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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

### THE YEAR 1909.

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WILLIAM STREET.

1910.

C. A. 59—1910.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1909.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aborigines,  
Brisbane, 15th June, 1910.

SIR,—I do myself the honour to submit herewith my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1909.

On the 29th of June last I left Brisbane on my annual tour of inspection to the Northern portions of the State, and arrived at Townsville on the 2nd of July, at which place I interviewed the local Protector, Inspector Galbraith, and found matters in connection with my Department very satisfactory.

I proceeded to Charters Towers, and learnt from Protector Graham that the bank accounts number 61, with a credit of £317 3s. 3d., some of the individual accounts reaching £16 and a few £14. The employers of natives in this district now recognise the advantage of having the boys under agreement, and a portion of their wages is regularly paid through the Protector. When at Charters Towers I took the opportunity of visiting a camp at Sandy Creek, near Millchester, and another on the Dalrymple road. In both of these camps there are a few strong healthy boys, but all the efforts on the part of the Protector to induce them to take permanent employment have so far proved futile. Very little liquor is in evidence in the district, but fines to the amount of £120 have been imposed for opium traffic, Chinese being the delinquents in every case. In the camps there are a few old gins, but no young women. Two old men are receiving relief, one of whom is paralysed, and the other acts as his attendant. A few days before my arrival at the Towers one old native woman died, the cause of death being given as senile decay.

After leaving Charters Towers, I again visited Townsville, and went out to native camps at Mount Marlow and the Bohle and Black Rivers. There are only a few old people in these camps; they obtain a little casual work, and eke out a living for themselves.

My next place to visit was Palm Island, some 30 miles north of Townsville. On my arrival I found four fishing luggers anchored in Challenger Bay, with a total of 28 boys as crew. All the boats were in charge of Japanese, who told me that a short time previously 13 boys had deserted, most of whom came from Lloyd Bay district, so that during March and April last these boats alone must have recruited at least 40 natives. The papers held by the men in charge of the several boats were in order, and the boys expressed themselves as satisfied. On shore I found the camp consisted of 8 boys, 5 women, and 3 small children. Since my last visit one very old man and a baby had died. I distributed tobacco and two blankets. It would, I think, be desirable to supply these people with a few cocoanuts to plant; they already have some paw-paws bearing well.

On the 10th July I reached Ingham, and visited two camps in close proximity to the town. From the local Protector I gathered the pleasing news that neither the liquor nor opium evil was in evidence.

In the district immediately surrounding Ingham there are some 300 natives, the sexes being nearly equal, and about 15 half-caste children.

Many of the men are employed on the pastoral holdings, and give every satisfaction. The banking accounts number 40, with a credit of £114 3s. Many of the old women cannot obtain employment, and the Protector suggests that they be provided with some cheap clothing.

The health of the people is excellent, there being little or no disease of any kind.

At Cardwell, Acting Sergeant Power informed me that there are 9 boys under agreement, but no girls. About 350 to 400 aborigines frequent the district, the males preponderating, with very few half-castes. A small quantity of opium reached this district last year, and seven convictions were obtained against Chinese, who were the sole offenders.

The natives are healthy and very amenable to control. After visiting Dunk Island, and having a few hours' pleasant and interesting chat with Mr. E. J. Banfield—who has settled on the island, and has surrounded himself with many interesting specimens of the indigenous flora of the tropics, and who is practically following out the idea of a "simple life," but at the same time adding some valuable additions to our knowledge of the flora and fauna of Queensland—I arrived at Geraldton, and found there were 125 natives (120 of which were women) under agreement. The banking accounts numbered 86, with a credit of £125.

There can be no doubt that a considerable quantity of opium finds its way into this district, and in my opinion the Chinese alone are responsible for this state of affairs. Numbers of Chinese are engaged in the banana industry, principally on Maria and Liverpool Creeks. The natives are freely used by these people to assist in their farming operations, and the payment the aborigines receive is a handful of rice, and, of course, opium. Moreover, the Chinese use the native women for immoral purposes, and altogether a most undesirable state of affairs exists. The police are most active in their endeavours to mitigate or suppress the evil; but the country is of such a nature that it is very difficult, if not impossible,

to procure sufficient evidence to ensure conviction. I estimate there must be at least 500 aborigines in the Geraldton district, and it is imperative some steps be taken to form a reserve, and appoint an officer whose sole duty it would be to control the natives—rigorously prosecuting those who illegally employed or interfered with them. I feel sure such a procedure would at once put a stop to the present discreditable state of affairs. Abundance of work could be found for these people on the cane farms, were they allowed to work at a reasonable rate of wages. A very suitable area of land for a reserve could be found on Banyan Creek, a tributary of the Tully River; and, as the land is of a most fertile description, it would not be necessary to have a large holding. Such a reserve would be central for Cedar Creek, Davidson, Herberton, Upper Murray, Tully River, Clump Point, Maria, and Liverpool Creeks, and perhaps Atherton.

The natives on Cedar Creek and the Davidson are almost in their primitive state, having had little intercourse with whites; they are a fine stamp of people, strong, healthy, intelligent, and active, and of a quiet, docile, and obedient nature. At present the position is that the Chinese are gradually killing off the natives with opium and disease.

My next place of call was Cairns, and here I found aboriginal matters running smoothly; there are 81 bank accounts, with a credit of £124. In this district the aborigines are desirous of being employed under agreement, as they find it is to their benefit to do so. The local Protector estimates the native population under his control at about 500, with few half-castes. Very little opium now finds its way to Cairns, and no complaints have been made with regard to the natives obtaining liquor.

Proceeding by train and taking advantage of an hour's stop at Kuranda, I visited a camp of natives, and learnt that there are about 60 of these people permanently living about the place; a few are under agreement, but most of them obtain casual employment and appear healthy and contented.

At Atherton, which place I reached on the 20th July, I found the aboriginal population was about 300. In this district there are numbers of Chinese engaged in growing maize, and, as a consequence, the natives frequent the Chinese quarters and are supplied with opium. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the police, it is difficult to obtain sufficient evidence to prosecute with any hope of success, although quite recently several convictions have been obtained. At the time of my visit only 35 natives were employed under agreement, but for several months of the year more than double this number find work chipping and brushing. There are no half-castes in the camps. One full-blooded aboriginal is engaged driving a traction engine, and is paid 10s. per day. Another—also a full-blooded native—is regularly employed timber-falling for a sawmill, and is in receipt of 6s. per day. This man is an expert horse-team driver, besides being a good axeman. The wages of the boys are regularly paid. The bank accounts of the natives aggregate about £80. Seven aboriginal women are married to South Sea men and Malays. These women look the picture of health; their children are exceptionally clean, well-dressed, and well-behaved; those who are old enough regularly attend the State school.

Continuing my journey by coach, I visited Herberton. In this district some 600 natives are located, including about 30 half-castes, 70 of whom are under agreement, with a bank credit of £330. The natives are not addicted to the opium or drink habit, and are a very easily managed people. The country surrounding Herberton still contains large quantities of game, and, so far, the natives have not wanted for food; but the advent of the railway and closer settlement will, I fear, soon have a diminishing effect on their food supply.

Returning to Cairns by rail, I pursued my journey per "Melbidir" to Port Douglas, at which place I arrived on the 23rd July. Here I found about 150 natives, most of whom are in good health. Several aborigines are employed under agreement, and there are 37 bank accounts, with a total credit £215 1s. 11d. The natives at Port Douglas are very quiet and inoffensive.

At Cooktown the next day I interviewed Protector Bodman, who informed me there were not less than 300 natives in and around Cooktown; there is very little opium and scarcely any drink supplied to the aborigines. The Protector also says the natives are very orderly and well-behaved. The bank accounts number 73, with a credit balance of £314 4s. 5d. The health of the people is good. On visiting some of the camps I found there were several old people, but the younger ones supplied them with food and generally attended to their wants. It is, however, to be deplored that these natives should follow such an aimless and indolent life. There can be no doubt that it would be to their own interest and that of the community if they could be induced to remain at one spot, and have their children taught sufficient to ensure their being able to earn a living.

Leaving Cooktown on the 28th July, I reached Cape Bedford the same day, and was informed by Mr. Schwarz, the Superintendent of the Mission, that a somewhat severe epidemic of influenza or dengue had visited the place; the people are now convalescent, and no fatalities occurred. Since my last visit considerable progress has been made in the way of cultivation; about 1,000 coconuts are growing luxuriantly, and an additional 2,000 young palms are now ready to be planted. Some 16 acres of sisal hemp is growing remarkably well, and it is evident this industry will in the near future be a profitable one for the Mission. A further quantity of 1,500 plants are being gradually planted out. On the recently acquired land at the McIvor River, work is being steadily pursued; 2 acres have already been cleared and planted with coconuts and earthnuts. A splendid sample of the latter was shown to me; and, as a considerable demand at a good price exists for this product, the cultivation of earthnuts should also prove remunerative. The agricultural work is carried out in a most practical and praiseworthy manner, and much credit is due to those who superintend the industry and apply such practical methods.

At the school, which is under the charge of Mrs. Schwarz, I found 17 boys and 10 girls in attendance. These children presented a most cleanly and contented appearance. Their teacher told me that they were attentive and obedient, and their copy-books and other lessons bore this statement out. The girls are somewhat in advance of the boys as regards their lessons, but this is accounted for by the fact of the girls being more associated with house work, and thus acquire a better knowledge of English. From personal observation I am satisfied these little ones place their full confidence in their teacher, and altogether are a bright, happy, and contented lot of children. The permanent residents at Cape Bedford number 120 souls, the sexes being about equal; they are good workers, taking a lively interest in everything pertaining to the good of the Mission and, as a consequence, their own welfare.

After leaving Cape Bedford, I visited Barron Point and Flinders Group. At the latter place it was reported that one of the natives was suffering from some disease which was thought to be leprosy; but, after careful inquiry and search of the old camps, it was evident no natives had frequented the islands for some time, and we failed to discover any aboriginals.

Setting a course for Thursday Island, Somerset was reached on the 3rd August, where I obtained horses from Mr. Jardine and visited Lockerbie. Here I interviewed several natives, who expressed themselves as quite satisfied with their present conditions. Returning to Somerset, I again boarded the "Melbidir," and called in at Nagheer Island on my way to Thursday Island. At Nagheer I found great progress had been made since my last visit—twelve months since. No less than 23,000 cocoanut-trees have now been planted at Nagheer, 1,600 of which are bearing, and already some 2 or 3 tons of copra have been cured and sent away. The copra was sold for £18 10s. per ton, and was pronounced to be of first-class quality. At the time of my visit another ton of copra was ready for shipment; and Mr. Mills, who is in charge of the place, told me he could produce at least half a ton per week with the labour of 4 aboriginal women. As I have already pointed out, the copra industry, if persevered in, means the solution of the aboriginal problem; but, of course, it will be necessary for the first six or seven years to have Government assistance and supervision. Sisal hemp, cotton, rubber, and coconuts go well together, and it is self-evident success is assured. There is no reasonable limit to the demand for any of the products mentioned, the principal question in their production being labour. Numbers of natives are ready to our hand, and, moreover, the work is eminently suited to aboriginal labour, as it requires little physical exertion, and altogether is in accord with the ideas of the natives. The islands in Torres Strait are at present a continual source of expense to the Government, and an increasing one; whereas had coconuts alone been systematically planted some years since these islands would now be quite independent of outside assistance either from the Government or others, and would be in a position to support fourfold their present population.

From Thursday Island I went to Mapoon, a report of which is already in your hands. There are 74 children—28 boys and 46 girls—on the school roll at Mapoon; and the teacher, Mrs. Ward, reports well of the general behaviour of the school. Good progress has been made during the year, and the children seem happy and contented. I regret I had no opportunity of examining the work of the children, my time being wholly occupied in attending the inquiry. I understand, however, the most advanced pupils have reached the third form. In arithmetic the higher classes are doing bills of parcels, and they are very well up in geography and history. About 250 natives were in the Mission Station at the time of my visit, some 100 of whom are permanent residents. The cultivation has progressed well, and the Superintendent informed me that the crops have been fairly satisfactory; the same may be said of the general health of the people.

Returning to Thursday Island on the 16th August, I was engaged for two or three days attending to Departmental matters. Whilst at Thursday Island a few complaints were made concerning the employment of natives by sandalwood-getters on the mainland, and I took the necessary steps to have these matters inquired into and reported upon. In company with the local Protector, I visited some of the native camps in close proximity to Thursday Island, and arranged many little matters which were held over for my personal attention.

Coming down the coast, I reached Cooktown on the 26th August and left on an inland trip the next day, visiting many of the camps, distributing flour and tobacco and otherwise attending to Departmental matters, ultimately returning to Cooktown on the 1st September, and leaving there on the 3rd of the same month, reaching Brisbane on the 9th.

On the whole I found the condition of the aborigines fairly good; but in one or two districts, such as Geraldton, where numbers of Chinese are congregated, it will be necessary to adopt some means by which these people will be debarred from any intercourse whatever with the natives. As matters are at present, the Chinese supply opium to and interfere with the "aboriginal women," the result being disease and speedy death. It is my intention, however, to make a separate communication to you on this subject, and to suggest some means by which the evils complained of may be put an end to.

Like all other barbarous people, the aborigines of Queensland in their primitive state are remarkably indolent, and seldom exert themselves in any way, unless forced to do so from pressure of hunger; and, as they uniformly feast till all is gone when they have an abundant supply of food, they are not infrequently put to their wits' end, especially in the interior, where, at times, food is comparatively difficult to procure. The native stomach, however, is by no means fastidious. Fish of all kinds, including the turtle and various kinds of shell fish; kangaroos, wallabies, opossums, iguanas, birds, snakes; wild honey or sugar bag, which is very abundant; the native fig, the bunya fruit, and several kinds of berries; roots of different kinds, particularly one called bamboo, a species of yam; and the root of the common fern—all contribute to furnish out their multifarious bill of fare. And when little or none of these articles can be procured, they have only to pull up the stem of the grass-tree, at the decayed root of which they are sure to find a whole colony of fat grubs, of which they are never at a loss to make a hearty meal. They have a keen perception of the ludicrous and grotesque, and a decided taste for what may be called dry humour; and their talent for mimicry is really wonderful. If there is anything uncommon or peculiar in the appearance or demeanour of any European in their district—as, for instance, if he should be lame, if he has a proud over-bearing manner or anything remarkable in his tone of voice—they are sure to take him off with the most ludicrous effect.

The medical practice of the natives is most simple, but by no means ineffectual; and the instances of speedy and perfect recovery in serious surgical cases, in which Europeans would surely lose either life or limb, are truly remarkable.

I am strongly of opinion that the only hope that can reasonably be entertained, either of the gradual elevation of so abject a portion of the human family as the aborigines of our State in the scale of humanity, or even of their continued existence in contact with European civilisation, depends on their being brought under the care and control of the Government, by setting apart areas of reasonably fertile



land and placing an officer in charge, whose duty it would be to educate these people in the way of simple agriculture, and thus enable them to provide for their own wants, in the way of food, &c., and undoubtedly make them an asset instead of an incubus on the community.

