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## Native Affairs—Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1949.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit Annual Report under "*The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946*," and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946*," as at 30th June, 1949.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population of aboriginals, half-bloods, and Torres Strait Islanders is:—

Aboriginals .. .. .	9,185
Half-bloods .. .. .	6,672
Torres Strait Islanders ..	5,000

Aboriginals and half-bloods are to the extent of 44 per cent. located on Government Settlements and Church Missions. The areas and approximate population of these Institutions are:—

The remainder—viz., 4,912 full-bloods, 4,037 half-bloods—are located on country reserves and camps in country towns and on cattle stations where they are employed. The total also includes nomads.

The foregoing figures have been based on the records of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs, and can be accepted as reasonably accurate. When the result of the recent Commonwealth Census has been made known, a true figure of the aboriginal population of Queensland will be available.

### ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACTS AND DECENTRALISATION.

The most outstanding feature of Native Affairs administration during the period of review was the determination by the Queensland Government to transfer the main centre of

	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
	Acres.			
Palm Island Government Settlement .. .. .	15,510	590	614	1,204
Cherbourg Government Settlement .. .. .	26,765	164	760	924
Woorabinda Government Settlement .. .. .	54,800	353	499	852
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	39,710	235	402	637
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	588,400	286	6	292
Edward River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	554,880	300	1	301
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	616,320	674	14	688
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	860,800	117	168	285
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,216,000	642	8	650
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,600,000	151	..	151
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	245,120	322	35	357
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist) .. .. .	318	177	129	306
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) .. .. .	57,600	220	41	261
Total .. .. .	5,876,223	4,231	2,677	6,908

operations—the Office of Director of Native Affairs—from Brisbane to Thursday Island, and such was effected on the 1st July, 1948. The main motive actuating this transfer was an effort to give to the Northern Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals a greater measure of control, direction, and management than had previously applied to them, and furthermore to give to these people the same encouragement, industrial progress, and general amenities as prevails with Southern Aboriginals.

When it is appreciated the total Torres Strait Islander and aboriginal population of Queensland is just over 20,000 and approximately 15,000 of these are situated north of Townsville

and well over 8,000 in the Torres Strait area, the wisdom and fairness of the Government decision in this direction can be understood. Within the first year the innovation has provided results on the lines anticipated through the formulation of a long term policy of general advancement and development of the people.

### EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

As in previous years, the services of Queensland aboriginals were again in heavy demand for employment in the pastoral industry, particularly in the Gulf country, and North-Western Queensland, where the supply was inadequate to meet the labour requirements.

It is an established fact that the aboriginal, by his horsemanship and general aptitude for cattle work, has greatly assisted that industry, and without this native labour a serious problem would confront pastoral industrialists.

Approximately 4,500 aboriginals are employed in various callings throughout the State, and included in this figure are 53 men from the Palm Island Settlement who are engaged cane-cutting in the Herbert River district.

The main avenue of employment for Torres Strait Islanders is the pearl-shell and trochus-shell industry, as the majority of Islanders follow this calling, either on their own vessels or on vessels owned by registered pearling companies. During the year the Torres Strait Is-

landers' fleet of 31 vessels alone won 391 tons of mother of pearl and trochus-shell to the value of £67,548.

Eighty men recruited from the Torres Strait Islands were engaged as canecutters in the Gordonvale area, and it is pleasing to note that the Mulgrave Mill experienced a record crushing season, a substantial contributing factor to this success being the excellent work performed by the Torres Strait Islanders.

#### INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

*Cattle Raising.*—The following cattle are depastured on the three settlements, the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset being £46,093. The figures quoted are as at 31st December, 1948.

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.									Dairy Cattle.					Horses.		
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Woorabinda	42	1,260	296	81	329	850	..	9	2,867	..	45	17	16	78	42	79	121
Foleyvale ..	..	4	..	472	2	..	..	264	742	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cherbourg ..	20	628	3	111	26	165	11	25	989	1	37	27	..	65	9	16	25
Aboriginal Training Farm ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	60	14	27	103	4	2	6
Palm Island	..	..	..	22	..	..	..	49	71	1	66	23	21	111	24	16	40
	62	1,892	299	686	357	1,015	60	298	4,669	4	208	81	64	357	79	113	192

In addition to the supply of meat for local requirements, the following cattle were surplus and were disposed of:—

	£	s.	d.
206 fat bullocks .. .. .	3,466	10	9
283 cows .. .. .	2,759	8	5
	£6,225	19	2

#### Cattle Transfers—

From Cherbourg to Foleyvale—118 bullocks and 92 steers, valued at £1,732.

From Woorabinda to Foleyvale—147 bullocks and 238 steers, valued at £2,898.

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective, to the above figure must be added £5,598, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlements. Accordingly, sale returns for the period under review amount to £11,823. Seasonal conditions were good and assisted in the recovery of the Settlement herds from the long sequence of subnormal rainfall years.

With the development of Foleyvale, the consequent increase in carrying capacity, and improvement in pastures of first-quality land, numbers of cattle carried will be increased, and a substantial improvement in turnover can be expected.

*Development of Settlements.*—Recognising that the Government Settlements are in effect townships of considerable size, efforts are being

made to provide amenities in the form of water supply and the provision of electricity as would be regarded as normal in white townships of comparable size.

Projects now either in hand or under consideration comprise—

Palm Island.—Settlement domestic water supply. Installation of electricity.

Fantome Island.—Installation of electricity.

Woorabinda.—Provision of electricity. Provision of domestic water supply.

Cherbourg.—Complete rehabilitation of water supply, including new concrete tank and purifier. Scheme for the hygienic disposal of waste water.

Material shortages such as are being experienced generally are hindering progress with the schemes, but the electricity installations at Woorabinda have been completed and are in operation and it is expected to make substantial progress on the domestic water supply scheme during the next twelve months.

Most of the materials required in the Palm Island electricity installation has been accumulated and constructional work is expected to begin in August. The Settlement domestic water supply, which involves the construction of a 1,000,000 gallon concrete reservoir is also well in hand. All reticulation has been completed and for about eight months of the year

under normal seasonal conditions the Settlement will receive all required supply by gravitation. Work on the reservoir which will complete the scheme is about to be undertaken.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE  
ABORIGINALS PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION  
ACTS.

Wherever, following investigation, it is established that a half-blood or a full-blood aboriginal appears capable of controlling his own affairs, a certificate of exemption is issued to him. In some instances trial exemption covering a period of twelve months with option of renewal at the expiration of that period is issued. In other cases complete exemption is granted. During this year 92 persons were granted exemption.

The percentage of cancellation of exemptions is very small, and over the last five years only 24 such cancellations were necessary. The cancellation of an exemption certificate is not always due to misconduct by the owner. In many instances the aboriginal or half-blood finds that he is unable to take his place in the white community and to support his wife and family. There is also the inherent call in some aboriginals and half-bloods to return to Settlement or Mission life, and in a few instances that call is so keen that the exempted person hands in the exemption certificate and returns to the Settlement.

ANNUAL SHOWS.

Since their inauguration, the Settlement Annual Shows have been the means of natives giving expression to their arts and crafts, both individually and collectively, and in addition they are an opportunity to display their knowledge of modern handicrafts and tradesmanship, in which, by virtue of the training facilities available at the Government Settlements and Church-controlled Missions plus their own ability, they are no mean exponents.

Keen competition exists at each Settlement, and in order to give added stimulation, and bring about a closer co-operation between the three Settlements, the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs has presented a Shield for inter-Settlement Show competitions. The Shield is to be known as the Jones Shield, and the conditions of competition are:—

- (1) All exhibits must be the work of aboriginals only who are residents of that Settlement;
- (2.) The size of the display shall not occupy a space greater than 15 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 8 feet high;
- (3.) The trophy will run for five years;
- (4.) The settlement gaining the most points in the year from the three shows shall hold the shield for the ensuing year;

- (5.) The settlement which has the highest aggregate over the five years shall become the owner of the shield.

*Palm Island Settlement.*—The Arts and Crafts Show held last July was easily the biggest yet staged at Palm Island. Exactly 1,200 entries were received and all sections were well patronised.

An attractive schedule was published, and through the generous support received from the business houses in Townsville the cost of printing the schedule was covered by advertising space purchased by these many firms.

Generous donations were received from persons living on the mainland as well as from local residents, both white and coloured, and by this means the Show Committee was able to raise sufficient to meet prize commitments.

Two boats from Townsville and one from Lucinda Point brought many mainland visitors to the Show, and a very attractive display of native dances and other entertainments were staged during their stay, on both days of the Show.

The Show was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, A. Jones, Esq., M.L.A., to whom we are much indebted for his interest in our welfare.

*Cherbourg Settlement.*—The third annual Show of the Cherbourg Show Society was staged during the year. It was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, and in attendance were representatives of the Queensland Parliament, the Director of Native Affairs, and leading citizens of the South Burnett district. The Minister was enthusiastic in expressing pleasure at finding that the quantity and quality of the exhibits in the pavilion compared most favourably with those of any country show. Show time presents an opportunity for natives to demonstrate to Government officials and to visitors that improvements and a higher standard have been attained in their arts and crafts and way of living.

Ring events on the first day of the Show were not as good as anticipated. On the second day visiting teams of horses helped to make ring events attractive. The Show Society looks forward to improvements in the number of entrants, and in the preparation of horses for ring events for the forthcoming Show.

*Woorabinda Settlement.*—Last year's Annual Show was successfully staged and already the Settlement inmates are looking forward with keen interest to the 1949 event, particularly in connection with the forthcoming inter-Settlement display, as the presentation of the Jones Shield has fostered a spirit of keen friendly rivalry amongst the three Settlements,

## ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table of deposits, withdrawals, and balances, the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £397,666 8s. 1d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings bank accounts.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1949.

	Total.		Savings Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1949.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. ..	20,870 4 1	20,470 4 11	2,551 6 7	1,000 0 0	3,551 6 7
Palm Island .. ..	24,791 19 0	23,814 6 4	5,673 3 4	11,000 0 0	16,673 3 4
Woorabinda .. ..	18,480 17 2	17,512 2 8	6,901 18 7	4,000 0 0	10,901 18 7
Various Protectorates ..	111,237 10 4	107,377 9 6	47,570 13 11	238,000 0 0	285,570 13 11
Torres Strait Islands ..	86,327 19 1	73,316 17 1	80,969 5 8	..	80,969 5 8
	261,708 9 8	242,491 0 6	143,666 8 1	254,000 0 0	397,666 8 1

The balance, £397,666 8s. 1d. represents the savings of aboriginals from their earnings. A separate account for each individual is kept by the Director of Native Affairs, and the current Commonwealth Savings Bank rate of interest is credited annually to each account.

Duplicates of these accounts are kept by the Protector of Aboriginals in the district in which the aboriginal resides, thus allowing the latter to operate on the account in his home town.

These savings bank deposits are entirely the property of the individual aboriginal, the Director of Native Affairs being the trustee of the accounts. Only the aboriginal owner, or a person authorised by such owner in writing, can withdraw money from his account.

In the case of a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported, action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin. The number of estates so administered was 74, and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £6,301 9s. 4d.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate needs and innumerable cases can be quoted of:—

- Aboriginals receiving their exemptions from the provisions of the Act and receiving their savings in a lump sum to set them up in business suited to their calling;
- Homes being built for aboriginals from their savings;
- Plant and equipment being provided from savings to allow the aboriginal to improve his industrial status;
- Funds made available for aboriginals to enjoy a holiday at the seaside.

## CHILD ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS.

The Commonwealth Government child endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of this endowment has proved of immeasurable benefit to aboriginal children, in that it allows

the purchase of luxury foodstuffs, better type clothing, &c., than was possible before its inception.

A close check is made on every individual account to which child endowment is credited to ensure that the expenditure by parents is in keeping with the purpose for which the payment is made. The number of aboriginal parent endowees in the State is:—

	Endowees.
Country Protectorates .. ..	201
Cherbourg Settlement .. ..	92
Palm Island Settlement .. ..	47
Woorabinda Settlement .. ..	71
Torres Strait Islanders .. ..	443
Total .. ..	854

During the year under review child endowment was increased from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per week per child. The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £48,493 14s. 1d.

Where aboriginal children are wholly maintained in Mission and Government Settlement institutions the endowment is paid to the institution funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing luxury foodstuffs, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books, and reading material.

The following table reveals the number of children in institutions for whom child endowment is collected:—

	Number.
Doomadgee Mission .. ..	118
Mitchell River Mission .. ..	93
Monamona Mission .. ..	134
Arukun Mission .. ..	143
Mapeon Mission .. ..	128
Mornington Island Mission .. ..	159
Weipa Mission .. ..	50
Yarrabah Mission .. ..	323
Fantome Island .. ..	5
Woorabinda Settlement .. ..	89
Palm Island Settlement .. ..	299
Cherbourg Settlement .. ..	161
Total .. ..	1,702

## EDUCATION.

As indicated in the following table, the number of children receiving primary education is 2,267 :—

## ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st. December, 1948.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement .. .. .	Cherbourg .. .. .	126	134	260
Settlement .. .. .	Palm Island .. .. .	101	82	183
Settlement .. .. .	Woorabinda .. .. .	75	87	162
Reserve .. .. .	Cowal Creek .. .. .	22	23	45
Country Town .. .. .	Gayndah Aboriginal .. .. .	18	8	26
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Aurukun .. .. .	39	40	79
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Doomadgee .. .. .	31	49	80
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Lockhart River .. .. .	33	24	57
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mapoon .. .. .	26	27	53
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mornington Island .. .. .	43	52	95
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mitchell River .. .. .	51	42	93
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Monamona .. .. .	36	37	73
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Weipa .. .. .	13	21	34
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Yarrabah .. .. .	67	61	128
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Michael's R.C., Palm Island .. .. .	25	24	49
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Paul's, Moa Island .. .. .	43	30	73
Inland Mission .. .. .	Normanton .. .. .	12	12	24
Torres Strait .. .. .	Island Schools .. .. .	390	363	753
	<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>1,151</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>2,267</b>

*Secondary Education.*—In 1943 the Queensland Government approved of a scheme suggested by the Church of England Authorities and supported by the Sub-Department of Native Affairs to provide secondary education for promising native students, and the wisdom of sponsoring such scheme is fully revealed in the success attained by former students.

Some of these students, and the positions occupied by them are:—

Allan Polgen—from All Souls' into the Church Army Training College, now a fully accredited officer in that institution;

Fred Braikenridge—won a scholarship and now teaching at the Cherbourg School;

Sylvia Braikenridge—passed five public music examinations with honours each time, now in a position as clerk-typist in Ingham;

Jessie Sandy—now teaching in the school, Palm Island;

Myra Paterson—now clerk-typist, Welfare Association, Palm Island;

Annie Sailer—now teaching in school, Palm Island.

At present there are four boys at All Souls' School, Charters Towers, 4 girls and 1 boy at St. Mary's School, Herberton, 2 girls at St. Ann's Secondary School, Townsville, and 2 boys at Mt. Carmel College, Charters Towers.

## MANUAL TRAINING

*Palm Island School.*—The girls and boys of senior grades receive tuition in domestic science and manual training, and much good work has been done by these classes.

In addition to the elementary exercises in the manual training workshop the boys get practice in repair work of school furniture and the making of gates for the school fence, &c. They have also enclosed the school verandah with light movable screens to make it suitable for screening their visual education films.

They have also ceiled and painted the office under the head teacher's room and made it available for a welfare office.

Perhaps their biggest achievement has been the construction of a public library and reading room under the infant classroom. This necessitated building a 42 foot long partition, the making of a door and a gateway, as well as constructing six large sets of book shelves and a small 18 foot by 8 foot wide stage at the end of this room.

The ceiling was also painted by them and they made a number of suitable picture frames to go on the walls of this and other class rooms.

Three grades attended this workshop:—namely Grades 3, 4, and 5. In addition to this work these boys have also been given some instruction in gardening and now look after the gardens around the school.

The girls from Grade 2 to Grade 5 visit the sewing room each week and receive instruction in all phases of needlecraft work, from the simple garment making to the more intricate and delicate fancy work.

In addition there are 5 young women employed full time in this sewing room, under the supervision and direction of the domestic teacher, and their work consists mainly of making clothes for the women and girls of this Settlement. Well over a thousand garments are made by them each year and these are later distributed by the Settlement Matron and the female Welfare Officer.

*Cherbourg.*—This section operated satisfactorily throughout the year. The enrolment varied from 37 to 30, inclusive of 17 primary school boys.

Boys from the primary section attend on two days per week for instruction and have generally shown fair progress. The students attending full time are showing reasonably good progress.

The cabinetmakers and plumbers' workshops are still attached to this section. This section still proves itself to be of much value to the

Settlement—much repair and maintenance work being performed by the students. Work was prepared for display in this Settlement's displays at the various Settlements and Murgon shows. Competitive entries were submitted in all the Settlement shows and many awards were obtained.

Hereunder is listed work completed at the workshops:—

*Manual Training Section.*

12 chairs  
5 trinket boxes  
6 ports  
3 bread boards  
1 occasional table  
4 bridles  
8 pairs blind straps  
7 pairs reins  
1 pair pole straps  
1 pair cheek straps  
2 straps  
30 pannikins  
10 billycans  
3 buckets  
3 dippers  
3 cake tins  
2 dishes  
4 egg slices

Various woodwork exercises embracing all types of joints

Repairing of Settlement harness and items of footwear

*Cabinet Workshop.*

6 kitchen cabinets  
27 tables  
1 clothes cupboard  
6 combination wardrobes  
1 kitchen safe  
2 corner cabinets  
54 chairs  
3 desks  
1 occasional table  
53 pansteads  
3 casements  
1 door  
4 stools  
1 lavatory  
8 coffins  
1 pair bed ends

General maintenance work—repairs to locks, cupboards, &c.

Mouse proofing some fixtures at Settlement store

Louvre doors fitted to primary school building

Filing fittings and shelves at Settlement office

*Plumbers Workshop.*

174 sanitary tins  
1 tank  
1 flour bin  
2 wash-up dishes  
1 tub

Urinal for primary school

Quantities of spouting, down-piping and flashing for general maintenance

General maintenance operations—installing and repairing water services, taps, &c.

Irrigation piping overhauled and repaired

*Woorabinda.*—During the year vocational training was successfully managed. The girls, under the direction of Mrs. Jarrett, cover a sound syllabus in needlework. This includes stitchery, fancywork, knitting, cutting-out of garments from paper patterns made by the pupils, sewing of garments by hand and machine. Some sewing-card work is done by the younger pupils.

The boys make a great variety of articles in wood, and to a lesser extent in galvanised iron. Articles finished during the year included: Axe and hammer handles, nail boxes, picture frames, toothbrush racks, towel rollers, laundry trolleys, deck chair, and kettles and dishes in galvanised iron.

APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance forthcoming from all officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs is gratefully recognised.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the Manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various police officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their arduous duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country police protectors.

The Superintendents and staffs of the Church Missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Reports of the Settlements and the Missions, and in respect of Torres Strait Islanders, are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1	..	Palm Island Settlement
Appendix 2	..	Cherbourg Settlement
Appendix 3	..	Woorabinda Settlement
Appendix 4	..	Torres Strait Islanders
Appendix 5	..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 6	..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 7	..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 8	..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 9	..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 10	..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 11	..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 12	..	Weipa Mission
Appendix 13	..	St. Paul's Mission
Appendix 14	..	Torres Strait Mission
Appendix 15	..	Monamona Mission
Appendix 16	..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 17	..	Mornington Island Mission

C. O'LEARY,

Director.

APPENDIX I.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

HEALTH.

(Temporary Medical Officer,

Dr. R. Hilyard Smith.)

The Medical Officer's report shows that the standard of health of the whole population is high. This high standard is being maintained from year to year and follows the introduction of improved standard of rations to inmates generally, special ration to invalids, establishment and expansion of Baby Welfare Centre, and the continual improvement in hygiene and sanitation. It may also be attributed to the education of the native in all matters concerning health, and the very detailed hospital attention which is given to every native on the Settlement. Evidence of this attention is borne out by the number of outpatients attending the hospital.



**Intake Tank, Settlement Water Supply.**



**Stone Crushing Plant, Settlement Water Supply.**

### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

In-patients—male, 183; female, 155; total, 338.

Out-patients' visits, total 30,644.

Births—male, 27; female, 24; total, 51.

Deaths—male, 20; female, 5; total, 25.

Scabies, 74 cases.

Doctor's visits, 626.

Doctor's examinations, 4,264.

The standard of health of the community is high. In comparing the figures of last year's admissions to hospital, it is seen that we have had 65 less admissions this year. Medical staff shortage is always with us and every effort is made to treat patients in the outpatient department as much as possible, thus relieving the strain on the hospital nursing staff. In consequence of which more attention can be given to the really ill people.

The patients seen at the outpatient department this year, numbering 30,644, is extraordinarily high, the great majority being cases of the most trivial kind. However, all are seen. This overcrowding of the outpatient department is a strain upon our medical service here and in many cases, a waste of our time. No attempt has been made up to the present to discourage visits, however trivial, as there is always the possibility of detecting infectious disease and so crushing an outbreak in its infancy.

#### BIRTHS.

There have been 51 births in hospital. We had the misfortune to lose one of the mothers, a woman of multiple pregnancies, wherein the children were too closely spaced. The delivery was precipitate and the patient died immediately from obstetrical shock.

#### DEATHS.

There were 24 deaths during the year. Twelve of these were aged people, death being due to normal physiological causes. Of the remaining twelve deaths, 5 were adult, 2 of whom died of nephritis and one each of pneumonia, cerebral thrombosis, and obstetrical shock.

We lost 7 babies between the ages of 2 hours and 14 months. Two died of gastro-enteritis. One each, following complications, died of acute bronchitis and icterus neonatorum.

It is seen that if we pass over the twelve old people who died from natural causes, we have 12 deaths among the native population of 1,283. The low mortality rate of less than one per cent.

#### SCABIES.

Seventy-four cases. The increase of scabies has caused me a great deal of concern. The crowded hutments of the native population, the fondness they have for sleeping together and in each others beds and wearing each others clothes and not being overfond of washing blankets, is conducive to the spread of this parasite. Given the facilities, there is no reason why it cannot be stamped out altogether here. Plans are being formulated for dealing with the matter drastically in the coming year by construction of a fumigating plant.

### NATIVE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL.

The scheme is now in its second year and continues to operate satisfactorily.

The nurses have daily lectures on nursing subjects and, periodically, are given test papers on their knowledge. The results of the test papers show good general knowledge of their subjects.

On the practical nursing side, a system has been introduced which is splendid in its results. Each nurse is given the charge of a number of ill children, with the full responsibility of their care. The result of this has been interesting. There has arisen great competition among the nurses to increase the weight of the patient and the general wellbeing of the children. This serves the double purpose of getting the children well and maintaining the nurses' interest in their work.

### BABY WELFARE CENTRE.

Children under 5 years attending, 171.

Outpatients' attendances, 6,638.

The standard of the health of the children under 5 years continues to be high. During the last three months we have had 92 inches of rain—living conditions are not perfect and the maintenance of good health is all the more surprising.

