.

Port Keats.—Founded in 1934 by missionaries of the Sacred Heart Order on the coast, between the estuaries of the Victoria and Daly Rivers in Nanagu and Muramba

country, this mission has a population of 382. It has possibilities for subsistence agriculture, cattle raising and fishing.

A large garden irrigated by natural springs supplies all the fruit and vegetable requirements. Approximately 1,000 head of cattle are grazed on the reserve, creating employment for a number of aborigines in stock camps.

Isolated stands of cypress pine enable a small timber project to provide a variety in occupations. All timber milled is used for local consumption, with an occasional small quantity being sent to Darwin or Bathurst Island.

Bathurst Island.—With approximately 757 Tiwi people, this is the largest mission station in the Territory. It was founded by Father (later Bishop) Gsell of the Sacred Heart Order in 1911 on the sheltered south coast of Bathurst Island near Apsley Strait. The people engage in agriculture and fishing.

Santa Teresa.—This mission of the Sacred Heart Order was moved from Arltunga during 1954-55 to its present location on the Phillipson block, south-east of Alice Springs, where it holds a lease of 480 square miles of good pastoral country. There are approximately 100 aborigines, mainly of the Aranda group, on this mission. Work has continued on the erection of a school, infirmary, and dormitory for boys, and also on additional cottages, using local stone and mortar construction.

Oenpelli.—The Church Missionary Society of the Church of England operates this station of 200 square miles on the East Alligator River about 40 miles from the sea. It has good pastoral and farming possibilities. Its 250 people are mainly Gunwinugu.

Work continued during the period on the erection of a new residence for the superintendent and on the erection of further houses. A late wet season made transport operations difficult and an airdrop of flour to the mission was necessary. Although there is a dry season track into Oenpelli from Pine Creek through Goodparla, access to this mission during the wet season is most difficult as parts of the airstrip can be under water for considerable periods.

The cattle project on the mission shows satisfactory progress.

Groote Eylandt Mission.—Operated by the Church Missionary Society, this mission covers an area of 200 square miles. Its 363 people are mainly of the Andiljaugwa tribe. It has good water and possibilities for pastoral activity. A considerable amount of subsistence gardening is carried on. The sawmill has continued to operate and there has been some extension of re-forestation work over the mission lease. Under the capable leadership of the superintendent, this mission continues to develop along sound lines.

The agricultural projects have been expanded and development of a pastoral project is proceeding. Construction commenced on a new school consisting of two two-roomed buildings using, in the main, cypress pine milled at the mission.

A well-conceived plan of aboriginal housing is taking shape and the camp area is one of the best laid out and most pleasant in the Northern Territory.

Roper River.—This station, operated by the Church Missionary Society, is located a few miles up the Roper River in the extreme south-east corner of the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Reserve, and comprises 230 square miles. In addition to fishing and gardening activities there are possibilities for development of pastoral projects. Its 253 people are of the Mara and other tribes.

Rose River.—This Church Missionary Society station lies on the east coast of Arnhem Land, almost opposite Groote Eylandt Mission, between Caledon Bay and the Roper estuary. While only recently established, this station, under capable supervision, has shown promising development. An all-weather airstrip has been constructed, houses

for the settlement superintendent and nursing sister built, using local timbers milled on the site, and a start has been made on the erection of a school and small hospital unit. The people are Nungubuju and number approximately 150. The area has considerable potential for fishing, pearling and timber.

Goulburn Island.—At this Methodist Overseas Mission station the aboriginal population of 166 is Maung in tribal affinity. Fishing and subsistence agriculture are the main activities, although working in hard native woods and production of artifacts are also important activities.

Milingimbi.—This is another Methodist Overseas Mission station accommodating 613 people of the Gubabuingu tribal affinity. It is situated on a small island of the same name about midway along the north coast of Arnhem Land, between the Blyth and Goyder Rivers. A feature of the development at Milingimbi, during the period, is the adaptation of the adobe brick method of construction for aboriginal and other housing. About fifteen aboriginal houses have been completed using this type of construction, and a start has been made on the erection of a residence for a superintendent. A dairy herd is maintained on the mission, supplying the total milk needs. Subsistence agriculture and fishing are also important activities.