The aborigines of Queensland are universally divided into districts and independent tribes, each occupying as their hunting-grounds a certain portion of territory, of which the limits are generally well defined by prominent features in the natural scenery of the country and well known to all the neighbouring tribes. This division would appear to have taken place from time immemorial, as there is no part of the available portion of the country to which some tribe or other does not lay claim; the tribe in actual possession of any favourable locality obliging the supernumeraries or weaker members of its body to swarm off from time to time and find a new country for themselves.

The territory of each tribe is subdivided, moreover, among the different families of which it consists; and the proprietor of any particular subdivision has the exclusive right to direct when it shall be hunted over, or the grass burned, and the wild animals destroyed.

Each of these tribes is under a district chief, whose dignity, however, is somewhat equivocal, and whose position is attained by heroism and success in battle, not hereditary rights; and by these means only can the title of chief be bestowed. The only articles to which the natives attach the notion of personal property are their land, their wives and children, their arms, and their implements for hunting and fishing.

The conjugal relation is maintained by them with great decency and propriety, every family having its own separate gonyah and fire. They are immoderately fond of their children; and the idea of whipping or thwarting in any way its wayward inclination appears monstrous to the native, as also does the practice of Europeans in this particular. The wife is rather the drudge or the slave than the companion of her husband; the lending of wives to one another is occasionally practised; and the prostitution of their women to Europeans is, I am sorry to say, but too frequent. Instances of savage cruelty to their females are by no means rare, especially when under the influence of European rum; but instances of warm and deep affection also are not infrequent.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS.

The demand for aboriginal labour still continues, and employment could be found at fair wages for many more natives than are at present available by the Department. Like all human beings, good, fair, and indifferent workers are to be found among the aboriginals. In the majority of cases, however, the employers speak well of the boys; and although, perhaps, in some classes of labour an aboriginal may be found quite unsuitable, yet in work of another description he will excel. Under these circumstances it is sometimes difficult for officers of the Department to decide as to which particular class of employment a boy will prove most suitable. Little or no trouble is now experienced, either on part of the employer or the native, in complying with the provisions of the *Aboriginals Protection Act* by engaging aboriginal servants under the written agreement prescribed by the Act.

#### Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.

The number of girls in service is 146, of whom 62 are employed in Brisbane and 84 in the country, where it is found the conditions are more favourable morally and physically; 176 agreements were issued during the year for the employment of 148 girls, which may be regarded as a good sign of steadiness and satisfaction.

Wages collected by the Office for the girls and placed to their credit in the Government Savings Bank amounted to £1,038 18s. 2d.; and £1,011 7s. 6d. was withdrawn for clothing, pocket money, and the cost of board and lodging when necessary. The balance to the girls' credit in the bank on 31st December was £1,132 3s. 4d.

Discrimination is used and great care is taken when placing them in situations to hire them to suitable employers, and to acquaint the employer candidly of any shortcomings or faults the employee may possess and reasons for leaving her former situation. With a very few exceptions, the general behaviour of the girls in employment is very good. They are inclined to be extravagant and careless in the use of their clothes, but the majority of them present a neat and tidy appearance.

As a general rule, the treatment of the girls by their employers leaves little to be desired, with, of course, a few exceptions, where any sort of clothing or sleeping accommodation is thought good enough for a little black girl.

During the year three girls were married—two to men of their own colour, the third to a white man—and all these marriages appear to have been successful. Five girls had to be placed in the Salvation Army Maternity Home and gave birth to children, three of whom died soon—one soon after birth, and the other two at different dates later on. The remaining two are with their parents, one of whom married, and with her husband is employed as a married couple on a station; the other is also in a good situation.

Taking into consideration the number of these girls sent to service, with the circumstances of their birth, their having neither parents nor relatives to trouble about them nor in any way to protect or guide them, no early training or home of any sort until found and provided for by the Protector, the percentage of immorality and disease as compared with their white sisters of similar position is very small.

The health of the girls during the year has, on the whole, been good. There have only been a few cases of illness other than the prevailing epidemics. Most of these cases have been treated at the Salvation Army Women's Home by the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Espie Dods, who has always shown the greatest kindness and sympathy to these friendless and needy ones.

A great number of girls had to visit the dentist during the year to have teeth filled, &c., as necessary.

The girls when out of employment are boarded at the Salvation Army Women's Home, in Mary street, at a small rate per week; and this the girls (except in cases where their banking accounts will not permit of it) pay for with their own earnings.

The officers of the Salvation Army Home deserve our warmest thanks for the valuable help given to this Department without reward of any kind, and for the very genuine interest they have taken in the girls' welfare.

A few girls are still in the St. Vincent's Orphanage; and one is struck most vividly with the happy and healthy appearance of the inmates, as well as the wonderful discipline and completeness of the arrangements and provision for their comfort and care.

Speaking generally, I might say the year has been a successful one; and in the administration of the female section of our Department everything has worked smoothly and satisfactorily.

TABLE 1.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, &c., APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1908 AND 1909).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector.	Stationed at—	Date of Appointment.	1908.				1909.			
				MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.	
				Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.
Somerset ... ..	Milman, Hugh Miles...	Thursday Island	31-8-08	...	371	...	17	114	26	...	...
Cairns, Mareeba ... ..	Malone, H., Sub-Inspector	Cairns ... ..	11-10-07	...	190	...	32	...	127	...	20
Cook, Palmer ... ..	Bodman, F., Sergeant	Cooktown ... ..	2-7-08	113	130	...	20	21	132	...	8
Coen ... ..	Whiteford, James, Senior-Sergeant	Coen ... ..	11-1-06	5	18	1	4	6	30	4	1
Norman ... ..	Daly, P. Sergeant	Normanton ... ..	6-6-07	...	46	...	12	...	64	...	10
Etheridge ... ..	Quinn, M., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Georgetown ... ..	26-6-09	...	6	...	...	7	57	3	...
Cloncurry, Camooweal ... ..	Byrne, R. J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry ... ..	19-6-09	...	45	...	23	...	80	...	25
Mackay ... ..	Garraway, R. W., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Mackay ... ..	5-11-08	3	31	...	3	1	47	...	5
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville ... ..	Galbraith, P. D. F., Inspector	Townsville ... ..	25-1-06	1	50	...	32	...	90	...	4
Ingham ... ..	Connolly, P., Acting Sergeant	Ingham ... ..	15-2-06	...	55	...	5	50	47	...	8
Charters Towers, Cape River ... ..	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	11-10-06	...	73	...	7	...	69	...	8
Hughenden, Richmond ... ..	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden ... ..	9-5-07	18	94	...	14	30	114	...	15
Winton ... ..	Brosnan, Mich., Acting Sergeant	Winton ... ..	10-9-02	20	22	6	8	22	15	8	5
Boulia ... ..	Guckian, M., Constable	Boulia ... ..	25-12-06	30	70	...	20	30	71	8	19
Adavale, Angathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	O'Connor, F. J., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Charleville ... ..	19-6-09	18	95	4	25	90	65	20	18
Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaburra, Tambo, Windorah	McGrath, J., Sub-Inspector	Longreach ... ..	26-6-09	7	100	...	25	...	78	...	18
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Toowoomba ... ..	1-6-04	...	5	...	...	20	5	16	5
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Marrett, C. B., Inspector	Maryborough ... ..	†25-10-05	...	589	...	28	...	616	...	31
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton ... ..	27-7-05	...	52	...	33	...	84	...	37
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Savage, Charles, Inspector	Roma ... ..	27-7-05	37	45	...	6	15	39	...	3
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipawich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	White, John Warren, Inspector	Brisbane* ... ..	17-3-04	...	68	...	...	...	24	...	172
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	Whipham, K. A. ...	Brisbane* ... ..	10-4-09	...	...	...	203	...	...	...	148
Burke ... ..	Murphy, J. A., Acting Sergeant	Burketown ... ..	25-6-08	...	72	...	...	18	...	5	...
Croydon ... ..	Sullivan, Timothy, Acting Sergeant	Croydon ... ..	6-6-07	...	10	...	3	...	4	...	2
Herberton and Thornborough ... ..	O'Donnell, John, Sergeant	Herberton ... ..	†24-6-08	9	45	...	12	12	97	...	17
Mourilyan ... ..	Fresch, G. A., Sergeant	Geraldton ... ..	†30-1-09	...	84	...	9	...	170	...	14
Port Douglas ... ..	Hasenkamp, Henry, Acting Ssrgeant	Port Douglas ... ..	†4-6-08	...	13	...	3	...	12	...	3
Burke (west of 139th degree east longitude)	Smith, E. P., 1st class Constable	Turn-off Lagoon	26-11-08	...	...	...	...	...	25	...	6
Turn-off Lagoon ... ..				260	2,379	11	510	436	2,188	64	592

\* Agreements issued at Chief Protector's Office.

† Including Barambah Settlement.

‡ Previous to 18th June included in Cairns district.

TABLE 2.—SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTROLLED BY EACH PROTECTOR, WITH HIS INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE AND PATROL WORK.

LOCAL PROTECTORS.	POPULATION.	LETTERS.		PATROL.	
		Inward.	Outward.	Miles Travelled.	Days Absent.
Boulia ... ..	500	200	250	900	36
Brisbane ... ..	390	...	...	...	...
Burketown ... ..	600	77	77, and 3 wires	700	...
Cairns ... ..	530	500	400	1,000	14
Charleville ... ..	500	400	350	2,300	150
Charters Towers ... ..	150	400	300	...	...
Cloncurry ... ..	200	100	75	...	...
Cooktown ... ..	300	40	59	320	23
Coen ... ..	* 195	90	115	† 9,229	† 424
Croydon ... ..	180	7	9	...	...
Georgetown ... ..	150	160	160	1,200	40
Geraldton ... ..	300	28	41	...	...
Herberton ... ..	620	211	151	...	...
Hughenden ... ..	177	310	630	1,120	...
Ingham ... ..	350	30	40	200	...
Longreach ... ..	345	1,200	900	1,350	60
Maryborough ... ..	200	50	35	...	...
Mackay ... ..	190	30	32	...	...
Normanton ... ..	300	120	170	600	43
Port Douglas ... ..	140	55	90	80	4
Rockhampton ... ..	657	...	...	4,598	130
Roma ... ..	377	40	26	...	...
Thursday Island ... ..	‡ 4,000	520	430	1,300	12
Toowoomba ... ..	104	24	24	100	50
Townsville ... ..	500	200	300	300	20
Winton ... ..	130	76	94	350	9

\* Number received blankets only.

† Patrolled by three different Policemen at different times.

‡ Approximate.

The native is still in demand in the Police Force as tracker and trooper, and during the year 80 were so employed. Most of these trackers were accompanied by their gins, being thus more contented; but the wages offered for this work are so small that our best married couples will not usually engage in it. However, the police in most cases spoke well of the natives who served in this capacity, and their healthy appearance was undeniable evidence of the generosity of their ration allowance. An average of 9 men were also employed during the year by the Government on construction and improvement works at Dunwich and Peel Island, and appear to have given every satisfaction.

In the foregoing returns there are two good indications of progress—the increased number of natives engaging in permanent employment in the scattered districts, judging by the extra number of agreements and casual permits issued; and the decrease in the number of agreements issued in some of those districts where the employment has always been heavy and the demand strong. The well-sustained savings bank balances and amount of wages collections plainly show that the employment has not fallen off; and I think I am justified in reading the second indication as one that many of the natives are settling down better to permanent work.

TABLE 3.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1907 AND 1908, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Bank at—	Credit Balance, 1908.	1909.			
		Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Croydon ... ..	88 6 2	15	23 9 5	3 10 0	67 6 5
Thursday Island ... ..	203 6 3	46	31 0 9	127 0 5	107 6 7
Cooktown ... ..	314 4 5	89	134 5 1	101 7 10	360 14 10
Coen ... ..	46 13 3	12	16 1 10	Nil	63 17 7
Cairns ... ..	137 10 5	82	29 3 9	Nil	166 14 2
Normanton ... ..	75 15 3	54	84 18 6	8 0 4	146 5 9
Georgetown ... ..	25 5 9	55	123 0 0	29 0 0	125 14 4
Cloncurry ... ..	322 16 10	53	169 1 6	26 5 0	491 18 4
Ingham ... ..	75 11 6	51	70 0 0	11 0 0	151 0 0
Townsville ... ..	11 8 6	6	8 3 5	8 8 4	14 11 6
Charters Towers ... ..	235 3 7	64	336 19 2	121 16 1	445 6 8
Hughenden ... ..	611 0 1	116	314 3 7	522 2 10	1,051 10 0
Winton ... ..	280 16 11	20	193 1 3	214 5 7	259 12 7
Boulia ... ..	293 9 0	71	248 19 10	4 16 6	537 12 4
Port Douglas ... ..	191 5 8	36	17 0 4	10 6 8	197 19 4
Burketown ... ..	619 13 1	148	319 10 4	7 0 0	921 16 7
Mackay ... ..	56 10 4	10	23 17 2	5 11 0	53 16 5
Rockhampton ... ..	214 14 4	31	201 5 2	141 4 1	274 15 5
Longreach ... ..	814 8 7	164	536 0 0	111 13 3	1,376 8 10
Charleville ... ..	222 2 5	43	98 12 7	Nil	333 17 3
Maryborough ... ..	98 7 10	11	21 7 0	6 5 0	98 11 2
Barambah (Abor. Settlement) ... ..	591 18 0	...	...	...	...
Roma ... ..	48 8 2	9	34 14 9	...	99 6 5
Toowoomba ... ..	51 13 5	2	8 15 3	...	15 9 2
Brisbane (Mrs. Whipham) ... ..	1,104 12 8	148	1,038 18 2	1,011 7 6	1,132 3 4
Herberton ... ..	230 14 6	91	251 17 2	37 9 0	445 2 8
Geraldton ... ..	119 3 3	86	49 15 1	32 3 0	183 10 7
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>£7,112 0 2</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>4,384 1 1</b>	<b>2,540 12 5</b>	<b>9,122 8 3</b>



The system of banking a portion of each native's wages as a sort of provident fund has now come to be regarded by both employer and employee as a settled thing, although a few employers still object to the practice, as it probably makes them more prompt in the payment of wages than they perhaps would be otherwise, and exercises a check upon and supervision of their dealing with these people that is rather irksome; but it is pleasant to note that among the other class of employers this savings bank system is not only approved but welcomed, and the native himself very rarely objects to the deductions.

