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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

THE YEAR 1907.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1907.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aboriginals,
Brisbane, June, 1908.

SIR,—I now do myself the honour to submit the annual report on the operations of my Department for the year 1907.

During the year I visited, in my official capacity, many places in the Northern portion of the State, and reported to the Hon. the Home Secretary as follows:—

My first port of call was Mackay, at which place I interviewed Protector Martin, who informed me the natives made a practice of loafing about the town, and suggested employment should be found for them, which I directed to be done. In this district many natives are employed at sugar-cane cutting, one boy being paid 17s. 6d. per week. The general wage averages 10s. per week. The boys are considered good workers, and are sought after. A little opium is still found, but is fast disappearing. Protector Martin suggested the Police be empowered to arrest for supplying opium or drink to the natives, and I think the suggestion a good one. At present it is necessary to issue a summons; and, before action can be taken, the offender leaves the district or in other ways makes his escape. Whilst at Mackay two bêche-de-mer fishing boats arrived, both in charge of Japanese, with aboriginal crews. All their papers were in order, and the boys were contented and healthy.

After leaving Mackay, I proceeded to Bowen, but found very few natives in the district, although several boys are employed under agreement as stockmen on the surrounding stations.

Townsville and Charters Towers were next visited; at both places matters in connection with my Department were running smoothly. At Charters Towers I found there were twenty-nine savings bank accounts in favour of the natives, totalling £120. At Townsville, Protector Galbraith reported that some aged natives on Palm Island required attention. I arranged to take food to these people, and, on reaching Palm Island, visited the camp and distributed the food, but found that there was only four or five old people, some twenty others being young and able-bodied men, making a good living and well able to take care of themselves.

Lucinda, and thence to Ingham, was my next place of call. At the latter place and district there are some 300 natives, and many are employed on the canefields, about seventy at the time of my visit; and, from what I could learn, gave every satisfaction; but, I regret to say that, when at Ingham, I received a telegram from the Hon. the Minister prohibiting the employment of these people on the canefields. This action, I fear, will cause a lot of hardship to the natives, and expense in the shape of food and clothing to the Government.

I called at Cardwell, but found the officer in charge of Police away on patrol. I learnt, however, that very few natives remained in the vicinity of the town, the great bulk of them having gone to Geraldton. At Clump Point, I landed and interviewed Mr. Cutten, who has a coffee plantation and employs some twelve or fifteen natives. These boys are well treated and look well. They told me they liked their employer and the work. Mr. Cutten complains that the Chinese banana-growers on Maria Creek, some few miles distant, supply opium to the natives, and generally prostitute the women, so much so, that numbers of the male aboriginals live entirely on the proceeds derived in this way.

When at Geraldton, I inquired into these matters, with the result that I directed prosecutions to be taken against any of the Chinese found harbouring the native women, and also in no case were the blacks to be allowed to loiter about the Chinese gardens or camps, and I trust this action will have a beneficial effect. In the Geraldton district there are about 350 natives, many of whom are employed on the sugar farms. On my way to Cairns I landed at Fitzroy Island, an out-station of Yarrabah Mission. Some 144 natives are located here, under the care of Mr. Woolrych. There are about 4 acres of cultivation, consisting of sweet potatoes, bananas, and cotton. From what I saw of this island, I think it quite capable of producing food sufficient for its present population; but, although it is now some three years since the mission took possession, it is only quite recently any visible progress has been made.

On my arrival at Cairns I found aboriginal matters had much improved since my last visit. Protector Malone was absent on duty, but I gathered that the work of my Department was being satisfactorily carried out.

At Port Douglas, where Sergeant Hasenkamp is in charge, I found only a few natives in the district, mostly employed on the fishing boats. Just before my arrival the Chinese quarters were searched for opium; but, although old pipes were discovered, no trace of opium could be found. The Police are of the opinion that no opium has been in the place for a considerable time.

From Port Douglas I proceeded to Cooktown, and found a considerable number of natives camped within a few miles of the town. Many of these people had come from the McIvor River and Cape Bedford district to meet me, and told me they could provide themselves with sufficient food. They certainly looked healthy and in good condition; but, from what I learnt from the local Protector, I am afraid many of them prefer to remain in close proximity to the town and to loiter around the Chinese quarters. Steps are now being taken to prevent this as far as possible. When in this district I took the opportunity of visiting the Laura and Palmer Rivers. At the former place some forty aboriginals were camped, five or six of whom were very old and others in bad health. Arrangements were made to provide the old and sick with a little food and medical comforts. At Palmer River about fifty were camped a short distance from Maytown, and all looked healthy and strong; in this district both liquor and opium is a thing of the past. Numbers of the young men are largely employed in casual work, such as cutting firewood, carrying water, &c., and some of the women do a little scrubbing and cleaning, whilst, of course, the surrounding stations employ many of the boys as stockmen, all under agreement. Occasionally large numbers of natives visit Maytown, coming in from the Mitchell River, Mount Windsor, the St. George, and other places.