There are 171 children attending the clinic at present, compared with 158 last year. The usual weekly routine of weighing and general medical check-up is attended 100 per cent.

There have been no epidemics during the year.

Of the 7 deaths which occurred during this year, only 3 were attending the Baby Welfare Clinic, the remainder were premature babies and died before passing to the care of the clinic. This speaks well for the manner in which the mothers are being educated to bring their children to the clinic in good time for efficient treatment of their illnesses.

### OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT.

The formation of this Department last year at the Baby Welfare Clinic has proved satisfactory. Of the 6,638 visits of children for minor ailments, we were able to diagnose diseases early and in many cases treat the children as out-patients, thus obviating their admission to hospital—a great saving of work for the hospital staff.

### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

This has been carried out satisfactorily by the Hygiene Officer, Mr. Elliott.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The essential duty of water testing has been regularly carried out and all wells requiring chlorination and detasting were attended to and retested the following day. One man is constantly on the work, which is checked frequently. I consider his efforts very satisfactory. An assistant is sent with this man for tuition in the methods. The quality of the water available on the island is good with the exception of a few wells in the drier months of the year.



### SANITARY SERVICE.

The sanitary gang performs a daily service seven days in the week and each dwelling receives two and sometimes three clearances each week. Complaints of this service are few, and when faults are discovered they are immediately rectified. Leaking pans were the difficulty, but new pans were made available and complaints are now negligible. Several new lavatories were erected during the year, where necessary, and, in addition, two new public conveniences were set up.

### FLY AND MOSQUITO BREEDING.

Constant spraying and supervision has been exercised in this matter. Dry weather and rainy weather were both responsible for an increase of flies in the Settlement. Rubbish holes are a menace. It is hoped to abolish them in future. Mosquitoes are not very numerous except near the swampy areas at the farm and Casements.

### HYGIENE EQUIPMENT AND STORES.

A satisfactory quantity of tools was received, including a new Horrocks water testing outfit and a 22 calibre rifle for destroying mangy animals. Disinfectant, D.D.T. and Rucide arrive regularly and satisfactorily. Power kerosene is obtained from the Storekeeper when required.

### INSPECTIONS.

All native dwellings are visited at least once a month. The three dormitories are visited and sprayed twice weekly. The entering of the premises of white officials has ceased and visits are now made only when requested.

### FANTOME ISLAND.

This Settlement was visited in company with the medical officer at regular intervals, when garbage disposal, spraying, and water testing were carried out.

### CASEMENT, BUTLER BAY, AND PENCIL BAY.

These areas were visited regularly. Both at the Casements and at Pencil Bay, a resident native carries out the sanitary arrangements. This has proved satisfactory.

### FANTOME ISLAND.

In my report of last year, I mentioned my hopes of changing the age-long treatment of leprosy by Chalmogra oil, to the modern treatment by sulphur drugs. I felt in doing so that something more hopeful could be done for these unfortunate people.

My approach on the subject to the Director-General of Health and the Director of my Department met with willing co-operation and encouragement. With this help and encouragement the drug "Sulphetrone" was introduced in December in the treatment of 40 selected cases. It is too early to give details of the results, but a striking feature of its introduction was the willingness of every patient to undergo the treatment. As my duties at Palm Island take up most of my time, the Director-General of Health further co-operated by agreeing to my suggestion of Dr. Reye paying periodical visits to the Leprosarium to help in the heavy work

entailed in the initial stages of the new treatment. Dr. Reye's services have been much appreciated. The brunt of the work has fallen on the Sisters of the Convent who staff the Leprosarium, and in them I find efficiency and keenness and women devoted to the care of the patients. It is in this atmosphere of service that I look forward to the first year's work of treatment of Leprosy by "Sulphetrone."

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

*Visitors.*—The Hon. A. Jones, M.L.A., Minister for Health and Home Affairs; Mr. R. H. Robinson, Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs; Mr. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs; Mr. Cain, Superintendent, Aurukun Mission, called when proceeding north with new launch for Mission.

*Births.*—Female, 24; male, 27; total, 51.

*Marriages.*—Twelve—all legal.

*Deaths.*—Female, 5; male 20; total, 25.

*Native Nurses' Training Scheme.*—This scheme is now well established and the native trainee nurses have given great assistance at the hospital.

*Hygiene and Sanitation.*—Careful attention is given to these services. The control of flies and mosquitoes is such that during the whole year there has been almost absence of these disease-carrying pests.

*Education.*—Reports of the Settlement school and Convent school indicate the efforts being made to give the best education possible to the natives. From them it will also be seen that the results obtained are of a high standard.

*Settlement Development.*—The water supply scheme is advanced to the extent that the excavation for the 1,000,000 gallon reservoir is now complete. Most of the crushed metal required is on the site and accumulation of other materials is such that a start on construction should be possible in the near future.

The intake tank is completed and the gravity main and reticulation mains laid.

*Electric Light.*—The engines, alternators, switchboards, and other equipment are now to hand at the Settlement. Power house materials are being prepared and a start on construction of the power-house will be made immediately cement is available.

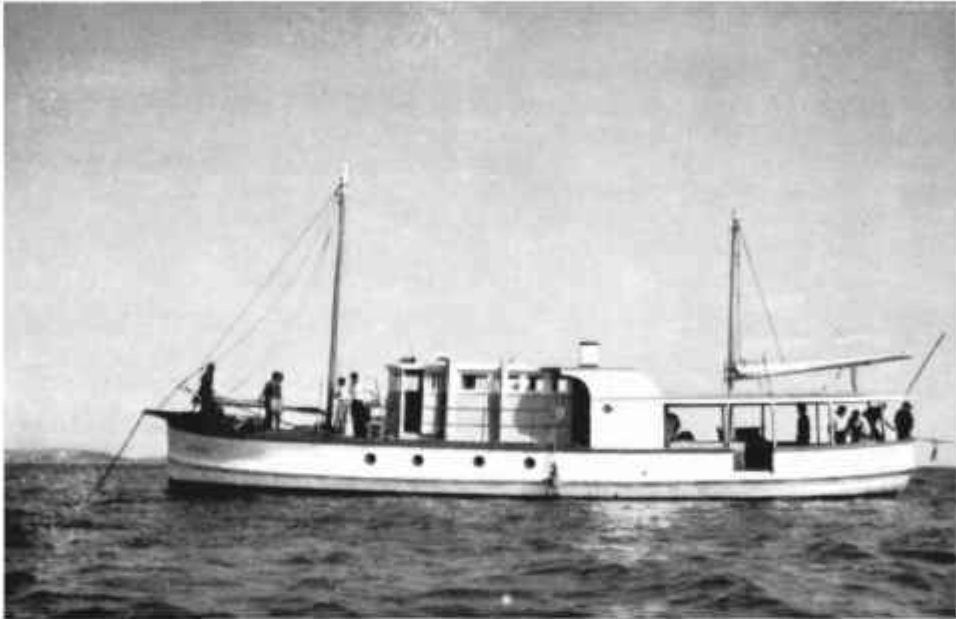
*Staff Housing.*—Two buildings from the old lock hospital at Fantome Island were removed to Palm Island and rebuilt as staff quarters.

Two other small cottages are at present being removed from Fantome Island and rebuilt as one unit.

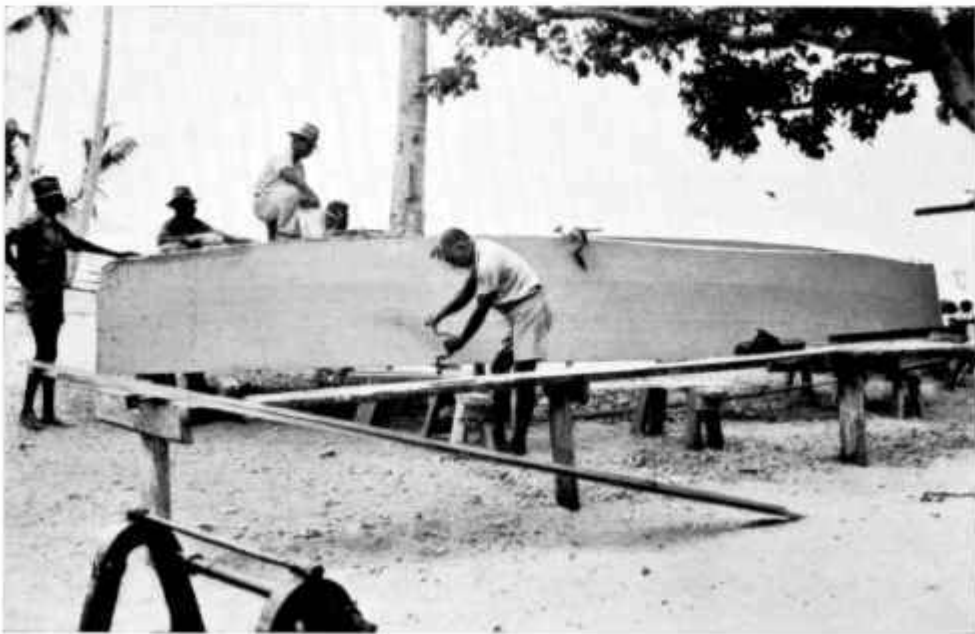
*Native Housing.*—Material shortages have hindered construction considerably. However, 15 huts were erected, of which only 2 of these are "A" class. The balance of them, although comfortable and weather-proof, are constructed of second-hand timber with coconut plaited walls.

*Launch "Wondi."*—Extensive alterations and improvements were made to this launch, which were carried out by native workmen under staff supervision. The job is a credit to all concerned, and the comfort, safety, and appearance of the vessel much improved.

*Rainfall.*—111.05 inches.



Settlement Launch, "Wondi."



Boat Building.

*Farm Produce.*—

Chinese cabbage	.. ..	438	sacks
Radish	.. ..	34	sacks
Tomatoes	.. ..	9	tons 18 cwt
Lettuce	.. ..	5,461	head
English cabbage	.. ..	3,190	head
Summer spinach	.. ..	17	sacks
Cucumber	.. ..	6,088	
Beetroot	.. ..	14	sacks
Kohl rabi	.. ..	23½	cwt.
Marrow	.. ..	84	
French beans	.. ..	12	cwt.
Peas	.. ..	1	cwt.
Turnips	.. ..	35½	cwt.
Silver beet	.. ..	9½	sacks
Pumpkin	.. ..	154	cwt.
English potatoes	.. ..	53	bags
Carrots	.. ..	31	sacks
Eschalots	.. ..	85	sacks
Sweet potatoes	.. ..	134	cwt.
Bananas	.. ..	306	bunches
Pineapples	.. ..	3,373	
Pawpaws	.. ..	318	
Watermelons	.. ..	4,621	

*Dairy.*—Milk produced, 3,619.5 gallons.

*Piggery.*—Thirty-nine pigs were killed for rations during the year. Pigs on hand, 31st March, 1949: boars 1, sows 7, stores and weaners 63.

*Social and Welfare Association.*—The annual report of this association clearly indicates the value of this organisation. The native people are taking a greater interest each year in this association. The work it carries out greatly assists in the administration of this Settlement. The association is a voluntary organisation and the president, members of the staff, and native members are to be commended for the valuable work being performed, as without this association many of the amenities and pleasures now enjoyed would not be possible.

*Boy Scouts.*—Boys still continue to show enthusiasm in the movement and the valuable training they receive materially assists in moulding them into good citizens.

*Girl Guides.*—Guiding is now firmly established on the Settlement and the girls are taking a very keen interest in their work.

*Employment.*—Applications for native labour, particularly domestic servants, far exceed that which is available from this Settlement.

Native cancutters in the Herbert River area cut 15,500 tons of cane and earned £7,100. These men are employed at award rates and are becoming more efficient each year, as indicated by the increased wages being earned.

*Conduct of Inmates.*—On the whole, the conduct of the natives has been very satisfactory. Serious misdemeanours being practically non-existent.

## FANTOME ISLAND LAZARET.

This institution is most satisfactorily conducted. The patients are happy and co-operate in every way and are very grateful for the treatment and attention being given them.

It is very satisfactory to report that there has never been an attempt by any patient to abscond from the Lazaret, even though the patients have their own small boats. This shows how completely happy and satisfied the patients are. The engine and alternator for the electric light installation are now to hand and it is anticipated that a start on the installation will be possible in the near future.

## PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher, Mr. A. Krause.)

The following is the annual report of the School for Aborigines at Palm Island for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1949.

During that period the enrolment fluctuated between 182 to 188 children, while their average attendance was 170 children per day. An outbreak of influenza during July and August of last year caused a drop in the attendances for those two months, when it went down as low as 147 pupils per day. Other than this, a steady average of 173 per day is being maintained.

There are three assistant teachers on this staff and they are assisted by five monitresses, though one of these has since left the work to be married. A native manual training monitor looks after the manual training classes. Two of the assistant teachers on the staff have asked to be returned to the Department of Public Instruction and were replaced by two others.

There is a 16 mm. talkie machine in the school and educational films are received regularly from the Department of Public Instruction and they are screened to the children as often as possible or deemed necessary.

The school also possesses a first-class library and books in it are well graded, there being special picture books for the tiny tots and excellent story books of adventure, travel, &c., for the older children. Many of these books were provided by the Department of Native Affairs, and the Social Welfare Association has also purchased and presented many new books in it.

A very fine reference section is available to both teachers and the children and this library is now much used by all the classes.

With the construction of the small stage, the room is gradually being developed into a kind of school theatrette, and the children use it extensively to do their class dramatization work or practise concert items.

It is hoped to shortly have the school wireless installed in this room and children can then listen to the school broadcasts or take part in some of the activities arranged for them through the medium of the A.B.C.

Every facility is being provided and made available to give these aboriginal children living on this Settlement as modern an education as their white brothers and sisters living on the mainland. Teachers are willingly co-operating with me in this scheme of work here and many of the parents of these children fully realise what is being done to educate their children, and they endeavour to send their children along to school regularly and in a neat, clean, and tidy condition.

Through the vigilance of teachers, the Settlement matron, and the medical staff, the health of the children is carefully watched and, consequently, there have been no very serious outbreaks of sickness, other than the influenza experienced last July and August.

Each child receives a small luncheon daily at 10.30 for the morning recess period and fruit is distributed to them during the week.

The progress and discipline over the past year has been satisfactory.

## SCOUTING.

*Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement* (Scoutmaster Mr. F. A. Krause).—For some time the strength of the First Palm Island Native Boy Scouts Troop has been 24 boys and 3 A.S.M.'s. Quite a number of young lads are anxious to become scouts, and I am hopeful that the troop will shortly be built up to the full strength of 32 scouts, comprising 4 patrols of 8 boys each.

The male assistant teacher has on occasions acted as Scoutmaster, and the boys are making satisfactory progress.

Practices are held each Tuesday evening, weather permitting. On the occasion of the visit to Townsville of the World Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, this troop took its place alongside the other mainland troops in welcoming Lord Rowallan at a special rally held at Townsville. These boys conducted themselves very well and compared favourably with their white brother scouts on this occasion.

Owing to weather conditions and pressure of work it has not been possible to conduct the usual annual scout camp for our boys at Esk Island, but we have hopes of doing so later in the year.

All the boys in the troop have been fitted out with new uniforms during the past year and the finances of the troop are still in a sound condition.

## GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT.

*Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement* (Guide Captain, Miss J. A. Pickering).—During the past year 12 new girls have been enrolled and several others have expressed their desire to join.

A District Commissioner has been appointed in the person of Mrs. Krause.

In June a week's camp was held at Esk Island in conjunction with a Townsville Company of Guides, and much knowledge was gained.

A party of 9 girls was taken to Townsville to meet the World's Chief Scout, and this proved a new and wonderful experience for our girls.

The uniforms were purchased from funds raised by the girls.

## PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL REPORT.

(Priest in Charge, Rev. Father E. J. Conlan, M.S.C.)

I have pleasure in presenting the Palm Island Convent School Report for the twelve months from July, 1948, to June, 1949.

During this period there was an enrolment of 51 children. One boy left for Charters Towers College with a view of going on for higher education. Four girls from the domestic science group found employment on the mainland, where they are giving satisfactory services.

The school is staffed by three teachers. The academic work is conducted by two teachers, while the third devotes her time to the domestic science class for the senior girls. Six grades are represented in the school. The past year has been one of steady progress in spite of the slight retardation made by the revision of the Queensland State School Schedule. The children respond keenly to the various tasks set before them. In the domestic class, sewing, laundering and gardening are the main interests of the

girls, but the finer arts of embroidery and rug-making are not neglected. A few pieces of very artistic work have been produced. As in the past year, the junior girls attend the sewing class one afternoon a week.

Gymnastics, games, and music form part of the programme as in previous years. A well-attended breaking-up concert was arranged under the able direction of the priest in charge, which enabled the audience to witness some artistic talents in the young actors.

Interests in the annual show were as keen as ever. The school carried off a fair number of prizes.

The manual training group, aged 15 to 18 years, under the expert guidance of Rev. Bro. Lilwall, M.S.C., has spent most of its time on woodwork, internal combustion engines, the correct use of carpentry and engineering tools, and on building a stone causeway and wooden bridge to give passage between the Settlement and Casement and Butler's Bay in the wet season and at high tides throughout the year.

I wish to place on record my deep appreciation of the ever-ready advice, keen interest, and practical help given by the Superintendent, Mr. George Sturges, to our Mission, the Mission school, and to the children attending that school.

## REPORT, SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the fourth annual report of the activities of the Social and Welfare Association for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1949.

*Committees.*—Eighteen committees operated during the year, some being more active than others, and each consisting of from five to seven members. Each was presided over by a member of the administrative staff, who help the committee to function in accordance with the constitution and rules of this association.

A representative from each committee was elected to form the executive or governing body of the association. This executive met weekly to transact business on behalf of the various committees and the organisation in general.

The members of these subordinate committees, as well as any member of the general public, were free to attend all executive meetings, and were given an opportunity to express their views on any matters under discussion—if they so choose—but only executive members had the right and power to vote.

The executive meetings were well attended throughout the year and many of the general public also attended learning at first hand what the association was doing for its people.

Special mention might be made of the untiring efforts of the stalls committee, as the financial soundness of this organisation is largely due to their work.

The transport committee, too, proved a hard-working body in attending to seating accommodation for both the Wednesday and the Saturday night entertainments, as well as coming early or working late, if required, to perform other transportation duties for their association.



**Dairy Herd.**



**Vegetables, Settlement Farm.**



**Library.**



**Interior Girls' Dormitory.**

Many of the other committees' activities were seasonal and I refer to the various sporting committees. The show committee has had a very busy time throughout the year, and I will refer to their work when dealing with the annual show.

*Entertainments.*—The main entertainments are the showing of talkie pictures every Wednesday night and the conducting of boxing and corroborees and Island dances every alternate Saturday night.

During the football season matches are played Saturday and Sunday afternoons, while tennis provided recreation also.

An occasional fishing competition was held and interest in these is usually keen. Surplus fish caught were distributed to the hospital and the dormitories.

Choir practices are regularly held, and a first-class concert was staged on New Year's Eve. Much credit is due to Matron Christie for her interest and work with this choir.

*Mainland visits—Boxing.*—A troupe of boxers visited Townsville and Ingham last year and acquitted themselves very well.

*Football.*—The footballers were less fortunate this year than the previous year, and only one visit was made last season, and that was to Home Hill. However, this season promises to be much better for them, and already they have visited Ingham and have invitations to go to Townsville, Charters Towers, and Home Hill.

These outings do much to foster a keener interest in their sport and in their Settlement generally, for it is the policy here only to permit players to go on these trips who have tried to do their best in the interests of the Settlement. In other words, it is a reward for good, clean sport and good citizenship to be chosen to go in the representative team when it visits the mainland.

The wisdom of such action has more than justified itself, for, following our team's visit to Ingham recently, a Police officer from that town has written complimenting our boys on their excellent behaviour when they visited that town. He also stated that the local residents, too, were very impressed by their good conduct.

Reports like these are very encouraging to both the natives and to those officers who accompany them, and they are doing much to raise the prestige of these people.

*Talkies.*—As mentioned before, these are conducted every Wednesday night. This enables the Saturday nights to be reserved for conducting some of their traditional dances and corroborees.

The school projector has on occasions been used to screen educational 16 mm. films to the residents, and every opportunity is seized to widen their general knowledge by means of visual education.

*Public Library.*—For some time this was housed in the school classroom, but it proved too inadequate. Towards the end of last year and again early this year the senior boys of the school's manual training class remodelled underneath the infant classroom, and by erecting a partition, painting the ceiling, building in book shelves, and laying down a small stage have succeeded in making a first-class library and reading room.

The room is well lighted and furnished and is now much used, not only as a library and reading room, but is frequently used for the holding of committee meetings. The executive uses it regularly.

The small stage is used mainly by the school children when practising their dramatization work, and we hope shortly to have it properly fitted out with curtains and side and back screens, so it can, in reality, become a miniature theatre for the school children.

The number of lending books has been added to during the past year and several weekly and monthly publications are regularly received. A very comprehensive reference library is also being built up, and it is now possible for anyone interested in any particular handicraft or trade to find suitable books in the reference library to help him.

An exceptionally fine children's library is also housed in this library and children of all ages find much enjoyment awaiting them. A large portion of these books were supplied to the school by the Department of Native Affairs and the welfare association has supplemented it with many others. By this means we hope to inculcate a desire in the minds of our younger generation for reading good literature, and when these children leave school they will want to continue a post school education through their public library.

Personally, I think the establishment of this library one of the association's greatest achievements towards the uplift of these people. The number who visit this library increases each week. Comfortable chairs have been provided, as well as small tables where readers leisurely sit and enjoy reading their books or magazines.

There is also a newsboard in the library, and on this are pinned cuttings from newspapers that are of special interest to the people.

*Newspaper.*—A weekly newspaper known as the "Palm Island News" or the "P.I.N." is published by this association and it has now reached a weekly circulation of approximately 250 copies.

The entire work is done on a Gestetner hand operated machine, and recently a photographic plant has been purchased to use in conjunction with this machine. By the addition of this latest equipment, it is now possible to reproduce pictures or other drawings and so make the "P.I.N." more attractive as well as more interesting.

Interesting and educational reproductions of articles and drawings that have appeared in the Melbourne "Argus" week-end magazine have been photographed and published in our newspaper with the kind permission of the Melbourne "Argus."

Experiments are being conducted still further with this photographic plant and it is hoped to ultimately be able to reproduce actual photographs of Settlement interest in our paper.

The work of preparing the stencils, turning out the printed pages, folding them and, finally, distributing them is now done entirely by two Aborigines, Snyder Ketchup, the welfare secretary, and Miss Myra Patterson, a 16-year old Aborigine, who acts as the association's typist and clerk.

Both these people have shown keen interest in this work of publishing the local newspaper, and

for a number of weeks the young lass has done the whole of the work unaided. This, I consider, is quite an achievement for her.

During my absence for seven weeks last Christmas this paper was kept in production and circulation by Snyder Ketchup, and thus the public were provided with this amenity at a time when it might have been in recess. Mr. Jennings acted as editor during my absence.