It is still found of advantage to encourage the casual employment of able-bodied natives, where they are camped near the township, at such light work as cutting firewood, gardening, washing, scrubbing, &c., thus enabling the old people especially to obtain many a good meal and warm article of clothing they would otherwise go short of. In many places the payment for such services very often takes the form of old clothing and articles of use to the native which he certainly could not purchase for the same value if paid in cash. Where money is paid, especially if to the women, it is mostly spent in groceries or in biscuits and lollies for the children. This casual employment is, as far as possible, supervised by the Protectors; and they are unanimous in saying that the blackfellow is, as a rule, quite capable of looking after himself when pay time arrives. Some extracts of these Protectors' reports on this subject will prove interesting:—

**Cairns** (Protector H. Malone).—"A good number of aboriginals are casually employed scrubbing, chopping wood, &c., not more than a day or two at a time at the same house; and they are thus provided with food sufficient for themselves and their relatives who are unable to work."

**Coen** (Protector J. Whiteford).—"I generally find that if an employer is a good master the blacks mostly stick to him, and if they do clear out from him we help to get them back. I still believe that the casual agreement works best in this district."

**Croydon** (Protector T. Sullivan).—"I do not interfere with any respectable person giving casual employment to an aboriginal, except publicans."

**Cloncurry** (Protector R. Byrne).—"Relief is only necessary in isolated cases, the aboriginals being able to obtain ready employment, and thereby support themselves."

**Herberton** (Protector E. Martell).—"There are some old 'camp blacks' in the vicinity of Herberton who do a great deal of casual work—such as scrubbing, washing, and cutting firewood—some of whom work for two or more persons on the same day, for which they are paid in cash, which provides them with the necessaries of life (food and clothing). These blacks will not go under agreement under any consideration, and very few would employ them if they were compelled to get permits."

**Port Douglas** (Protector H. Hasenkamp).—"I find the aboriginals here are happy on casual labour of a couple of hours a day, and the remainder of the time they go fishing in boats found on the beach, White Cliffs."

**Rockhampton** (Protector D. Toohey).—"Many of the old aboriginals especially, who are naturally of a roving disposition, are averse to entering into agreements for permanent work with an employer. They will do a few weeks' work casually here and there, but will not be bound down for any stated period. A good many aboriginals about Rolleston and Springsure do not look for work with an employer, but go trapping and scalping on their own account, where they can make more money at easier work; and during the year, on account of the high market value of furred skins, many of them have made good cheques, and a few have equipped themselves with horses and carts and are doing very well in the scalping line."

**Roma** (Protector C. Savage).—"The granting of casual employment is beneficial to the aboriginal. It permits of short periods of employment; whereas, if the employer had to take out an agreement for employment of this nature, many would not bother. It also meets the occasion of those aboriginals who are not desirous of entering into permanent employment and are of a roaming nature. This system is calculated to make this class of aboriginal become more industrious and to earn sufficient to keep them in food and clothes."

**Winton** (Protector M. Brosnan).—"The younger aboriginals look after the old people, such as at Winton, where I allow them to get employment around town and make their own terms; and I invariably find that the aboriginal, under such circumstances, is able to look after himself, as far as getting a competent remuneration for the work he or she does."

During the year convictions were obtained in forty-one prosecutions for harbouring and illegally employing aboriginals, and fines and costs aggregating £230 10s. 6d. and £5 17s. 5d. respectively were imposed. Of the offenders 22 were Chinese, 4 Pacific Islanders, 12 Europeans, 2 Japanese, and 1 Cingalese.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

**Somerset Petty Sessions District.**—The Protector at Thursday Island, Mr. Milman, reports:—

"Two hundred and sixty-two Torres Strait Islanders were signed on at the shipping office during the year, as crew on board bêche-de-mer and pearl fishing boats; and 114 permits were granted to Mainlanders to work in the industry;—making a total of 376, compared with 371 the previous year. No permits were issued for casual employment."

"With regard to female aboriginal labour, it has been decided (acting on instructions received from the Home Office some time ago) that no single female aboriginal shall be allowed to go to service at Thursday Island in future, as, on account of the number and heterogeneity of the coloured people on the island, such a practice is considered to be dangerous to the welfare of the girls."

"As you are aware, the aboriginals living in the district of Somerset comprise the Torres Strait Islanders and the Mainland natives or Binghamis of the Cape York Peninsula; and these natives represent two distinct types of people. The former is more intelligent than the latter, and distinctly more cunning. Nature has been good to the Torres Strait Islanders. The reefs surrounding the various islands abound in fish—turtle and shell fish; while with a little labour their gardens may be made to produce all the necessities for their subsistence. This very abundance has rendered them lazy and thriftless. Nature has done so much for them that they do not think it necessary that they should do anything for themselves, as exemplified in the casual way in which they work their native-owned cutters. The Government has endeavoured to ameliorate their condition in every possible manner, and yet they are eminently ungrateful. When the Government carpenter at Thursday Island proceeded to Badu to repair the school-house at that place, the natives refused to render him any assistance in a work which was being done solely for the benefit of their own children, and sat on their haunches and casually watched him carry all his own timber from the shore to the school-house. The Mainlander, on the other hand, is seemingly not as intelligent as the Islander, but he is not so lazy. With him the struggle for existence has been keener. The barrenness of the Cape York Peninsula has been the means of forcing him to lead a more strenuous life in gaining his subsistence, and when employed by the white man he carries some of this strenuousness with him; but, when engaged at sea, he is greatly given to deserting from his vessel and to stealing boats. There were 19 reported deserters among the Mainlanders during the year, representing 17 per cent. of the total number to whom permits to work on boats were granted; and 11 were convicted for stealing dinghies and other boats. In every case the natives charged with stealing were also charged with desertion, and this explains much. The idea of deserting seems to precede the idea of stealing—the latter is only a means to the first. The Mainlander employed in *bêche-de-mer* and pearl fishing boats is a lonely being. The Japanese master has a great contempt for him, and even the Torres Straits Islander regards him as a quite inferior being. In such surroundings he often feels a great longing to return to his home on the mainland, barren though it is; and, as he is often left on the boat alone while the rest of the crew are having their meals ashore, he steals a dinghy or, as in one instance, a yawl and endeavours to reach his home. Thus he does not seem to be actuated by criminal ideas to as great an extent as the police court records would tend to show. A new field for the engagement of aboriginal labour has been found in the sandalwood-cutting industry on the Cape York Peninsula. This industry has suddenly sprung to one of considerable dimensions, about £7,500 worth of wood having been exported from Thursday Island during the year; and I am of opinion that the aboriginals are eminently suitable as sandalwood-getters. Eight agreements were signed during the year, by which 43 natives were engaged for this work. The practice in vogue in my district is for the employer to pay the natives 10s. per month as wages and 10s. per cord extra for all sandalwood cut; and I think this is a most equitable arrangement for the aboriginals, as, besides giving him a fixed wage, it also allows him to be paid by results. The Mainlanders employed would be leading a healthy life amongst their own people, and I therefore think that every encouragement should be given to them to work in the sandalwood-getting industry.

"It cannot be said that any improvement has been made during the year in the way in which the Torres Strait Islanders have worked their native-owned boats. In the case of the 'Moa' and the 'Mooralug' the boats were so hopelessly in debt that it was decided, on the authority of the Home Secretary, to sell them by public auction. They realised fairly good prices—£80 and £29 respectively. In the latter case the boat had been fully paid for, and the debt was one owing to local storekeepers, who have now all been paid. The balance of the money is being paid in instalments to the Hammond Island natives, who owned the boat. The Government will suffer a decided loss in the case of the 'Moa' as, the money realised by the auction sale having to be divided between the Department and the Papuan Industries, Limited, in proportion to the moneys advanced by each, the amount originally loaned by the Government will not nearly be recouped. Some of the other boats have done fairly well during the year; but, in the main, the native owners seem to have believed in the efficacy of 'dolce far niente' and have exerted themselves very little. They seem to enjoy the 'simple life'—lazing and basking on shore; while the harvest of their prolific seas is being reaped by others. And yet these island cutters are most useful. Without them communication from one island to another would be difficult and dangerous, and they are the means of keeping the different islands supplied with foodstuffs. As before, some of the western boats are being worked from Badu, under the ægis of the Papuan Industries, Limited; and this arrangement works very satisfactorily, as it prevents the natives from coming into Thursday Island too often, and thus wasting their time and money. Besides the money to be recouped by the sale of the 'Moa,' only £6 16s. 2d. was paid off as redemption of the debt owing to the Government on account of the various amounts lent to the several boat companies for the original purchase money. A further amount has been paid off since the close of the year, and a strenuous though, I am afraid, a somewhat fruitless effort will be made to induce those boatowners who are still in debt to free themselves from the incubus."

"Q.G. Ketch 'Melbidir.'—The 'Melbidir,' under the capable navigation of Captain Schluter, has done much good work and assisted materially in keeping illicit recruiting to a minimum. Towards the end of the year the vessel was by order of the Minister brought to Brisbane and surveyed, with a view of installing an engine in her—a much-needed improvement—but the cost was found too great. Although the steamer 'John Douglas' has relieved her somewhat from the work of patrolling Torres Strait and conveying teachers and their belongings to and from Thursday Island, there is much work, for which she is used and proves herself invaluable, that the larger vessel is incapable of, particularly in conveying the Chief Protector up the rivers and inlets of the North-east and Gulf coasts on his annual inspection.

Captain Schluter in his report to this Office says:—

"The 'Melbidir' was stationed at Cooktown from 28th December, 1908, to 18th February, 1909: it being then the hurricane season, and only ordinary ship work was performed during that time, such as mending sails, overhauling blocks, running gear, rigging, &c.

"From the 18th to 26th February the vessel was employed by the Marine Department conveying passengers to and from the lighthouses and lightships.

"On 26th February, arrived at Thursday Island and remained there until 6th March, when, under Protector's order, I proceeded to Mapoon Mission Station and returned to Thursday Island 11th March.

"On 14th March, the vessel was granted to the Police Department to proceed to Port Stewart and bring a number of aboriginal witnesses to Thursday Island, from which trip I returned on 27th March.

"On 5th April, by Protector's order, I proceeded on a tour to visit all islands between Thursday Island and Forbes Island to ascertain if any of those islands are occupied by fishermen, and, if so, collect ground rent from them. I found none of the islands inhabited. During the trip I boarded five fishing vessels and found them all in order. I then returned and anchored at Thursday Island, 15th April.

"From 19th April to 13th May the 'Melbidir' was engaged in shifting island school teachers and their families to and from different islands.

"On 17th May, left Thursday Island to patrol fishing-grounds to Cooktown, and arrived at the latter place 7th June. Only a few vessels were boarded during the passage on account of very boisterous weather.

"On 26th June, left Cooktown to patrol fishing-grounds to Townsville and arrived there 4th July, where the Chief Protector was waiting my arrival. During the passage four fishing boats were examined and found to be all in order.

"On the evening of 8th July, Mr. Howard, Chief Protector of Aborigines, joined the 'Melbidir,' and the following morning at daylight we proceeded north. At 11.30 a.m. the same day we anchored under Palm Island, where four fishing-boats were boarded, and their papers and aboriginal crew examined, which were all found in order; the names of the boats being as follows:—Ketches 'Bamba,' 'Asahi,' 'Tiergo,' and 'Nancy.' In the meantime, Mr. Howard visited the blacks' camp on Palm Island; and at 2 p.m. we got underweigh again, and arrived at Lucinda Point 9 p.m. the same evening.

"On 10th July, the Chief Protector left for Ingham by the 10.30 a.m. train, returning on 12th July, when we hove-up and proceeded north through Hinchinbrook Channel, calling at Cardwell, Dunk Island, Geraldton, and arriving at Cairns 19th July.

"On 20th July, the Chief Protector left by 7 a.m. train to visit Atherton and other places, returning the evening of the 22nd.

"On 23rd July, we left Cairns and proceeded north, calling at Port Douglas, and arrived at Cooktown 25th July, when Mr. F. Jardine (who was waiting for a chance to get back to Somerset) joined the 'Melbidir.'

"On 28th July, proceeded north at 11 a.m., and same day anchored under Cape Bedford, where the Chief Protector visited the Mission Station, from whence he returned on the evening of 29th July.

"On 30th July we hove-up and proceeded north, called at different places and islands along the coast, and arrived at Somerset 3rd August, where Mr. Jardine landed.

"On 4th August, after getting a fresh supply of firewood and water aboard, we proceeded and anchored of Nagheer Island at 3 p.m. the same day, and landed Mr. Howard, who returned to the ship next morning, when we hove-up and at 2.30 p.m. the same day anchored at Thursday Island.

"On 10th August, I took the Chief Protector, accompanied by Mr. F. Jardine, J.P., and the following passengers—Messrs. Milman, Corran, Balzer, and 2 half-caste girls Nellie and Matilda—to Mapoon Mission Station to hold an inquiry, and on the evening of 11th August, arrived at Mapoon.

"Next day all passengers were landed to hold the inquiry, and I was called upon to act as interpreter. The inquiry lasted until 6 p.m., 14th August, and we left the same evening for Thursday Island, which place was reached the following evening.

"On 18th August, after returning Mr. Jardine to Somerset, I took on board a shipload of young cocoanuts for the Cape Bedford Mission for cultivation, returning to Thursday Island.

"On 28th August, I left Thursday Island to patrol fishing-grounds between Thursday Island and Cooktown, calling on 6th September at Flinders Group to search for a supposed aboriginal leper patient, but failed to find him. Later on I was informed by other natives that the boy had died.

"On 13th September, I anchored under Cape Bedford, and discharged cocoanuts for the Mission Station, and the following morning proceeded again and arrived at Cooktown at 1 p.m. the same day. No fishing vesels were sighted during the whole of the voyage.

"From 21st to 29th September, I patrolled fishing-grounds in vicinity of Cooktown, after which some time was spent in cleaning, painting, and repairs.

"On 14th October, on order of the Chief Protector, I left Cooktown for Brisbane, with a view of installing power in the 'Melbidir,' arriving at Brisbane on the 27th, where the mate and cook were discharged.

"The remainder of the year the 'Melbidir' was laid up in Brisbane, being surveyed, and later on undergoing repairs and alterations.

"I am pleased to be able to state that there is little or no illegal work carried on by the fishermen now, and as far as I can ascertain from the native crews of the fishing boats they are treated well, which in my opinion is a blessing, as the 'Melbidir' has become so well known by the fishermen that they can distinguish her miles away, and so give the would be law-breaker a good opportunity of getting away before I get near enough to overhaul him; consequently I lose him under cover of darkness, or he gets to the mainland before me and has everything ready for me before I can board him. I am mentioning this to show how difficult it is for me to get near any offenders against the Pearl-fishing Acts, considering the 'Melbidir' is only a sailing vessel, and a stern chase is always a long chase."

## CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

During the year 7 male and 4 female half-castes were granted exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Acts, under section 33 of the Act of 1897. There is a large decrease in the number granted as compared with 1908, as much discrimination has to be used in the issue of these certificates. Only half-castes who are civilised and have no intercourse with aboriginals can obtain them, and then only on satisfying the Department of their ability to manage their own affairs. It is very satisfactory to be able to say that in not one case where a certificate was granted last year has there been cause to regret it. One man is working a small farm with his wife and family; some are married and engaged as married couples on station holdings; and one, a good steady girl, had saved considerably over £60 in the Government Savings Bank. All the rest are in good work and doing well.

## RECOGNISANCES.

Forty-seven recognisances were entered into by employers removing aboriginal employees from their own to another district in terms of section 17 of Act of 1897. I am pleased to say no trouble was experienced, and not one occasion arose for enforcing the bond.

## FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

In the following table is shown the centres at which relief is distributed to aged and needy aborigines, and the average monthly amounts issued:—

Centre.	Amount.	Centre.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Badu (Thursday Island) ...	2 0 0	Kuranda ...	0 10 0
Bedourie ...	2 0 0	Laura ...	2 0 0
Betoota ...	4 0 0	Maytown ...	2 0 0
Birdsville ...	4 10 6	McDonnell ...	3 10 0
Boulia ...	5 0 0	Millchester ...	1 10 0
Bowen ...	1 0 0	Moreton ...	1 0 0
Burketown ...	6 10 0	Mount Perry ...	1 15 0
Coen ...	1 10 0	Musgrave ...	3 10 0
Coomrith ...	1 10 0	Nocundra ...	1 0 0
Coonambula ...	1 0 0	Yandina ...	0 15 0
Cape Bedford ...	7 0 0	St. George ...	3 10 0
Diamantina ...	4 13 0	Tallwood ...	2 0 0
Duarina ...	1 10 0	Tewantin ...	0 16 0
Eidsvold ...	1 15 0	Thornborough ...	2 10 0
Croydon ...	10 0 0	Tinnenburra ...	5 0 0
Thylungra ...	2 10 0	Welltown ...	2 15 0
Hammond Island ...	2 10 0		

A perusal of it will show that there is no needless expenditure, for it is not the policy of the Department to encourage laziness in the native, and the food issued does little more than relieve him from actual starvation. Three centres were discontinued—relief no longer being necessary—and four new centres were opened. The practice of allowing casual labour has again relieved expenditure in this direction. Besides this, a considerable quantity of miscellaneous relief has been issued in the way of clothes, fishing and hunting implements, medicine, rations, and extra blankets, where inquiry has shown it necessary.

## BLANKETS.

The blanket distribution was, as usual, superintended by Mr. G. McLennan, the Government Storekeeper, and his staff in the most satisfactory manner.

This being the year in which no blankets were supplied to Mission Stations, there appears a decrease in the number issued; but in reality this is not so, for, as the officers get into closer touch with the more distant tribes and closer settlement of whites deprives them of their natural hunting-grounds and camps, so the necessity for increased relief and artificial covering makes itself felt.

In his report the Government Storekeeper says:—

“The work of despatching the blankets to the far distant centres of distribution began in the early part of December last, and by the end of April following, the despatch was finally completed. Every care was taken to ensure the arrival of the blankets at the various centres of distribution in ample time for issue to the blacks before the cold weather began. The apportionment of the blankets to each centre of distribution was made in accordance with the Honourable the Home Secretary's instructions—viz., by myself, in conjunction with the Chief Protector of Aborigines—on the basis of last year's distribution; and as very little or no complaints were received regarding shortness of supply, it is reasonable to assume that the allotment was satisfactory. Except in a few instances, all the distributing officers reported distribution. The exceptions are—Mitchell, 39; Miriam Vale, 2; and Stonehenge, 4. I have, therefore, shown these outstanding blankets on the return as distributed to ‘inspecified’ persons at the place mentioned. The instructions regarding distribution have, in the majority of cases, been closely followed. Out of a total of 1,090 children supplied, only 45 received full pairs, instead of half

pairs as provided for in the circular of instructions. At Cairns 4 pairs of blacks' blankets were issued to white lepers by instructions from the Home Department. At Chinchilla 'King Davey,' aged 90, received 2 pairs instead of 1 pair, and, considering the great age of the 'king,' this breach of the regulations was allowed to pass without comment.

"At the request of the master of the Claremont Island Lightship, a quantity of fishing lines, hooks, knives, tomahawks, &c., were supplied for distribution to the blacks in the neighbourhood of the Claremont Islands to assist them to procure fish and native foods. A corresponding reduction was made in the usual quantity of blankets sent to cover the cost of the substituted articles. This course was followed last year, and gave much satisfaction to the natives. Also, at Laura, in addition to blankets, a number of tomahawks were sent and distributed to the blacks there on the requisition of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, in order to assist the blacks to procure native foods.

"Last year 5,622 pairs were issued, as against only 5,180½ pairs issued this year. It would appear, therefore, that this year's supply had been curtailed somewhat. Such however, is not the case, as the shortage is caused owing to this being the 'off' year for the supply of blankets to the aboriginal settlements and homes, which, under the regulations, are only entitled to a biennial supply of blankets.

"Out of a total of 8 aboriginal homes receiving blankets through me, only one was supplied this year—viz., Barambah, 200 pairs.

"No reasonable request for blankets for the blacks has been refused. At the same time, every care was taken to prevent duplication of supply in the case of individual blacks.

"The recipients this year were 2,754 men, 2,409 women, 1,090 children, and 82 unspecified persons; total, 6,335. The number of centres of distribution was 146. The total number of blankets distributed was 5,180½ pairs.

"As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution this year and the attendant expenses were—

	£	s.	d.
5,180½ pairs, at 8s. ....	2,072	4	0
Forwarding charges, &c., say ....	105	0	0
<b>Total</b> ....	<b>£2,177</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

"The following comparative table shows the number of blankets issued and the persons benefited during the last ten years, viz.:—

Year.	Pairs.	Persons.
1900 ... ..	7,308½	8,193
1901 ... ..	7,444	9,101
1902 ... ..	6,858½	8,341
1903 ... ..	4,914	6,072
1904 ... ..	4,296½	5,466
1905 ... ..	4,652½	5,594
1906 ... ..	5,391	6,704
1907 ... ..	5,011	6,155
1908 ... ..	5,622	6,947
1909 ... ..	5,180½	6,335

"The distributors were mostly police officers, and the work of distribution was discharged by them in a very satisfactory manner."

#### SUPPLY OF LIQUOR AND OPIUM TO ABORIGINALS.

The reports of the Protectors would indicate an appreciable decrease in these our two greatest evils. To the Protectors and their subordinates in the police force every credit is due for the vigilance and zeal displayed in their efforts to stamp them out. Unfortunately, they are frequently robbed of much of the fruit of their labours by the untimely and unwarranted leniency of many local justices, who, in spite of the fact that the Amendment Act of 1901 deprives them of their discretion under the Justices Act in dealing with these particular offences, persist in reducing the minimum fine, £20, allowed as a penalty on conviction. Most of the defendants in the opium cases are Chinese, and a small fine has absolutely no effect upon them. Imprisonment without the option is the only punishment likely to deter them.

Much of the drink obtained by natives is procured for them by hotel loafers, who levy a toll upon the poor blackfellow for the doubtful service rendered, and not infrequently cheat him of his few pence in the transaction.

• I give a few extracts from the Protectors' reports dealing with these questions:—

**Boulia.**—"Drink is very rarely used to any extent; and opium is never used, being unknown to the natives of this district."

**Cairns.**—"A few cases of drunkenness of aborigines have occurred, but, on the whole, the aborigines get very little drink.

"The supply of opium to aborigines is on the decrease, and records and observations point to their getting very little of that drug. The following prosecutions have taken place in the Cairns police district and protectorate:—Unlawful possession of opium, 7; supplying opium to aborigines, 2; supplying liquor to an aboriginal, 1. Most of the offenders are Chinese, who use the gins for immoral purposes."

**Croydon.**—"There is not a great deal of liquor supplied to the aboriginals here at present. I do not allow a publican to employ an aboriginal casually or otherwise.

"As regards opium, I am sorry to say that many of the old aboriginals still manage to get the drug, the Chinese being the offenders. During the year two Chinamen were convicted of selling opium to the aboriginals. One was fined £20 or three months' imprisonment, and the other sentenced to four months' imprisonment, without the option of a fine. One Chinaman was fined for being in possession of opium."

**Cooktown.**—"There are a few aboriginals in this town who get drink when they can, but the police are keeping a strict watch on the people who are strongly suspected of supplying them. A Chinaman was caught supplying an aboriginal with liquor, and was fined £20—in default, two months' imprisonment. Two Chinamen who were caught red-handed supplying charcoal opium to two aboriginals, were prosecuted and fined £20 each and costs—in default, one to four months' imprisonment, and the second one to two months. This had a great check on the supplying of opium and charcoal to the aboriginals."

**Geraldton.**—"Drinking is not indulged in to a great extent by the aboriginals; opium seems to be preferred. As far as I can learn, three-fourths of the population smoke opium when it can be got."

**Herberton.**—"Drink is not indulged in to any great degree by the aboriginals in this district. There have been a very large number of convictions for opium traffic, as the monthly returns furnished to you show. The blacks manage to get the charcoal opium from the Chinese in spite of the watchfulness of the police; but the use of the drug both by Chinese and aboriginals is considerably decreased, as the provisions of the Act have been more strictly enforced for the past couple of years, and the Chinese cannot now procure the same quantities as formerly."

**Ingham.**—"The aboriginals of this district have been very sober during the year, only two being before the court for drunkenness. Opium is still being brought into this district, and many cases are lost owing to the police not being able to arrest for having opium unlawfully in possession. If the Acts were amended in this direction, it would have a greater effect in preventing it being brought into the district."

**Mackay.**—"Drink is occasionally supplied to loafers and old hands by unscrupulous persons. These cases are most difficult to detect; usually the only result to be seen is an aboriginal slightly excited and talkative. Opium is not used to any great extent, though at times old hands manage to obtain small quantities from Chinese around Chinatown. Police are now exercising extra vigilance in endeavouring to detect offenders, and all aboriginals are kept as much as possible from the vicinity of Chinatown."

**Rockhampton.**—"There is very little drinking amongst the blacks; 3 only were arrested for drunkenness. Opium-smoking is reduced to a minimum, and there is very little of the drug now smuggled into the district, due to the watchfulness of the police and the heavy penalties inflicted when the offenders are caught. During the year there were 9 prosecutions for 'unlawful possession of opium'; and fines amounting to £71 6s. 8d. were paid by four offenders, and five were each imprisoned for six months. All the defendants but one were Chinese."

**Roma.**—"There has been more drunkenness amongst aboriginals (although not to a great extent) this year than the previous year. I attribute this to the decrease of the use of opium."

**Georgetown.**—"I had two cases against Chinamen here for supplying opium to aboriginals, and in each case a fine of £10 or three months' imprisonment was inflicted; the fine was paid in each case. This, I am pleased to say, has had a very good effect, and drink amongst the aboriginals is not known."

The prosecutions for illegal possession of opium during the year numbered 87, and fines and costs amounting to £1,184 10s. and £27 9s. 4d. were imposed. The offenders were—Chinese, 81; Europeans, 5; aboriginal, 1. There were no prosecutions for supplying opium.

Proceedings were taken also in 28 cases for supplying liquor to aboriginals, and fines and costs amounting to £474 and £4 9s. 7d. imposed. Of the offenders, 28 were European, and 3 Chinese.

#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

The following list and the accompanying illustrations will show that the Department's operations for the welfare of these poor creatures have been well directed.

Many were rescued from surroundings of unutterable misery and vice, and sent to the mission stations and reserves—some by order of the bench to one or other of the industrial schools, and others by the order of the Minister. During the year, 5 children were committed to Deebing Creek Industrial School, and 3 to the Barambah School; and 12 more were sent to Barambah to school by order of the Department. This does not include the children gathered by the mission stations from the coasts. At

these schools the unfortunate little ones are receiving an elementary education, and the girls taught to sew. At Barambah a comfortable roomy dwelling has lately been erected for them where they are looked after by a steady aboriginal married couple, assisted by some senior single girls. Three good sewing-machines are provided, and, as far as they are capable of doing so, they assist in the making and repairing of the garments worn. Many of the children so collected are very fair with beautiful curly hair and often with refined features. It seems a pity that they cannot be separated, but it would only be cruel to take them, without good cause, from their mothers. A few girls as they reached suitable age were sent out to service; but most of them married aboriginal and half-caste men on the settlement, and went to employment with their husbands. Arrangements were made to remove 4 half-caste girls from immoral surroundings at Gilbert River and Delta Camps to a reserve; but comfortable homes were found on stations for them, and they were sent to service instead. Annie, Lizzie, and Jack Kearns were removed from immoral surroundings at Dirranbandi to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement. Christina, a young girl, for insubordination and immorality, and Amy King, for absconding and stealing, were sent to Yarrabah. Gracy Shay, unsound mind, and 3 other half-caste children, for begging in streets, were removed from Rolleston to Barambah. Maud Anderson, an incorrigible, and Moira Dawson, for laziness, refusing to work, and not being capable of taking care of herself, both of Brisbane, and Dinah, a venereal case, from Port Douglas, were all sent to Yarrabah. Neba, a young girl, neglected and ill-treated, was sent from Condamine to Barambah to school. Currie, an aboriginal woman, for drunkenness, and her very pretty little half-caste boy Eric, neglected, was sent from Hughenden to Barambah; and this woman has now become one of the most trusted and well-behaved women on the settlement. Maggie, suspected imbecile, and her child, neglected, from Georgetown; Minnie, unmanageable, from Roma; and Maudie, suffering from pendulous abdomen, were sent to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and from there the latter was sent to the Brisbane Hospital, where an operation was successfully performed. Lily Ferguson, a fine half-caste girl, was sent from Rockhampton to Brisbane, and from there to a good situation in the country. Two other young girls were rescued from bad surroundings at Pascoe River, and cared for by kindly people till sent to a reserve; and Dora Olive, after treatment in Goodna Asylum for being insane, was discharged cured and immediately taken into the care of her old mistress.

The policy of authorising the marriages of these girls to steady and respectable men of other nationality, after careful inquiry into circumstances, has been continued this year, and 27 permits were issued to men of the following nationalities:—British, 9; Chinese, 2; Pacific Islanders, 10; Malays, 3; Japanese, 1; Arabian, 1; Quadroon, 1. These all seem to have been well advised, for no complaints have reached this Office; and the Protectors report that the women appear contented and well treated.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the aboriginals has been generally good, and all of the Protectors report a much more satisfactory state than it has been possible to declare for some time.

Venereal disease is still prevalent in some of the districts, but it seems greatly on the decrease. A few districts report slight epidemics of influenza, in some cases developing—a not unusual thing among aboriginals—into bronchial and pulmonary troubles. The records of treatment at the hospitals and camps show a very general list of complaints; in fact, the majority of them can be classed as common ailments.