Elcho Island.—Off the Arnhem Land coast, about 50 miles east of Milingimbi, this Methodist Overseas Mission station has 659 people of a variety of tribes for whom Gubaruingu is being made the *lingua franca*. The timber mill has operated continuously during the period and a high output was maintained. A new residence for a number of the staff was commenced under the direction of an aborigine, the timber used being locally produced cypress. A large garden area is under cultivation and supplies most of the requirements of fruit and vegetables. Fishing, and basket and mat making are encouraged.

Boat building is an important part of the work on this mission and a large, well-equipped workshop is available for training in boat building and other forms of joinery work. This was the site selected for the diving school, details of which are given in the section relating to employment, and offers some possibilities of shallow water diving for pearl-shell.

Yirrkala.—This Methodist Overseas Mission station, occupying the north-east corner of Arnhem Land between Melville Bay and Port Bradshaw, has 464 people. Fishing and subsistence agriculture are two of the important activities at this station. There has been some success in the rearing of live-stock, mainly pigs.

During the period a second mission residence was erected and work commenced on a new school building.

Hermannsburg.—This mission lease of 1,524 square miles lies roughly west of Alice Springs on the road to Areyonga. It is the oldest mission station in the Territory, having been established on 4th June, 1877. Apart from cattle raising there are some gardening activities. Hides are processed for boot-making and other leather work. The population of 318 is Aranda.

During the year construction of the new hospital continued. The building includes an infant welfare section with cooking and feeding facilities for the small children, and is being constructed of cement bricks manufactured on the mission.

New nursing quarters are also under construction. When these facilities are completed the health needs of the Hermannsburg people should be adequately covered.

Umbakumba.—This is a non-denominational settlement in the charge of Mr. F. H. Gray. It lies on the north coast of Groote Eylandt opposite the old flying boat base. It has 174 Andiljaugwa people who are engaged in fishing, hunting and gardening, and are noted for their craftwork in shell.

APPENDIX XXVIII.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINES.

1. ESTIMATED DISTRIBUTION OF ABORIGINAL POPULATION AT 30TH JUNE, 1955 AND 1956.

	Estimated at 30th June, 1955.	Census Figures at 30th June, 1956.
In contact with government settlements and depots	2,920	3,190
In contact with missions	4,383	4,654
In pastoral, mining and agricultural areas	5,137	5,867
In towns and environs	895	950
Nomadic, not in contact with missions or settlements	550	550
	13,885	15,211
Estimated number not included in 1956 census .. .. .	..	760
Total	13,885*	15,971

* Revised as a result of further information received after publication of 1953-55 Report.

2. NUMBER OF WARDS EMPLOYED, BY INDUSTRY AT 30TH JUNE, 1955 AND 1956.

Industry.	30th June, 1955.			30th June, 1956.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pastoral	1,741	697	2,438	1,685	590	2,275
Buffalo shooting	41	..	41	50	20	70
Mining	83	..	83	93	16	109
Agriculture	127	11	138	124	42	166
Marine	21	..	21	50	..	50
Timber .. .. .	..	..	(a)	73	..	73
Government settlements	262	114	376	390	158	548
Towns and Environs (Services, Government Departments, Domestic and General)	221	112	333	304	108	412
Police trackers, &c. .. .. .	..	..	(a)	26	..	26
Self employed (includes artists and contractors) .. .. .	..	..	(a)	31	1	32
Miscellaneous	59	..	59	..	..	..
Total	2,555	934	3,489	2,826	935	3,761

(a) Included under "Miscellaneous".