This paper now enjoys a wide circulation in all States of the Commonwealth and in countries overseas. But, most of all, it serves as a very close link between this Settlement and those who have gone to work or live on the mainland. Many have said how they look forward to receiving their weekly copy of "P.I.N.," as it keeps them in touch with "home."

*Arts and Crafts Show.*—The arts and crafts show held last July was easily the biggest yet staged at Palm Island. Exactly 1,200 entries were received and all sections were well patronised.

An attractive schedule was again published, and through the generous support received from the business houses in Townsville the cost of printing this schedule was covered by the advertising space purchased by these many firms.

Many generous donations were received from persons living on the mainland, as well as from local residents, both white and coloured, and by this means the show committee was able to raise sufficient to meet prize commitments.

Two boats from Townsville and one from Lucinda Point brought many mainland visitors to the show, and a very attractive display of native dances and other entertainments were staged during their stay, on both days of the show.

The show was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, M.L.A., to whom we are much indebted for his interest in our welfare.

The local farm display was again the highlight of the show and once more showed to the public what this Settlement is capable of producing.

An innovation on the sports ground was a small stock parade of the Settlement's stock, which also left the visitors bewildered.

The exhibits in the pavilion were again of a high standard, and visitors were very keen to purchase them.

*Garden Contest.*—This was held in conjunction with the arts and crafts show, and again there were very many competitors. A new feature was the conducting of a garden competition for the children, and 50 juveniles took part in it.

Quite a communal spirit has now been developed, and many who showed little interest in the past have now entered wholeheartedly into this year's contest. Already the homes have been zoned and activity is awakening after being suppressed by the abnormal wet season experienced here this year. Fences have been erected and the Settlement generally is much improved as the result of these contests.

*Christmas Cheer.*—This association again attended to its usual Christmas cheer to the children, the hospital inmates, and the inmates of Fantome Island, to which place a concert party journeyed and entertained the patients.

*Appreciations.*—Again I would like to record our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs (Mr. Jones) and to our Director of Native Affairs (Mr. O'Leary) for their interest and untiring efforts on our behalf.

I would like to express to you, sir, our appreciation of the close co-operation and support you have given us as Superintendent. Your advice has been very helpful at all times and your practical assistance is much appreciated.

To the members of the staff who have willingly given of their services in the interest of these people and the work of this association, I would say "thank you, one and all."

Last, but by no means least, I desire to thank those members of the executive and their individual committees for their loyal and faithful services to me and to this association generally, and I sincerely hope they will continue to help and so ensure the continued success of this social and welfare association on Palm Island.

## APPENDIX 2.

### CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. W. Porteous Semple.)

#### HEALTH.

	Male.	Female.
Patients in hospital first day of the year .. .. .	11	8
Admitted to hospital .. .. .	335	408
Births .. .. .	22	21
Deaths .. .. .	12	12
Discharged .. .. .	342	400
Patients in hospital last day of the year .. .. .	14	25
Patients' days .. .. .	4,487	5,737
Daily average .. .. .	12.29	15.72
Dr. L. L. Grimmett, visiting medical officer—		
No. of special visits .. .. .		28
No. of weekly visits .. .. .		52
		80
Minor operations .. .. .		55
Major operations .. .. .		3
Outpatients treated .. .. .		4,331
No. of visits .. .. .		22,513
Daily average .. .. .		67
No. of X-rays .. .. .		43
No. of stillborn infants (not included in birth or death total) .. .. .		1

Staff employed at hospital—1 matron, 3 sisters, 23 native assistants.

#### *Causes of Death at Cherbourg Hospital, 1948—*

Congenital cardiac failure, syphilitic ulcers	1
Intracranial haemorrhage, precipitate labour .. .. .	2
Pulmonary tuberculosis .. .. .	5
Chronic myocarditis .. .. .	2
Secondary carcinoma (liver) .. .. .	1
Toxic Myocarditis gastro enteritis .. .. .	1
Tubercular peritonitis .. .. .	1
Cardiac respiratory exhaustion .. .. .	1
Cerebral injury .. .. .	1
Uraemic coma chronic nephritis .. .. .	1
Asphyxia, accidental overlying by mother	1
Pulmonary embolus .. .. .	1
Senility bronchiectasis .. .. .	1
Prematurity .. .. .	1
Carbuncle, diabetes mellitis .. .. .	1
Congestive cardiac failure syphilitic ulcers	1
Congestive cardiac failure syphilitic aortitis	1
Congestive cardiac failure syphilitic myocarditis .. .. .	1



All pregnant women have blood tests taken during the early months of their pregnancy.

*Arrivals from other Settlements and Districts—*

Palm Island—				
Males .. .. .	12			
Females .. .. .	11			
				23
Woorabinda—				
Males .. .. .	11			
				11
Brisbane—				
Males .. .. .	1			
Females .. .. .	3			
Girls .. .. .	1			
				5
Landsborough—				
Boys .. .. .	1			
				1
Toowoomba—				
Girls .. .. .	1			
				1
Eidsvold—				
Males .. .. .	1			
Females .. .. .	1			
Boys .. .. .	1			
Girls .. .. .	1			
				4
Quilpie—				
Boys .. .. .	3			
				3
Nambour—				
Males .. .. .	2			
				2
Weipa Mission—				
Males .. .. .	2			
				2
Total .. .. .	52			

*Departures from Settlement to—*

Woorabinda—				
Males .. .. .	2			
Females .. .. .	2			
Boys .. .. .	3			
Girls .. .. .	9			
				16
Palm Island—				
Males .. .. .	6			
Females .. .. .	1			
Girls .. .. .	1			
				8
Singleton—				
Girls .. .. .	1			
				1
Other places—				
Boys .. .. .	1			
Girls .. .. .	1			
				2
Total .. .. .	27			

EMPLOYMENT.

Number under agreement—

Males .. .. .	60
Females .. .. .	68
	128

Seasonal workers—

Fairymead Sugar Co. .. .. .	37
General Peanut Workers .. .. .	100
Forestry Employees .. .. .	8
Shire Council Employees .. .. .	1
Brick Work Employees .. .. .	8
Casual Employment .. .. .	26
	180

MARRIAGES.

Eight were celebrated, namely:—

Bowan Johnson and Edith Long  
 Barron Douglas and Winnie Alberts  
 Lionel Lacey and Pearl Bundai  
 Elgar Harrison and Martha Blackman  
 Colin Bell and Peggy Hopkins  
 Eric Gyemore and Theresa Cummins  
 Rene Emmerson and Philip Carlo  
 George Bell and Lorraine Cook

RAINFALL.

The rainfall was just above the average. It was very dry during January, and any feed that was growing was badly burnt off. Rain did not fall until the latter end of February, and as this was very heavy it ensured plenty of grass for the winter months. However, the feeding season was very short before the cold weather came on at the latter end of April. During July and August, when more rain was needed, only 92 points fell, and irrigation for farm crops had to be commenced and continued until the middle of September. On the whole, the season was good. Rainfall is as follows:—

	Points.
January .. .. .	Nil
February .. .. .	650
March .. .. .	53
April .. .. .	391
May .. .. .	215
June .. .. .	293
July .. .. .	92
August .. .. .	Nil
September .. .. .	200
October .. .. .	20
November .. .. .	94
December .. .. .	594
Total .. .. .	2,602

*Sale of Hides.*—Hides numbering 36 were sent to Brisbane for sale and realised £33 15s. 2d.

*Sawmill.*—The year was fairly successful regarding the output, although it should have been greater, but repairs to engine and mill retarded this.

Sawn timber ..	199,671 super feet was milled
Dressed timber	55,936 super feet was dressed
Logs .. .. .	737 logs brought to Settlement
Thursday Island (approx.) ..	53,472 super feet sawn timber and suitable to erect cottages, fences, &c.
Palm Island ..	11,968 super feet sawn timber and suitable to erect cottages, fences, &c.

IMPROVEMENTS AT SAWMILL.

*Timber Racks.*—New timber racks were erected to stack all dressed timber. These racks are 38 feet by 25 feet.

*Trolley Line.*—A new trolley line was laid down and completed from saw bench to timber racks to take away all sawn timber to be stacked.

*Firewood Bench.*—A new sawbench was erected and completed, driven by a 11½ h.p. Diesel engine.

*Extension to Sawmill.*—An extension 60 feet by 40 feet has been built to house docking saw with sufficient room for a No. 2 bench, also room to stack timber ready for plainer to be dressed, room for useless ends to be docked which would be done by the saw. By the erection of No. 2 bench and docking saw, the monthly output should exceed the present output by some thousands of super feet.

*New Telephone Line.*—A new telephone line was laid from Murgon to the Settlement. Posts 20 feet by 10 inches were obtained, ends cleared of sap and placed in the ground, 4 feet deep. Copper wire was entirely used, with three lines, one to hospital—149, one to Settlement—18, and one to aboriginal training farm—270, connecting manager's residence. The work was done by native labour assisted by an officer from the P.M.G. Department. The job is an excellent one.

#### IMPROVEMENTS AT HOSPITAL.

*The Sanitary Installation* there was completely overhauled with new pedestals and cisterns; enlarged W.C. floors were laid with concrete. This system is now in good working order.

*Outpatients' Room.*—This was enlarged by the removing of partition used as a linen room. Windows were added for lighting, also extra electric lights. Steps were built to enable the patients to get to the Outpatients' Department without entering the hospital veranda.

*Painting at Hospital.*—The theatre, dispensary, outpatients' dispensary, and back veranda were painted.

*Hospital Verandas.*—The verandas were roofed with fibro cement. Louvres were also added to the front verandas.

#### ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

*Machinery Shed.*—A machinery shed, 100 feet long, was built to contain all farm machinery.

*Bull House.*—This was also made.

*New Yards and Ramp for Trucking Pigs.*—This has also been commenced and completed.

*Grain Shed.*—This has also been made and is a good job. All the roofs of the above have been painted with red paint and the walls all painted with linseed oil.

*Pig Yards.*—Two hundred and sixty pigs were transferred from Brisbane Mental Hospital. To accommodate these the yards had to be subdivided and shelter sheds were built. This was a hurried job, but all the same the buildings were well built and the proceeds from the pigs have been considerable.

#### OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

*Motor Ramp.*—This was made for under-carriage repairs and greasing. This, when built and completed, was an excellent job.

*Mr. Pascoe's Residence.*—A new floor was laid in the washhouse and new steps were built.

*Mr. Ahlstrand's Residence.*—This was originally a school. The inside was lined with 3 by ½, a bathroom was added, also a side veranda and back veranda. The kitchen was enlarged and one of the side verandas was louvred. It is now a most comfortable residence.

*Mr. McRae's (Head Stockman) Residence.*—A new residence was commenced and completed. Shortages of fibro and ironmongery made it a lengthy job, but now that it is completed, it is a pretty little cottage. All conveniences were added—electric light, water to bathroom, a washhouse was built with water laid on. Unfortunately, the fencing is not completely finished off owing to timber being wanted elsewhere. The 3 by ½ usually used for palings are now dressed and used for lining cottages.

*Mr. McCarthy's Residence.*—The stove recess was enlarged. The floor of the back veranda was extended and relined. The bathroom was enlarged and walls and ceilings were lined with 3 x ½.

*Salt Sheds in Paddock.*—Two were built. One was built at No. 1 bore and the other at Fisher's bore.

*Galvanised Piping.*—From our stock, 250 ft. of 2 in. galvanised piping with a quantity of steel rods for re-enforcing was sent to Woorabinda.

*Roads.*—These have been graded and potholes filled in.

*Native Cottages.*—Two entirely new cottages were built. The cottage of Albert Williams was enlarged by kitchen, dining room, and front veranda, and all was lined with 3 x ½. Considerable improvements and repairs was a continual job among native cottages.

*Recreation Hall.*—The front of the hall and stage were painted. At the front entrance a new approach and steps were made of concrete, and looks very attractive.

*Hall Stage.*—Extra drop-curtains were erected and the stage was lighted by flood lights. Underneath the stage was considerable space, which was strengthened on the Scaffolding Inspector's recommendation.

*Lavatory Accommodation.*—A new lavatory accommodation was built and screened.

*Refrigerator.*—A refrigerator was bought from Black's cafe in Murgon at a cost of £200 and re-erected. It would now be revalued at about £800. There is a pieheater and tea urn, which are used nightly when pictures are shown, so that natives can purchase hot pies or rolls together with tea.

*Projector.*—A third projector was installed.

#### SPORTS.

*Football (President, Mr. Rees).*—Matches were played at Brisbane, Toowoomba, Kingaroy, Murgon, Goomeri, Gayndah, Maryborough, Gympie, and Bundaberg. Their big match was for the Core Cup, but the team was beaten in the semi-finals.

*Cricket (President, Mr. Smith).*—Matches were played in all the different country centres.

*Boxing.*—Boxing matches were held in Kingaroy, Murgon, and also at this Settlement.

*School Football.*—The teachers took their pupils as teams and played different country schools.

*Concert Party.*—This was fairly successful during the year. A show was given at the Theatre Royal, Brisbane, for one week, and proved entirely successful.

*Pictures.*—These are held at least twice a week.

		FINANCE.		
<i>Collections.</i> —		£	s.	d.
Savings bank .. ..	..	9,418	5	4
Maintenance .. ..	..	962	1	6
Beef sales .. ..	..	89	11	3
Electric light .. ..	..	115	10	2
Store sales .. ..	..	5,681	13	7
Store sales to officers .. ..	..	354	1	11
Sale of seed potatoes .. ..	..	25	10	0
Sale of onions .. ..	..	18	2	5
Natives' fines .. ..	..	4	10	0
Sale of timber .. ..	..	57	4	9

<i>Store Transactions.</i> —		£	s.	d.
Cash sales to natives .. ..	..	5,681	13	7
Sales to officers .. ..	..	354	1	11
Retail sales on order to natives	..	2,474	4	9
Free issue order to inmates, including groceries, clothing..	..	1,065	3	7
Child endowment orders .. ..	..	704	14	8

<i>Child Endowment.</i> —		£	s.	d.
No. of natives receiving child endowment—90				
Total endowment paid to natives	..	4,262	5	11
Average monthly payments ..	..	355	3	10
Savings bank balance as at 31-12-48 .. ..	..	5,618	10	5

*Vegetables.*—There was a fair supply of vegetables, which were given out to natives. These included—

60 dozen lettuce
100 bunches eschalots
1,500 cauliflower
2,000 cabbages
2 acres swede turnips

*Show Society.*—The third annual show was held in April and was a great success. It was opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Jones. The pavilion was well represented, there being excellent entries in the culinary section and the needle-work section was of a high standard. The Settlement exhibit included exhibits from the manual training school, domestic science, and farm. On the second day a campdraft and bullock-riding contest was held.

An official luncheon was provided for the official visitors by the domestic science teacher, together with her girls, and, consequently, proved to be a very fine effort.

*Murgon Show.*—Cherbourg's outstanding exhibition at the Murgon Show was on a stand occupying a frontage of 60 feet, and combined rural school work (carpentry, blacksmith work, saddlery work) and domestic science work (dresses, fancy work, cakes, scones, and bread).

*Christmas Festival Dormitories.*—The girls raised by their own efforts approximately £40, which provided a Christmas dinner for inmates and indigent people.

*Christmas Eve.*—The welfare officer, Mr. Rees, organised a Christmas tree, where most of the Settlement inmates received a present.

*Christmas Festivities.*—During the Christmas-New Year week, festivities in the way of dances, concerts, and pictures were held.

*Welfare Association.*—This association is functioning in a most satisfactory manner. Pictures are given at least twice a week. The gross revenue derived from the sale of tickets was £1,712 6s. The loan on the hall was reduced by about £400. This welfare association must be looked on as one of the most industrious bodies on this Settlement, and most necessary. The natives attend all meetings regularly.

*Religious Bodies.*—There are two churches on the Settlement—namely, Australian Inland Mission and the Church of England—and both have services every Sunday and, occasionally, through the week. On Wednesdays the A.I.M. missionary, Church of England minister, and priest from the Catholic Church attend the school to give the children religious instruction.

*Health.*—The health of the Settlement has been remarkably good.

*Crimes.*—The Settlement is very free from serious crimes. The only disturbances are caused by drink and a few domestic quarrels.

*Dormitories.*—These have been quite efficiently run by the Settlement matron, Mrs. Garvey. She was always interested in their diets and ready to carry out any instruction by me which would be for the improvement of the inmates.

*Dining Rooms.*—In the dormitories large tables were taken away and replaced by smaller tables, which seated approximately four people.

*Bedding.*—The beds at least once a week were taken out into the sun and thoroughly sprayed to prevent insects. Bugs are now non-existent.

*Soup.*—During the winter months the soup boiler was installed, when soup was given out three times a week, not only to dormitory inmates but also to the inmates of the village.

*Institutional Children.*—All institutional children were served with butter, fruit, and ice-cream each Saturday. Indigent and old people were given a ration of milk, fruit, vegetables, and extra meat.

#### CHERBOURG SCHOOL REPORT FOR YEAR 1948.

(Head Teacher, Mr. R. T. Crawford.)

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment for the year varied from 255 to 268. The mean quarterly enrolment was 260.75.

*Attendances.*—The attendances for the year were 23,212 boys and 25,582 girls, a total of 48,794.

The average daily attendance for the year was 111.06 boys and 122.4 girls, a total of 233.46, which shows an increase of 4.76 on that of the preceding year. Average daily attendance was affected somewhat by colds during the winter months and sickness during the latter part of November and early December. Generally, the attendance is considered very satisfactory.

*Conduct.*—The conduct of the children attending school was quite satisfactory throughout the year.

*Progress.*—Progress may be considered satisfactory. Work proceeded reasonably smoothly throughout the year, but staffing conditions were not of the best. Greater reliance on native assistance became necessary, with the result that progress was not as even or rapid as desired. Children attending for their first year settled down well and showed quite good progress. Naturally, classes receiving more attention by trained teachers showed more consistent progress than those under native teachers.

*Domestic Science.*—This section operated in a very satisfactory manner throughout the year. All students, as in previous years, have shown keen interest and enthusiasm. Progress generally has been very satisfactory. The enrolment varied from 36 in the first half of the year to 29 during the last quarter. Twenty-nine girls of the middle grades of the primary school attend this section for needlework instruction. Monthly returns already forwarded show the activities and output of this section.

An average of 22 dozen scones were baked twice weekly and forwarded to the primary school as part of the daily 11 a.m. issue to children.

First-year trainees assisted in preparing and serving the official luncheon at the Settlement show.

Work was prepared for display at the various Settlement shows and in Murgon show. Competitive entries were also submitted to each Settlement show.

Passengers on the Pioneer tourist cars are given an opportunity to inspect work of this section during their weekly visits to the Settlement.

*Staffing.*—Staffing throughout the year was not all that might be desired, considering the enrolment. It is confidently hoped that the difficulty in obtaining trained teachers will be eased during the coming year and thus enable the school to be staffed more in accordance with the numbers enrolled.

Mr. Burchill left as from 30th January, 1948. Miss Hertweck resigned as from 3rd March, 1948, on account of marriage—resumed duty as temporary teacher as from 12th April, 1948, and finally severed connection with this school as from 3rd September, 1948. Mrs. R. Lightbody, a trained teacher, was appointed temporary teacher as from 13th September, 1948. Native staff was not stable during the early portion of the year, and from April until early October comprised four members. Ben Turner returned in October, thus making five native assistants at the end of the year.

Both white and native staff have been regular and punctual in attendance and have devoted themselves earnestly to the duties allotted to them. The native staff had to be relied upon to a greater extent this year than previously and acquitted themselves in a good manner. Naturally, their capabilities are limited, but they did enable the school work to continue and maintain reasonable results.

*Cleaning.*—All cleaning was done by the older school children. Classrooms, other offices, and equipment were cleansed regularly and in a satisfactory manner.

*Accommodation.*—As previously obtained, all accommodation is at a premium. The need for greater school accommodation must not be lost sight of; it is anticipated that the enrolment next year will be considerably in excess of that prevailing at present. Organisation and administration still continues to be a problem and will be so until all school offices are in close proximity to each other.

*General.*—The school was closed on: 23rd April, Cherbourg show; 13th May, holiday granted by the Governor of Queensland during his visit to the Settlement; 14th May, Murgon show; 30th July, District school sports; 19th November, holiday granted in honour of birth of Prince to Princess Elizabeth.

In the athletic field, considerable prowess has been shown by winning, for the fifth year in succession, the "A" schools' championship at the South-East Burnett District school sports. Teachers, both white and native, gave much of their spare time to the training of the children in an endeavour to ensure continued success in this field.

The primary, domestic science, and manual training sections submitted entries in all available classes in the Cherbourg show and were successful in annexing practically all of the prizes. Entries were submitted to Palm Island and Woorabinda Settlements shows and considerable success was achieved. Work was entered in open competition at Murgon show and awards were received in all sections entered.

A display of work from all branches of this school formed part of the Settlement display at this and other Settlements and Murgon shows.

The sound-on film projector and equipment continues to operate satisfactorily and much general knowledge is obtained by the children from this source. Our thanks are extended to the Department of Public Instruction for the regular supply of suitable films. Thanks are also extended to the Shell Company of Australia for the supply of suitable films from time to time.

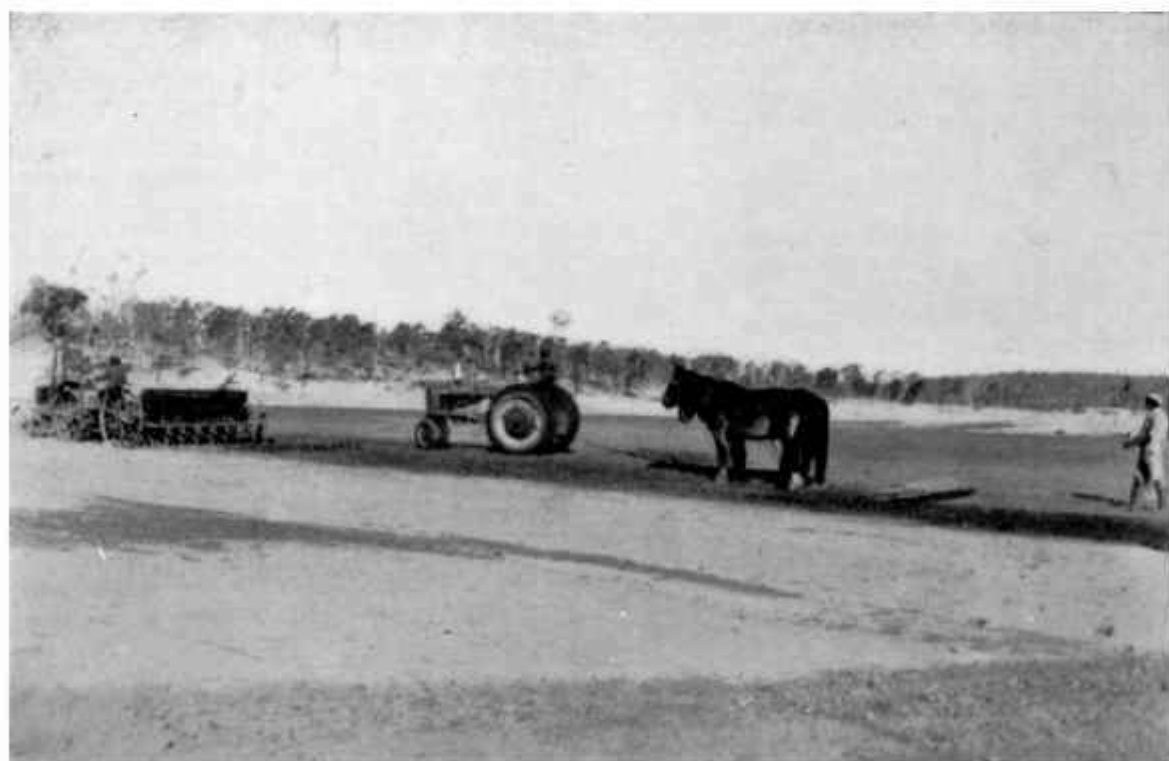
The usual breaking-up festivities were held on the last day of the school year. Children were entertained with various games during the morning, and luncheon was served in the school grounds. The afternoon was devoted to a special screening of suitable pictures in the Settlement hall, where all the children were the guests of the welfare association. A very enjoyable day was spent by both children and teachers.