One leprosy case is reported from Cairns, a case of granuloma from Port Douglas, and one case of epilepsy from Rockhampton. The highest death rates were:—At Barambah, 25, being nearly all old people and incurables sent there from other districts; Rockhampton, 16; Roma, 7; Normanton, 5; Winton, 4; Croydon, 7. With the exception of a few accidents, these were practically all from natural causes. Where possible, all these cases of sickness were treated by the local Government medical officers and in the hospitals; and, where none such were available, suitable remedies were issued by local officers of police. The reports from mission stations and Torres Straits Island schools show the health of the inmates as generally good, with the exception of slight fevers and epidemics. Fuller details of these places will be found in their separate reports.

#### CRIME.

The number of convictions in most of the more serious offences shows an appreciable decrease this year, although there appears a slight increase in the number of minor offences.

The number of cases of drunkenness, particularly, has considerably lessened, as also has the list of murders and charges of being illegally on premises. The most serious offence—rape—is conspicuous by its absence. Two cases of unsound mind were sent to asylums, and 6 neglected children were committed to the industrial schools. It again speaks well for the vigilance and, I might add, the infinite tact and firmness of the members of the police force that the record of crime is such a small one.

Experience has shown that the most effective way of dealing with the troublesome native is to remove him from his district to a reserve. The reason is obvious, he is removed from the baleful effect of association with the white loafer and bad character, the idleness and profligacy which is so frequently

a feature of the camp life near the township, and provided with a legitimate means of utilising his energies and capabilities for his own improvement and benefit. This method seems to be far more satisfactory than imprisonment. Many of the more experienced police magistrates recognise this, and although perhaps inflicting a short sentence to comply with the law, make a recommendation that the offender be removed as early as possible, or, on completion of sentence, to an aboriginal reserve. The worst cattle-spearers, tribal fighters, and troublesome characters, when removed from their own district to the reserve, often settle down and become the steadiest and most reliable men there. Many such men, now settled down at Barambah, are leading really useful lives and earning good wages, and are much sought after by the surrounding employers of labour. In addition to the women and children already mentioned, 33 natives were removed from their districts to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement and 1 to Yarrabah Mission during the year, mostly on the recommendation of the police, for their own good and the benefit of the quieter and more peaceable members of their tribe, as an example and deterrent, and for medical treatment.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

The reports of the Protector at Thursday Island and the island school teachers show that the progress of the scholars and the general attendance have been well sustained. The reports of the teachers are somewhat incomplete, as several changes and resignations have occurred; and, beyond statistical returns, some of the new teachers, who had taken up their duties late in the year, were not in a position to report upon the progress. A good number of cocoanuts have been planted on some islands, but much more might be done in this direction, especially now, as the Papuan Industries provide a market for copra.

The island "company" boats have done only fairly well, and it is doubtful whether in many cases these vessels have justified their existence.

The Protector, Mr. Milman, in his report, says:—

"Since the arrival of the Government steamer 'John Douglas,' I have been able to visit many of the Torres Straits Islands during the year, and to bring myself into more intimate acquaintance with the conditions and requirements of the various places. In June last I visited Badu, Mabuia, Yam, Darnley, Murray, and Yorke Islands; and was able to give my attention to many matters that required to be dealt with locally. In September I proceeded to Red Island and inquired into a complaint, made by the Torres Straits Fresh Food and Ice Company, Limited, that the natives camped at that place were, through their presence, interfering with the cattle on the occupation license holding adjacent to the island. I had the native camp removed outside the boundaries of the holding, and since then no further complaints have been made. In October I visited Moa, Mabuia, Saibai, Boigu, Deliverance, and Badu Islands. In all, I was absent from Thursday Island on such visits for 27 days, during which time I travelled, I estimate, about 850 miles.

"It is very satisfactory to be able to note that the islanders are not given much to evil-doing. With one remarkable exception, no crime whatever amongst them has been reported during the year. The mammooses and councillors of the various islands have satisfactorily dealt with the minor offences that have been brought under their notice. Some of these mammooses (as, for instance, Maino, of Yam Island) possess judicial minds and just discriminations that would win respect in courts higher than their own.

"The attendance of the native children at the schools during the year has been very good indeed. There are about 400 children enrolled on the books of the six island schools; and of these an average of 83 per cent. attended school during the year. This is very creditable indeed, taking into consideration the amount of sickness that has been prevalent on the various islands. I would suggest that in future, where there are more than 50 pupils attending any of these schools, two monitors should be appointed to assist the teacher, and that they should receive some slight remuneration, as is the case at Murray and Mabuia Island schools. The little children at such schools take up a large proportion of the teacher's time, and they could be adequately taught by the monitors. There have been many changes in the staff of the island school teachers, mostly occasioned by sickness; and the services of the 'John Douglas' in transferring the teachers to and from the islands has been invaluable.

"The school work at Darnley Island and Yam Island has been somewhat interrupted on account of these changes, consequent on there being a hiatus of a few months between the departure of the teacher and the arrival of a new one. The buildings at these places had been unoccupied during these months, and consequently had greatly deteriorated. Work has been uninterrupted at the other schools, and much progress has been made with the children."

"Much has been done, during the latter part of the year, to better the condition under which the teachers lead their somewhat isolated lives. The school houses and teacher's residence at Badu and Darnley Islands have been repaired and added to, and those at Mabuia and Murray Islands will receive immediate attention. The residence at Darnley was in a particularly deplorable state, but the repairs and additions effected by the Government carpenter have now made the place most comfortable. The residence at Yam Island was in a rather unhealthy position; but the natives have recently filled in a large swamp near at hand, and the place has thus been rendered much more healthy. A similar effort will be made to fill in a swamp near the Badu school.



TABLE 4.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS AT EACH STATION IN THE STATE DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1909.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR.	NAME OF STATION AND AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT AID.																							
	YARRABAH.			MAPOON.			WEIPA.			CAPE BEDFORD.			DEEBING CREEK.			BARAMBAH.			ARCHER RIVER.			MITCHELL RIVER.		
	£450.			£250.			£120.			£250.			£200.			...			£150.			£150.		
	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	326	...	326	99	32	131	...	55	...	125	35	160	88	Nil	88	290	Nil	290	32	18	50	30	15	45
February	326	...	326	90	20	119	...	64	...	125	35	160	80	..	80	322	..	322	30	21	51	30	9	39
March	330	...	330	91	30	121	...	46	...	125	42	167	80	..	...	326	..	326	31	12	43	15	20	35
April	330	...	330	91	23	114	...	53	...	125	42	167	70	..	70	296	..	296	24	12	46	19	22	41
May	331	...	331	81	14	95	...	77	...	125	45	170	70	..	70	288	..	288	21	14	35	25	11	36
June	332	...	332	90	23	113	...	86	...	125	45	170	70	..	70	290	..	290	23	12	35	28	13	41
July	332	...	332	91	18	109	...	81	...	125	45	170	77	..	77	302	..	302	26	17	43	36	8	44
August	331	...	331	91	19	110	...	81	...	125	45	170	78	..	78	315	..	315	25	13	38	36	8	44
September	331	...	331	91	30	121	...	70	...	125	90	215	77	..	77	287	..	287	21	20	41	12	23	35
October	332	...	332	92	30	122	...	...	...	125	90	215	77	..	77	278	..	278	18	11	29	40	20	60
November	330	...	330	119	20	139	...	...	...	125	110	235	77	..	77	302	..	302	34	19	53	60	22	82
December	332	...	332	119	21	130	...	...	...	125	110	235	79	..	79	370	..	370	31	25	56	70	25	95

TABLE 5.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES, &C., MAINLAND)—1909.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					Number of School Days.	Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Yarrabah— £70	March	76	55	131	28	16	15	9	8	26	8	8	4	9	52	2,962	2,237	62,743	
	June	88	60	148	33	13	14	17	11	21	13	14	4	8	53	3,725	2,219	71,146	
	Sept. Dec.	No returns																	
Mapoon— £100	March	22	44	66	13	7	2			18	12	18			46	930	1,987	20	43
	June	28	46	74	18	8	2			20	12	14			55	978	2,300	17	41
	Sept. Dec.	28	46	74	19	6	3			20	10	16			52	1,083	2,165	20	41
Weipa— £80	March	23	37	60	13	6	4			15	9	13			46	631	1,579	14	34
	June	36	37	73	27	6	3			16	9	21			50	882	1,601	18	32
	Sept. Dec.	27	36	63	19	5	3			15	9	12			53	1,081	1,681	20	32
Cape Bedford— £100	March	18	12	30	13	8				12					49	879	578	17.9	11.7
	June	18	11	29	13	5				11					58	1,006	622	17.3	10.7
	Sept. Dec.	17	9	26	13	4				6	3				58	969	489	16.7	8.4
Deebing Creek— £52	March	21	13	34	13	8				5	7	1			49	1,008	611	20.5	12.4
	June	20	13	33	13	7				6	7				59	1,155	737	19.5	12.4
	Sept. Dec.	18	10	28	11	6	1			4	5	1			53½	837	528	15.6	9.8
Barambah— £52	March	38	44	82	33	2	3			29	8	7			51	1,747	1,991	34.25	39.03
	June	51	44	95	38	3	3			36	10	5			57	2,227	2,584	39.07	45.33
	Sept. Dec.	45	46	91	40	2	3			34	7	5			54	2,074	2,242	38.48	41.51
Archer River— £100	March	19	7	26	19					7					48	761	148	15.8	3.8
	June	30	10	40	30					10					29	855	137	17.1	2.74
	Sept. Dec.	30	11	41						11					53	701	79	13.22	1.49
	March	30	11	41						11					53	701	79	13.22	1.49

TABLE 6.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (DEPARTMENTAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1909.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					No. of School Days.	Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Murray Island— £200.	March	49	54	103	38	5	6			28	19	7			39	1,497	1,770	38.4	45.4
	June	45	54	99	37	5	3			29	18	7			62	2,342	2,836	37.8	45.7
	Sept. Dec.	48	53	101	19	19	10			17	13	23			43	1,563	1,754	56.3	40.7
Darnley Island— £100	March	35	28	63	18	7	5	5		16	6	4	2		27	657	567	24.33	21.0
	June	36	27	63	19	7	3	7		15	6	4	2		61	1,735	1,242	28.44	20.36
	Sept. Dec.	36	27	63	19	7	3	7		15	6	4	2		62	1,909	1,459	30.79	23.53
Yam Island— £96	March	14	11	25	6	3	4	1		4	4	1	2		43	597	423	13.88	9.5
	June	No teacher.																	
	Sept. Dec.	No teacher.																	
Mabuiag Island— £130	March	29	37	66	13	6	6	4		15	17	5			38	948	1,238	25.0	32.6
	June	26	37	63	16	6	4			15	17	5			51	1,109	1,616	21.7	31.7
	Sept. Dec.	24	35	60	18	4	2			14	17	5			49	1,059	1,647	22.0	34.0
Badu Island— £84	March	31	28	59	*	6	12	13		*	4	13	11		35	822	708	23.5	20.2
	June	35	29	64	*	11	11	13		*	6	12	11		32	967	682	30.2	21.3
	Sept. Dec.	36	27	63	7	9	4	16		7	3	8	9		38	1,088	861	28.63	22.65
Saibai Island— £84	March	31	25	56	22	9				18	7				45	1,343	1,053	29.38	23.18
	June	39	36	75	10	13	6	10		14	5	5	12		62	2,083	1,876	33.6	30.2
	Sept. Dec.	40	35	75	10	12	6	12		11	7	5	12		51	1,934	1,773	37.9	34.7
Mitchell River— £100	March	11	6	17	11					6					21	219	108	10.75	15.57
	June																		
	Sept. Dec.	16	7	23	10	3	3			2	1	4			47	567	244	12.0	5.0

\* Included in Class II.

"Since my last report, a Government grant has been given to the mission station at the eastern side of Moa Island. This mission station exists for the protection of the South Sea Island natives who have been allowed by the Commonwealth Government to remain in Australia. There are at present 74 people there, of whom 23 are children attending school. The settlement is still being conducted by Deaconess Buchanan. An area of 500 acres had been set aside as a reserve for the mission station, but this area will now be increased to 2,000 acres as authorised by the Minister."

**The teacher at Badu, Mrs. E. M. Zahel, reports:—**

"My report of the school work done can only include the last two and a-half months of the year. I arrived at Badu on the 15th of October, and opened school on Monday, 18th October, with an attendance of 45. Some of the children were still suffering from fever, and were unable to attend. In November, 10 children came from Moa Island to attend school; and the total number of children on the roll at the end of the year was 63. James Williams, the L.M.S. teacher, who is a Murray islander and has attended school under Mr. Bruce for a number of years, helps in the school, and is of great assistance to me. I found none of the children capable of being monitors. Mr. Milman paid a visit to the island on 23rd October, but did not see the school, it being Saturday and late in the afternoon when they arrived. Mr. Black, the Government carpenter, effected alterations and repairs to the teacher's residence, comprising a veranda on the south side, and enclosed the veranda on the east and other minor alterations and improvements. A veranda is badly needed on the north side to protect the house during the north-west season, but Mr. Black had no timber to put one up. Although there has been a lot of sickness during the past twelve months, at the present time the natives are all in excellent health. During the year there were 11 births (5 males and 6 females), 4 deaths (2 adult females and 2 infant males). The population, from a census taken by me on 31st December, 1909, was as follows:—  
Adults, 116; children, 113; total, 229."

**The teacher at Mabuig, W. C. Minniss, reports:—**

"I have the honour to report that I took charge of Mabuig school on 3rd May, 1909, having been transferred from Saibai. I opened school with an enrolment of 56 pupils, the school being closed for some time, 32 of the children had left, some having gone to Moa school and a number of the bigger boys going to the boats. At present I have 60 on the roll, and expect more when school is opened after the holidays next week.

"The school children are clean, healthy, and well dressed for native children, as you will see by the photo. taken a little while ago by Mr. Field while on a short visit from Badu. They attend school fairly regularly, but require looking after. The population is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Married ... ..	50	48
Unmarried ... ..	23	11
School children and infants ... ..	56	57
	129	116; total, 245.

"Births, 11; deaths, 4; marriages, 5.

"Mrs. Minniss has a class for the older girls in school two afternoons in the week, Monday and Friday; there are 16 of them, they seem to enjoy coming, and are getting on remarkably well.

"I am pleased to say the two native boats 'Mabuig' and 'Urupi' are quite clear of debt at present; but the other boats, 'Lacandola' and 'Thalmar,' belonging to the Papuan Industries, Limited, are still very heavily in debt, and there is not much probability of their getting out of it for some time. We have had a fair season, and the boats did pretty well with shell, and were able to get a quantity of flour, calico, &c., after paying off their debts.

"The gardens have done very well this last year, a plentiful supply of kumalos, cassava, yams, pumpkins, and bananas being grown.

"There has been very little sickness in the island—a few cases of fever, but nothing serious, for all were amenable to local treatment.

