

1923  
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QUEENSLAND.

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# REPORT

UPON THE

## OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Aboriginals, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates Institution (Dunwich), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Government Relief, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), Prisons, and Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane).

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PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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1923.

A. 45—1923.

## Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department.

Home Secretary's Department,  
Brisbane, 28th August, 1923.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the following information regarding the operations of the under-mentioned Sub-Departments of this Department.

WILLIAM GALL,  
Under Secretary.

ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).  
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).  
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).  
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Wm. H. Jamison).  
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. D. P. O'Brien).  
GOVERNMENT RELIEF (Officer in Charge, D. A. Hogan).  
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS (WILLOWBURN).  
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, A. T. Peirson).  
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).

### Aborigines Department.—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1922.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

The prolonged drought and the slump in price of cattle have noticeably affected the demand for aboriginal labour, as the decrease in the number of engagements as compared with last year will show. The slackness has been felt more in the settlements, for whatever employment was available first absorbed the local labour.

The observance of employment regulations appears to have been generally satisfactory, but the severe curtailment of police patrol work makes efficient supervision of the working conditions an impossibility.

The total number of natives engaged under agreement was 2,537 (males 1,957, females 575), and permits were issued for the casual employment, for short terms, of 314 males and 564 females.

Two new protectorates, Millaa Millaa and Mount Mulligan, were created, and that at Thornborough was closed.

Sixty-three trackers and three native water police were engaged by the Police Department, and two were recruited for the Victorian Police.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

There was ready demand for all available aboriginal labour on the pearling and beche-de-mer fishing vessels, and the behaviour of the native crews has been generally satisfactory.

The practice of insisting on annual spells for these men, and of withholding recruiting permits during this holiday time, has had good effect in many ways, one especially in preventing "corners" in such labour.

The permits issued at Thursday Island numbered 320, and during the year 252 islanders and 151 mainlanders were discharged at the shipping office. The wages earned amounted to £3,723, of which the islanders received £2,255 and the mainlanders £1,568.

In addition, 240 islanders worked their tribal "company" boats; their savings being

£9,740, a decrease of nearly £5,000 on the previous year's work, partly through the fall in prices of marine produce, but mostly through unfavourable weather conditions.

At Cooktown 98 natives were engaged on the fishing fleets and earned in wages £1,111.

#### INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Thirty-five claims under the Workers' Compensation Act were made, four being for fatal cases. Compensation amounting to £973 was

received, and in every case the payment was made to the Protector, who controlled the disbursement of the money for the recipient's benefit.

#### ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNTS.

The following is a return of transactions of Savings Bank accounts held in trust for natives throughout the State, but does not include any trust accounts or store credits of natives on the various Missions.

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposited.		Accounts Transferred other Districts, Settlements, &c.		Interest Earned.		Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barambah .. ..	649	4,547	5 0	633	11 5	211	13 3	4,157	11 0	7,408	3 9
Taroom .. ..	236	2,600	15 8	287	6 5	26	0 7	2,108	17 10	1,482	13 9
Palm Island .. ..	530	1,886	6 10	1,559	2 8	146	16 1	3,359	8 9	4,668	16 6
Girls' Accounts .. ..	113	2,159	5 5	..	..	109	17 2	2,307	1 4	3,675	13 3
Various P. Accounts .. ..	4,304	40,966	5 0	13,413	0 6	4,806	14 8	45,558	13 9	172,638	6 2
Total .. ..	5,832	52,159	17 11	15,893	1 0	5,301	1 9	57,471	13 6	189,873	13 5

A perusal of these figures shows a decrease of over £23,000 in the total wages deposited, which can be read as a loss of approximately £30,000, or 32 per cent. of the earnings of the native workers, the result of the drought and the slump in the cattle industry. As a consequence increased relief had to be granted from the Savings Bank accounts and it will be seen that the withdrawals allowed exceeded the earnings by £5,300. As this deficit was just balanced by the interest earned, the total money in trust for all natives remains practically unaltered.

The fact that during this bad time the native was given in necessary benefits the whole of his earnings and over £5,000 of his past savings is, I think, some answer to the criticism levelled at the system of compulsory saving. The number of Savings Bank accounts was reduced by 640, through the transfer of £3,281 of unclaimed moneys, deceased estate, &c., to the Property Account, for administration for benefit of next-of-kin.

#### ABORIGINAL PROVIDENT FUND.

Contributions to this fund during the year amounted to £2,517. The calls for relief only amounted to £129, and the balance is now £8,245.