It is desired to record the ready co-operation of the teaching staff, both white and native, in all matters affecting the school, both during school hours and other hours. My thanks is extended to them.

Our thanks are extended to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Superintendent and Settlement staff, the Settlement welfare association, and the natives, generally, for the assistance given the school throughout the year.



**Fencing.**



**Farming Activities.**

*List of Garments, &c., completed by girls attached to Domestic Science Section, Sewing Room—*

For Free Issue—Dormitory and Indigent—

66 women's dresses  
15 maids' dresses  
5 dresses, s.w.  
60 pairs pantees  
115 school uniforms  
2 playsuits

For Hospital—

35 wardsmails' uniforms  
28 pillowslips  
13 sheets  
5 aprons  
28 shrouds  
19 dressing covers  
48 gauze surgical dressings  
12 gauze surgical cloths  
24 sterilizer cloths

For Special Order—from D.N.A.'s. Office—

2 frocks  
2 slips  
2 pantees  
2 singlets

For Primary School Children—

60 uniforms  
60 blouses for school sports  
6 tablecloths school purposes

For Show Display—

2 children's frocks  
1 pair boy's pyjamas

Cut out for Dormitory Sewing Room—

50 dresses, women and children  
10 pairs pyjamas—small boys  
24 pantees, women

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION REPORT.

(President, Mr. H. R. Pascoe.)

I have pleasure in submitting the fourth annual report of the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association for the year ending 31st January, 1949.

*Meetings.*—During the year regular and well-attended meetings were held. It should be noted that any Settlement official or member of the community is welcome to attend meetings, enter into the discussion, and voice in the proper place suggestions or criticism of welfare association policy.

*Finance.*—The financial position of the association is indeed sound; the treasurer's report shows that during the year the balance in the trading account was improved by £73, and, despite a reduction of over £600 for depreciation value of assets increased by £2,200 to a total of £5,809.

Receipts for the year were increased by £715 to a total of £3,074. Expenditure for the year was increased by £686 to a total of £2,997.

*General.*—Throughout the year the work of the association has been carried out smoothly and efficiently. The association has successfully discharged its duties to the community. It has added considerably to the useful assets of the association, and has given assistance, where required, to the various sections. Each section has been active and a fair measure of success has attended their various efforts. At times, petrol restrictions have curtailed wider sporting activity. Social activity compares favourably

with that existing in any community of a similar size, and visitors have on many occasions remarked on the excellence of dress and conduct at these functions. Interest has been maintained in the young and older folk, as well as the indigent. Where possible, the association has endeavoured to make their lot brighter. Four girls and two boys continue with their piano tuition, their tutor reporting satisfaction with progress. Association delegates visited both Woorabinda and Palm Island shows, and we thank our sister organizations for the hospitality extended to our representatives. We were also pleased to entertain delegates from both the above organizations during our annual show.

*Recreation Hall.*—The new hall was completed during the year, and was officially opened by the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, on show night, 23rd April. The Minister named the hall, "Yurrie-Gurrie," an aboriginal word meaning "Welcome."

The opening ceremony was followed by a bright concert. This hall is the centre of Settlement social activity, and every endeavour was made to incorporate attractiveness and worthwhile main hall and stage facilities. Many tourists and visitors have expressed admiration of the hall and its fittings. The fact that it was accomplished in the face of difficulties and much criticism is a tribute to those concerned with and responsible for this very fine Association asset.

Further valuable installations are—

- (1) An efficient cafe type refrigerator, from which cold drinks and ices are available during functions;
- (2) A new, latest type amplifier was installed—this together with the old amplifier should ensure against a breakdown in sound during picture screenings;
- (3) Through representations of the welfare officer, another projector was obtained without cost to the association—this will be installed to be used as an emergency;
- (4) A barber's shop was built under the rear of the hall, and the necessary fittings installed—Arthur Bond has been granted the use of this shop to attend to haircutting requirements of the Settlement.

This Committee has also authorised the purchase of better type seating accommodation for 250 people. Other improvements effected were the building of a catering stall at the show-grounds, also stalls to hold 20 horses. A considerable amount of crockery has been purchased for catering needs.

*Christmas Festivities.*—Under the direction of the welfare officer, Mr. H. Rees, the hall was colourfully decorated for the Christmas tree, under a canopy of coloured streamers and paper flowers, interspersed with coloured lights. Over 600 good-quality gifts were distributed. This celebration is looked forward to and enjoyed by all. Our thanks are due to the Department for financial assistance, and to the welfare officer, whose enthusiasm and organisation ensures this being a very colourful and enjoyable function.

On New Year's Eve, a big corroboree and fireworks display was staged on the showgrounds in the earlier evening hours. This was followed by dancing the old year out and the new year in. A party of tourists, who were in attendance, voted it a most spectacular and enjoyable evening.

*Welfare Officer.*—The welfare officer has spent many late hours attending to association affairs. He has coached the concert party, promoted boxing tournaments, and managed the affairs of the footballers. He has shown loyalty and devotion by interesting himself in the affairs of the natives that come within the scope of his duties. We also appreciate the interest shown by Mrs. Rees in welfare association affairs. In addition to his duties at Cherbourg, Mr. Rees installed picture plants at Willowburn and Westbrook.

*Show Society.*—The Show Society, under the presidency of Mr. Crawford, assisted by Mr. Goodchild and the show committee, was responsible for the staging of the third annual show on 23rd and 24th April, 1948. Membership tickets to the value of £33 8s. were sold. It is felt by the show committee that this amount should be at least doubled, especially when consideration is given to the amount of money that is spent by Cherbourg people in attending outside shows. A campdraft arranged for the 25th November last had to be cancelled, due to weather conditions and lack of entries. A boxing tournament arranged by the show committee for campdraft night realised £25. Officials and members of the show committee deserve our appreciation for their efforts, and this would be best shown in giving them the best of support for the forthcoming show. To further encourage and stimulate interest in annual shows on each Settlement, the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, has presented a shield for inter-Settlement competition for Arts and Crafts, to be competed for at the annual show held on each Settlement. The design for the shield was submitted by Cherbourg and was made here from Palm Island timber. The shield has now been sent to Brisbane to be mounted.

*Football.*—Footballers were active and played matches at Kingaroy, Nanango, Murgon, Gympie, Cooroy, Gayndah, and Chinchilla. Cherbourg was the Premier team in the South Burnett and won the Tobin Cup. In the Core Cup fixtures, Cherbourg was very narrowly defeated by Gympie in the semi-final. The welfare officer was responsible for the affairs of the footballers, and together they should be complimented on a successful season, in which they added considerably to association funds.

*Cricket.*—Under the presidency of Mr. Smith, the Cherbourg Cricket Association has functioned smoothly and efficiently. Owing to the departure of seasonal workers for the sugar area, the four teams who commenced Settlement premiership competition were reduced to three teams. Of these, Hornets have a slight lead over Busy Bees, with Rovers in third place. Petrol restrictions and transport difficulties have hampered the arrangement of outside matches. Next season it is intended to affiliate with the Murgon-Kilkivan cricket zone. The cricket committee has been responsible during the season for the sale of ice-cream. This excellent effort has added considerably to funds. Our appreciation

is extended to Mr. Smith for his interest in cricket, and also to Messrs. Jack and Jim Tierman, who have donated a cricket trophy.

*Boxing.*—During the year four successful tournaments were held on the Settlement. On nine occasions our boxers have appeared in tournaments held at Kingaroy. They have also contributed to successful tournaments at Maryborough, Gympie, and Murgon. Their skill and sportsmanship is such that they have received very popular receptions wherever they appear. A donation from the Kingaroy boxing committee of £10 was received, and this, together with satisfactory results from tournaments held, have shown that boxers by commendable efforts have strengthened welfare funds. Mr. Rees and Mr. McRae have been in no small measure responsible for the boxing success.

*Concert Party.*—During the year the concert party presented many concerts for tourists, who have commented favourably on the high standard of entertainment provided for them. Mr. Rees was again kept busy during the year with this party, and his efforts culminated with the Cherbourg Concert Party appearing for a week at the Theatre Royal in Brisbane, in aid of the Centaur House appeal. Mr. Rees has expressed himself pleased with the results achieved. He has had many requests for the reappearance of the concert party in Brisbane. His hard work and interest in this party should be encouraged.

*Cafe.*—This association has been keen on the building of a cafe here. There is need for a place where people can buy pies, sandwiches, lollies, drinks, and ice-cream, &c., at all times. I think that the welfare association could attend to and properly run such a business.

*Seaside Home.*—The setting up of a seaside home, where natives could enjoy a holiday or recuperate after illness, is another need for the people of this Settlement. It could do no harm to obtain some land for this purpose now.

*Appreciation.*—Our thanks are due to the following:—The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Robinson; to the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary; to the Deputy Director, Mr. Richards; to the Superintendent, Mr. Semple, and to all those Departmental officials who have shown an interest in welfare association affairs; to the Murgon Show Society for its co-operation; to the Secretary and to the Treasurer, and to members of all committees we offer appreciation for the work they have done; to Mr. Wessling we offer special appreciation for the pleasant manner in which he has at short notice accepted innumerable association responsibilities and helped every section of the association.

*Conclusion.*—I would like to reiterate my remarks of last year in that the incoming committee should have the help and support of every member of this community. Every member of this community should observe the laws of good conduct and general demeanour and lend a hand in bringing about further improvement in all branches of social and recreational activity.

The above report should indicate that the retiring committee have performed their duty with credit, and I offer them my thanks for their loyalty and co-operation during this term of office.

## HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. N. S. Garvey.)

*Infectious Diseases.*—The general health of the people was closely watched.

*Venereal Diseases.*—Personal inspections of male personnel were carried out. Gonorrhoea, eleven patients treated as directed by the medical officer; syphilis, one patient treated as directed by the medical officer; urthreal irrigation, one patient treated as directed by the medical officer; bladder irrigation, one patient treated as directed by the medical officer; ultra-violet ray treatment, one patient was treated as directed by the medical officer; sounds, assisted medical officer to pass sounds on three patients; general, other treatment given as directed.

*Leprosy.*—Three positive patients were discovered during the last twelve months. Suitable precautionary measures were carried out to prevent spread of the disease.

*General.*—Catheterisation, one patient.

*Non-infectious Complaints.*—Assisted the medical officer to circumcise two patients.

*Sanitary Service.*—Considering the difficulties facing the sanitary men, this service is carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner. The sanitary depot is, at all times, operated efficiently—burial areas used in rotation and kept raked level, pans tarred when necessary, general area always tidy and sprayed twice weekly with D.D.T.—which reflects greatly to the credit of the men concerned.

*Rubbish Service.*—All rubbish was collected regularly and disposed of in an efficient sanitary manner at the rubbish depot, using the controlled sanitary tip principle of rubbish disposal, whereby all rubbish, tins, &c., is completely covered with earth or sawdust. This depot was sprayed twice weekly with D.D.T.

*Dairy and Piggery.*—These premises were inspected regularly, special attention being given to the state of cleanliness of the piggery pens—gravel was continually carted to fill the mud holes in the pens. The dairy yards and piggery pens were sprayed with D.D.T. when necessary. Waste food from the dormitories was used as pigfood.

*Slaughtering.*—The slaughter-yard and butcher shop were inspected regularly. Any diseased or suspicious looking meats were destroyed. The slaughter-yard was sprayed with D.D.T. when necessary.

*Drainage System.*—The hospital septic tank, drainage system, and sludge drying beds were regularly cleaned out. The plumbing work carried out at the hospital by Mr. Bill Thompson, Murgon, has greatly improved this system.

*Anti-Fly Campaigns.*—All native cottages, dormitories, public lavatories, &c., were sprayed with D.D.T. at least once every six weeks. Further, as stated, hitherto, probable fly-breeding areas were sprayed more regularly. The native people were constantly exhorted to be careful with waste food, protection of food, eating and cooking utensils, proper use of lavatories, and all other matters pertaining to the danger of fly infection. However, even with all these precautions, the fly incidence was still too high—apparently flies (particularly the house fly) are breeding immunity to D.D.T.

*Anti-Mosquito Campaign.*—All surface waters were treated regularly with D.D.T. kerosene solution, water tanks with kerosene, and possible mosquito harbourages (such as greenhouses, ferneries, &c.) with D.D.T. emulsion. This campaign was fairly satisfactory.

*Soup Kitchen.*—This kitchen was started on 6th April, 1949, serving soup three times weekly.

*Settlement Area.*—The state of cleanliness and tidiness of the cottages and general area is still most satisfactory, and it compares favourably with that of nearby white habitations.

*Personnel.*—The greatest health of the community was rigidly supervised and any person requiring medical attention, extra food, clothing, &c., was afforded immediate consideration.

*Housing.*—A great deal of work has been carried out providing better accommodation for the natives living in huts—more suitable huts were built and extra sleeping space provided where possible. The settlement carpenters have been of great assistance in this respect.

*Meters.*—The electric light meters in the Settlement officials' homes and the bulk meters at Murgon are read once per month.

## ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

(Farm Foreman, Mr. A. V. Wessling.)

The Aboriginal Training Farm was established for the purpose of training aboriginals and, preferably, lads on leaving school showing any aptitude for a life on the land. Results have reached expectations and many young aboriginals who would otherwise have been forced to remain on the Settlement or accept casual labouring work, when available, have settled down into regular employment in the rural industry, where their help substantially augments the limited farm labour available.

In the near future it is hoped to increase the scope of training by establishing a junior farmers' club with the assistance of the Department of Education, and it is thereby hoped that the younger generation of aboriginals will become interested in the scientific side of dairying, as well as in the ordinary manual work.

The farm comprises 703 acres, of which 120 acres are used for agricultural purposes, the bulk being irrigible. In addition to a standing crop of 25 acres of lucerne, from which excellent results have been achieved, the cultivation is fully worked throughout the year, the chief crops grown being maize and potatoes, in addition to hay and fodder crops. At a later date it is intended to construct silos when materials become available, but at present fodder reserves of 150 tons of hay are held.

Pig raising is carried out on an extensive scale, the number of pigs at present on hand being 103. Dairying is also carried out on modern lines with a dairy herd totalling 103.

Structural improvements completed during the last financial year comprise three cottages for native staff, a shed for grain, and a large machinery shed.

Returns from the farm for the twelve months were—

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of cream .. ..	874	10	1
Sale of pigs .. ..	2,376	11	4
Market crops (potatoes) .. ..	180	13	11
	<b>£3,431</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>



## APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL  
SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

## HEALTH.

*Hospital statistics* for the period are as follows:—

Remaining in	..	..	..	..	16
Admitted	..	..	..	..	536
Discharged	..	..	..	..	538
Births	..	..	..	..	41
Deaths	..	..	..	..	6
Remaining in	..	..	..	..	14
Total No. of patients days	..	..	..	..	5,158
No. of Doctor's visits	..	..	..	..	51
No. of outpatients	..	..	..	..	6,603
No. of treatments	..	..	..	..	14,576

The general health of the residents was good and no serious epidemic was experienced.

A good indication of the general health is obtained when it is noted that, for the twelve months under review, only six deaths occurred, two of which were natives who died of senility (one aged 72 years and one aged 70 years). Three of the remaining deaths were premature babies who only lived for a few minutes, and the other was a baby aged five weeks.

Although during the year there was some difficulty in obtaining white nursing staff for the Settlement hospital, sufficient staffing was maintained to provide an adequate medical service and it is anticipated that the staffing will be increased in the near future.

The visiting medical officer visited the Settlement each week and was always available when required for consultation in cases of accident or illnesses requiring urgent attention.

In every instance where a native leaves the Settlement (for employment, holidays, &c.), he is medically examined by the doctor prior to his departure. The same procedure is adopted with incoming personnel.

*General Conduct.*—The general conduct of the population has been of a very high standard, and no crime of any seriousness was reported. The domestic and neighbourly harmony which exists in the community is remarkable when the number of the inmates of the Settlement is considered. The very rare domestic disputes are invariably amiably settled by a native sergeant and an efficient native police force.

## INDUSTRIAL.

*Pastoral.*—At the end of the period 3,100 head of cattle were carried and the brandings for the year were 866—430 males and 436 females.

Stock movements were 202 herd cows transferred to Cherbourg Settlement and 306 bullocks and steers transferred to Foleyvale reserve. Killings for consumption by Settlement inmates totalled 275.

The mustering this year was more effective owing to better opportunities for mustering on surrounding runs, and many of the cattle short mustered last year were located during this year's muster.

The rainfall for the year was 29.09 inches, of which 20.13 inches was recorded in the last three months of the year under review. From the foregoing it will be noted that dry conditions

prevailed for the first nine months, but, owing to provision being made for supplies of surface water in the outlying parts, the losses were kept comparatively light. However, it will still be necessary to make greater provisions by ring-barking and the sinking of dams.

The horses now total 121 (42 draught and 79 saddle horses). Fifteen saddle horses were procured and the brandings numbered ten. Eight horses were broken during the period.

*Sale of Hides.*—292 hides were forwarded to Brisbane for sale and yielded £271 12s. 10d.

*Pigs.*—Ten sows and one boar were received from Cherbourg Settlement in September, 1943, and the number now totals 70. Eleven were killed for consumption by Settlement inmates.

*Dairying.*—The dairy herd has been a decided acquisition, and because of the ability to feed with locally-grown fodder during the dry periods an adequate supply of milk was always available.

*Agriculture.*—The area under cultivation is as follows:—

154 acres	peanuts
15 acres	sweet potatoes
15 acres	pumpkins
10 acres	grain sorghum
8 acres	sudan grass
7 acres	vegetables

The remaining acreage contains 800 citrus fruit trees. A trial planting of 20 Queensland nut trees has also been effected.

Sufficient vegetables (in season) for Settlement requirements have been supplied by the vegetable acreage which is irrigated.

*Buildings.*—The buildings completed during the year were a single officers' quarters, powerhouse, farm overseer's residence, and an up-to-date type of native cottage, dray and harness shed measuring 52 feet by 22 feet, and a farm implement shed with 60 feet by 20 feet dimensions.

*Electricity.*—The installation of the electric power plant has been completed, also the house installations and wiring, which required the erection of 100 poles and the installation of 405 lights, 30 street lights, and 89 power points.

The power will be generated by Ruston Hornsby 60 h.p. and Ronaldson Tippet 35 h.p. diesel engines. A Southern Cross auxiliary engine has also been installed, and it is hoped that as soon as final inspections can be arranged light and power will be available to all residents. The value of this utility also in regard to industrial requirements cannot be over-estimated.

*Sewing Room.*—The sewing room did not operate for the total period, as insufficient space was available for storing of completed articles. The articles of clothing completed during the year were—

Frocks	..	..	..	367
Babys' frocks	..	..	..	54
Slips	..	..	..	282
Bloomers	..	..	..	119
Napkins	..	..	..	62
Girls' pyjamas	..	..	..	33
Aprons	..	..	..	12
Butchers' aprons	..	..	..	15
Caps	..	..	..	12
Boys' tunic suits	..	..	..	67
Boys' shirts	..	..	..	2
Boys' play suits	..	..	..	2

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1,027

*Employment.*—The number of natives under agreement at outside employment at the 31st March were 91 males and 36 females, making a total of 127.

The majority of above employees are employed in the pastoral industry in the Central Division of the State. Practically all demands for male labour have been met and, except in a few isolated cases, the agreements have been satisfactorily completed. The demand for domestic labour is still far in excess of the supply, and the prospects of any improvement of the position in this respect appear to be remote.

The amount deposited to native savings bank accounts in respect of wages was £5,764 3s. 9d. This is in addition to practically the same amount paid to the employee as pocket money.

#### FINANCE.

Financial statistics are as under:—

##### Deposits—

	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	5,764	3	9
Cash Deposits .. .. .	631	9	9
Maternity Allowances .. .. .	253	10	0
Sale Dingo scalps .. .. .	21	0	0
	<u>£6,670</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>

##### Withdrawals—

	£	s.	d.
Cash withdrawals .. .. .	3,681	11	7
Purchases on order at Settlement Store .. .. .	1,054	7	4
Purchases on order outside firms .. .. .	1,702	3	10
	<u>£6,438</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>

In addition to above, £3,921 19s. 8d. child endowment and £7,537 9s. 1d. Settlement wages were paid to Settlement inmates.

Cash collections were:—

	£	s.	d.
Settlement maintenance .. .. .	1,047	6	0
Sale of hides .. .. .	262	15	7
Sale of farm produce .. .. .	426	16	7
Sale of milk .. .. .	19	14	0
Sale of meat .. .. .	126	16	6
Accommodation .. .. .	11	17	6
Truck fares .. .. .	89	14	3
Fines, &c. .. .. .	29	3	9
Telephone .. .. .	45	11	3
	<u>£2,059</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>5</u>

#### SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.)

The number of children enrolled on 1st April, 1948, was 160, while the number enrolled at the end of March, 1949, was 165, consisting of 75 boys and 90 girls.

*Classification of Pupils.*—At the end of March, 1949, there were the following grades, the enrolment being shown in brackets after each grade:—IV. (15), III.B (14), II.A (21), II.B (23), I. (17), Prep. 4 (21), Prep. 2 (31), Prep. 1 (23).

*Additional Children.*—In addition to the enrolment of coloured children, there are in attendance at this school five white boys and five white

girls, who are sons and daughters of white officials. The inclusion of these extra children imposes further duties and responsibilities upon the teaching staff.

*Staff.*—There are three white teachers and four monitresses. In addition, a coloured woman assists, but for only two hours weekly, in the teaching of elementary needlework, and a full-time coloured helper (an elderly man) teaches woodwork to the boys.

There is need for a man who can teach tin-smithing and leatherwork. Exhibits in these branches of handwork are needed for the inter-settlement competitive display.

*Inspection.*—The school was inspected on the 28th and 29th June, 1948, by Mr. District Inspector Pyle, of the Department of Public Instruction.