"There were 6 cases tried before the council, but all of a trifling nature. In 3 cases nominal fines were imposed and paid; the other cases were dismissed."

**The teacher at Murray, J. S. Bruce, reports:—**

"I have the honour to send you my report for the year 1909 on the school and other matters connected with Murray Island. The school was opened after the summer vacation on Monday, 1st February, when 89 children were enrolled, and the week following there were 101 on the roll. The children have shown advancement in their classes during the year's work; but I am sorry to say there is no improvement to report in their attendance, through their having to assist in the work of the gardens. During the Jubilee holidays I visited Thursday Island to obtain medical advice, and had to remain there for three weeks, which curtailed the number of days for the school year. The school was closed for the summer vacation on Friday, 17th December.

"There were during the year 35 cases before the Mamoose's Court; a large percentage of them were cases of petty assault and disturbances of the peace, none being of a serious kind. Land disputes were, as usual, to the fore; they are generally a source of trouble and, owing to the variance of the evidence brought forward, a searching inquiry has to be made and the portion of land visited before a decision is come to. The harbouring of girls against the wish of their parents or guardians to compel them to consent to a marriage to which they object—these and land disputes generally lead to other breaches of the peace, and have to be discouraged. Seven dogs were registered by their owners.

"Monthly meetings of the council were held at the court house throughout the year, when the work of each month was arranged for the carrying out of improvements and keeping the roads, wells, villages, &c., in proper condition. The Mamoose and councillors were very regular in their attendance, and gave good assistance in connection with the work done. I attended all the meetings; and, in the court cases, visited the disputed portions of land and arranged new boundaries where required.

"This has been another very sickly year; fever and influenza have been prevalent throughout the whole of it, which have caused a high death rate. We generally get rid of the fever during the latter quarter of the year, but it has kept with us much longer this year, owing to the north-west monsoonal rains having set in much earlier than usual.

"Births: Males, 8; females, 6; total, 14. Deaths: Males, 7; females, 7; total, 14. Marriages, 5.

"Owing to the copious rains, this has been a splendid season for garden crops, which provided abundance of food for the people, and afforded them the means of carrying out the various ceremonies and festivals which they so dearly love. Cocoanuts were planted out along the road side; 1,600 nuts were planted, and are looking fairly healthy.

"There has not been much activity shown in the working of the boats here this year, no doubt owing to the plentiful supplies of food obtained from their own gardens, as the native, whilst living on his own island, sees little or no need of working to provide himself with more than his present requirements and his few luxuries in the shape of a little tobacco and calico. The two boats we have at work visited Thursday Island three times during the year to sell their produce and purchase goods. One of the boats is entirely free of debt, and the other is slightly indebted for repairs and boat gear supplied."

**The teacher at Saibai, Mr. T. A. Williams, reports:—**

"I have the honour herewith to forward you my report of the school at Saibai Island, from April, 1909, when I came into residence and relieved Mr. Minniss.

"The boys of the first class are farther advanced than the girls, being able to do sums of money and multiplication, addition, and subtraction of fractions. The girls, with the exception of four, are much below par; arithmetic puzzles them completely.

"The Samoan missionary's wife very kindly assists by taking the girls two afternoons each week, to teach them washing and sewing, at which they show some real progress. A voluntary night school has been started for reading English and to study English grammar; volunteers attend Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

"The number on the roll were—Girls, 35; boys, 39; total, 74. Aggregate attendance was—Girls, 6,177; boys, 7,027. Average attendance—Girls, 30'5; boys, 34'6; total, 65'04.

"The crops of kumalos, yam, and taro have not been very plentiful this year, owing to the continued rain and swampy nature of the island. Every available spot of suitable ground has been taken advantage of for planting purposes.

"The captains of the boats have taken advantage of each clear water to go fishing for pearl shell. As there are a great number of cocoanut trees, both here and at Boigo, I have suggested making copra, as Mr. Walker, of the Papuan Industries, is anxious to get as much copra as he can. If the natives would start immediately, and only keep keen with pearl-shelling and copra-making, they would be past want and would never need assistance; but time is of no object to them.

"There is a general movement in reconstructing old houses and building new ones. The councillors have passed an Act that no two married couples are to live in one house as formerly, but each married couple are to have their own house; therefore some fourteen new houses are under construction. All houses are built at least 4 feet off the ground on piles; many of the houses have two or more rooms with verandas, in some cases verandas all round.

"With the exception of one serious case, which the Protector at Thursday Island settled, on the whole, conduct has been fairly good. There have been a few insignificant cases which the councillors settled both at Dauan and Saibai. At both islands I have attended court also. I have gone to Boigo, when requested, to assist and advise the councillors there to settle the disputes of their fellow-islanders. Occasionally the Boigo councillors come to Saibai to seek advice in minor matters, though not very often—Boigo is too far away.

"The health of the natives has been fair; there have been a few cases of fever, resulting in one death. The latter end of the year we were visited by an epidemic of acute diarrhoea, which, I believe, was caused by gorging pig's flesh and drinking the animal's blood. One woman was taken ill at 11 p.m., and at 5 a.m. the following morning she died. I ordered everything that the woman had touched during her brief illness to be burned, the house fumigated, and the body buried immediately. A few here have been bitten by snakes; these were saved by prompt and drastic treatment. One woman while at work in her garden was bitten by a turkey-red snake (common here); she was too far away for me to attend to her immediately; she died twenty minutes after being bitten, on her way in.

"Statistics:—Saibai: Males, 153; females, 117; total, 270; births, 11; deaths, 7; marriages, 4. Dauan: Males, 21; females, 29; total, 50. Boigo: Males, 59; females, 51; total, 110.

**Barambah Aboriginal Settlement.**—"I paid several visits during the year to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and found after each visit considerable improvement was apparent. An addition has been made to the office premises which will serve as a storeroom; a building, 14 feet by 12 feet, has been erected for use as a hospital; another, 40 feet by 15 feet, with verandas, is in course of completion to be utilised as quarters for the single girls. The whole of the buildings have been erected by the natives themselves, and nearly all the timber used in the construction has been sawn on the settlement by them by means of a pitsaw. The work is most creditable, and reflects great credit on both the Superintendent and his assistant.

"About 4 miles of substantial wire fencing has been put up, and a flat-bottomed punt about 12 feet long built. The Superintendent's dwelling, the school, and the office have all been painted. About 100 shade and ornamental trees have been planted, and guards erected; and most of the trees are doing well. A good culvert has been placed over a bad gully on the track to the railway station, and the road generally improved. It is now proposed to put a low-level bridge over the Barambah Creek, and the girders for this purpose have been cut; this, when completed, will be a great convenience, as the banks of the creek are very steep, and it is difficult to bring a load across. Five or six good sawn gates have been put in position; the hinges and all necessary iron work being made on the place by the natives. A spud bar, made of iron, measuring  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch, was shown to me, which had been broken; it was welded together by one of the natives (Fred Black), and was a clean neat piece of work, of which a white tradesman would not feel ashamed, and goes to prove how expert and useful the aboriginal may become under practical and experienced supervision. The painting is the work of the three natives Bullgoy, Cavanagh, and Samuels, and is also well and neatly done; even the word "OFFICE" which has been painted on that building—in fact, the whole of the requirements in the form of repairs to vehicles, buildings, fences, yards, &c., are now done by the natives, and in quite as neat and substantial a manner as the average white man would perform such work. A well, 42 feet deep, properly timbered throughout, has been put down; but on reaching a supply of water it was found to be quite salt and unfit for ordinary use. It was intended to place a windmill on this well, but now some other site will have to be discovered. At the school I found 88 children in attendance—41 boys and 47 girls. They all presented a cleanly and happy appearance; their lessons are well done, and the writing exercises exceptionally neat and clean. The discipline of the children is excellent, their teacher, Miss A. A. Lipscombe, evidently having their full confidence; and she is to be congratulated upon her management and the progress made in the school.

The herd of cattle belonging to the settlement now numbers 270 head, of which about 20 three-year-old steers will be ready to kill in, say, six months. The increase to the herd has much improved since extra bulls were obtained. All the cattle are rolling fat, with few or no ticks, and no sign of a disease of any description. The horses recently purchased for the use of the settlement have turned out well, and are working satisfactorily. About 250 acres have been ringbarked, care being taken to preserve any useful timber; and it is proposed to continue this work, at the proper season of the year, as the improvement to the pasturage in country so treated is most marked.

"The aborigines who really recognise the reserve at Barambah as their home total 600; about half this number are continually going to and fro to employment in various districts, and some 300 are usually on the settlement. The health of the camp is good. A mild epidemic of blight occurred recently, but has now almost disappeared. A few cases of venereal, about 20, are in evidence, but in all cases confined to newcomers.

"The area under cultivation comprises some 60 acres, but, owing to a dry unfavourable season, the crops have not been as good as might be wished. Notwithstanding this, however, about 3 tons of good maize has been harvested, and a fair crop of sweet potatoes will be available. A flock of about 100 goats are also on the settlement, and these will in the near future undoubtedly prove a valuable adjunct to the meat supply. The introduction of two or three good Angora bucks would be desirable and profitable. (Two have now been procured.)

"To the impartial observer, or to one who has some real knowledge of the nature of the Australian aboriginal, the settlement at Barambah cannot be considered other than a most successful undertaking. It has been the means of providing a large number of these much-decried people with a sufficiency of food, kind treatment in sickness and in health, and generally making for their welfare, besides bringing them into useful walks of life, which cannot fail to ultimately improve their conditions.

"In evidence of the foregoing it is a pleasure to be able to state that during the last twelve months the natives of Barambah have placed a sum of £850 to their credit in the Government Savings Bank, thus enabling them to withdraw and expend on themselves about £450, and there still remains a sum of £700 to their credit. Some two years since I ventured to predict the settlement would become self-supporting, and it is gratifying to be able to say my prediction has come about. There is no reason why this aboriginal settlement should not have thousands instead of hundreds of pounds to its credit; and provided no obstacles are thrown in the way, but on the other hand a generous and sympathetic attitude is taken up by those in authority, I feel convinced that in the near future Barambah will be in such a position as to render it quite independent of any outside assistance, and should go a long way to prove that the aborigines of Queensland are not the stupid irreclaimable race they are so often asserted to be by the majority of white people. I append hereunder a report from the Superintendent, Mr. B. J. T. Lepscombe, on the year's operations:—

"The number of natives on the settlement at the end of the year was 370, and the number of rations issued during the year was 86,562, or an average of 287 per day.

"The health of the natives has been fairly satisfactory, considering the number of old, helpless and feeble sent here from other districts. The duty of ministering to their ailments has been ably carried out by Dr. S. E. Pointon, the Storekeeper, since his appointment in July. During the year 25 deaths occurred, principally of old people from senile decay and of young children from infantile troubles; and the number of births during the same period was 10.

"School is still under the able control of Miss A. A. Lipscombe, and the progress made by the scholars is very noticeable. Since my last report the attendance has considerably increased, the number on the roll now being about 88. A pleasant little ceremony occurred at the breaking up of the school on 24th December, when a tree was procured and decorated with toys, &c., sent from Brisbane for the children. They were lined up in the playground and marched into school, and their eyes opened with astonishment at the sight of the tree in the centre of the room. The teacher, with the assistance of the Matron, then gave each child a suitable toy or present, which was received with surprise, for many had not seen a Christmas tree before.

"In order to exhibit and encourage the work of the children, sewing samplers, garments, copy-books, &c., were sent to the Brisbane Exhibition in August last, as a non-competitive display, the Society promising special awards where merit justified it; but no prizes were received, much to the

children's disappointment, as many people capable of judging considered they were quite equal to many other successful exhibits. The exhibits were afterwards lent to the Aboriginal Inland Mission for their Annual Convention Exhibition.

"The work performed by the natives on the settlement when not out at employment was ploughing, harrowing, chipping, in the cultivation; planting maize, potatoes (English and sweet), pumpkins and melons, and a fair crop is anticipated. Twelve acres have also been stumped and some ploughed for future use. Three and a-half miles of new fencing have also been erected, besides repairing and shifting other fences. Two hundred and fifty acres have been ringbarked, and much miscellaneous work done, such as carting water, firewood, and stores, mustering and dipping cattle, building girls' new dormitory of five rooms, veranda, &c. About 300 slabs have also been split, of which 150 have been dressed for a store about to be erected.

"The outside employment of the natives has been very regular, permits and agreements being issued for 616 males and 31 females for periods ranging from one day to twelve months, the principal work being scrub falling, brushing, stock-riding, corn-picking, planting, and general dairy and farm work, &c., for which occupations they appear particularly adapted. The usual deductions from their wages for settlement maintenance and Savings Bank deposits are still made; but, as now the presence of a retail store on the settlement causes them to draw more largely upon the bank balance, I am persuading them to put 2s. per week into the bank instead of 1s. to provide for increased demand.

On the 4th November last we had a general muster of the cattle on the settlement; but I am under the impression that some were missed in the paddocks, the total muster being 289 head, made up as follows—4 bulls, 92 cows, 45 heifers, 110 steers, 38 calves. We have also 13 horses (8 geldings, 3 fillies, 2 foals); one gelding died during the year from old age, and one foal had to be destroyed.

The stores for sales to the natives is under the charge of Dr. Pointon, and was opened in July. It has been a great convenience to the natives, and helps to prevent them from going to the township and getting drink, besides giving the officers of the department a better opportunity of supervising the quality and serviceableness of their purchases, and encouraging them to spend the money earned outside for their wives and children instead of in drink and gambling. The office work is still heavy, and takes up so much of my time that it is impossible for me to give the full attention necessary to the outdoor work, which consequently falls to a great extent upon the assistant, Mr. Petersen. The inward number of letters was 2,550, and of outward 2,765. The collections during the year amounted to £1,311 19s. 4d. This does not include wages received in Brisbane, which did not come through my books.

The conduct of the natives during the year has been satisfactory, although I had to summon one for insubordination, which, however, appeared to have a good effect upon the others. On several occasions it has come to my notice that drink has been procured before coming on to the settlement, and I have not the slightest doubt that some has found its way on to the reserve; but I am under the impression that in nearly every case it was given by unscrupulous white hotel loafers who have made the black man pay for the favour. Two cases came under notice, and prosecutions followed. At one of them I was a witness, and have never seen such a barefaced manner of supplying them with it before; he was fined £20. The other defendant was a loafer; but he was sent to gaol, as he had no money to pay his fine. I am glad to say that during the holidays an extra constable was stationed at Wondai, and made periodical visits to Murgon.

"I think the natives as a body are very contented with their treatment here by our Department, for some of them even walked from Gayndah to be on the settlement for Christmas.