The rate of contribution has been materially reduced, and exemption is granted to men maintaining large families or numbers of dependants.

#### AUXILIARY KETCH "MELBIDIR."

Although the vessel's operations have been confined to Torres Strait waters, it has been possible to do more patrolling than in the previous year. Altogether 2,740 miles were covered, of which 2,294 was while conveying the Protectors on inspection duty.

A patrol was made to the Weipa mission with medicines and relief for an outbreak of sickness, and the vessel was also engaged conveying the Inspector of Public Works on several inspections of buildings on Torres Strait Islands.

The master has also given valuable assistance in supervising the work of repairing and refitting native fishing vessels.

#### CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Applications for exemption from the Aboriginal Protection Acts were received from 79 half-castes. After strict inquiry into each claim the certificate was granted in 33 cases (22 males, 11 females), the remaining 46 being refused as being ineligible.

Three certificates were revoked, the holders having forfeited their right to them by misconduct or failure to live up to the conditions.

#### REMOVALS AND RECOGNIZANCES.

Three permits for transfer of natives to other districts were granted, and bonds were entered into for the return of 49 natives, temporarily removed by employers. No occasion arose for action to estreat any of these undertakings.

#### FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Regular relief rations amounting to £1,384 were issued from 27 centres in monthly allowances according to number and need of recipients.

Casual relief amounting to £488 was issued where found necessary. The above relief was all to natives not entitled to benefits from the Provident Fund.

#### BLANKETS.

At the annual issue of blankets the following goods were distributed:—3,570 blankets, 217 dresses (women), 118 shirts (men), 148 trousers, 7 girls' dresses, 7 boys' shirts, 931 yards print, 60 singlets, 2 boxes salts, 34 tent flies, 354 tomahawks, 372 lb. tobacco, 192 pipes, 624 fishlines, 53 boxes fishhooks, 24 fishing sinkers, 12 reels cotton, 3 packets needles.

The cost of blankets and other goods was £2,034, and the carriage £95.

The purchase and despatch of this relief was satisfactorily carried out by the Government Stores on the requisitions of this Department, and the goods were received and issued in time for the winter needs.

## OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative table of prosecution for offences against the Aboriginal Protection Acts, for the past three years, speaks for itself:—

Offences.	1920.		1921.		1922.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	46	£ 392	52	£ 343	25	£ 340
Supplying liquor ..	5	130	13	246	11	181
Harbouring ..	7	48	7	31	2	4
Illegally employing ..	6	16	8	67	25	33

There appears to have been a gratifying decrease in opium offences. Sixteen of the prosecutions recorded occurred in Innisfail, four in Cairns, and two in Rockhampton, the pernicious traffic being most common in districts favoured by Asiatics.

## OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative statement of offences for which aborigines have been convicted during the last three years speaks for itself:—

Offences.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Drunkenness .. ..	23	26	46
Stealing .. ..	1	19	1
Entering premises .. ..	..	2	3
Creating disturbance .. ..	..	1	4
Desertion from ship .. ..	2	14	5
Desertion from employment .. ..	4	5	1
Desertion from reserve .. ..	..	4	4
Obscene language .. ..	1	4	7
Assault .. ..	..	1	6
Murder attempted .. ..	..	1	5
Destruction of property .. ..	..	3	2
Disobedience on reserve .. ..	..	3	..
Living on proceeds of prostitution .. ..	..	1	..
Unlawfully using horse .. ..	..	1	..
Attempted rape .. ..	..	..	1
Indecent exposure .. ..	..	..	2
Carnal knowledge of a mare .. ..	..	..	1
Breach of traffic regulations .. ..	..	..	1

## REMOVALS.

Below is given a statement of the natives removed to reserves on Minister's orders, for disciplinary reasons or for their own protection and relief:—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Barambah ..	18	7	8	33
Taroom ..	6	2	..	8
Palm Island ..	76	35	16	127
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah ..	16	4	15	35
Cape Bedford ..	..	..	3	3
	116	48	42	206

## HEALTH.

Reports from inland districts show generally good health except for scattered cases of venereal disease, but the coastal institutions, especially in the Gulf and Torres Strait, have suffered several severe epidemics. The Palm Island settlement and Monamona mission experi-

enced outbreaks of measles of a mild type, and influenza broke out at Mareeba and Tumoulin. In Torres Strait and the Gulf missions there were outbreaks of severe whooping cough, followed by influenza or malaria. Scabies also appeared at some of these places. This skin trouble also broke out at Taroom early in the year, being introduced by newcomers. A few cases of dysentery appeared at Thargomindah. Venereal disease appeared in many of the districts, but is particularly prevalent in the Peninsula and Gulf country. The following centres reported treatment of cases:—Aurukum 12, Weipa 12, Mapoon 4, Thursday Island 8, Monamona 3, Ingham 2, Cloncurry 3, Croydon 1, Cunnamulla 2, Laura 2, Kidston 1, Innisfail 1. Eight cases also were sent from Coen for treatment at Cooktown and afterwards to Townsville Tropical Diseases Hospital. At Burketown and Cooktown this disease is reported to be prevalent and also in the camps on the east coast between Port Stewart and Cape York.