Some points of interest from the Inspector's report are:—

- “Control continues to be sufficiently firm to enable smooth working conditions to operate.”
- “Accommodation is inadequate.”
- “The general condition of the school is good.”
- “Vocational training is successfully managed. The girls, under the direction of Mrs. Jarrett, cover a sound syllabus in needlework.”
- “The head teacher teaches, voluntarily, adult education classes. Singing, including part-singing, arithmetic, appreciation of literature, story-telling, simple astronomy and general discussions are taken. This work is indeed a valuable contribution to the well-being of those who attend, and the Settlement as a whole.”

*Settlement Shows.*—In addition to providing a very large display of exhibits at our local Settlement show, the school provides articles for competitive exhibition at the other Settlements' shows.

The exhibits for Palm Island show (1948) did not reach “The Palms” in time. To this show, we had sent pastel drawings, writing, mapping, garments, supper cloths, bookshelves, suitcase, toys, hammer and axe handles, and other woodwork, including an inkstand made of beautifully grained wood and french-polished.

*Queensland Industries Fair.*—Towards the end of the year under review many school exhibits were sent to the Queensland Industries Fair and included the following:—

*Boys' Exhibits.*—A wooden suitcase, a shaving cabinet, a tea-waiter of ringed stringy-bark wood, french-polished; inkwell stand, kitchen safe, wall bracket, folding chair, inlaid work, laundry trolley, pin tray, tooth-brush rack, egg holder (to hold a dozen eggs), hammer and axe handles, a bilge-water pump, and a pair of jumping kangaroos.

*Girls' Exhibits.*—Handmade dresses, slip, summer frocks, knitted jumpers and cardigans, hand-embroidered child's frocks, embroidered table centres and duchess sets.

*Scheme of Education.*—In connection with this subject, as discussed in last annual report, an additional year's experience has modified the writer's views. If aboriginal children are admitted at the age of five years, then most of them will need a period of four years to prepare for Grade One.

WOORABINDA SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. J. Ranie.)

In submitting the fourth annual report of the above association, I do so with much pleasure as the period under review has been most successful.

The constitution of the association was amended during the year to allow of a larger native committee being appointed, and the wisdom of such a move has since been manifest. The committee now comprises twenty native residents who are elected at each annual general meeting. As evidence of the interest the native committee men and women have shown in the activities of the association, it is noted that although a regulation provides that when any committeeman is absent from two consecutive meetings without a written apology being accepted the position shall be declared vacant, not one vacancy has occurred during the year.

Further evidence that the native committee men realise their responsibility is shown at the meetings, when most of them are eager to participate in the debate during the business of the meetings.

Recreational and social activities have been maintained with continued success and the various sports conducted have been keenly contested.

*Finance.*—A brief statement of the Welfare Association funds is as follows:—

*Receipts*—

	£	s.	d.
Balance as at 1st April, 1948 ..	407	18	3
Receipts .. .. .	1,337	19	5
	<hr/>		
	£1,745	17	8

*Expenditure*—

	£	s.	d.
Expenses .. .. .	1,169	2	5
Balance as at 31st March, 1949 ..	576	15	3
	<hr/>		
	£1,745	17	8

It will be noted that the profit on the year's activities was £168 17s.

*Football.*—Settlement teams played return matches during the year with Mount Morgan, Emerald, Theodore, Wowan, Springsure, and Baralaba. The only defeat being suffered was by Mount Morgan. Spear and boomerang throwers accompanied the footballers on their tours and, from the applause and comments of the spectators at the various centres visited, it would appear that they were greatly appreciated.

*Cricket.*—Efforts to revive interest in this sport were particularly successful and return matches were played with Moura, Baralaba, and

Dawson Valley country teams. Some promising talent was discovered and it is anticipated that the team will develop into one able to successfully compete with any in the Central Districts.

*Boxing.*—A boxing troupe was placed in training under the tuition of Ron. Richards, and a tournament was conducted in Baralaba, in aid of the Baralaba Ambulance. The display of the championship belts of Ron. Richards created much interest. Efforts to obtain team matches with other towns were unsuccessful, which was unfortunate, as it is considered that several of the Settlement boxers could successfully compete in any tournament in the State.

*Softball.*—Complete equipment was procured and the women displayed aptitude for the sport.

*Basketball.*—The interest in this sport is being maintained, but as same is not played in adjacent towns outside matches could not be arranged.

*Annual Show.*—Due to the date fixed for the Queensland Industries Fair, to which this Settlement is submitting exhibits, it will be inconvenient for the Settlement show to be held as usual at the end of May, and has been postponed to the 14th and 15th October.

Much enthusiasm is already being shown in the forthcoming inter-Settlement display competition, and it is evident that Woorabinda will set a standard which will be difficult for Palm Island or Cherbourg to better.

*Rodeo.*—A successful rodeo was conducted on New Year's Day, and the ability of the male residents as stockmen and rodeo performers was, as usual, very evident. Novelty events, such as pillow-fighting, &c., were thoroughly enjoyed.

The native afternoon tea stall at all functions is now popular. It is completely staffed by natives and the busy band of workers is kept at "high pressure" meeting the needs of the residents in the way of light refreshments.

*Talkie Screenings.*—A talkie programme is still being shown by a mobile plant from Baralaba each fortnight and is immensely appreciated. There is no charge made for admission, but each adult is asked to donate one shilling towards the cost of the presentation—all indigents and children are free and welcome. It is a credit to the honesty of the residents that not on one occasion since the inauguration of the scheme over two years ago has the association suffered a loss on the entertainment.

*Concert Party.*—The concert party has been quite active and has assisted considerably in entertaining the residents. Its value also cannot be over-estimated when sporting teams visit the settlement and remain for a night entertainment.

This opportunity is taken of congratulating George Hill on the success he has attained on the concert stage. George is a blind one-hand aboriginal musician of the Settlement for whom arrangements were made to be auditioned by Australia's Amateur Hour in Rockhampton. George was selected to participate in that performance and created a national record for the number of votes polled. Letters of congratulation were received from as far distant as Western Australia. Since that time he has obtained engagements, professionally, in Rockhampton, Mount Morgan, Gladstone, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and towns in the Northern



**Peanut Harvesting, Woorabinda.**



**Bullocks, Foleyvale Reserve.**

Rivers of New South Wales. On behalf of the association, I convey every good wish for his future success.

*Conclusion.*—In conclusion, I would like to say "Thanks" to the Minister (the Hon. A. Jones), the Director of Native Affairs (Mr. C. O'Leary), the deputy-director (Mr. P. J. Richards), and members of the Brisbane staff for their interest and assistance at all times. For the co-operation of the Superintendent, members of the staff, native committee, and all residents of this Settlement, I have nothing but admiration and can assure them that with such assistance and co-operation the position of president is a pleasant one.

#### FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

With the completion of road access from the railhead to the property and the provision of telephone communication, both of which major projects have absorbed a considerable percentage of labour available, efforts are being concentrated on reproductive work on the reserve itself, particularly by way of ringbarking the large virgin scrub areas and by further agricultural operations. On this undeveloped property, much fencing and clearing work yet remains to be done and 3 miles of fencing have been completed and another mile of fencing posts erected, awaiting deliveries of wire; 5½ miles of internal roads have been cleared and graded.

*Pastoral.*—As at the 31st March, 1949, 1,366 male cattle were pastured on Foleyvale, this number including transfers from Cherbourg and Woorabinda Settlements. All these cattle will be fattened and sold to augment supplies of beef available for general and overseas consumption, Settlement requirements being supplied by the killing of culled female stock.

Now that the regular annual planting of grain sorghum is being undertaken on Foleyvale, bullocks prior to being sold as fats are topped off on sorghum stubble. The successful results achieved by this method of fattening have been reflected in the keen demand for Foleyvale bullocks by meat exporting firms in Rockhampton, and the object lesson provided has not been lost on other graziers throughout the district, a number of whom have been encouraged to take similar action on their own properties.

*Agricultural.*—Adverse seasonal results for crop growing in late 1947 and early 1948 militated against the best results being achieved on crops harvested later in 1948, but sufficient encouragement was given to extend the area under grain sorghum this year to 260 acres, from which between 1,500 and 2,000 bags of grain are expected when harvesting operations now in hand are complete.

Action is now in hand for the preparation of 400 acres of land for planting with grain sorghum later in the year and 200 acres with peanuts, which latter crop is considered worthy of a trial on a substantial scale.

Preliminary surveys are being made with a view to undertaking irrigation, using ample supplies of water which now go to waste in the Mackenzie River. Large areas of good quality land highly suitable for the purpose are available.

#### APPENDIX 4.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND PENINSULA.

The decision by the Queensland Government to concentrate on the greater development of the Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals indicates an appreciation of the value of these people as citizens of the State and as units in the industrial life of North Queensland. The Torres Strait Islanders are appreciative of the Government's action in this regard, and in order that they should fully understand the intention behind the altered administrative set-up, a conference of Torres Strait Island councillors was held at Badu Island in February, 1949.

That conference expressed, in no uncertain manner, its thanks for the added interest being evinced in the peoples' welfare, but simultaneously it brought under the notice of the authorities the desire of the people to obtain a greater recognition as citizens of the State. The councillors were unanimous in their request that civil rights as applicable to white citizens should be granted them as tax payers of the nation. Already social service benefits, to an even greater extent than applies to the Aborigines, are enjoyed by the Islanders, but these people have not yet attained their desire for the franchise.

*Health.*—It is pleasing to note that there is an appreciation by the health authorities, of the State and Commonwealth, of the terrible menace to the Torres Strait Island race in the prevalence of tuberculosis. As with every native race, the Islanders of Torres Strait and the Aborigines of the Peninsula are keenly susceptible to this scourge and in the interests of the future of it an immediate attack, in no uncertain manner, must be forthcoming in the very near future.

It is indeed pleasing to note that the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, accompanied by a tuberculosis expert, will visit this area for the purpose of definitely determining a programme and a policy which will aim at the checking of the disease.

No serious epidemics have occurred during the year. At Aurukun Mission a threatened outbreak of diphtheria was checked by the prompt visit to that mission of the Government Medical Officer stationed at Thursday Island.

Schedule 1 provides statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area. These hospitals cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island General Hospital.

#### EDUCATION.

Schedule 2 provides statistical information of the teachers and scholars attending the various schools in the Torres Strait area.

It is not to be assumed that the existent system of education for the Torres Strait people is as satisfactory as might be. Prewar, the primary education provided for the children by the Sub-Department of Native Affairs met the position, but the war years, due to the evacuation of white teachers and the enlistment of many of the capable native teachers causing in many instances the closing of the school, caused a lag that will involve years of concentration to remedy.

The enlistment of the Torres Strait younger men in the armed forces and their fraternisation with white troops instilled into them an appreciation of the necessity of a higher standard of education than had been provided prewar. It is only natural, therefore, that they should advocate, and on very sound grounds, for an increased educational system which will give to their children a better and more solid educational foundation than the old system provided. It is impossible to visualise these people accepting, with any degree of satisfaction, an educational set-up that provides little incentive to the individual to become other than a manual labourer or a worker in the pearl-shell industry. It is, therefore, considered reasonable, fair, and justifiable that the Department of Public Instruction, with its machinery and staff, should accept the responsibility for the education of these Islanders in primary schools and in secondary schools established in this area.

These secondary schools should provide a curriculum fitting the mentality and psychology of the Island race, a race which from every aspect is an essential to the wellbeing of the far North and worthy of the best encouragement.

#### MARINE INDUSTRY.

During the year 31 luggers, cutters and launches, owned by Torres Strait Islanders, won the undermentioned marine produce, which was sold by Island Industries Board on their behalf:—

*Mother-of-pearlshell*.—162 tons, valued at £53,142.

*Trochus shell*.—228 tons, valued at £14,405.

*Total*.—£67,548.

The production value of marine produce for the current year is £21,000 less than for the corresponding period covered by the last annual report, but the amount of produce actually fished was 33 tons mother-of-pearlshell and 44 tons trochus shell greater than the previous year. The difference in the value is attributable to the drop in the market price obtainable. Since January, 1946, when pearlshell was sold in excess of £700 per ton and trochus shell was realising £160 per ton, a continuous fall in market values has been recorded to the extent that in January, 1949, pearlshell realised £410 per ton overseas and trochus shell £72 5s. per ton f.o.b. Thursday Island. Had marine produce remained at this figure, the future of the industry would give no cause for concern, but, unfortunately, the fall in price since January, 1946, has been so marked, and the overseas market so uncertain that grave concern for the future of the industry exists.

At date of writing, mid-June, 1949, it is impossible to visualise a stable price. An overseas representative has made an offer to the producers of Thursday Island to accept, in limited quantities, their pearlshell at £301 per ton, a figure that makes it practically impossible for

the one- or two-men boats to carry on and to pay a living wage to the workers employed on those boats.

With the reopening of the marine industry in 1946, the Queensland Government determined a living wage for all Islanders at £15 per month for crews and proportionate increased wages for engineers, divers, and tenders. Divers are employed on an agreement compelling the owner to make available 60 per cent. of the gross earnings to the diver, who is responsible for practically all of the upkeep of the venture, including wages and food. On this basis, the diver, tenders, and crews receive remunerative wages in keeping with the risk, particularly which the diver ran in winning produce from the ocean.

The future of the industry and the wages of the workers is now in jeopardy by reason of the threatened reduction in price and the possibility that certain employers cannot maintain their vessels on the existent wage standard and the general production costs. The position is being closely watched by the Queensland Government, who has been fully acquainted with the position by the Director of Native Affairs.

The attached table indicates the production figures of individual boats in the industry. The higher figures represent the workings of luggers and the reduced figures are the returns of produce won by cutters and other small boats.

#### ACCOUNTS.

Particulars of accounts controlled by the Director of Native Affairs in the Thursday Island Office, as apart from the accounts administered by the Brisbane Office, are:—

	Accounts.	Balance.
		£ s. d.
Islanders .. .. .	3,357	55,844 15 2
Aboriginals .. .. .	662	26,396 1 0
Child Endowment .. .. .	578	8,321 6 4
Island Fund and Others .. .. .	56	7,915 8 7

For the period 1947-48, and for comparison purposes, the balances were £45,381 18s. 2d., £25,762 4s. 7d., £6,348 8s. 4d., and £4,922 0s. 5d. respectively.

These increases in savings are a fitting and answerable reply to the critics of the Torres Strait Islanders that they are spending their money foolishly. There is practically no restriction, other than helpful advice and encouragement, with the Islander in depositing his surplus earnings into his savings bank account. Many of the men earning high wages have voluntarily placed large sums into special reserve accounts to be operated on at their request for the erection of homes, purchases of boats, and for those essential requirements of life which necessitate provision for the rainy day.

The withdrawal against child endowment is not restricted and the credit balances indicate a desire by parents of children, for whom endowment is paid, to conserve funds in a manner similar to the attitude adopted by their men folk.

Transactions on the above accounts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1949, are as under:—

—	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Balance at 1st April, 1948.		Balance at 31st March, 1949.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions .. .. .	4,653	180,857	13 1	164,794	13 6	82,414	11 6	98,477	11 1



**Islanders' Homes, Badu Island, under construction.**

## WELFARE.

It is pleasing to note that on the Torres Strait Islands welfare clubs have been established and a keen interest is being evinced by the natives in them. The credit for the establishment of these clubs goes mainly to the Islanders themselves, but every encouragement and assistance is given by the Department.

The intention of the clubs is to provide amusement for the Island residents, and they fill a longfelt want, in that whereas the old people still concentrate on the Island dances as their one and only avenue of entertainment, the exhibitions and entertainments provided by the younger generation are both educational, uplifting, and instructive. An indication of the enthusiasm which marks the work and organisation of these clubs is revealed by the credit balances in their funds, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Murray Island Welfare Club ..	37	2	1
Mutee Head Welfare Club ..	106	17	7
Coconut Island Welfare Club ..	5	0	0
Saibai Island Welfare Club ..	41	6	5
Dauan Island Welfare Club ..	39	17	5
Yam Island School Welfare Club ..	25	19	11
Darnley Island Welfare Club ..	79	17	7

The appointment of a welfare officer in Thursday Island to care for the large number of Islanders and aboriginals residing in that town is proving beneficial, in that continuous contact between the individual and the administration is maintained and an assurance is given that the sick or needy are not neglected.

Many of the Islanders participate in the organised sport in Thursday Island, and particularly does such apply to Rugby League football. The assistance of the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs in presenting the Arthur Jones Cup for premiership competition amongst Rugby League teams is appreciated both by the whites and the Islanders.

Welfare work, as can be appreciated, having commenced only recently is in its infancy and there is every reason to believe and hope that the standard obtained in Government Settlements will prevail later in this area.

## CONDUCT.

It is pleasing to record that the conduct generally of Torres Strait Islanders over the last twelve months has shown very considerable improvement. The animosity and antagonism as between Islander and white in Thursday Island seems to have almost disappeared and the rivalry factions of Islanders with their brawls and squabbles are now a thing of the past. For this happy result, the influence of the last Badu conference and the determination of the councillors to stop, once and for all, the spirit of rivalry and jealousy, which was growing amongst the people, a large measure of credit is due.

The efforts by the Police Department to stamp out blackmarketing of drink to Islanders has also been an appreciative contributing factor in the general improved behaviour.

## DEVELOPMENT OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA AREA.

During the year the Queensland Government secured an additional Reserve of approximately 44,500 acres of country extending from Red Island Point to the boundary of Cowal Creek Settlement on the seaboard and from Red Island Point to Kennedy Inlet on the East Coast of the Peninsula. Simultaneously, Albany Island and the Somerset Holding were secured for the use of Torres Strait Islanders, and towards the end of the year developmental work on the Red Island area commenced.

All army installations secured with the purchase have been demolished and preparations are being made for the erection of buildings on a site which has now been determined and which will form one of the several villages which will be established there for the overflow of the Torres Strait Islands population.

Well over 300 Saibai Islanders are now established on the Cowal Creek Aboriginal Reserve at Mutee Head, in temporary quarters, and the intention is, as water and buildings are provided, to remove these people as the nucleus of the population to take over these Peninsula areas.

A sawmill has been acquired and an overseer appointed for the developmental work with coloured labour. The progress on this venture is restricted to a considerable extent by the inability to obtain suitable supervising labour and particularly does this apply to the operations of the sawmill.

Representatives of the Torres Strait Island councils have already visited the area and expressed high appreciation of the Government's action in making available this country as a future home for the younger generation of Islanders.

## PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR."

In January, 1949, the patrol vessel "Melbidir," with carrying capacity of approximately 130 tons, having been purchased in Tasmania, arrived in Thursday Island.

This vessel is the ideal type of boat required for the maintenance of contact with all Islands and for the carriage of foodstuffs and general cargo to the branch stores of Island Industries Board. She is manned by a white master, white engineer, native assistant engineer, and 10 Island crew. The vessel provides comfort for white and coloured passengers, is fitted with radio, and generally fills a longfelt want in this area.

## WIRELESS SERVICE.

The year under review marked the completion of the mother station at Thursday Island and the installation of wireless sets at Badu, Mabuiag, Murray, and Darnley Islands, and at Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, and Lockhart River Missions. This installation supplants the prewar one taken over by the armed forces during the war. It is rendering excellent service and all of the important outlying centres are already catered for. As additional material is to hand, further installations will proceed.



SCHEDULE 1.  
HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31-3-49.

	Saibai.					Badu.					Yorke.				
	Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.	
	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.
April .. ..	0.7	0.2	0.9	405	198	0.7	2.4	3.1	785	303	1.0	2.0	3.0	290	315
May .. ..	0.5	0.3	0.8	422	249	1.0	2.2	3.2	368	126	0.58	1.25	1.83	322	401
June .. ..	0.2	0.18	0.38	321	212	1.8	2.1	3.9	471	220	..	..	..	201	316
July .. ..	1.03	1.1	2.13	515	350	1.9	1.0	2.9	511	205	..	0.83	0.83	496	426
August .. ..	1.06	1.5	2.56	205	508	4.3	4.6	8.9	341	102	..	1.0	1.0	210	130
September .. ..	1.3	4.4	5.7	450	291	1.7	2.7	4.4	398	187	1.54	1.0	2.54	436	332
October .. ..	0.67	0.48	1.15	280	302	1.5	1.48	2.98	397	133	2.0	0.83	2.83	262	156
November .. ..	..	0.26	0.26	231	269	0.33	0.07	0.4	362	129	2.5	..	2.5	56	31
December .. ..	0.14	0.14	0.28	478	347	0.3	1.1	1.4	111	313	..	..	..	28	46
1949.															
January .. ..	0.32	..	0.32	659	478	0.1	0.3	0.4	106	322	..	..	..	76	102
February .. ..	7.0	10.0	17.0	488	248	1.3	1.6	2.9	412	203	4.0	2.9	6.9	234	324
March .. ..	0.22	0.51	0.73	526	233	1.5	4.7	6.2	240	160	3.1	11.5	14.6	224	238
	In Patients, Daily Average 2.68. Out Patients, Number Treated 4,980. Out patients, Number of Treatments, 3,685.					In Patients, Daily Average 3.39. Out Patients, Number Treated 4,502. Out Patients, Number of Treatments 2,403.					In Patients, Daily Average 3.002. Out Patients, Number Treated 2,835. Out Patients, Number of Treatments 2,817.				