3. ABORIGINAL RESERVES AT 30TH JUNE, 1956.

Reserve.	Population.			Area.	Welfare Centres on Reserves.	
	Aborigines.				Mission Station.	Government Settlement.
	Males.	Females.	Total.			
Arnhem Land ..	1,690	1,821	3,511	37,495 sq. miles	See footnote (a) ..	
Daly River ..	186	196	382	5,450 sq. miles	Port Keats Mission ..	
Bathurst Island ..	357	400	757	786 sq. miles	Bathurst Island Mission	
Melville Island ..	78	85	163	2,100 sq. miles		Snake Bay Native Settlement
Hooker Creek ..	51	78	129	845 sq. miles		Hooker Creek Native Settlement
Beswick ..	208	136	344	1,315 sq. miles		Beswick Station Beswick Creek Native Settlement
Darwin (Bagot)	159	144	273	727 acres ..		Bagot Native Settlement
Haasts Bluff ..	400	377	777	7,636 sq. miles		Areyonga Native Settlement Haasts Bluff Native Settlement
Yuendumu ..	241	303	544	850 sq. miles		Yuendumu Native Settlement
Jay Creek ..	80	67	147	116 sq. miles		Jay Creek Native Settlement
Alice Springs (Bungalow)	135	115	250	1,079 acres ..		Bungalow Native Settlement
Warrabri ..	156	170	326	337 sq. miles		Warrabri Native Settlement
Larrakeyah ..	..	..	..	14 sq. miles		
Woolwonga ..	..	..	..	162 sq. miles		
Wagait ..	..	..	..	388 sq. miles		
Warramunga ..	..	..	..	270 sq. miles		
South-West ..	..	..	..	12,108 sq. miles		
Total ..	3,741	3,862	7,603			

(a) Mission Stations in Arnhem Land Reserve:—
Church Missionary Society—Groote Eylandt Mission, Roper River Mission, Rose River Mission, Oenpelli Mission.
F. H. Gray (Non-Denominational)—Umbakumba Settlement.
Methodist Overseas Mission—Goulburn Island Mission, Milingimbi Mission, Elcho Island Mission, Yirrkala Mission.

APPENDIX XXVIII.—*continued.*WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—*continued.*

4. POPULATION OF GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS AT 30TH JUNE, 1955 AND 1956.

Settlement.	30th June, 1955.			30th June, 1956.						Total.
	Adult.	Children.	Total.	Adults.			Children.			
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Areyonga	158	116	274	103	92	195	53	52	105	300
Bagot	212	39	251	123	77	200	36	37	73	273
Beswick Creek Settlement	218	87	305	109	71	180	61	38	99	279
Beswick Station	52	16	68	30	20	50	8	7	15	65
Borrooloola (a)	45	22	67	27	23	50	14	11	25	75
Bungalow	145	108	253	80	65	145	55	50	105	250
Delissaville	71	51	122	29	37	66	29	15	44	110
Haasts Bluff	254	161	415	116	137	253	128	96	224	477
Hooker Creek	101	39	140	34	50	84	17	28	45	129
Jay Creek	122	50	172	68	50	118	12	17	29	147
Snake Bay	147	36	183	60	69	129	18	16	34	163
Warrabri	138	87	225	91	105	196	65	65	130	326
Yuendumu	259	201	460	121	191	312	120	112	232	544
Total	1,922	1,013	2,935	991	987	1,978	616	544	1,160	3,138

(a) At present merely a ration and control depot.

5. POPULATION OF MISSION STATIONS.

Mission Station.	1954-55.			Total.	1955-56.						Total.	
	Resident and Regular Visitors.		Infrequent Visitors.		Adults.			Children.				
	Adults.	Children.			Adults and Children.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.		Total.
Church Missionary Society (Church of England)—												
Oenpelli ..	105	70	80	255	71	84	155	51	45	96	251	
Rose River ..	65	64	..	129	36	44	80	35	34	69	149	
Roper River ..	122	123	20	265	62	69	131	76	46	122	253	
Groote Eylandt	160	147	..	307	90	81	171	87	105	192	363	
Lutheran Mission — Hermannsburg ..	186	216	48	450	86	75	161	82	75	157	318	
Methodist Overseas Mission—												
Goulburn Island ..	147	67	30	244	54	51	105	34	27	61	166	
Milingimbi ..	260	185	50	495	156	194	350	131	132	263	613	
Elcho Island(a)	156	174	40	370	169	205	374	141	144	285	659	
Yirrkala ..	173	162	25	360	103	142	245	102	117	219	464	
Roman Catholic Mission—												
Bathurst Island	487	251	..	738	228	243	471	129	157	286	757	
Port Keats ..	218	142	..	360	113	114	227	73	82	155	382	
Santa Teresa ..	114	60	31	205	28	26	54	25	26	51	105	
F. H. Gray (Non-Denominational)—												
Umbakumba Settlement ..	90	105	10	205	47	37	84	37	53	90	174	
Total ..	2,283	1,766	334	4,383	1,243	1,365	2,608	1,003	1,043	2,046	4,654	

(a) Increase in population in 1955-56 was occasioned by the inclusion of all those people on the adjacent mainland. Formerly the figure quoted was the number actually resident on the mission.