The proposed settlement or mission on the east coast of the Peninsula to receive the natives of these camps, check the illegal recruiting and save them from the degrading abuses, also the local hospital for isolation and treatment of the venereal diseases, are urgently needed, and should be established as early as possible.

The hookworm campaign has been energetically maintained, and is still proceeding with its work amongst the aborigines in the Northern camps and institutions.

Every possible assistance and facility is afforded by the officers of the department, and the Director most cordially co-operates with the Health Department in assisting this office with advice as regards improving the sanitation.

The number of natives receiving treatment at district hospitals numbered 326, the missions gave treatment to 29 as in-patients, besides a daily stream of out-patients for minor ailments. The Torres Strait Hospital received 96.

At Barambah settlement 513 were treated by the visiting medical officer and 318 admitted to the hospital. At Taroom 366 were treated and 70 admitted to hospital. All serious cases needing medical attention at Palm Island were sent to Townsville Hospital. At each of these settlements a daily stream of out-patients received treatment for minor ailments, and the old people and the young and delicate received regular meals of soup, milk, porridge, sago, and other nourishing foods.

There were 239 deaths, of which 93 occurred on the settlements, 19 in Torres Strait, and 14 on the mission stations. As against this the births reported numbered 343, of which 123 were registered by the parents.

## YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The number of women and children removed to institutions for their better care and protection was 90, of which 44 women and 24 children went to settlements and 4 women and 18 children to mission stations.

Eleven young women were granted exemption as being considered fit to manage their own affairs. As far as possible these cases are kept in view, as it is questionable whether many of those granted such freedom are any better off

for it. The money saved is often soon squandered, they become unstable in employment and use their freedom to foment rebellion amongst other girls not so privileged.

Thirty-six others received permits to be legally married, 29 cases being to men of their own race, in two cases to Pacific Islanders, in four (being crossbreeds) to Asiatics, and one (a half-caste) to a European.

No reliable record could be obtained of tribal marriages, but those amongst natives known to the Protectors numbered 83. Twenty-nine European half-caste women received the maternity bonus, the majority of whom were married women. Of these 18 were dealt with through the head office, and 11 through district protectors, ensuring the disbursement of the bonus for the purpose intended.

The number of girls hired out to service from the Brisbane office was 95 (being full-bloods 24, half-caste 71), of whom 37 are in town situations and 58 in the country. Only girls who have proved well conducted, have been with the same mistress for years, or whose circumstances make it necessary for them to remain within easy reach of the female Protector, are allowed in town or suburban situations.

The total number of Savings Bank accounts held in trust for these girls is 107, with an amount of £3,675 to credit, an average of £34 per head.

The wages collected for them amounted to £2,159, and the withdrawals allowed for clothing, dentistry, &c., £2,307.

It was again only possible for the inspector to visit situations within easy reach from Brisbane, her time being fully occupied in the work of selecting clothing for the settlements and shopping for the girls not intelligent enough to do their own.

The few complaints received were carefully inquired into, and, generally, the conditions of employment and the conduct of the girls was very satisfactory.

The number of orphan children in homes was 57, four being discharged during the year and placed in service. They were distributed as follows:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island	17
Salvation Army Industrial Schools—	
Yeronga and Chelmer (girls) ..	14
Riverview (boys) .. ..	6
Purga Mission (boys and girls) ..	13
Mapoon Mission .. ..	7
	57

The total cost for the maintenance of these children was £998.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

In his report the Protector at Thursday Island says:—

The health of the natives was not quite as good as during 1921. A particularly severe outbreak of whooping cough at Darnley, Murray, Yorke, Adam, and Badu Islands caused several deaths amongst the children. The school attendance suffered in consequence. Following in quick succession epidemics of influenza broke out, particularly at Badu, Adam, and Boigu Islands, and scabies at Mabuiag and Darnley.

Effective steps to combat these outbreaks were adopted, and the reserves are now free from these complaints.