## PERIOD 1-4-48 TO 31-3-49.

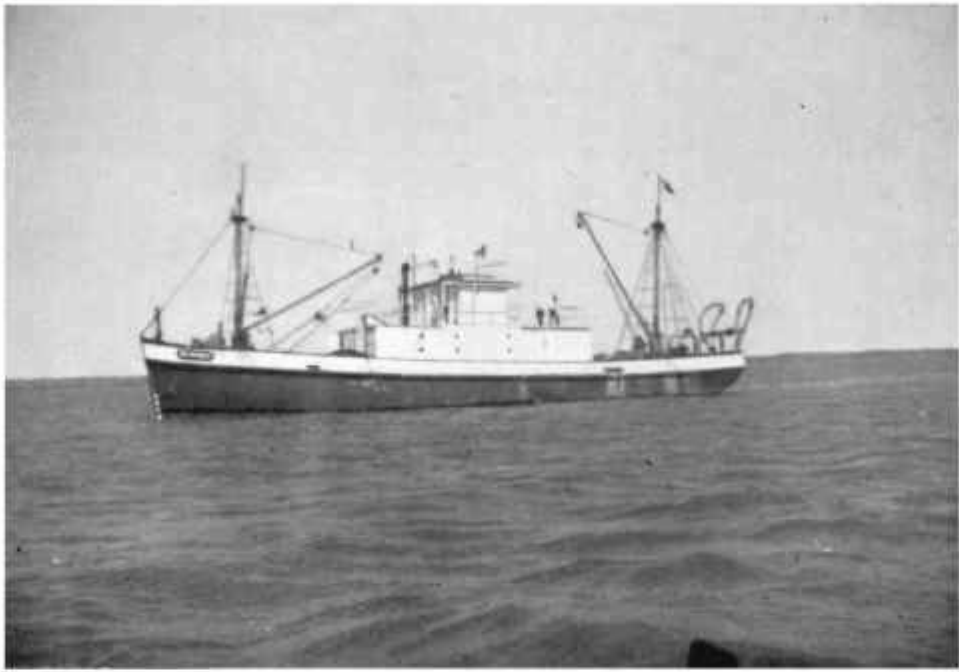
Place.	Births.	Stillbirths.	Deaths.	Marriages.
Thursday Island .. ..	69	2	49	10
Badu Island .. ..	5	..	1	4
Boigu Island .. ..	9	..	3	1
Coconut Island .. ..	3	..	2	..
Cowal Creek .. ..	1	1	1	..
Darnley Island .. ..	10	..	6	1
Dauan Island .. ..	3	..	..	..
Dowar Island .. ..	..	1	2	..
Kubin Village .. ..	5	..	2	4
Mabuiag Island .. ..	4	..	1	2
Murray Island .. ..	11	2	6	1
Mutee Head .. ..	9	..	3	..
Naghir Island .. ..	..	..	1	..
Rennell Island .. ..	..	..	..	..
Red Island Point .. ..	1	..	1	..
Saibai Island .. ..	12	..	3	2
Stephen Island .. ..	1	..	..	..
Yam Island .. ..	4	..	..	2
Yorke Island .. ..	6	..	3	..
St. Paul's Mission .. ..	8	..	..	1
Nepean Island .. ..	..	..	1	..
At Sea .. ..	1	..	1	..
Total .. ..	162	6	86	28

## SCHEDULE 2.

## SCHOOL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31-3-49.

School.	White Teachers.	Native Teachers.	Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Badu .. ..	1	4	6	46	32	78
Boigu .. ..	..	3	7	23	25	48
Coconut .. ..	..	3	6	17	19	36
Cowal Creek .. ..	..	3	6	21	21	42
Mutee Head .. ..	..	6	6	21	32	53
Darnley .. ..	1	3	5	44	54	98
Dauan .. ..	..	2	5	9	8	17
Kubin .. ..	..	3	5	25	29	54
Mabuiag .. ..	1	5	6	36	32	68
Murray .. ..	1	6	7	57	48	105
Naghir .. ..	..	2	5	5	7	12
Rennell .. ..	..	1	3	4	1	5
Saibai .. ..	..	4	7	28	21	49
St. Pauls .. ..	2	2	5	43	30	73
Stephen .. ..	..	1	3	5	4	9
Yam .. ..	..	4	4	25	28	53
Yorke .. ..	1	2	5	18	19	37
Dowar .. ..	..	1	5	20	16	36
Thursday Island .. ..	1	1	4	50	49	99
Red Island Point .. ..	..	1	3	5	6	11
Hammond Island .. ..	1	..	5	10	5	15
Convent, Thursday Island .. ..	2	..	6	22	27	49

NOTE: Hammond Island hopes to commence on Manual training.  
At the Convent, Island children have begun music lessons.



Patrol Vessel, Q.G.K. "Melbidir."



Captain and Crew, Q.G.K. "Melbidir."



Recoppering Lugger I.I.B. Slipway.



Divers sorting individual catches of pearlshell.

## SCHEDULE 3.

Name of Vessel.	Captain.	Number of Drifts.	Marine Produce Won			Value.		
			T.	C.	Q. LBS.	£	s.	d.
Petta .. .. .	Tanu Nona .. .. .	8	19	11	3 12	6,883	5	1
Adelphi .. .. .	Phillip Nona .. .. .	8	16	7	2 20	5,932	17	9
Cessa .. .. .	Songhie Mills .. .. .	7	15	2	3 22	5,912	16	9
Nancy .. .. .	Sam Mosby .. .. .	6	14	16	2 6	5,639	1	9
Caroline .. .. .	Philemon Pearson .. .. .	8	21	2	3 19	4,743	8	8
Naianga .. .. .	Timothy Tamwoy .. .. .	8	11	17	3 16	3,825	9	3
Gloria .. .. .	Jerry Stephen .. .. .	7	39	18	1 4	3,706	12	2
Kismet .. .. .	Jim Mosby .. .. .	5	9	17	2 1	3,517	16	9
Maria .. .. .	Frank Mosby .. .. .	7	13	9	2 11	3,169	5	2
Yanna .. .. .	Byra Ned Samuel .. .. .	7	7	11	0 20	2,858	13	9
Loyalty .. .. .	Mapoo Gela .. .. .	3	38	0	1 4	2,343	13	8
Yaza .. .. .	Daniel Blanket .. .. .	5	7	9	0 19	2,303	6	9
Mabuiag (ex Lankara)	Joseph Mooka .. .. .	4	7	12	3 25	2,166	5	0
Seisia (ex Alcía)	Mugai Elu .. .. .	3	20	12	3 18	1,580	1	11
Adiana .. .. .	Abou Noah .. .. .	3	24	16	2 2	1,410	13	2
Adai .. .. .	Mataika Maza .. .. .	2	20	6	0 3	1,268	16	4
S.S. Dona (ex Shiela)	Imai Getoma .. .. .	2	13	9	2 11	1,241	5	3
Danie .. .. .	Solomon Nona .. .. .	5	3	1	0 2	1,068	16	9
Rebecca .. .. .	Daniel Pau .. .. .	2	17	4	2 6	1,054	7	11
Thoran .. .. .	Anau Mau .. .. .	2	14	15	0 9	922	2	5
Millard .. .. .	Nadi Anu .. .. .	3	8	6	2 0	884	9	6
Gonah (ex Athalea)	William Waia .. .. .	3	1	17	0 24	625	16	1
Macoy .. .. .	Paiai Paia .. .. .	3	1	7	2 17	372	12	6
Wadumo .. .. .	Bunai Marama .. .. .	3	1	18	0 23	337	6	9
Tymapi (ex Darra)	Umai Banu and Gau Toby	3	4	0	1 19	333	19	1
Tacey .. .. .	Jimmy Luffman .. .. .	2	0	15	3 2	267	2	8
Zunal .. .. .	Charlie Gibuma .. .. .	3	0	16	3 16	257	19	2
Jasima .. .. .	Ned Wacando .. .. .	2	1	1	2 12	192	3	4
Maggie (ex Cape York)	Aaron Anau .. .. .	2	0	13	2 25	187	14	11
Binbin .. .. .	Jir Wapau .. .. .	2	0	11	1 15	187	1	2
Wakaid .. .. .	Joseph Bowie .. .. .	1	0	5	1 25	63	3	5
Dinghy Sheel (M.O.P.)	.. .. .	..	0	19	3 7	350	1	2
Dinghy Sheel (Blacklip)	.. .. .	..	0	0	0 24	0	12	0
Dinghy Sheel (Trochus)	.. .. .	..	31	5	1 25	1,939	12	4
			391	4	3 16	£67,548	10	4

## DISSECTION OF MARINE PRODUCE FIGURES.

—	Quantity.			Value.		
	T.	C.	Q. L.B.	£	s.	d.
M.O.P. .. .. .	162	12	3 6	53,142	7	5
Blacklip .. .. .	0	0	0 24	0	12	0
Total M.O.P. .. .. .	162	13	0 2	53,142	19	5
Trochus .. .. .	228	11	3 14	14,405	10	11
Grand Totals .. .. .	391	4	3 16	67,548	10	4

## APPENDIX 5.

## ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Manager, Mr. R. J. Moore.)

On behalf of the Island Industries Board, Thursday Island, I have pleasure in presenting a report on its activities and trading for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

Island Industries Board is a corporation established under "The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939." The Board consists of the Director of Native Affairs, as chairman, with the manager and acting police magistrate as members. It is empowered to carry on all types of business and to buy, sell, and generally fulfil all of the requirements of a trading concern and an agency for Islanders marine produce. Any surplus profits of the Board are allocated or appropriated for the general welfare of the Islanders, as the Governor in Council may determine.

Last year, consequent on the audit report revealing considerable losses in the 18 branch stores controlled by Island Industries Board, a determination by the Board to considerably reduce, and if possible obviate, these losses has

resulted in a much better position than applied last year. It must be remembered that the staffing of these branch stores is in the hands of Islanders inexperienced in the finer points of accountancy and storekeeping, but generally honest and willing. The appointment of a supervising officer for these stores ensures a continuous check on all transactions.

At date of writing the final annual audit figures are not available, but in order that a reasonably fair picture can be obtained of the trading figures in these stores, the following is submitted:—

Island.	Actual turnover.	Surplus.	Shortage.
	£	£	£
Coconut .. .. .	4,649	15	..
Cowal Creek .. .. .	4,684	..	173
Darnley .. .. .	7,000	20	..
Dowar .. .. .	3,140	..	6
Murray .. .. .	8,838	..	14
Mutee Head .. .. .	3,050	133	..
Naghir .. .. .	1,462	..	38
Rennell .. .. .	736	..	30
St. Pauls .. .. .	2,654	..	26
Stephen .. .. .	1,159	7	..
Yam .. .. .	4,405	..	22
Yorke .. .. .	4,521	18	..
Badu .. .. .	10,416	26	..
Kubin .. .. .	4,665	..	83
Mabuiag .. .. .	6,338	20	..
Saibai .. .. .	6,300	..	120
Boigu .. .. .	2,853	..	27
Duaun .. .. .	2,249	..	130
	79,119	239	669

It will be, therefore, seen that the net shortage in a turnover of £79,119 is £430, which, while not entirely satisfactory, is reasonable under the circumstances applicable and represents a percentage loss of .54 per cent.

## GENERAL TRADE.

Many and varied lines have been supplied to the Island stores and the untiring efforts of the staffs of the Director of Native Affairs and State Stores, Brisbane, have been invaluable in obtaining goods for the Island Industries Board. Despite the many difficulties and short supplies, a steady flow has been maintained to the stores. Goods have been transported to the stores by one lugger and two motor vessels and running costs and maintenance are given below. The motor vessels are fitted with Gray marine engines and replacement parts are expensive and very hard to obtain. Comparison of trading figures, purchases, expenses, &c., are set out below:—

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD TRADING FIGURES.

	1946/47.	1947/48.	1948/49.
Total sales of all goods	£95,556	£111,038	£111,048
Landed cost of above	£63,132	£73,876	£85,507
Total purchases ..	£78,471	£75,818	£84,579
Freights Brisbane/T.I. wharf (inclusive of boats freight, Brisbane wharfage and Marine insurance)	£7,660	£7,408	£8,047 approx.
Boats works account	£6,029	£10,416	£8,980
	2 luggers 1 motor vessel	2 motor vessels 1 lugger	2 motor vessels 1 lugger

## STAFF.

One of the major problems confronting the Board is the obtaining and retention of staff to meet its needs. Although the Board provides free accommodation for its male staff, and half board is allowed female staff, nine positions have changed hands in the past twelve months. An accountant has been appointed; he commenced his duties in February and is now installed in a roomy and comfortable flat. An assistant clerk has been appointed to the slipway store-keeper and a cost clerk to the office staff. Mr. P. Sweeney has been appointed as a liaison officer for patrolling purposes and checking of Island stores, and a marked improvement has been shown in the stores by the continued inspection by this officer.

## SLIPWAY.

The Board's slipway has been working to full capacity under the direction of Mr. Thus, the average native labour employed being 25 natives, with a peak number of 40. Tools and equipment have been added to the extent of £250; slipway rails have been extended and slipping channels deepened, the gross tonnage of vessels slipped being 550 tons, the number of vessels slipped 25. Quite a number of rebuild jobs have been undertaken and completed during the year. One motor dinghy, six rowing dinghies, and four sailing dinghies were completed and sold, the total turnover figure being £12,975 (being labour and materials).

## MARINE PRODUCE.

All marine produce won by the Torres Strait Islanders' fleet, controlled by the Director of Native Affairs, is handled by the Board and markets are obtained for it, principally on the tender system. It is, therefore, essential that the Board keeps a watchful eye on the world's markets for marine produce, in that it is necessary, in the interests of its Island customer, that

the best market price should be available, and it is generally accepted by traders in Thursday Island that prices obtained by the Board are equal to other sellers and better than most.

## APPENDIX 6.

## YARRABAH MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. C. G. Brown.)

## STAFF.

Mrs. A. E. Turner (Child Welfare), Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bates (Farm), Mr. J. Owen (Store), Sister M. Stanley, C.A. (Hospital), Mrs. J. Clarke (Matron), Mr. R. W. Bates (Stock), Mr. E. Neeve (School), Mr. J. G. Hill (Engineer).

Mrs. A. E. Turner left in January. Mr. R. W. Bates left in August. Mr. Neeve left in March. Mrs. Clarke left at the end of March. Mr. Hill arrived in February.

## HEALTH.

Epidemics, nil. T.B., nil. V.D., 4 (treated at Cairns Hospital). Inpatients at Mission Hospital, 250. Outpatients, daily average, 10. Births, 18. Deaths, 1. Dental attention, 215.

## CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.

Conduct satisfactory. One man and one woman removed to Government Settlement for misconduct.

## EDUCATION.

School open 185 days. Number on roll, 133. Average attendance (daily), 101. A fully qualified head teacher is urgently required.

## INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

These include—Workshops (blacksmith, tinsmith, plumber, wheelwright). The diesel engine has been out of action the whole of the year, waiting for new parts. Sawmill, a new No. 1 Bench 72-inch circular saw has been installed. New mill shed has been erected. Milling operations were carried on for only a few weeks owing to labour shortage. Building, hospital sisters' quarters, seven native dwellings, six lavatories, and one kitchen built. Necessary repairs effected. Building operations were restricted owing to shortage of nails and timber.

## FITZROY ISLAND.

Dismantling and removal of disposal buildings completed.

## LAUNCH.

The mission launch sank at her moorings and became a total loss. A new launch is under construction at Townsville. In the meantime, two small native-owned launches have been used for mission work.

## FARMS.

*Produce.*—Sweet potatoes, 17 tons 2 cwt.; pumpkins, 7 cwt.; bananas,  $\frac{1}{4}$  ton; paw-paws, 6 cwt.; water melons, 16 cwt.; mauritius beans, 18 bushels; shellgrit, 85 sugar bags.

## RELIGIOUS MINISTRATIONS.

Church services held daily; morning and evening. Religious instruction weekly in school, regularly in Sunday School. Mothers' Union met regularly. Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, 351; communions, 5,861; baptisms, 45; confirmed, 32; marriages, 8; burials, 18.



**Beach Scene, Yarrabah Mission.**



**Farming, Yarrabah Mission.**

## APPENDIX 7.

## LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. A. Briggs.)

As I have only taken over Lockhart River Mission as Superintendent since 1st March, 1949, my report cannot be very comprehensive.

As far as I can see, progress has been very slight because of lack of funds. With the aid of Government grant of £4,500, I hope to make some progress by increasing the cattle herd by introducing more breeding cows and fresh bulls, and also procuring more stockhorses, which are urgently needed, and a few heavy horses, if possible, for ploughing and hauling. I also hope to obtain a quantity of new equipment, pack and riding saddles, &c.

Water supply is very poor at present because of lack of pumping plant and tanks. This will be overcome as soon as we are able to get delivery of two or three new windmills and tanks. The grant will also enable us to build a new teacher's house, besides providing spouting and tanks for the school.

I hope to be able to do repairs and painting to the hospital. We need a double-certificated nurse very urgently, as our school teacher is trying to do the nursing work as well as her teaching. I have hopes that the Australian Board of Missions will be able to help us in this direction.

We have gardens started at Looking Glass and Sefton. Some vegetables have already been harvested, but without implements, horses, tractor, or fencing wire we cannot make much progress. As Sefton is one of the best areas on the Reserve, both for agriculture and grazing, I wish to make the most of it.

No building work, except the stockyards, has been attempted for some time. During the coming year I will have the teacher's house built, and will also supervise building of native cottages. These will be improved by making higher walls and larger rooms and having floors raised about 3 feet from the ground. I hope that 6 by 1 hardwood will be provided for this purpose. All building will depend on finance and availability of materials.

Our present boat, "Mary Lockhart," is too small. We require a boat to carry about 15 tons, of the ketch type, with a diesel engine of 30 to 40 h.p. and suit of sails, so that she can sail whensoever possible and save fuel. She should also have well-ventilated accommodation for four to six passengers. I intend to have stores delivered to Portland Roads and to pick them up on the mission boat, instead of having them sent to Thursday Island and brought back again. With a bigger boat, I could deliver firewood and vegetables to Thursday Island, thus improving the financial position of the mission.

During the year new stockyards were constructed. Without proper equipment or tools this involved a great deal of very hard labour, as all timber had to be carried from the bush by gangs of men. One bullock, and sometimes two, is slaughtered weekly to provide meat for the people. In addition, fish and occasionally dugong and turtle are caught.

A wireless transmitter was recently installed and is much appreciated. It will be a great boon in time of emergency.

The progress of Lockhart River Mission will depend on financial assistance from the Government for the next three to five years, when I hope it will become self-supporting.

## SCHOOL TEACHER'S REPORT.

There are at present 63 children on the school roll and attendance is regular. Steady progress has been made by the six grades. In the senior grades, afternoons are devoted to gardening for the boys and handicrafts, dressmaking, fancy-work, mat and basket-making for the girls.

Two senior girls are being trained as monitor teachers and two more are to be trained later.

Each quarter an opportunity is given to the children to have a walkabout to be trained in bushcraft. This walkabout is also of benefit from the health point of view, as children can make use of various useful bush foods.

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

For the year there has been three baptisms, no marriages, no confirmations, 11 funerals, 108 masses, 2,646 acts of Communion.

The atmosphere of worship at Church services shows a very marked improvement and attendance has been very satisfactory. Singing is very good and the knowledge of hymns, &c., is amazingly good. The people attend daily services well, and there is a Mass twice weekly, as well as on special days of obligation. Religious education is provided on two mornings weekly, with six half-hour periods, one for each grade. Only in this way can the work be done adequately. It would not be advisable to take any two grades together, nor would it be possible to instruct the children as thoroughly.

Opportunity for confessions is provided two evenings weekly and a singing practice is held every Wednesday evening.

The senior girls get much pleasure and interest in cleaning and preparing the Church for services.

I am negotiating for a Shelton projector, which will be invaluable for both religious and general instruction for the whole mission.

A baptism class for adults is just commencing.

In conclusion, I would pay tribute to the wonderful material the aborigine provides for my work. He has spiritual qualities outstanding which make fertile ground for a real Christian faith and life, especially his ready response to the Christian appeal, his courtesy and patience in accepting white man's leadership, his very real affectionate nature, and a complete absence of any vindictiveness or arrogance.

## APPENDIX 8.

## EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. W. Chapman.)

Steady progress has been made during the past year, the main work carried out being the cultivation of gardens for a food supply, house building, &c.

Although there is nothing spectacular to report it can be stated that the natives continue to advance satisfactorily towards a more civilised way of life. Their progress has been very marked, especially their ability to learn and

speaking English; at the same time they retain their tribal dialects. I consider it important that they should be able to express themselves in English and all teaching should be in that language. In this way they are fitted to take their place among white people with whom they must come in contact.

The gardens gave a satisfactory yield, the crops grown being sweet potatoes, yams, taro, bananas, sugar cane, cassava, pawpaws, coconuts, as well as kitchen garden crops. Much fish was caught in the native built fish traps; canoes have also helped to provide a fish supply. Until quite recently canoes were not used by the natives of this area. The canoes they have are large and well built. A lot of work is put into their construction, as they are shaped out of large trees, and, when completed, are decorated with red and white native paint.

Conduct has been good, there being no serious crime; much assistance is given by the natives themselves in maintaining discipline.

Recreation consists mainly of corroborees, especially those dealing with the past history of the tribes, as well as pantomimes depicting the comical side of life and are very well got up.

The health of the community has been good; two men were sent to Thursday Island for medical attention.

The Superintendent, who has not had a holiday for some years, hopes to be able to take leave shortly, a white assistant having been appointed to take charge during his term of absence.

I should like to express my thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their practical help at all times for the advancement and welfare of the natives.

#### APPENDIX 9.

##### MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. F. W. Currington.)

##### STAFF.

Rev. H. A. Norton (Priest), Miss R. Wall (Head Teacher), Sister E. Roach (Hospital Attendant), W. K. Wilson (Cattle Manager).

##### RELIGION.

Rev. H. A. Norton, having flown to the mission on two previous occasions in order to give the Sacraments, settled in for a year at the mission on 20th April, 1948. As the Bishop was in England for the Lambeth Conference there was not any confirmation. By general consent, the temporary Church premises under the school were not regarded as ideal, so an effort was successfully made to erect a new Church building. The new Church on the road to the dormitory measures 60 by 37 feet. Its ridge pole is about 20 feet from the ground. Not a drop of rain of the 66 inches which we had recently penetrated the thatched roof. The mission folk love their new Church.

##### CONDUCT.

Very good. One man was removed for discipline to Palm Island, being the first removal for eight years.

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Seven new houses were erected and quite a number of old houses repaired. Many of the natives' homes now have floors made from bush timber and contain articles of home made furniture. Some of the men take a pride in making bunks, stools, tables, and hanging safes, &c., while the women are keen on making mats which they plait themselves. Pillows with their initials and fancywork in colours around the borders are very popular. Their homes on the whole are kept clean and tidy, but some have occasionally to be reminded that their houses need a little attention. There are still a few gunyahs to be seen, which are used by the very old people, but these gunyahs are gradually decreasing.

#### HEALTH.

General health of people good. Outpatients mainly cuts, sores, and ringworms. Seven sent to Thursday Island with suspected tuberculosis, for X-rays and treatment. Three returned with X-rays clear. Epidemic of influenza, July, 1948. A number of V.D. cases being treated here, one sent to Cloncurry.

Average outpatients per month, 150; average inpatients per month, 2.5; average attendance at baby clinic fairly good—dried milk supplied weekly for older babes and toddlers.

#### SCHOOL.

*Attendance.*—14,097 days have been attended in the ten months on a total of 167½ days, the average attendance being 84.2. Enrolment at the end of 1948 was 95, the highest ever reached here. The average attendance was reduced badly by a severe epidemic of influenza in July, to which nearly all of the children succumbed.

Seven new children from Edward River Mission commenced last July and are progressing satisfactorily. Fourteen children reached leaving age and have left, three more for reasons of health, and one died. The standard of school work has suffered several setbacks. First, the influenza epidemic in July retarded progress, then the children were sent out camping for five weeks in October through shortage of supplies. The head teacher was absent for three months on furlough, during which time the native teachers carried on quite satisfactorily, but, naturally, they could not keep up the progress at the same rate. The highest class at present is Grade III. The two boys sent to St. Paul's High School, Moa Island, last year progressed satisfactorily in their school work, but became too homesick, so have returned and taken up cattle work.

The mission show was held on 28th August, and the children's work was of quite good quality. Girls learn knitting and sewing as well as native crafts, and the boys exhibited native weapons as well as school subjects.

*School Staff.*—Miss R. Wall, B.A., head teacher; assistant native teachers, Leah Minyolk, Melba, Doreen, and Kathleen.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Various kinds of sweet potatoes were planted in a good area of land and we had a reasonably good crop. One of our sweet potatoes grown weighed 12 lb. I am afraid that this year we may not be so successful with our sweet potatoes





Portion of herd, Mitchell River Mission.