"The usual Christmas luxuries were, of course, supplied by the Department; but the amount of money that was spent by the natives in extras at our retail store and at Murgon would surprise a good many. Like their white brethren, they vied with each other in seeing who could have the finest table for Christmas, and the show was very creditable. They had the usual Christmas puddings and some 3-tier cakes, and other dainties their money could procure. Many of the tables were tastefully laid out, for many had the benefit of teaching at service. Unfortunately, rain came down just before the dinner-time, and spoiled many of the decorations; but they managed to get all the edibles under shelter in time. All enjoyed themselves immensely, and say that this was the finest spread ever seen on the settlement. The rest of the week was regarded as a holiday, and sports and games were daily indulged in.

During the year a fine new lorry was purchased, which has proved a great assistance in carting the heavy loads from the station. We intend, as soon as possible, to have a bullock team and break in our young bullocks for this purpose. A hand-pump was also installed above the creek, which saves the boiler man a lot of work lifting water out of the creek. A new plough is required, as the other is broken, I am afraid, beyond repair, it being a cast-iron one; experience has shown that cast-iron tools are not serviceable on an aboriginal station. If we get our bullock team, we shall then need a larger and stronger plough.

"The cattle dip has done good service during the year, and been of great benefit to the settlement and the residents. I am afraid, however, it will have to be reconstructed; it was built by white labour in the first instance, and a real mess made of it, for after heavy rain the sides crack and bulge in and spoil the dip mixture by allowing soakage of water. Next time it is built the black boys will take it in hand, and make a permanent and solid job of it. A new dip has lately been constructed in Wondai, and it is rumoured one will shortly be made in Murgon. In that case there may be no need of rebuilding our dip, as it will only be required by us occasionally for our own cattle.

"During the year we had a good many visitors, and one and all apparently went away with a good impression of the place and especially of the school children's work and progress."

**Yarrabah Mission (via Cairns).—**The Superintendent, Rev. G. W. Morrison, M.A., reports:—

"The year 1909 has certainly been one of changes at Yarrabah; the president and secretary of the executive having passed away, and the Superintendent, in broken health, ordered a furlough to last at least one year, from the 17th June, 1909. Mr. Gribble's seventeen years of superintendence, as well as a life-long work amongst the aborigines, mark him out as an expert on aboriginal missions; and all champions of the native blacks of Australia, as well as his own friends, will wish him a complete and speedy recovery of his health.

"In conclusion, we would say that, in spite of much change and many obstacles, the mission has steadily worked on and made progress. There is abundance of work to do, but comparatively few to do it. Out of a total population of 330, not 50 are able-bodied working men. In the youngsters growing up we put our trust for the time to come."

**Cape Bedford Mission** (*viâ* Cooktown).—The Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz, reports:—

"Since my last report on our work at Cape Bedford we twice had the pleasure of a visit from you; and, therefore, I am afraid that my report for the year just ended will contain very little information that will be new to you.

"Much as in former years, the work at the mission station has been carried on; staff, inmates, and the work being practically the same all the time.

"After so many years of labour, it is gratifying to see and know that our work has not been altogether in vain amongst the aboriginals at Cape Bedford. The community that gradually gathered around us and settled down permanently numbers at present 125. They are a quiet peaceable lot of people, always obedient, ever ready to work, always willing to help each other, trying their best to lead a simple Christian life, and their management gives us very little trouble indeed.

"With regard to our continued efforts in doing all we can towards making the station self-supporting, or at least partly so, I may say that we have more hope of doing so in the near future than we ever had before. At the end of 1908 we had under cultivation 12 acres of sisal hemp; during 1909 we added about 18 acres to the former area—a total of about 30 acres, and all apparently doing very well indeed. All being well, we hope to double this quantity during the course of this year. How well the hemp grows in our plantation I need hardly describe to you, as you had the opportunity to see for yourself. You also know that for the first few years we get no returns for our work, and, as nothing else will grow in our plantation, expenses to keep the station going are getting almost beyond our ability. A look at my last detailed account (1908-9) would no doubt prove to you this fact. With a view of getting some immediate returns, we started an out-station on the McIvor River during the latter half of last year. The land there, of course, is far superior to any soil we have near Cape Bedford, and should grow almost anything; but where much clearing has to be done not much of a return can be expected even on the best soil during the first year, whilst the outlay of money is rather considerable. So far we have cleared about 10 acres, of which half has been ploughed up. We intend to plant sweet potatoes and peanuts on this piece of land; but even if both—potatoes and peanuts—grow well it will take two or three crops to pay initial expenses. We had to put up a small house, buy plough, harrow, a strong vehicle to keep up communication with the place when impossible by boat—a boat more suitable than the 'Kiora' for this work—pay wages, &c.

"Altogether, I may say the opening of this new station has cost us £250 so far. It certainly is not a very large sum in itself, but it increases our general expenditure to such an extent that we will not be able to keep it going without some financial assistance from your Department—at least for the first few years. As I said in a former letter to you, we were hardly a week or two at this station when we had 100 blacks around us, asking for work and rations. The remnants of four tribes meet at this particular place, and would be quite willing to work and settle down there. It was out of the question to employ them all regularly, of course—not on account of having no work for them, but simply because we had not the means of keeping them. Besides what we have cleared for annual crops so far, we would like to clear by degrees 60 acres or more for sisal hemp; and in about two years' time we would have enough plants to put that much under cultivation. On account of the necessary machinery which cannot very well be moved from place to place, it is not advisable to start with a smaller area; but if once that quantity is growing it would not matter how much would be added to the plantation—the same machinery could work it all; and I am quite sure an area of 60 acres of sisal hemp alone would enable us to support all aboriginals that may gather at the station without any outside assistance at all.

"At Cape Bedford itself, we could not start with a large area; we had not sufficient land, plants, labour, nor experience to do so. The consequence is that we could start reaping on 6 acres by the end of the year; but this quantity of hemp would not pay for the necessary machinery for some time, and we are not in a position to spend the necessary amount of money at present, although I am sure it would not be very long before the hemp would pay for all the machinery; so I am afraid we will lose one or two years' crops; and that, of course, is a great pity.

"Besides hemp, we having growing at Cape Bedford at present some 2,500 cocoanut trees, of which about 200 trees are bearing. We intend to increase the area of cocoanut plantation considerably during the coming year. We have about 1,500 young plants growing in nurseries now, which will be ready for transplanting towards the end of this year; of sisal hemp plants we have about 20,000 growing in nurseries. Of the latter we will soon have far more than we ourselves could plant; but as some people in the district who have seen or heard about our hemp plantation seem to go in for growing hemp too, I expect there will be a market later on for all surplus plants we can grow. No doubt more farmers would go in for this industry if once a start was made in this direction and results could be shown. I sent about 350 lb. of hemp to a rope factory in Sydney a few months ago, and was informed by Forsyth and Co. that quality of hemp was very good. They paid for it at the rate of £27 per ton, and asked if I could supply large quantities; so there seems to be no difficulty in finding a market for it.

"During last year, for the first time since the station existed, we had at different times rather serious sickness amongst the inmates of the station. In one case, in which sickness seemed to spread rapidly, I found it necessary to obtain medical attendance and advice from the doctor in Cooktown.

"During the past twelve months we had to record 3 deaths against 3 births.

"Rev. Poland left Cape Bedford during last year to take up clergyman's work in the Southern part of Queensland.

"To the school you paid a visit when last here, and I need hardly say that Mrs. Schwarz is still carrying on that work in the usual way."



**Mapoon Mission** (*viâ* Thursday Island).—The Superintendent, Rev. N. Hey, reports:—

"The number of aboriginals who have benefited by the rations issued during the year was over 300; the average daily attendance at the station only 118. A considerable number of aboriginals are still wandering over the reserve; but in cases of sickness or accident they visit the station, where they know they are always welcome and receive attention. Among a sick and dying people medical work is indispensable. Both in 1908 and again during the past year, a severe epidemic of influenza and dengue fever visited our people, and nearly the whole population was attacked. Tubercular and venereal diseases are still very prevalent amongst the adults, chiefly owing to the former visits of recruiting boats. Much has been done in instilling into the natives the laws of health and the importance of cleanliness; but in a country and among a people, where nearly everything is done 'to-morrow,' old habits are not quickly changed, and much more has still to be done to overcome fatalism, apathy, and firmly-rooted customs and superstition. The necessity for at least a yearly inspection by a visiting medical officer has been much felt. There have been 9 deaths and 6 births during the year; most of the deaths have taken place outside the mission.

"The general conduct of the people has been, on the whole, good; and all have been willing to obey the instructions given. Only through outside interference and influence was any difficulty experienced in the management of the station. The average attendance at school has been 60; the lowest, 58; the highest, 74. School hours were three in the morning and two in the afternoon. On Wednesdays and Saturdays the children were employed outside the ordinary course of school routine. The boys were taught carpentry, agriculture, and dairy work; the bigger boys had opportunities to learn the management of sailing boats. The girls were taught sewing and general housework besides having their own garden to attend to.

"Over 60 boarders (40 girls and 20 boys), 14 of whom are reformatory children, were housed in their respective dormitories. Not only the reformatory inmates but also a number of mission children came from other districts, and vary in colour from nearly white to black; and the difference in their characters and dispositions is even greater. They all require at times a firm though kindly hand to keep order and discipline. All the boarders are under constant supervision, even after school hours and during holidays; and much praise is due to the teachers for the progress made in every way. The dormitories, the yard, and playground were enlarged, and have been kept in good order; and thus have been of an educational value for those who came from the squalid camp life.

"The importance of play was also recognised. Amusement is a want that must be satisfied; otherwise the young life grows crabbed and sour. The merriment of our young people is in striking contrast to the stolid, frightened, and expressionless look of their heathen friends.

"A model farm, 4 miles from Mapoon, has been for some years in operation, and from it a number of little homesteads have sprung up during the year where young married couples enjoy the novel sensation of home life and ownership. The only solution to the problem, 'What shall become of the half-caste aboriginals?' seems to us to be found in the settling of the young couples upon the land, removed from all outside influence, and placed under suitable supervision and moral and Christian influence; and thus they might become a valuable asset to the State.

"£177 worth of home produce has been consumed on the station during the year, and over £29 cash raised by the sale of various products from the farm. This amount was sufficient to cover expenses in connection with this important branch of our work. Those who have been settled upon little homesteads of their own provide, as a rule, for themselves, except during the first year; and no record is kept of the amount they have produced.

"The reserve is stocked with about 90 head of cattle, 7 horses, besides a number of pigs and goats which have provided a constant meat and milk supply for all mission inmates and reformatory children.

"In conclusion, I beg to tender to the Government, on behalf of the natives, my sincere thanks for the grant for rations for the benefit of both mission inmates and reformatory children.

**Weipa Mission** (*viâ* Mein E.T.O.).—The Superintendent, Mr. Edwin Brown, reports:—

"Our statistics still point to our people being a dying race. So far as my observation goes, the birth rate amongst the aborigines, taken as a whole, is very low, and infant mortality is comparatively high. If one takes any group of the people, the number of women and children is generally nearly the same. Thus if the children were apportioned out there would be but one child for each woman; and so two people, a man and a woman, have but one child as their portion to take their place when they have passed away. Considering these things, we had rather a high birth rate—nine for the year; and so things looked a little more hopeful. But, then, to counterbalance that there have been 11 deaths.

"Those whom we consider our people number over 300; but with the means at our disposal we can, as it were, only touch the fringe of the work that we would like to do amongst and with them. The daily average of those whom we have fed—*i.e.*, children, sick, and workers—has been 68. Of these nearly 50 have been children. Then to take off another 5 for sick people leaves us with only 13 workers. Of course we have not always the same people around us. They are constantly changing—some coming and others going; so that all, more or less, benefit from the station, though, fortunately for the work, some of the younger men stick to it fairly well.

"In the matter of health we have reason to be specially thankful. We were visited by no serious epidemic such as we often have been in the past. The general health has been good; we have had far less sickness than usual. Some few had attacks of a kind of influenza, and both my wife and I were down for a while with the same about the middle of the year.

"In the educational department there has been a change during the year. In July Mr. R. Hall was appointed as my assistant, and Mrs. Hall appointed as teacher. She has since been in charge of the school. There have been 73 children attending, but, as some of them are somewhat erratic in attendance, the average was but 50 for the year. The experiment was tried of employing two of the married



girls, who had been bright pupils, as monitors. I was quite satisfied with them in this capacity; but there were so many breaks, when they accompanied other married people on expeditions to the bush, that we judged it best to dispense with their aid. Owing to some getting married, the number of girls boarding with us has been reduced to 24. On three evenings a week classes are held for the young men—one evening general instruction, another band practice, and the other Bible class. The brass band has so far progressed that they were able to take part in the Christmas celebrations. The 1st Weipa, North Queensland, Company of The Boy's Brigade is flourishing. It is exercising a beneficial influence on the boys, and they enjoy their weekly drill under Lieutenant Hall.

"The usual gardening and repairing of buildings, fences, and roads has been done; and the church has been re-roofed. The original covering was ruberoid. As long as it lasted it had the advantage over iron of being cooler, and less noise when it rained. But its life in the Tropics I have now proved to be too short to justify its use. On our church it has completely perished, and broke into holes with the action of the wind. We, therefore, have had to completely recover the whole building with iron. The great work of the year has been the erection of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles of fencing. This joined on to the river and creek, which formed a natural fence, gives us a paddock about 8 miles in circumference. This fence of one rail and a wire, split posts and rails, was done under contract by a number of the men. A work on hand, and but partially completed, is the clearing and fencing in of about 5 acres adjoining the main garden. We are already ploughing it, and hope to get a part of it cropped this season. In the building of natives' houses we have advanced a stage, and make them now of slabs with a bark roof. These should prove much more durable than those made all of bark.

"Mention has already been made of an event which marks an epoch in the history of our station—viz., the passing of the kanaka assistant by the advent of a duly recognised white assistant, who can be an assistant indeed and not a mere overseer, himself requiring constant supervision. Mr. and Mrs. Hall are both natives of New Zealand, where the former was engaged in farming before entering upon his training as a missionary. Therefore he is just the man for our work, and I have been able to practically hand over the agricultural work to him.

"From a climatic point of view the year was a good one. Early showers made the grass grow well, and there was no scarcity of water; also, the cool weather lasted longer than usual. Towards the end of the previous year Mr. Hey and I joined in the purchase of a jack donkey from Townsville, with a view to breeding mules from a number of mares which we have. But he evidently had a great knocking about on the journey up, and then he arrived here late in the season. Consequently he took no notice of any mares that season. This season, however, he is doing better, and thus we have prospect of mules in due time.

"With many thanks to your Department for the help which has been accorded us in the grant for feeding people."

**Aurukun Mission** (*viâ* Coen).—The Superintendent, Mr. A. Richter, reports:—

"The year 1909 has been a year of work at Aurukun, and, as we hope, of solid work. It was the first year since the establishment of the station that the number of workers was full. Thus everyone could devote himself to the branch of work and prosper it. The most marked progress has been made last year in the school.