The returns show that the population of the islands is 2,712—men 737, women 613, boys 719, girls 643—being an increase of 101 on the previous year's figures. The births numbered 87—44 boys, 43 girls. There were 19 marriages and 47 deaths.

*Schools.*—During April a hurricane was experienced at Darnley Island, which did considerable damage to the teacher's residence and demolished the school building.

A new school building and a temporary residence for the teacher were erected by native labour. The Public Works Department have in hand the erection of new quarters during the coming year. The native teacher appointed to Stephens Island has settled to work, and a school building and house have been erected for him.

Repairs were also effected by the Government carpenter to the teacher's residence at Saibai and Yam Islands.

*Island Funds.*—The total collections were £1,780 and the expenditure £1,337. A sum of £2,699 is out on loan to native fishing vessels, and the balance on hand is £2,659.

There is an increase in the amount out on loan of £888, due to the necessity for usual repairs and refitting, and the redemption payments falling short through bad weather and poor markets affecting the earnings.

*Island Company Boats.*—The working of the boats for the period under review was not as successful as in 1921. The weather conditions were not conducive to successful fishing, it being invariably bad when clear water existed.

The price of mother-of-pearl shell, too, was not comparable with 1921. During that year the price did not fall below £130 per ton, the highest price being £153 10s. 9d. per ton; but in 1922 the highest price received was £138 and the minimum £118 10s. 6d. The prices of bêche-de-mer also suffered a severe drop during the year, as the following statement will show:—

	1921.	1922.
	£ per ton.	£ per ton.
Black and red fish ..	359	176
Tiger fish .. ..	174	90
Teat fish .. ..	343	131
Black fish .. ..	267	164
Sand fish .. ..	133	67

These circumstances to a certain extent were against successful working.

The total earnings for the year amounted to £9,740, in comparison with £12,919 in 1921. However, in spite of above drawbacks, many of the boats did well, the Yorke Island cutter "Masig" being prominent in this respect.

A number of the boats are, as a consequence, somewhat heavily in debt; but, although the task before them is a heavy one, with regular patrols of the islands to keep the crews of the boats up to the mark, and good seasons to help, the next year should show most of them in a more satisfactory position.

The nominal debts on most of the other boats should, with good weather conditions prevailing, disappear this year. Others, though able to keep out of debt, paid little or nothing to Reserve Fund.

The "Mabuiag," from a total earnings of £585, just cleared expenses with a credit balance of £6 12s. 10d. at the store.

The Mosby Bros.' boats "Kismet" and "Nancy," which are controlled through this office, also suffered from the bad season, as also did the Cocoanut Island boats "Caroline," "Yessie," and "Poruma," and the Murray Island boats "Miriam" and "Alice." With decent fishing conditions prevailing, all boats should be in a much more solvent condition at the end of the coming year.

However, in the matter of making the boats the successful venture that they certainly should be, it is quite evident that satisfactory results will never be attained without a constant patrol of the islands concerned. A persistent driving power is needed behind the native; and while it is left to the crews to work at their own sweet will the vessels will never show the results which, with firm handling and regular supervision, should be attainable. If regular patrol of these fishing grounds by the "Melbidir" could be carried out it would do much to ensure steady working.

*General.*—The number of savings bank accounts in operation at the 31st December was 610, an increase of 60 on the figures for 1921. In 1920 the number of accounts was 466; 1921, 550; and in 1922, 610.

The system of compulsory banking has proved of real benefit. The native can in this way be protected from his greatest failing, thriftlessness.

#### RESERVES.

A perusal of the statistics for the last two years, 1921 and 1922, discloses an interesting fact—that, contrary to the common belief, the natives are not dying out fast. Each of these years shows an increase of births over deaths. In the three previous years—1918, 1919, 1920—deaths exceeded births, but this was entirely due to the decimating effect of the pneumonic influenza epidemic. This improved vitality is particularly noticeable on self-contained reserves, where the native is segregated from the evils to which, if the popular prophecy is to be fulfilled, their extinction will be due.

It is not inevitable that they should die out. The evidence does not support such a conclusion sufficiently to justify treating their case with indifference. Their progress on the road to extinction has been rapid in the past because the belief that it was useless trying to save them has been made the excuse for indifference to their fate.

It has been demonstrated beyond dispute that, placed in conditions where they are afforded protection, and given a reasonable chance of self-support, they can readily adapt themselves to better social conditions and be trained towards a partial if not complete self-dependence.

#### GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

**Barambah (Superintendent, B. J. T. Lipscombe).**

**Taroom (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).**

**Palm Island (Superintendent, R. H. Curry).**

*Labour.*—Drought conditions and the low price of cattle have again affected the demand

for male labour for station work, but the request for domestic servants has been keen. Careful discrimination in the hiring of females is very necessary, as it is found that in some of the bush situations the girls are not properly looked after and protected. Similarly, in the sugar-growing districts there is keen demand for male labour for house and yard work, but it has to be carefully watched to prevent sly work on the sugar farm.

The number of engagements entered into was—

Barambah, 762, including 610 casual jobs.  
Taroom, 83, including 14 casual jobs.

Palm Island, 138, including 14 casual jobs.

The wages earned amounted approximately to £16,000, of which £11,514 was paid to the natives' credit at the settlement, where this money was controlled for benefit of themselves and their families.

	Barambah.	Taroom.	Palm Island.
	£	£	£
Collections .. .. .	4,547	2,600	1,886
Interest .. .. .	212	26	147
Settlement contribution ..	316	177	383
Withdrawals .. .. .	4,157	2,109	3,359
Balance .. .. .	7,408	1,482	4,668

#### Population—

Barambah 692 (233 M., 183 W., 276 Ch.)

Taroom 246 (109 M., 42 F., 95 Ch.)

Palm Island 696 (345 M., 179 W., 172 Ch.)

There were 42 marriages, 55 births, and 93 deaths.

*Health.*—The institutions have experienced several distressing epidemics. Besides the weekly medical visits, a regular stream of out-patients for minor ailments is treated daily.

At Barambah an outbreak of influenza followed by pneumonia taxed the hospital accommodation to its utmost bed capacity. The medical officer also expressed considerable anxiety because of the prevalence of tubercular trouble introduced by new arrivals.

At Taroom the year started with an outbreak of chicken-pox, and later scabies and ring-worm broke out, some new arrivals being responsible for the infection. Several venereal cases had to be isolated for treatment. In August, September, and October a number of pneumonia cases were treated in hospital.

At Palm Island a number of cases of fever occurred in January, and an epidemic of measles in November. A number of venereal cases were sent to Townsville hospital for treatment.

*Crime.*—Only one serious crime was committed, the murder of an inmate of the Barambah Settlement. This victim deserved his fate, as, for years, he had been a menace to the peace of all institutions he was placed on, by terrifying the ignorant inmates with the boasted practice of powers as a medicine man to "bone" them, and cause their deaths. This unfortunate happening, while to be deplored, will have good effect in deterring others from following similar practices.

It seems hard that the murderers had to be tried solely by the white man's law for their act,

but everything possible was done by providing defence in the police court, and by arranging for counsel to present in the strongest light the irresistible influence of these native superstitions upon their actions, in their defence at the criminal trial.

Except for this incident, conduct generally was very satisfactory. The usual minor offences were dealt with in the Settlement native courts.

Taroom reports show the conduct as excellent, and Palm Island claims that the lockup has not been used for over four months.

It is doubtful if equal bodies of white people, living in similar conditions, could be controlled with as little trouble.

*Retail Stores.*—The following figures will show the business going through these stores, and what an important part they play in the relief and protection operations. Besides ensuring supervision in the trading of the inmates, they provide a convenient and healthy channel for the cash brought into camp and, in addition, make it possible to obtain clothing as needed for issue to the indigents.

Settlements.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Barambah ..	564	3,326	264	4,124
Taroom ..	1,060	1,273	278	2,611
Palm Island ..	280	3,006	72	3,358
				10,093

*School.*—Good reports have been received of the progress made in the schools at Barambah and Taroom, but it has not yet been possible to provide a school building at Palm Island. It is hoped to do so this coming year. The old building at Barambah has been patched up and some partitions opened out to improve ventilation and comfort, pending erection of a more suitable building. A fairly comfortable building of mud bricks has been built by natives at Taroom and more school furniture provided.

Group dancing, singing, club-swinging, basket weaving, &c., are taught as indoor recreations, and cricket, football, and tennis as outdoor sports.

*Industries.*—The farms and gardens suffered badly through the prolonged dry weather, and in the southern settlement practically all crops were a failure. Vegetables have been grown where possible with hand irrigation. At Barambah 42 acres were put under cultivation, the yield being—lucerne 5 tons, maize 50 bushels, and cotton 17½ ewt., pumpkins 2 tons, cabbage 2,000 head, turnips 1,700.

Five miles of fencing has been erected or repaired, a dam has been sunk, a good deal of bush timber work and road repairing done, and 150 acres of land brushed.