Church and School, Weipa Mission.

as the cattle found a weak place in the fence and got in one night and caused a considerable lot of damage. The wallabies also make a nuisance of themselves, and we have tried several ways of preventing them from getting in, but until we are able to get wire-netting I am afraid that they will get the better of us. A very good supply of pumpkins and watermelons were also grown. The natives are very fond of sweet potatoes, and I would also very much like to see them take more interest in vegetables (such as cabbage, beans, and tomatoes, &c.) that can be grown during the cool months, but with one or two exceptions they make no attempt to do so, and do not worry too much about these sort of vegetables at all. Of course, at this period of the year, native food, both animal and vegetable, is abundant in the bush, and, naturally, the native will procure his food in the easiest way possible. The mission vegetable garden was a great success this year and supplied a great variety.

#### INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

As usual, the cattle continue to make good progress under the supervision of W. K. Wilson. We hope to have a sale in the very near future. From the beginning of the year to date, 900 calves have been branded and 10 foals. One new yard built, one repaired. Two hundred bullocks were killed during the year for home consumption.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

There was quite a demand for native labour on the cattle stations during the last year. The mission boys being very highly spoken of by station managers. A number of our boys have been with their same employer for over ten years, which speaks for itself.

#### RECREATION.

Football, cricket, and general sports organised. Camping-out parties are encouraged so that they will keep up their own native ways and ideas of hunting and fishing, &c. Arrangements are also made for the children to go out camping during the school holidays so that they too will not lose the art of hunting.

#### APPRECIATION.

I would sincerely like to express my appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their ready co-operation in the advancement of the mission and the welfare of the natives.

#### APPENDIX 10.

##### MAPOON MISSION.

(Acting Superintendent, Rev. Allan.)

#### STAFF.

Acting Matron, Mrs. J. C. Allan; Assistants, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hartshorn.

With the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Allan in November, there has been a definite forward move in the life and activities of this mission.

The highlight of the year was the visit, in July, of His Excellency, the Governor, Sir John Lavarack to Mapoon. Also, on that occasion, we had the privilege of the company of the Director of Native Affairs, the Secretary of

Missions, the Superintendents of Aurukun and Weipa Missions, and many other visitors.

#### SCHOOL.

The children's education has been carried on this year with a full-blood woman as head teacher and a staff of four half-caste and three full-blood teachers. The number enrolled is 30 girls and 22 boys, and the average attendance is 47. Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorn are attending to the supervision of the school work and the tutoring of the teachers. The boys have been taught free-hand drawing, and the older boys have had experience in practical carpentry. The girls are progressing well with their sewing and knitting and have made many useful garments. A class of teenage boys and girls are being tutored in English and arithmetic by the Superintendent.

#### MARRIAGES.

Tribal, nil; legal, one.

#### HEALTH.

Births, four male and two female; deaths, four.

Early in September there was an epidemic of influenza, which affected everyone on this station. Many were seriously ill, but all recovered and the epidemic caused no deaths here. Apart from this, the general health has been very good. Preventative medicine, in the form of dugong oil is given to the children every second day and mass hookworm medicine was given twice in the year.

Introduction of the new wireless sets has meant that we are not out of contact with the valuable flying doctor at Cloncurry; it has been encouraging to have visits from Doctors Fryberg, Gold, and Barnes, and, later in the year, from Dr. Gibbs, all coming from Thursday Island. However, we keep our airstrip in an "always ready" condition.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Approximately 15 men are employed in cattle work in the Normanton and Croydon area. A full crew of 15 manned a Trochus Shell barge lugger "Panton" for the whole season, and a full crew of 15 manned a Trochus Shell barge for part of the season.

A number of other men also worked on pearling boats. Five men have been employed on a mission launch, and an average of 10 men have been employed on mission cattle work.

Men on the mission have been employed at building, pit-sawing, gardening, and cutting cord firewood.

#### INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

The milking cows are milked each day, and for most of the year, enabling us to give the children a good drink of milk a day.

Five hundred chickens will soon be on the way to increase and improve our existing poultry.

For most of the year one bullock a week has been killed and butchered and used mainly for feeding the children. Lately two bullocks have been killed each week and fresh meat has been made available to the people.

Scrub has been felled and a new garden area has been prepared at the old Batavia Mission site, seven miles up the river. We are expecting

good crops of pumpkin, water-melon, rock-melon, and other vines before the end of the year.

A smoke house has been built, and when the new fish net goes into action it is expected that there will be plenty of preserved fish for the children and people, and also for sale in Thursday Island.

As we do not have a power-driven saw capable of breaking down logs and cutting them into building timber, a pit-saw has been erected and much valuable timber has been cut by hand by the men.

#### HANDICRAFTS.

The women have been making fans, feathered flowers, and some have been doing crochet work. Mrs. Allan and Mrs. Hartshorn have an average of 30 of the married women, once a week, to teach them knitting, fan making, and needlework (smocking).

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

There have been improvements here. The old mission house has been, in part, renewed and the old timber and iron that has been used in making extensions and repairs to most of the existing houses.

One new house has been built in the village. The selling store has been moved into what was the girls' dormitory, which is much larger than the old store, and which is in a much better position.

A kindergarten is in the last stages of erection, and here the under-school-age children will have things to occupy them and prepare them for school days.

#### CONDUCT.

The native police have performed their duties well, and again this year their uniforms were supplied by the Native Affairs Department.

#### RELIGION.

A daily morning service is held and Church attendance is good. The Sacraments have been administered regularly. The visit during the year of the Moderator, the Right Rev. C. B. Watts, was appreciated by all.

#### APPRECIATION.

We wish to record our thanks for the help given by the societies and individuals of our Church.

We also thank the Director and the staff of the Native Affairs Department for their help and assistance during the year.

#### APPENDIX II.

##### AURUKUN MISSION.

(Superintendent Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A.)

##### STAFF.

Matron and teacher, Mrs. MacKenzie, B.A.; Acting Superintendent, Mr. C. D. Sydney (December, 1948, June, 1949); assistants, Mr. and Mrs. L. Little (arrived December, 1948); cattle manager, Mr. R. J. Davies.

Mr. Sydney again kindly took over the position of Superintendent when the Superintendent and Mrs. Mackenzie left the mission in December.

#### HEALTH.

The incidence of consumption is still causing great concern, but the department has plans well in hand to endeavour to eradicate the disease by hospitalisation of those who have a chance of being cured and isolation of those whose condition is too far gone to respond to treatment and who are sources of infection.

One severe epidemic of influenza was brought to the mission by boat, over 200 cases receiving treatment. In the bush area great work was done by Mr. Davies in treating the sick people there, and many of those who were able to be moved were brought to the mission for further treatment.

An epidemic of diphtheria was caused, as far as it was possible to ascertain on the spot, by a native man returning from work, and acting as a carrier of the germ. A number of children who had not been immunised became sick, but owing to the prompt action of Mr. O'Leary and Dr. Barnes, Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, an aeroplane was chartered and Dr. Barnes and three nurses were flown to the mission. A boat followed with equipment, and most of the children were saved. The infection was also prevented from spreading to other missions. Serum was also flown up by the flying doctor service from Cloncurry.

Coughs, colds, and minor ailments were treated at the mission dispensary.

*Deaths.*—Consumption—2 males, 4 females; Influenza—4 males, 5 females; Diphtheria, 1 female; Gastric—1 male, 1 female; Snakebite—1 male.

*Births.*—6 males, 6 females.

*Marriages.*—Six.

One woman was taken to Normanton Hospital by the flying doctor for treatment, and died later.

Six men treated at Thursday Island Hospital, also 13 boys, the latter for granuloma infection. The mission suffered a heavy blow in the death from snakebite of Uki, the native missionary to the bush area for 16 years; also of Dick, a leading councillor for many years.

Decay of teeth is causing concern, as teeth have to be extracted which could be saved by filling, if a dentist were available. As native foods are still used to a great extent, this condition of tooth decay may be due to lack of essential salts in the bush diet.

#### CONDUCT.

Conduct on the whole is good. The native councillors and police, guided by the Superintendent, adjudicate in all trouble, settle quarrels, and maintain discipline.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

New houses are under construction, the people are encouraged to build houses on stumps, and care is taken to ensure proper ventilation. The undergrowth round the village was cleared and heavy shade trees cut back to allow the sunlight to clear the soil of consumption germs. On two occasions the people were encouraged to move camp to enable the village to be thoroughly cleaned.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Owing to the difficulty in getting men back from pastoral employment, many men desiring

work were sent out for employment in the marine industry, and others were employed on the growing cattle work on the mission.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

Mr. Sydney has again been doing good work with the sawmill and gangs of men have been employed getting logs and floating them down the rivers to the mission, where the logs have been cut into timber for various needs.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Great stress is laid on garden work. Cassava, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and yams were the main crops. An experiment was made with pigeon peas, which was very successful, the peas being used both in the green and the dry stage. Tomatoes, beans, cabbages, and lettuce were grown with better success, owing to a greater water supply, and new methods being tried. Every effort is made to give the main mid-day meal with garden produce and beef.

A new banana patch of about 500 plants was set out. Pawpaws have done well, and the children had large quantities of fruit.

#### CATTLE.

Mr. R. J. Davies has done good work with the cattle. A draft of 400 head of stores were put on the road this year. Unfortunately, Mr. Davies met with an accident, and owing to ill-health has had to resign from the work. The good work he did in getting the herds into better condition is greatly appreciated, and the mission regrets his resignation.

#### WIRELESS.

Thanks are due to the Native Affairs Department for a new wireless installation, enabling the mission to contact the Thursday Island mother-station twice daily. This is a great boon in case of sickness, also enabling the mission to be in touch with the Native Affairs office.

#### SCHOOL.

There were 86 children enrolled in the school this year. The staff consisted of one white head teacher, four full-blood women teachers, and three pupil-teachers. The children continued to profit by being taught reading in its earlier stages from "The Australian Aboriginal First Book," especially printed for bush aboriginal children by the Department, and then from reading sheets prepared at Aurukun on subjects familiar to them. In the later stages of learning to read "The Carribean Readers," prepared for negro children of the West Indies, were found much more suitable and profitable than white children's readers. Interest in reading was further cultivated by free reading periods in which the children were provided with books which were reasonably within their mental scope. The kindergarten has become very popular, as it is mostly conducted out of doors, as much more suitable to an out-of-door people. Children much below school age are with difficulty prevented from attending. As well as the 86 children enrolled formally at school, a further 14 older ones were receiving instruction in cattle work, saddlery, cultivation, and in the workshop, kitchen, and laundry.

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#### RELIGION.

Church services were held each Sunday and morning prayers each week day. These services were well attended, and the people showed great interest. Some of the outstanding men have asked to be allowed to take services. The death of the bush-missionary, Uki, was a great loss. His influence was remarkable amongst the bush people.

#### RECREATION.

Ball games, physical training, picnics, fishing, and camping enable the children to have plenty of recreation and develop their bush lore.

#### THANKS.

The mission wishes to express its thanks to Mr. O'Leary, the Director of Native Affairs, and his staff for their ever-ready co-operation and help. The help of Doctors Barnes and Gibbs, of Thursday Island, and Doctors Anderson and Robertson, of the flying doctor service, was greatly appreciated; thanks to the Church Committee for Aboriginal Missions and the Ladies Organisations in the Church for all they have done. The mission would like to express its gratitude to the nurses, also the captain and crew of the boat who helped on the occasion of the diphtheria outbreak on the mission.

#### APPENDIX 12.

#### WEIPA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn.)

#### STAFF.

Mrs. Winn (Matron), Mr. and Mrs. D. Belcher, Miss M. Winn (Teacher).

#### RELIGION.

Sunday services and morning prayers have been well attended. The Sacraments were regularly administered. Two girls were admitted to full membership of the Church, and one baby baptised during the visit of the Moderator of the Queensland Church.

#### HEALTH.

Births, 1 female; deaths, 6 elderly people influenza, 1 pneumonia; outpatients 2,769, inpatients 11, total, 2,780; doctors' visits, 9; epidemics, tonsillitis and influenza; pneumonia, 4 patients given penicillin injections; diphtheria immunisation, 8 children; extractions, 37; dugong oil administered regularly; hookworm treatment given where necessary; two patients were removed to Thursday Island for hospital treatment.

Consequent upon a visit made by the Government Optometrist, spectacles were supplied to 31 patients.

An official visit was made by Dr. Fryberg, Director of General Health and Medical Services, with Doctors Gold and Barnes, to investigate the extent of T.B. infection in the population.

A great saving to the mission was effected when the Director of Native Affairs announced that free medicines would be available to the mission.

#### SCHOOL.

Staff.—Miss Margaret Winn, head teacher; Mrs. D. Belcher, part-time 1949; one native woman and a girl as current assistants.

*Attendance.*—Number of pupils on roll increased from 34 to 37. School open—for scholarship candidates, 192 days; for six other classes, 175 days.

The school was closed for three weeks in September, due to the influenza epidemic, and tonsillitis caused some absenteeism among younger children in January-February.

Total attendances—Scholarship class, 1,152; other classes, 5,097. Average attendances—Scholarship class, 6; other classes, 29.13.

#### GENERAL.

Several changes were necessary in the native staff, causing some dislocation of routine. Three pupil teachers have received training during the year. The scholarship candidates are achieving the required standard in English, geography, and Australian history, though arithmetic is still proving difficult. Reading is fluent and writing very good.

Interesting correspondences continue with children in other parts of the British Empire. The lending and free reading Libraries now contain over 300 books, with donated subscriptions to "Wild Life" and "Child Education." The sewing class has made dresses and petticoats for village children, and also dolls' clothing. After the visit of Mrs. F. Derham, of the Kindergarten Training College, Melbourne, poster painting and finger painting were begun with enthusiasm, but lessons have been suspended through lack of necessary material. Drill, rhythmical work and singing, with netball and shuttlecock are regular Friday features.

Exhibits have been forwarded to the Royal Agricultural Show, Brisbane, and for the Cherbourg Settlement show.

Good supplies of school requisites have recently been received. Kindergarten equipment gifted to the school has facilitated expression in this Department, but the school furnishing leaves much to be desired. Present desks seat only 18 and with the 37 pupils now in school it is hoped that the adequate desk accommodation which has been promised will soon come to hand.

#### INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

The sawmill has undergone repairs, and though still handicapped by small diameter saws has cut timber for the village housing project and also for mission use. Stands of a form of maple timber have been located. It is accessible for hauling, easily milled, and is suitable for building. The services of Mr. Leith Gordon, a Brisbane sawmiller, provided a new bench which has made the milling much easier. A gulletting machine has been received and should prove of valuable assistance.

Poles and stumps were cut, under contract, for sale to Thursday Island and cords of firewood provide another source of income for the men. This work has been greatly facilitated by the use of a "Disposals" truck, which has snigged in the poles and milling timber and carted the firewood from their bush locations.

Two 1,000 gallon tanks have been erected, substantial concrete steps added to the new school, furnishing added to the children's dining hall, and an extension in the form of a bathroom block and laundry added to the Mission House. Concreting materials are on hand for a new boys' dormitory, and a meat-

house. The killing-pen has been roofed in and awaits concrete flooring. All buildings are being kept in a state of good repair.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Fifteen acres are under cultivation. Sweet potatoes and cassava continue as the staple vegetables for the children's menus, and the larger proportion of the cultivation is given over to them. A new pawpaw plot, planted late in 1948, has already a very heavy crop ripening. The banana plantation has been extended, and is also yielding satisfactorily. Pineapples, custard-apples, several varieties of beans, tomatoes, eschalots, and Island yams are also under cultivation. Coconut and mango trees bore more prolifically than hitherto. With all these aids, it has been possible to add variety and nutrition to the children's diet.

#### PASTURE.

Townsville Lucerne is spreading well over the aerodrome and surrounding bush. *Styranthus grassilis*, planted in a neighbouring creek bed, had almost 100 per cent. strike.

#### FISHING.

In recent months sufficient fish have been netted daily to furnish at least one meal for everyone on the Mission.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Cattle, 3 men returned for holiday, leaving 5 men still under agreement; lugger hands, 1; technical training, 2 Cherbourg; house staff, 1 couple at Thursday Island and 1 couple returned for a break from Moreton Telegraph Station.

All other men receive employment in rotation around the Mission, and augment their income by firewood cording and logging under contract. Women have received some employment collecting gravel for concrete construction. It is hoped that soon sufficient fine crochet cotton can be obtained to restore crochet work to the source of revenue it was in prewar days.

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The site of the mission lends itself admirably to the installation of an efficient septic system, and an experiment in this direction is now being made. If successful, it will be extended to include the girls' and boys' dormitories, and ultimately the village, thus doing away with the more primitive methods of sanitation and decreasing substantially the possibility of hook-worm infection.

The furnishing of the children's dining hall has been sufficiently advanced to enable it to be put into full-time use. Training in the management of cutlery and table manners has been well received.

All buildings on the mission compound are electrically lit (a total of 37 power points), a 240-volt current being generated by a Moffat-Virtue engine.

#### APPRECIATION.

The mission wishes to express appreciation of the support and interest of all our Church organisations; of medical assistance unstintingly given by the flying doctor service of Cloncurry, the A.I.M. Sisters of Dunbar, and the Govern-

ment medical officers of Thursday Island, and to add our gratitude to the Director of Native Affairs for the co-operation he and his staff have shown.

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APPENDIX 13.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.

During the past year various changes took place at St. Paul's mission school. One member of the staff left and two new ones were appointed. Nevertheless, it was possible to carry out the Queensland syllabus, except where local conditions demanded an alteration. Thus, some simplifications were inevitable in history and geography of Grades IV. and V., but, on the other hand, it was possible to teach Grade V. the elements of perspective drawing. In singing, the reading of music could be started for both grades and proved successful. For each grade a spokesman was appointed. On 9th November both grades asked unanimously to set them some homework. For the time being it is voluntary, yet a great improvement.

In Grades II. and III., fundamentals of English and arithmetic were stressed as an essential basis of future work. Initial attempts at some new branches of colour work—e.g., "finger-painting"—produced promising results.

Grade I. was divided into two parts. Part (a) did some spelling and simple additions, subtractions, and multiplications; part (b) English sentences, advanced additions, subtractions and multiplications, and some divisions.

The Preparatory Grades II. and I. are advancing towards elementary arithmetic. B.B. copy reading is preparing them for book reading. On the whole, there is a noticeable improvement which will probably lead to some promotions in 1950.

All grades co-operated to clear the school playground and to mark out a cricket pitch. Senior boys eagerly adopted the new game. Baseball was also introduced for senior grades.

In addition to our school garden in the swamps, another was laid out near the hostel. It was decided that those who partook in gardening should receive each year a piece of fruit which they had grown. The girls' sewing was supervised by members of the mothers' union. Permission was granted to each girl to sew or embroider one piece a year for domestic use.

Arrangements were made that school children could help their parents in making gifts for the moonlight fete in Thursday Island. It is partly due to their diligence that St. Paul's Mission was able to contribute the greatest number of articles.

At the same time, an exhibition of the best drawings, modellings, and compositions was made. It was exhibited at the moonlight fete and is being shown now on the other islands.

This year, the Sixth Grade was added to the school. The time-table was rearranged according to modern principles. Above all, more time is being given to music, drawing, and handiwork. Some more changes will be made during the course of the year. Plans have been made for a closer co-operation with the village. To what extent this is possible will depend on the activity of the next village council.

STAFF.

Wilhelm Rechnitz, Ph.D., Headmaster; Philip H. MacFarlane, B.A. (since October, 1948); Andai C. Ware; Harry A. Captain; Mrs. Patricia Briggs (left in July, 1948).

Attendance—71 pupils (41 boys, 30 girls).

PROGRESS IN TEACHING.

A four-part choir was formed, which sang twice in public. The best drawings of the week are exhibited. The school library has been enlarged, and the school children have the opportunity of borrowing books from the general library which has been set up.

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APPENDIX 14.

TORRES STRAIT MISSION.

(Superintendent Priest, Rev. J. Fisher.)

There have been three outstanding events during the year in connection with this Mission.

(a) Three students of St. Paul's Theological College, Thursday Island, qualified for the ThA. diploma of the Board of Studies of the Church of England. These young men sat for the same examination as European students and were examined by Southern examiners. No concession was made to them in any way except that it was explained to examiners that the students had some difficulties in expressing themselves in written English. The passing of this examination is a pleasing commentary on the intelligence of Torres Strait men, especially as the educational level in the Islands is not high. The diplomas were presented by the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria in the presence of the Director of Native Affairs and other visitors.

(b) Three Islanders were ordained Deacon on the second Sunday in Lent this year. These men are to assist in ministering to their own people. There are three Islanders in Priests Orders, two of whom are stationed on islands (Moa and Murray) and one who resides at Cowal Creek on the mainland. In all, there have been nine Islanders in Holy Orders, but three of them have passed away. Several students are in residence at St. Paul's College, Thursday Island.

(c) At the last Synod of the Diocese a resolution was passed asking the Bishop, when he saw fit, to appoint three Torres Strait men as lay representatives in the Diocesan Synod. Subsequently, the Bishop asked a gathering of 37 Island Churchwardens to nominate suitable men. The Bishop approved of the nominations and Messrs. Jim Mosby, Tanu Nona, and Yessie Pearson were duly appointed Synodsmen. Island clergy have taken their share in Synod for many years and now the appointment of three lay representatives brings the Torres Strait people a considerable step forward in democratic self-government, which the Church and the Department of Native Affairs are alike trying to promote.

I cannot close this brief report without expressing the thanks of the mission to the Director of Native Affairs, the Manager, Island Industries Board, and their respective staffs for their helpful co-operation during the year.

## APPENDIX 15.

## MONAMONA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Pastor G. Peacock.)

## HEALTH.

Births, 14; deaths, 2; marriages, 7.

During this year there has been a marked improvement in the health of the people of Monamona Mission. We are very fortunate in having regular visits from the Mareeba medical practitioner and those responsible for the medical care of this district. During the year all the children were immunised against diphtheria. Dr. Reye, of Peel Island, visited us in a campaign against Leprosy. We greatly appreciated his visit and advice, and while we still have some who appear every three months for examination, so far for the year we have not had to send any away for this complaint. We have taken hold manfully the hookworm trouble, and we wish to place on record the wonderful help we have had by those in charge of this work at Cairns. We have been faithful in forwarding specimens for examinations and the administration of medicine for these affected. There has been two deaths for the year—one of senile decay, and one baby who died in Brisbane under an operation for a hare-lip and cleft-palate. We have begun to pay special attention to the dental needs of the people here, the work being done locally, and in the Cairns Dental Hospital. The usual epidemic of influenza and ordinary colds, coughs, sores, cuts, and wounds are all cared for by our local dispensary by a trained nurse and native and white helpers.

## CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.

The conduct of the mission as a whole has been very good and those in charge of the conduct of the mission have been diligent and helpful. There has not been any removals for breach of discipline.

## EDUCATION.

Forty boys and thirty-eight girls comprise the attendance of the school. The conduct and the attendance has been excellent and the interest in the school work as a whole is very good. One white teacher and a number of native assistants control and teach the school. Six grades are taught, and also music, singing, woodwork and needlework and basketwork of many kinds. Some of the native crafts have been revived and these are taught as a part of their craft work.

The parents and teachers and Friends' Association gave a very good report at their annual meeting. Their object to raise funds to provide equipment, tools, &c., for the handicrafts of the school and other needs.