"Though the average number has hardly been above 20, the children were more steady. Their wisdom from other former years was almost nil, after eighteen months without school. Now after a year's teaching they are able to read words and spell them. They have almost gone through the wall sheets; also arithmetic; and writing shows a fair progress. The chief value of teaching I consider in the fact that the intelligence of the boys has been awakened so that they take pleasure in learning. The school has been kept without interruption, though the school teacher (Mrs. Wilson) was obliged to see the dentist at Thursday Island. During her absence we have kept school ourselves. The children out of school are as noisy and lively as possible. Almost all of them are living in dormitories. Last year there were some orphan girls given into our care, so that the girls' dormitory is also occupied. During the day the children are occupied in various duties in which, especially, the boys show themselves very handy (the girls are still too much strangers to this life). We are pleased to notice that the regularity of life, as well as the cleanliness into which these children are gently forced, is doing them good. The manual labour has also been one of the chief signs of works on the station. A good deal of repairing and little improvement has been made all over the place; but there are also great improvements, such as the large new workshop, besides tool houses, blacksmith's corner, and carpenter's place. The workshop contains room enough for a good number of different workers, who seek refuge against the rain or the burning sun. Two young married men started to build houses for themselves on their own accord. I have only given them advice, supplied them with nails, and lent them tools needed for it. The building material—such as wood, bark, &c.—they carry from the bush. They are building their houses in the spell time. Improvements in the garden have been a large new nursery and a cotton field. The pineapple plantation has now about 600 plants. The number of fruit trees was increased with about 100 new ones. A broad road in the village was begun and planted with two rows of cocoanut palms. On the new landing road two rows of mango trees were planted. The returns from the vegetable garden were fairly good. The maize also did well. Tomatoes shaded in the nursery bore from April to even now. A new bean was introduced which has supplied us with green vegetables all the year round. The returns from the fruit, however, were not satisfactorily: after July the ground and atmosphere became so dry that the young trees, in spite of watering, dropped the flowers. The big mango trees of 15 feet high, which we had not watered for years, began to cry for water this year, and, as they did not receive it in time, began to wither. We managed to keep them alive, but there was no fruit. The sweet potatoes turned out a failure. The boys' garden and the gardens in the camp did fairly well, considering that it was the first trial. The behaviour of the people has improved, though we have had much to reprove, chide, and punish. A nation sunk down so low cannot be lifted up in a few years to the standard of natural humanity. It took thousands of years to bring them down so far; it should take longer to lift them up, for to roll a stone up a hill is much slower work than to

let it roll down. However, trusting in the power of the word of God, with which we are trying to do this work, we hope to have this nation raised in about half a century, provided that we are able to stop the dying out before it is too late.

"The year 1909 was a year in which very little happened. Things went their proper way, work has been done regularly, and the improvement was a steady one. Once the people were a bit excited; it was when Mr. Hey visited the station in May. Apart from this, we could only mention the Christmas festival, which was again the great joy of the year. 'Unfortunately,' some young fellows said, 'it passed off too quickly.' But there were also other events less joyous, such as the hurricane on 13th January, which lasted for 36 hours. It did comparatively little damage; two strong trees broke and fell on the old workshop. They smashed the old building to pieces, but it had not been much good before. One large tree near the mission house was broken, but fell, fortunately, so as not to touch it. Large heavy branches, which could not be carried by ten men, were flying through the air like leaves, but nobody was injured. Several roofs were uncovered; the mission house was trembling, but stood the storm well.

"The state of health was satisfactory, but not good. The year began with attending to a woman whose head was so injured that the skull was seen. Such and other injuries were frequent. So were signs of syphilis in very different appearances, and a variety of skin diseases. There appeared a boy on the station, belonging to the 'Langi tribe,' who looked like a leper in a high state. Fever, however, has been seldom, and not at all epidemic. Death occurred three times at the station—two were adults, whose cases we considered hopeless, and the other was a baby of three weeks; one man, having been at death's door, is now strong and well again.

"Closing with the wishes that many more years like the passed one may be granted to us."

**Trubanaman Mission (Mitchell River).**—The Superintendent, Mr. H. Matthews, reports:—

"In reviewing the past twelve months, I find the report will be much the same as that of last year. During the year our staff has been increased by the arrival of Mr. Roy from South Australia, Miss Matthews from Victoria, Miss Park from New South Wales, and two South Sea Island boys. With this number we are in a position to push on rapidly with our work, but we are hampered by lack of farming implements—a plough and harness, corn-planting machine, corn-cobbing machine. Miss Pick has charge of the school, and is gradually finding out the capabilities of her scholars, and next year, 1910, should show good results for her labours. Miss Matthews teaches the women and girls housework, cooking, and sewing, and finds them apt scholars. Mr. Roy supervises the live stock, and the islanders attend to the gardens. The men and boys do the ploughing and planting and clearing. Unfortunately, we are unable to keep on a sufficient number to extend and improve the land as it should be. Given a good season this year, we hope to make a good step towards self-support. It will, however, take another year or two before we will have enough ground cleared to ensure support for our constantly increasing numbers. Our crops were again a dismal failure. We had a greater area under cultivation. But the returns were almost nil—melons none at all, corn 220 lb.; potatoes, 350 lb. The staff lived on cassava and other garden produce for over five weeks, as we ran out of flour, and our boat was delayed. The year's work has been much broken by shortage of provisions, as I have been compelled to send the people out for weeks at a time in order to husband rations. As a good deal of our work is unproductive, such as building, getting material, &c., the consumption of food seems greater when compared with the progress made. To a certain extent this is inevitable in building up a new place, and there are many difficulties which retard satisfactory progress. The following is a statement of food consumed on the station during the year, and other details:—Flour, 15,850 lb.; tea, 189 lb.; sugar, 1,148 lb.; tobacco, 235 lb.; treacle, 803 lb.; soap, 77 bars; rice, 6,430 lb.; maize, 250 lb.

"Average number of inmates, 60. Deaths, 1 infant; births, 2. Health was very good on the whole: there was no disease amongst the inmates.

"The number attending school last quarter was 23. Average daily attendance: Boys, 12; girls, 5.

"Of our buildings one house is used as a dispensary and hospital; six huts for married couples; one dormitory for single boys; one dormitory for single girls—these are all built of bush material, 3 cwt. of nails being used; one house for use as women's quarters, built of sawn timber and iron.

"We have 36 head of cattle—34 cows and heifers and 2 bulls; 14 head of horses; 19 head of goats; 11 head of fowls.

"The fruit trees comprise lemon, orange, mango, pineapples (bearing), custard apples, and bananas. Ground is being prepared for cotton.

"We are very short of farming implements and fencing wire, and above all, cattle. Our aim is to teach the aborigines in our charge to become self-supporting, and the time is now ripe for placing out married couples on ground of their own. We are also aiming at establishing two out-stations next year—one at the coast, and one at the Mitchell—where there are many natives whom we cannot reach.

"We have cause to be thankful for the good health enjoyed by all, and are looking forward to a year of good substantial work."

In a supplementary report from the Bishop of Carpentaria, written after a visit of inspection to this mission, His Lordship says:—"I am very much struck by the immense benefits which have resulted to the mission from the presence of the two lady workers, Miss Matthews and Miss Pick. The whole tone and character of the work has been raised. There are now resident at the mission—young children, 6; school children, 17; single women, 2; unmarried men, 28; married men, 15; married women, 15; staff, 7—making a gross total of 90 souls. About 14 acres of land in all have been under cultivation during the past season. The result of the corn (over 5 acres) was very disappointing; and the sweet potato crop, though good as far as it went, was small. The cassava and pineapples are doing well, but the areas are not large enough; more land is being cleared, and it is to be hoped that better results will be obtained. I brought down with me a South Sea Islander who is a good gardener.

"The conduct of the natives has been good, and I was struck by the improvement in the quantity and quality of their work. The practice of 'walk-about' has been given up, and the men work steadily all through the week. The women have been taught sewing, and are now able to make their husbands' clothes.

"I have been going into the accounts, and find that the mission is now spending about £362 per annum on flour, rice, sugar, tea, tobacco and clothing for the natives, exclusive of the salaries and food of the staff, tools, building, and other incidental expenses, which amount to at least as much again. I am of the opinion that the mission is exercising a very real influence over the natives, and teaching them the habits of industry and self-control.

"The question of establishing out-stations will soon become pressing, as the natives gradually learn to work with less immediate control; but it would not be well to unduly hurry things. Altogether I have been very much impressed and encouraged by my visit, which took place exactly five years after the first foundation of the mission."

**Deebing Creek** (*via* Ipswich).—The Secretary of the Mission Committee, Mr. W. H. Foote, reports:—

"The committee have to report that during the year 1909 they have met regularly every month; at most of the meetings of committee Mr. Morrison, the Superintendent, being present, as well as written reports being read and discussed and necessary business transacted. The home has been visited by members of the committee, occasionally by appointment, when official visits were deemed needful. The farm has also been visited, and crops and stock inspected as thought necessary.

"The conduct of the inmates has been satisfactory. There is still at times a little trouble in connection with drink. It seems impossible either for the committee or the police to reach those who supply them with the drink, and the aboriginals themselves will bear any punishment rather than give evidence in the matter. In this way they show a wonderful faithfulness to those whom they look upon as their friends worthy of a better cause. On the whole, there has been less occasion to find fault about the drink than in former years. The men have been regularly employed who are able for work, either on the home or outside, and they are spending their money more regularly to increase their own comfort and that of their families, imitating European habits in dress and home comforts, more especially the young men and women who have grown up in the home.

"The number of the people at the home during the year has averaged 77. There have also been a few who have paid short visits. The general health has been good; although the home was visited by the influenza, none of the people were seriously ill with it, although most had it. There were 2 deaths and 2 births. The one death was that of a very old woman; the other of an infant. We have had no accidents, venereal or any other illnesses, which would speak of insanitary conditions or impure living.

"The young people who have gone out to service have, without exception, given good satisfaction to those who have employed them; several of them have been highly spoken of by their employers.

"During the year the new home which had been erected beside the school for the committal children, where they are now under the immediate care and supervision of Mr. Morrison and the teacher, has been in use during the year. This the committee feel to be much more for their moral advantage, and the children themselves appear to enjoy it better. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison are whole-hearted in their devotion to the work and those committed to their care of all ages, and strive not only to be directly helpful to them, but also by teaching them in many ways to help themselves, and are thus a good humanising as well as a Christianising influence to them. The crops at the beginning of the year were, unfortunately like those of our neighbours, far from being satisfactory; both the maize and potatoes returning little more than the seed put into the ground. The plentiful rains at the close of the year are giving us bright hopes for the future. We have not yet succeeded with the cotton, although we still believe it should be a great help in many ways, especially in training the young to habits of industry.

"During the year Miss Jane Bain, who has been for so many years carrying on the school work with such success, left us on the occasion of her marriage. It was with much regret the committee parted with her; but they are pleased to say that they have found an able successor to her in Miss Ada McCaul, who came to us from the Education Department, in which she has earned a good name in the provisional schools which had been under her care, after she had served her pupil-teacher's course. She found herself at home in the work at once, and the children seem now to be as much attached to her as they were to their former teacher.

"In connection with the stock at the home, we still have trouble with the ticks, but dipping and constant care has saved us from much loss by this cause. Three cows did die; one of these met with an accident, and was too late in being discovered to enable us to make any use of it; the others died in calving. All are now in splendid condition, and we have an increase of 15, notwithstanding the 3 deaths, 1 killed, and 1 bull sold.

"In horses we have an increase of one, giving a total value of £223 18s. for the stock; now the tools and agricultural implements are all in good order, and in sufficient quantities to meet all requirements at the home, also for the men who go out to work. This year the amount appearing in our balance-sheet as earned outside by the men does not appear to be so large as formerly; whilst they have in reality earned more. As in former years, all the money that they earned passed through our books; this last year most of what belonged to the workers has been paid to themselves, and that portion which came from their earnings for the benefit of the home only passed to our account.

"The following tabulated statement gives the details of the various items:—Population, 77; average—Daily school attendance, 31; under Industrial School Act, 14.

"Two deaths occurred—1 senile decay, 1 infant; and 2 births.

"The only sickness amongst us was a slight influenza epidemic.

"Our stock shows 8 horses, valued at £98; and 63 cattle, valued at £125 18s. Four cattle died, valued at £13. £47 worth of improvement work was done on the mission property, and £14 5s. worth of produce was raised and consumed. Receipts from all sources were £526 1s. 1d., and expenditure came to £540 1s. 6d., leaving a debit balance of £14 0s. 5d."

## ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The payments to this account during the year totalled £128 10s. 11d., which, as shown by the following statement of receipts and expenditure, was made up of the wages due to deserters, the estates of deceased aborigines, unclaimed wages, and redemption of portion of loan made to natives in Torres Strait to procure boats for fishing.

Of the amount, £114 9s. 10d. was expended in the purchase of clothing for indigent natives going to employment, medicine for the sick, expenses of burial of deceased natives; and, as considerable Savings Bank business is done for the natives, an amount was drawn from the account to hold as a further advance account to enable them to draw their money without delay. The balance to credit of the account is exclusive of £183 6s. 5d., and interest still owing by certain Torres Strait Island boats.

## ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>
Balance to credit, 1st January	...	150 11 2	Clothing to indigent natives or those going first to employment	...	36 9 5
From estate deceased native	...	76 15 0	Medicine to sick	...	0 3 6
„ Wages, deserters	...	32 12 7	Burial expenses	...	9 2 0
„ Unclaimed wages	...	10 0 3	Refunds of estates to relatives	...	25 17 0
Refund of fares	...	2 3 9	„ „ travelling expenses deposited	...	2 3 9
Redemption of loans to Torres Strait Islanders	...	6 16 2	Amount drawn for use as advance account	...	37 10 0
Miscellaneous collections	...	0 3 2	Miscellaneous expenditure	...	3 4 2
			Balance to credit, 30th December, 1909	...	164 12 3
		<b>£279 2 1</b>			<b>£279 2 1</b>

## EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINIES BY DIFFERENT STATES DURING THE YEAR 1909.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Amount. £
Queensland	*20,000	10,584
South Australia	3,491	4,175
Victoria	253	3,968
Western Australia	*27,000	22,559
Northern Territory	*16,000	*1,500
New South Wales	7,370	24,744

\* Approximate only.

## OFFICE WORK.

Number of letters received, 2,213; despatched, 2,546.

In conclusion, I must again thank the Commissioner of Police and his officers for the very material aid given me in the pursuance of my duties. I would also take the opportunity of again recording my appreciation of Mr. Bleakley's services, on whom the work of compiling the statistical portions of the report mainly depends, and to the staff generally, who are always ready and willing to carry out their duties in the most admirable manner. To the Government Printer also my thanks are due for the presentable way in which the report is printed, and for his uniform courtesy in meeting the wishes of my Department.

I have, &amp;c.,

RICHD. B. HOWARD,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Price 4s.]

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