At Taroom fresh cultivations have been made on a patch of good scrub land, 60 acres have been thoroughly cleared, and of this 30

acres have been reserved for settlement farming. Twelve 5-acre blocks have been allotted to industrious families, and the experiment is proving very successful.

A great deal of hard work in pear clearing and fencing was done.

At Palm Island 40 acres of fresh farm land has been cleared and 12 acres put under the plough. A large swamp has been drained and planted with vegetables. More land on the hill-side was cleared and planted with bananas and papaws.

The produce grown and consumed included 4,000 bunches of bananas, 4,000 pineapples, 2 tons sweet potatoes, melons, pumpkins, and vegetables. Most of the farm lands were put under beans and peas for green manure.

*Stock.*—The cattle at Barambah number 560, being 526 mixed, 18 workers, 15 dairy cows, and 1 Ayrshire bull. Forty-four settlement bullocks were killed for beef. Other stock comprise 12 pigs, 120 goats, and 15 working horses.

At Taroom the failure of the feed through the drought made it necessary to travel the cattle to agistment. The losses through eating pear, bogging, and weakness numbered 3 horses and 50 cattle, including 1 stud bull and 3 workers.

Palm Island does not run cattle.

*Administrative Building.*—At Barambah six more native cottages have been completed and occupied, four others partly erected, and an up-to-date butcher's shop built. Most of the cottages have now been enclosed with serviceable fencing. The mill was idle for some months owing to lack of funds, but was started again in November, and cut 17,000 super. feet. of timber for buildings required at Taroom.

At Taroom several more useful buildings were erected of mud bricks, including an extra dormitory 60 ft. by 20 ft., and a number of native cottages on the communal farms.

At Palm Island a new bulk store was erected.

*Social Improvement.*—With the replacement of the old camp gunyah with comfortable though small wooden, mud brick, or thatch cottages, the whole social tone is steadily improving—sufficient to make one wish that funds would allow the progress to be more rapid. In the villages, most of the families have enclosed their new little homes with neat fences, laid out pretty flower-beds, made kitchen gardens, poultry runs, &c., and the women take a pride in the inside appearance of the cottages. One effect is noticed—they are not anxious to leave the reserve for employment outside.

Given decent living conditions, with regular employment to maintain themselves on the reserve, encouragement for home industries and happy family life, and healthy recreations, it would be hard to find more orderly or easily managed communities.

*Religious Instruction.*—Religious services and classes of instruction have been given at

Barambah by the Church of England clergy, the Salvation Army, and the Aborigines Inland Mission visitors. At Taroom the Bush Brotherhood visit at long intervals, the services and Sunday school classes being taken by two of the officials. The people, especially the younger section, showed encouraging interest.

No clergy visited Palm Island, but the more intelligent Torres Strait natives conducted regular church services.

*Recreations.*—The usual outdoor sports, football, cricket, tennis, &c., have been encouraged by supplying the necessary material. The natives all enter keenly into these.

The two cricket teams at Barambah joined the local association and won most of the matches against neighbouring white teams.

Hunting, fishing, boating, and native sports and corroborees have also been encouraged, and are equally keenly indulged in.

The usual Christmas festivities were held, to which extra luxuries were granted, and towards which the accumulated interest on the native savings bank accounts was, as has been the custom for some years, expended in gifts, sporting material, &c.

#### MISSIONS.

**Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, S. Lyon, F.R.G.S., F.L.S.).**

**Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, J. L. Bradford).**

**Cape Bedford, Cooktown (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz).**

**Moa Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. G. A. Luscombe).**

**Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. J. B. Love, B.A., M.C.).**

**Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. L. Dyer).**

**Trubanaman, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. H. Matthews).**

**Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, T. W. Holmes).**

**Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. R. H. Wilson).**

**Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Comdt. Wm. Knight).**

*Conduct.*—All reports of discipline and conduct of inmates were most satisfactory. There was no serious crime. Minor disputes and family arguments were settled usually by their native councillors, or the Superintendent's ruling was accepted as final.

*Religious Training.*—Regular services and religious instructions have been held, and the attendance and interest shown were most gratifying to the mission officers. It is claimed that the results of the religious work are the real arguments in its favour. The people are living peaceably and decently, the young people, especi-

ally girls and women, are living modestly and happily, children received from camps soon show a marked change for the better, all of which is due to the above training.

*Health.*—The Gulf Missions suffered from epidemics of whooping cough, influenza, malaria, and scabies. Twenty-eight cases of venereal disease also were treated at these missions. Three such cases were also treated at Monamona.