## BUILDINGS.

We have had a successful building programme in the past year. The Superintendent's house has been completed, the new offices, storeroom, and sewing rooms have all been finished, as well as a teacher's house and six more native cottages. As all the timber is cut and machined on the place, there has been a large team busy all the time in this work.

There is still, easily, another year's work to complete the necessary buildings for the operation and accommodation of the people. We have filled a great need here by erecting a new bakery for the native people.

## AGRICULTURE.

We have begun to form a plan of extensive agricultural progress at Monamona Mission. We have in mind the planting of large areas of citrus trees, bananas, paw-paws, besides all garden produce that will grow in this area. All that we have planted so far has given us a good return owing to the good season. We are turning to irrigation and all the plants that we have installed so far are a success. With a good water supply many food products can be grown all the year around.

## CATTLE.

The 1946 drought played havoc with the mission cattle, and we are buying up stock to get the regular number again. This year the stock are looking very well, indeed, and a goodly number of calves have been branded. Rucide has been used with success against the ticks and the buffalo fly. To build up our milking herd we have purchased from New South Wales a number of pure-bred Jerseys, which will, we hope, do much to supply the mission with a good supply of fresh milk. We have also purchased a number of fresh bulls for the herd for killing, which will greatly improve the stock.

## GOATS.

To help with the milk supply and the meat ration we purchased a herd of goats. We are looking for big things from them as they do well in this country. Not only are they good from a milk and meat point of view, but as we house them in sheds with a grating for a floor we collect much valuable manure for the vegetable gardens. We are gathering for the milking herd pure or part-bred Saanan goats.

## RELIGION.

Religious services are conducted each morning and evening, and on Tuesday and Friday evenings there are special services. On the Sabbath there are three meetings held during the day and a song service for a short period in the evening, and there is also one period on religious instruction per day in the day school.

## RECREATION.

Organised sports are held at intervals during the year. Football and other games on the sports oval are held once a week. There is also hunting, camping, and much fishing done when weather permits. In the evening they meet in the recreation hall and play indoor games and other entertainment.

## DOMESTIC WORK.

The senior girls are taught sewing, cooking, and many of the older boys are being trained in the workshop, garden, and cattle work.

## CHOIR AND BRASS BAND.

Keen interest is shown in the newly formed choir and the brass band. There is much talent here, and, rightly instructed and led, will make a good report for themselves in the near future.



**Monamona Mission.**

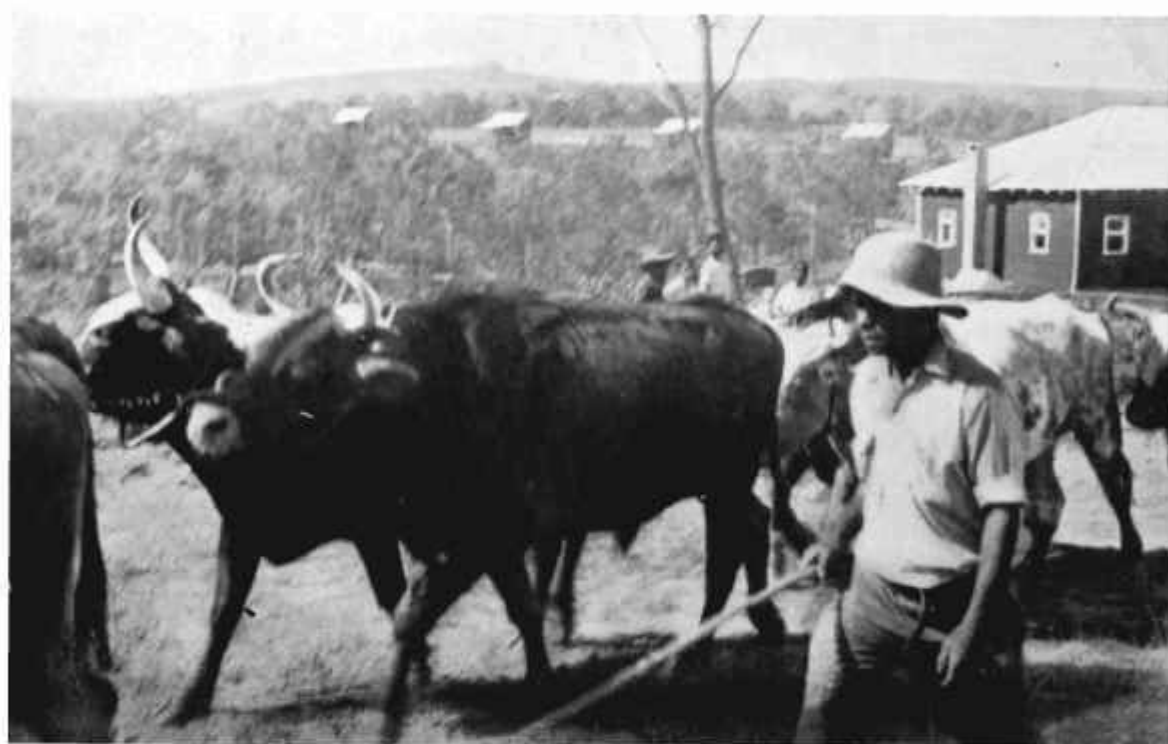


**Children's Playground, Monamona Mission.**





Erecting New Bake-house, Monamona Mission.



Sniacina Loas, Monamona Mission.

## APPENDIX 16.

## DOOMADGEE MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. M. G. Read.)

## STAFF.

*Assistants.*—Mrs. M. G. Read (absent for medical treatment since 1st December, 1948); Mr. T. Bartlett; Mr. D. Potter; Sister Black (medical); Mr. J. Talbot (accountant; joined staff in May, 1949).

## HEALTH.

Hospital-Dispensary, in charge of Sister Black. The following cases were attended during the past twelve months:—

Births, 15; deaths, 8.

*Medical Visits.*—Dr. Anderson, flying doctor, from Cloncurry, visited here on five occasions.

*Transfers to Cloncurry Hospital.*—On the advice of Dr. Anderson three patients were transferred to Cloncurry Hospital for treatment.

*Mt. Isa Hospital.*—Maternity case while employed in district. R.H. factor at child birth caused death 14th October, 1948.

*Immunisation.*—Nil.

*Epidemics.*—Influenza, fifty cases.

*Pulmonary.*—Nil.

*Accidents.*—Thirteen minor cases. All discharged satisfactory.

*Skin Infections.*—Ten cases.

*Dental Extractions.*—Nine cases.

*Rheumatics.*—Three cases.

*Diarrhoea.*—Seventeen cases.

*Epileptic.*—One case.

*Dental.*—For a period of one month in May and June, 1949, Mr. Neil Thomson, B.D.Sc., carried out dental treatment at Doomadgee Mission. Materials were supplied through the Department of Native Affairs, who also supplied the transport fares. A portable chair and dental foot engine were borrowed from Burketown Hospital for the work.

Mr. Thomson used all of his own instruments and accepted no remuneration for the work.

The following treatment was carried out:—

140 patients were examined; 120 extractions were performed, including several minor surgical procedures, approximately 150 fillings were inserted (amalgam).

Mr. Thomson voluntarily gave this month of his time in valuable service to the natives and staff at Doomadgee. He is associated with our assembly people at Brisbane and this is yet another indication of the interest in and support given by our people in Brisbane, and further south, to this work for the social and spiritual welfare of our native people.

## MARRIAGES.

Seven were celebrated.

*Conduct.*—Generally good. Some minor difficulties while a comparatively large number of visiting natives were here during the wet season holiday periods.

*Absconders.*—Nil.

## IMPROVEMENTS—LIVING CONDITIONS.

See "Building Development." There were no other major improvements, but the steady improvement of the moral behaviour continues and is of a good standard—may be said to be excellent in view of early years.

With the exception of one or two, the people are happy and contented; increasing in prosperity, improved earning capacity, and ability to support themselves.

## EDUCATION.

School staff—Mrs. M. G. Read (normally in the past), assisted by six native teachers. Progress was quite good until Mrs. Read had to leave the work to receive medical treatment. The school has been closed since that date.

Miss P. Roberts is a new staff member expected at Doomadgee early in June, when the school will be reopened. Miss Roberts will conduct the classes until further expected (qualified) assistance arrives later in the year.

*Year's School Returns, 31/3–30/11/48.*—Number of days open, 172; total attendances, 12,908; average attendances—girls, 47; boys, 28; total 75.

*Classification* (as at 30th November, 1948).—

Class				Boys	Girls	Total
Prep.	I	..	..	12	10	22
Prep.	II	..	..	6	11	17
	III	..	..	4	6	10
	IV	..	..	4	6	10
Grade	I	..	..	5	6	11
	II	..	..	..	4	4
	III	..	..	..	6	6
	IV	..	..	..	..	..
Total				..	..	80

## MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

Boys—General stock and station work. A few boot and saddle repairs. Some receiving instruction in engineering and general maintenance work, steel frame building, &c.

Girls—Sewing, domestic, and agricultural work.

## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Labour demand very brisk. All available labour is out on employment. Wages have been raised, bringing the average earnings of station hands to 45s. and drovers to 60s. per week, plus 5s. if wife not otherwise supported by employer. As higher rates are being paid for white labour, a further rise is contemplated on July 1st.

## PASTORAL.

Rains in our district were disappointing this summer and grasses in consequence are not up to usual condition. The condition of the cattle is quite good, as yet. We have allowed our own cattle work to lapse for a few months during the busy season outside the reserve, but owing to our peculiar circumstances do not expect to suffer greatly in consequence. Our activities are restricted mainly by lack of fencing wire, &c., needed to construct new paddocks.

*Live Stock, 31st March, 1949.*—Horses, 74, property of mission; 25, property of natives; goats, 100; poultry, 12; cattle, 838; cattle at 31st March, 659; 5 per cent. loss by natural

causes, 33; total, 626; brandings for the 12 months, 287, killers purchased at £2 a head, 23 equals 310; killings for Reserve consumption, 98; number cattle on hand as above, 838.

The killers (bullocks) shown above as purchased were taken because of low price and to give our own bullocks a chance to mature. The overall increase over purchases of 156 head is considered satisfactory for the amount of work put into it this year.

*Fencing.*—No new fencing done for cattle work. One mile of new fence erected to enclose additions to air strip. Cattle fences required the usual repair work necessitating approximately 250 new posts.

*Stock Yards.*—One new mustering yard built on the run. One horse (brumby) trap yard built on river watering hole. Two yards had to be repaired after grass fires early in the year.

*Dams.*—None are necessary. River and lagoons sufficient for stock.

#### AGRICULTURAL.

Area available—34 acres fenced and prepared for use, four acres having been added during the year.

Area under cultivation—8½ acres vegetables under spray irrigation. Two acres grown on seasonal rains. Two and a-half acres fruit and bananas.

*Harvest for Year to 31/3/49—*

*Vegetables.*—Sweet potatoes, 2 tons 13 cwt.; melons, 1 ton; pumpkins, 10 cwt.; total, 4 tons 3 cwt.

*Fruit.*—Bananas, 95 doz.; lemons, 15 cases; also a few oranges, manderins, and pawpaws.

Citrus trees are showing some promise and should come into bearing next year.

This work is still restricted owing to shortage of staff and the indisposition of Mr. Read, whose hernia trouble is still awaiting attention.

*Irrigation Channel.*—A channel fifteen chains in length has been constructed to convey water from the river bank to the lower section of the cultivated area which is not served by the spray irrigation system. With the bigger plant we expect to put 45,000 to 50,000 gallons an hour down this channel for bananas, fruit trees, and general crops. At the river end it is constructed for a distance of seven chains of old 44-gallon fuel drums cut lengthwise, while the whole job required the building up of earth works of an average height of 4 feet 10 inches in width over the whole length. We purpose later to line the floor of the earthen section with concrete to lessen the loss by soakage.

*Pumping Plant.*—The new plant is now in operation, comprising a 30 h.p. Lister Diesel engine and 4 inch cent. pump delivering through 370 feet of 6-inch fibro piping to the top of the river bank and then on through seven chain of 4-inch W.I. galvanised chain spray line to 3 4-inch light portable spray lines, each five chain in length.

Materials are coming to hand to extend the main spray line to 10 chains to allow of the spraying of an area up to 13 acres. The open channel is supplied direct from the delivery end of the 6-inch fibro pipe, and at this point is also carried off through 350 feet of 4-inch fibro pipe to the nursery spray line and storage tanks. A

further 600 feet of 4-inch S.I. pipe passes on to provide sprays for the experimental orchard block and for domestic supply lines.

*Produce Sold.*—Nil.

*Area Cleared and Ringbarked.*—Four acres cleared and grubbed out for agricultural purposes.

#### BUILDING DEVELOPMENT, &c.

*Unattached Women's Quarters.*—Three rooms in line, each 10 feet by 10 feet giving an overall length of 30 feet. Walls of concrete, &c., roof of corrugated iron (galvanised). The second of these buildings mentioned in my report for 1948 is now completed.

*Kitchen and Laundry.*—For use of dormitory inmates. This building completed, fitted with boiler and two large stoves, has been in use for some time now. Floor space is 30 feet by 24 feet, steel and wood frame with corrugated galvanised iron roofing and concrete floor.

*Camp Compounds Accommodation.*—(1) One steel-framed cottage with corrugated galvanised iron covering has been completed for the use of the head stockman (native). Measurements—20 feet by 12 feet in main section, and comprising two rooms 10 feet by 12 feet. Veranda and kitchenette are to be added when galvanised iron is available. Flooring is concrete. (2) One steel frame building with corrugated galvanised iron covering, consisting of four rooms 10 feet by 10 feet in line, giving an overall of 40 feet by 10 feet, has been completed for the use particularly of single men. Concrete flooring to be put in later. (3) Another building of the same type as the last mentioned is under construction, the frame having been erected and partly covered. Corrugated galvanised iron is now awaited in order to complete this building.

*Cottages for Native Families or Couples.*—Five cottages of the size and type of number 1 above are being provided for and material is in hand or promised shortly. The steel for the frame is already cut and awaiting welding and erection in readiness for the arrival of corrugated galvanised iron.

*Other Buildings.*—

*Engine House.*—Completed 10 feet by 8 feet. Steel frame, corrugated galvanised iron covering and concrete floor. Constructed so that engine can be quickly removed in times of flood danger.

*Flood Pier.*—A pier has been constructed for the convenience of removing the pumping plant out of the flood waters. This is of local timbers and strongly built, 200 feet in length and 7 feet wide. The piles are up to 10 feet high. Fitted with steel rails and trolley for easy removal to high levels. A high-level pumping shed is in mind for later works.

*Garage and Workshop.*—Extensions previously mentioned have had to be set aside for the time being, owing to lack of corrugated galvanised iron, &c.

*Saw Mill.*—The same applies as to garage and workshop.

*Timber Milled.*—Only a few logs for odd works.

*Aerodrome.*—Extensions to the air strip have been continued as time and labour permit. Main strip width being increased from 300 to 500 feet, and in length from 4,900 feet to 5,800

feet. A second strip from 300 feet to 500 feet in width and from 3,000 to 4,100 feet in length. Trees in extension area have all been poisoned and about half the area felled.

*Aerodrome Inspection.*—Inspected twice during period and the Inspector of Civil Aviation satisfied with work.

New air markers are now proposed and will cost about £100 land Doomadgee, but we are not keen to add to the expense already incurred until we get some air service and sight of maintenance costs as paid by Civil Aviation to licencees.

*Plant Improvement.*—The Fordson tractor previously used on agricultural work and as a pumping engine has now been fitted with an electric welding generator and is proving of value as the power unit of a portable welding plant. All the steel frame building on the camp compounds, with the exception of the stockman's cottage, are being welded together, and many items of plant repairs have been carried out by this combination.

*Painting.*—Practically all roofing has been painted during the year, chiefly using silverglow or calzic. The boys dormitory, two staff cottages, and all camp compound buildings have been painted throughout.

#### RECREATION.

Ball and indoor games occasionally, but bush hikes, fishing, &c., are still the most popular pastimes.

We had a big number of visiting natives over the Christmas season and gifts sufficient for all were provided by Christian friends down south.

Sports days had their place and all had a wonderful time.

#### RELIGIOUS MINISTRATION.

Meetings throughout the year were fairly well attended, and attention, especially during the past few months, has been very good. Daily instruction is given and natives are showing real growth in knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. Hence the improvement in the general moral conduct as well as profession of faith.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

In July, 1948, we were visited by Mr. W. H. Dempsey, who is one of our responsible supporting brethren in Melbourne. He spent a week with us, giving some helpful advice and ministry, and he seemed well pleased with the conduct and development of the work being done here.

We would like to include a word of thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and to members of the staff of the Department for their understanding help given in many ways during the past year. Particularly do we remember with appreciation the grant, being made for the purchase of an electric light plant, school building, and for indigent native quarters. The boon of good lighting has been a dream for many years and we trust shortly to enjoy the reality. A schoolhouse will fill a ready need, likewise the native accommodation which has been so greatly overtaxed this last summer.

It is expected that Mr. Read will shortly be able to go south to purchase suitable plant, materials, &c., covered by the above grant.

The population continues to show a steady increase, with an increasing number in the surrounding district wanting to settle on the Reserve, and to make it their home base.

#### APPENDIX 17.

##### MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. G. W. Taylor.)

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the report for the year ended 30th June, 1949.

#### STAFF.

Superintendent up to 17th December, 1948, Mr. James B. McCarthy; Mission Matron, Mrs. J. B. McCarthy; school teacher, Miss Henderson, up to September, 1948. Superintendent, Rev. G. W. Taylor; Matron, Mrs. G. W. Taylor.

I would like to point out that I took charge of the mission on 17th December, 1948, at short notice. Therefore, the report will not be as comprehensive as I would like it to be, but I am able to give a fairly accurate statement from the records before me and from my short experience here.

The previous Superintendent and Matron (Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McCarthy) left Mornington Island on the 17th December, one day after we arrived. They were very tired, and they really deserved the long rest which was now due to them.

#### SCHOOL.

(a) Mission Matron as Supervisor. Native Staff—Four half-caste and three full-blood teachers.

(b) Children on roll: Mornington Island—Boys, 36; girls, 42; total, 78. Bentinck Island—Boys, 9; girls, 10; total, 19; grand total, 97. Average attendance, 97.

(c) The school curriculum includes the following subjects:—

For the girls: Domestic science, needle and crochet work, and knitting.

For the boys: Dairy and cattle work. Physical culture for boys and girls.

#### HEALTH.

Good. No serious epidemics except an outbreak of influenza and colds. There were 3,940 outpatients and 8 inpatients. Dental work—12 patients had teeth extracted. Visits by Flying Medical Officer, 6. One half-caste patient removed to Townsville Hospital for special treatment. This patient is now cured and is now working. Visits by Dentist, 1.

#### CONDUCT OF INMATES.

Steady improvement. The native councillors and police have done excellent work and have shown readiness to carry out the Superintendent's orders. Two men who were sent to Palm Island last year have returned and they are behaving very well. All the people show a readiness to engage in any work offering by the mission and are open to any instruction.

## SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Some of the people are tilling their own gardens in the camp. Seeds for this purpose are readily provided by the mission. More lavatories have been erected in the camp, and most people are taking a real interest in keeping the camp clean and improving their homes.

## INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

More wells had to be dug owing to serious shortage of water. A well was sunk at the camp and the water is good. Another one was sunk within the mission area, which proved very helpful to us at a critical time at the end of last year. The dinghy has been painted and repaired, and the airstrip has been kept in excellent order. Improvements have been made to the girls' bathroom, and it is hoped to put in a cement floor soon. We also contemplate building a boys' bathroom.

## GARDEN CROPS.

During the wet season of 1947 a very high tide swept up the creek and flooded the cow paddock and garden, and made the water in the main well impossible to drink. So extensive was the damage that the mango trees of many years standing died from the salt water. A very poor wet season in 1948 did not improve the situation at all; in fact, the crops were very poor indeed this year. We have been able to get a large quantity of beans, and a good number of pumpkins, pine melons, water melons, squash, and marrows.

The main well, which the mission has depended on so much, has been pumped out several times and cleaned thoroughly, but unfortunately the water has remained salty and brackish. I understand that a boring plant is to come here soon, and contractors are to sink a bore for us.

## WOMEN.

Crochet and fancy needle work. A large quantity of garments for dormitory children and babies were made. Dresses are supplied quarterly to all the women and they sew them at the weekly sewing class.

## BUILDINGS.

The new boys' dormitory is not quite completed owing to the shortage of materials. It is hoped that the required flooring boards will arrive here soon. Outbuildings at the assistants' cottage, which had fallen into disrepair from white ants, have been reconstructed, and a few repairs to the cottage itself.

## LABOUR.

On agreement to cattle stations, Males, 18; females, 2; one married couple with family; on M.V. Cora, males, 5.

## TRANSFERS.

Returned from Palm Island, 2 males; returned from mainland employment, 18 males, one female; transferred from Mapoon Mission, 2 boys who have been adopted by our head stockman and his wife.

## BENTINCK ISLAND.

Since the last report another party of Bentinck Islanders were transferred to Mornington, as follows:—

October 18th.—Party of 16 arrived at Mornington.

October 21st.—A party of 3 arrived at Mornington. This brought the total to 65.

Births, 4; total, 69.

Deaths, 6; total 63.

The last figure is the number under the supervision of the Mission. The deaths were mainly from malnutrition and pneumonia. I believe that there are still some traces of T.B. among these people, but they are improving rapidly in health. They are very friendly and law-abiding, and they cause very little trouble to the mission. The attitude of the Mornington people to them is friendly and sympathetic. These people share in the beef which is distributed to the people each week. One thing about them is they are not lazy; they are always out hunting and readily perform any task we give them. As reported last year, the children of school age have been admitted to the dormitories, and are mixing with the Mornington children quite well. At school they are showing signs of progress and intelligence.

## GENERAL.

Besides the ordinary routine work of the mission, fences have been repaired and re-erected and work is now commencing on the jetty. To build it above high-water level, it will have to be raised another five feet, and that will take time and labour. Some tanks have also been repaired. We have had little communication with the mainland, as our wireless has been out of order since January, 1949. I believe that steps are being taken by the Government to provide us with a new set.

We are still without a launch, too, but the Church is negotiating for one and we hope to see it here very soon.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Morning prayers are held every morning and are always well attended. Two Church services are held on Sundays, as well as Sunday School. Many people like to gather on Sunday night to sing favourite hymns and to learn new ones. I believe that a number are earnestly endeavouring to live by what they know to be Christian principles. An indication of growth is seen by a number of young people who expressed their desire to join the Church, and others who had been indifferent for a long time at last re-dedicating themselves to God and His Service.

## THANKS.

I am sure that Mr. McCarthy would desire me to express his thanks to the Director and his staff for valuable help given from the Native Affairs Department. I would like to add my thanks, too, to the Director and his staff for their help, and also we appreciate the services rendered by aerial medical service, the flying doctor, the dentist, and all who have helped us in many ways during the year.

# **Native Affairs - Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve months ended 30th June 1949**

Corporate Author: Queensland Dept. of Health and Home Affairs

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