APPENDIX XXVIII.—*continued.*WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—*continued.*

6. PART ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN CARE OF MISSIONS (EXCLUDING CHILDREN ON MISSION STATIONS).

Mission.	Number of Children.			
	30th June, 1955.	30th June, 1956.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
Australian Board of Missions (Church of England)—				
St. Francis House, South Australia	23	21	..	21
St. Mary's Hostel, Alice Springs	65	23	42	65
Aborigines Inland Mission—Retta Dixon Home	98	43	44	(a) 87
Methodist Overseas Mission—Croker Island	89	37	40	77
Roman Catholic Mission—Garden Point	93	50	55	(b) 105
Total	368	174	181	355

(a) There are also 5 adults at this institution.

(b) There are also 35 adults at this institution.

7. TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN AT 30TH JUNE, 1955 AND 1956.

	30th June, 1955.	30th June, 1956.
(a) Government Schools—		
(i) On Settlements—Head Teacher	5	5
Teacher-in-charge	4	4
Assistant Teacher (Male)	2	2
Assistant Teacher (Female)	6	9
Teacher—Vocational Subjects	1	..
Relieving Teacher	1	1
(ii) At Industrial Centres—Teacher-in-charge	1	1
(iii) On Pastoral Properties—Teacher-in-charge	1	2
Total	21	24
(b) Subsidized Schools—		
(i) On Pastoral Properties—Teacher	2	2
(ii) On Missions—Teacher	21	26
Total	23	28

APPENDIX XXVIII.—*continued.*WELFARE OF ABORIGINES—*continued.*

8. ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS FOR ABORIGINES DURING 1955-56.

School.	Enrolment (Active Enrolment at 30th June, 1956).			Average Monthly Attendance, 1955-56.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Government Schools—						
(i) Settlements—						
Areyonga	40	38	78	34.8	35.6	70.4
Bagot	31	21	52	25.8	17.9	43.7
Beswick	30	18	48	25.6	17.9	43.5
Bungalow	44	52	96	38.3	43.0	81.3
Delissaville	9	11	20	11.3	11.1	22.4
Jay Creek (a)	15	23	38	14.6	23.0	37.6
Snake Bay	14	14	28	13.3	12.5	25.8
Warrabri	31	26	57	30.7	25.5	56.2
Yuendumu	56	52	108	29.7	26.8	56.5
(ii) Industrial Centres—						
Hatches Creek	5	2	7	3.8	1.7	5.5
(iii) Pastoral Properties—						
Elkedra	8	9	17	8.0	9.0	17.0
Murray Downs	13	19	32	12.0	17.7	29.7
	296	285	581	247.9	241.7	489.6
Subsidized Schools on Pastoral Properties—						
Mt. Riddock	7	6	13	6.3	6.0	12.3
Narwietooma	5	3	8	4.0	2.0	6.0
	12	9	21	10.3	8.0	18.3
Mission Schools—						
Bathurst Island	65	74	139	63.7	73.6	137.3
Elcho Island	39	35	74	31.2	33.5	64.7
Finke River (Hermannsburg)	65	68	133	62.3	67.3	129.6
Goulburn Island	23	14	37	16.6	12.6	29.2
Groote Eylandt	55	63	118	54.0	62.3	116.3
Milingimbi	65	38	103	57.6	35.6	93.2
Oenpelli	26	23	49	25.9	22.2	48.1
Port Keats	35	51	86	35.0	51.0	86.0
Roper River	31	27	58	31.0	27.0	58.0
Rose River	25	16	41	23.0	15.0	38.0
Santa Teresa (a)	37	35	72	34.4	33.6	68.0
Umbakumba	17	26	43	17.0	26.0	43.0
Yirrkala	44	36	80	40.0	33.0	73.0
	527	506	1,033	491.7	492.7	984.4
Total	835	800	1,635	749.9	742.4	1,492.3

(a) Includes children whose parents reside on neighbouring pastoral properties or other settlements. In compiling the population distribution figures in Tables 4 and 5 these children were included in the family group on the property or other settlement.