At Mornington Island, numbers were treated for sore eyes. Yarrabah also experienced a severe epidemic of whooping cough. At all other stations, health was generally good, and at most of them the birth rate greatly exceeded the death rate.

*Education.*—Steady and satisfactory progress is reported at all the schools. The boys are taught farming, fencing, bush carpentering, care of stock, milking, and general handiwork, and the girls are trained in domestic accomplishments, and found occupation in the making of clothing for themselves and the younger children. Fancy needlework, basket and mat weaving, are engaged in during spare time, at which they become quite skilful.

*Industrial and Agricultural.*—On most of the mission stations the crops have been affected by the bad season and returns have been disappointing, the exceptions being Mitchell River and Monamona. Bêche-de-mer fishing is still unprofitable, owing to poor markets; and the same applies to cattle raising.

At Mapoon a new plantation was started with 1,000 young cocoanut seedlings from last year's nursery. Two tons of copra were sold for £28. Bêche-de-mer fishing brought £161.

The married people in their own holdings raised large supplies of sweet potatoes, maize, peanuts, pumpkins, and fruit, which were used for home consumption. Lace and fancy work was also made by the women and sold.

At Weipa a new orchard has been planted with citrus fruit trees. Good patches of pine-apples and bananas have also been cultivated. Four acres of new land has been cleared and grubbed.

Eighty goats and fifty-four head of cattle have been purchased and serviceable yards built for them. The Mission house has been repaired, the school enlarged, and a new fence erected around the church.

A large sailing dinghy was bought for £40, and £30 worth of saddles and harness.

Some of the men earned £115 in employment, and £32 for sale of sandalwood. The girls' fancy work sold for £45.

At Aurukun much repair work has been done to fences and buildings. A pumping plant has been installed and water laid on to the mission from storage tanks. A good sawmilling plant has also been installed and some revenue is made from cutting firewood, for which there is ready sale at £3 a cord. Four tons of bêche-de-mer were cured, but only brought £86.



At Mornington Island 6 acres of land were cultivated, from which 4½ tons of vegetables and nearly 3 tons of fruit were raised, and all used for food. £142 was also earned from sandalwood and bêche-de-mer.

A church building was also erected.

At Cape Bedford a large area of land on the McIvor River under promising crops of sweet potatoes, maize, &c., almost a whole year's work, was completely destroyed in a few days by a heavy flood. The old Cooktown camp people at Spring Hill were fairly successful with their gardens; floods cannot touch them. They also were able to supplement the food grown by hunting. The old Bald Hills tribe, now camped at Bridge Creek, have pleasing little patches of cultivation planted with sweet potatoes, but they are very old and only a few of the men are able-bodied. They also do a little hunting.

At Monamona 60 acres of land are now under cultivation, 30 acres having been cleared and ploughed during the year. The farm produced 30 tons of cassava, 80 tons of potatoes, and 1,800 bunches of bananas, all of which was used for home consumption. Three miles of fencing also was erected. The sawmill and bullock teams contributed an important part of the mission revenue, as well as providing material for building improvements.

At Yarrabah the returns from farming were somewhat disappointing owing to bad seasons, but fair crops of sweet potatoes, cassava, maize, and tropical fruits were obtained. Twenty acres of new ground have been ploughed and planted under maize, and 12 acres under cotton. Half of last year's crop of cotton realised £61.

The sawmill continues to be run profitably, cutting timber for mission improvements. A large roomy boys' home, with accommodation for sixty, was commenced. The fine launch, built of mission timber with native labour, under the supervision of a Japanese boatwright, was completed, and the engine of the old wrecked launch installed. A jetty from the mill to the shore and a slipway for boats was built, and a second jetty for stores has been started. A new roof was also built over the sawmill. The cattle, numbering 150, are only in fair condition, and artificial grasses have been planted to improve the feed.

The inmates have earned good money in spare time making charcoal, dugong oil, native baskets, mats, &c.

Mitchell River has been undergoing a period of severe financial stringency, but good crops of food were grown under irrigation, and there were plenty of cattle to kill. An experiment which promises to prove successful was made by transferring the children from the village to a small settlement of their own, 2 miles away, where they receive practical training in gardening, and already grow much of the food for themselves.

At Purga, the earnings from farm and

garden produce, firewood, &c., amounted to £254, and £107 worth was consumed on the reserve. Forty-one acres of land is under cultivation.

A number of the inmates obtained employment outside, and of their earnings £573 was banked at the mission, of which they spent £483 in needs of themselves and their families.

At Myora Settlement, several of the native cottages have been enlarged and one new cottage built. The school has been fenced, and the grounds improved with flower beds and ornamental and fruit trees.

The residents are industrious and maintain themselves by working for the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, or by fishing.

The population is 40—namely, 38 half-castes and 2 full bloods. There were 2 births and 1 death. Health was good, except for an outbreak of scabies and boils in two families. Discipline has been good and very little drink has been procured.

The school children, numbering 16, made good progress and are well conducted, and the standard of morality is satisfactory. Religious instruction has been given, and healthy recreations encouraged.

The aboriginal school at Gayndah has been well maintained and the 14 children are making very satisfactory progress.

The Torres Strait Mission (Anglican) reports very satisfactory progress in the religious work amongst the Torres Strait Islands.

The training college for native missionaries at St. Paul's Mission on Moa Island sent out two of the students as deacons to take charge of schools at Dauan and Boigu, and conduct religious services and instruction.

It is said that the missionary spirit is much alive on the islands. Island natives have gone to New Guinea and Northern Territory as missionaries, and a married couple are also going to Cowal Creek, near Cape York, to form a small mission.

The Torres Strait men, removed to Palm Island, have also faithfully continued their regular church services.

The islanders build their own churches and keep them in repair, and contribute towards the expenses of ministrations.

*Social Progress.*—With the improvement of living conditions, a distinct advance is noticed in the social life of the people. Provided the rising generation can be kept from the retarding influence of the old myalls, their education to better things can be successfully carried out. They take a pride in their little homes and in making their gardens; but it is not surprising they get discouraged when the bush people are allowed to spoil their efforts.

*Recreations.*—This important side of the work has not been overlooked. Football, cricket, swimming, horse sports, outdoor and indoor games, music, foot races—not forgetting the national sports of spear throwing, corroborees, &c.—have been encouraged and are followed with keen interest.

*Aboriginal Protection Property Account.*—The following statement shows the receipts and disbursements of the money collected from unclaimed estates, which, by Regulation 14 of 1904, can only be utilised for the benefit of aboriginals:—

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
Balance, 31st December, 1921 .. ..	4,043 19 7	Expenses—	
<b>Collections—</b>		Barambah Aboriginal Settlement—	
Estates of deceased .. .. .	1,231 8 9	Septic tank .. .. .	225 11 7
Unclaimed bank balances .. .. .	2,049 14 8	Sawmill—Wages, native workers ..	44 3 4
Wages—Deserters .. .. .	61 0 0	Sanitary wagon .. .. .	40 2 0
Transfers—Bank accounts of deported natives, &c., and those banked for convenience .. .. .	173 1 10	Grants—	
Refunds—Interest on Settlement Joint Accounts .. .. .	402 14 11	Purga Mission, tanks .. .. .	5 5 6
Proceeds—		Hammond Island, relief .. .. .	40 14 1
Sale of cuttle fish, Cape Bedford ..	19 17 2	Myora—	
Taroom Sports Fund .. .. .	31 7 9	Fencing .. .. .	29 11 10
Miscellaneous .. .. .	22 4 11	Arbor Day, &c. .. .. .	4 11 10
		Gayndah school, prizes .. .. .	2 18 6
		Refunds—	
		Proceeds, sale of cuttle fish, Cape Bedford .. .. .	19 14 2
		To relatives, &c.—bank balances and deceased estates .. .. .	521 9 10
		Settlement of bank debits, old and indigent natives on settlement ..	107 10 1
		Taroom Sports Fund .. .. .	31 7 9
		Burial of destitute natives .. .. .	15 0 0
		Loans—	
		Advance Account—Taroom .. .. .	20 0 0
		Torres Strait Island Boats—	
		“Miriam” .. .. .	34 4 6
		“Erub” .. .. .	187 9 5
		“Alice” .. .. .	230 0 0
		“Don” .. .. .	10 16 0
		“Poruma” .. .. .	59 10 0
		“Nancy” .. .. .	117 0 0
		Christmas Goods, Settlement Interest Account .. .. .	443 13 3
		Miscellaneous .. .. .	19 8 6
		Balance, 31st December, 1922 .. .. .	5,829 7 5
	<u>£8,035 9 7</u>		<u>£8,035 9 7</u>

The aboriginal population is approximately 17,000 and the total expenditure by this department was £41,318.

The collections throughout the State, including wages and earnings of aboriginals, stores trading, sales of produce of fishing vessels, settlements, &c., was £88,258.

**Report upon the Operations of certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department - Aboriginal Department, Information contained in Report for the year ended 31st December 1922**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals  
RS 25.4/3

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