Leaving Cooktown, I reached Cape Bedford Mission Station on the 15th July, and found the buildings, which had suffered so much in the recent cyclone, nearly all re-erected, the cultivation being vigorously proceeded with, and the station fast assuming its previous clean and neat appearance. At the school, under the care of Mrs. Schwarz, there is an attendance of twenty-eight children—fifteen boys and thirteen girls. The clean, happy, and contented appearance of these little ones is quite a treat to see, and their intelligence equally pleasing. Their reading, spelling, and arithmetic would do credit to any school of white children, and their good behaviour and attention is very marked. There are now twelve infants under one year of age at the Mission, and a population of a little over 100 souls.

My next place of call was Lloyd Bay, where I spent some time; but, as I intend making a separate report on this place, I will not now deal with it. After leaving Lloyd Bay, I went to Somerset, and visited Lockerbie, where I found a camp of natives, some ten or twelve, who were engaged cutting sandalwood on contract. The blacks here are healthy, but there are few young people. Mr. Jardine, who resides at Lockerbie, is very generous in assisting these people, supplying them with meat, fruit, and vegetables.

Thursday Island was reached on the evening of the 3rd August. After conferring with Protector Brett, I visited Naghir and Badu Islands. At the former island there are about thirty-two natives, of which eight are young children. Most of the men are engaged in the fishing industries. The health of the people is good, and all seemed happy and contented. At Badu, I inspected the school, which is under the control of Mrs. Weston, and was surprised at the progress made since my former visit. There is an average attendance of fifty-three—viz., twenty-five boys and twenty-eight girls. The physical drill was exceptionally good, and marked improvement was noticed in arithmetic, reading, and writing.

After visiting Hammond Island I returned to Thursday Island, arriving there on the 17th August, and left for Brisbane, per steamer "Maranoa," on the 20th August, reaching Brisbane on the 25th of that month.

Generally, the administration of my Department is being carried out satisfactorily, few, if any, complaints being made, and the aborigines are gradually beginning to recognise that the efforts on the part of the Government are for their good, and I feel sure these people will yet prove a valuable asset to the State.

With regard to Lloyd Bay, already referred to, the following report was furnished:—

Lloyd Bay is about equidistant between Cooktown and Thursday Island, is a really good harbour, with deep water, and affords ample shelter from all winds. The Lockhardt River enters the bay at its southern end. I took the dinghy, and, accompanied by Captain Schluter, proceeded some 12 or 15 miles up the river, taking soundings for 6 or 8 miles, the results of which, so far as depth of water was concerned, being very satisfactory. At Orchid Point, which is situated on the south side of the bay, a fairly large camp of natives was found. These are a fine stamp of people—strong, healthy, active fellows—and seemed delighted at the idea of a settlement being formed in their own country. The whole district abounds with game of every description, the natives each day capturing a canoe-load of fish in the space of an hour or so; in fact, from the appearance of the natives, it is self-evident there is no scarcity of food. On the 25th July I travelled per dinghy up the main branch of the Lockhardt, some 14 or 16 miles, finding very shallow water in the upper reaches. After passing the mangroves, which lined the river bank for quite 10 miles up, I landed, and made an attempt to go inland on foot, but found the grass so high and dense that walking was quite out of the question.

On returning to the "Melbidir" some natives told me "white men come up," and these proved to be Sergeant Whiteford with a detachment of natives troopers, who had arranged to meet me with horses. He was accompanied by Mr. Kenny. It appears the sergeant had come through the bush from Coen and crossed the heads of the Lockhardt, reaching the coast beach opposite Night Island. The party then rode along the beach around Cape Direction, and arrived at Orchid Point on the 25th, the very day on which we had arranged by telegrams to meet. The next day, in company with Sergeant Whiteford, I explored the country along the coast of Lloyd Bay to the southward, and found a tringe of ti-ti swamps bordered the beach, but further back the country was sandy, timbered with gum, Moreton Bay ash, a kind of bloodwood, and wattle, with patches of vine scrub and some well-grassed plains, and numerous fresh-water creeks, apparently always running, the water being of good quality, soft, and pellucid. Along the coast to the north the country is inclined to be swampy, with small salt-water arms here and there. However, keeping about 1½ mile in from the beach we found fair country, inclined to be sandy, but well suited for coconut growing. After spending three or four days in this particular portion of the country, we proceeded per "Melbidir" to Orchid Point. This place, being good holding ground, with deep water, consequently affords excellent shelter for boats, and is the favourite camping ground of the natives. This, I consider, would be the most suitable spot to form the headquarters of the settlement; in fact, Lloyd Bay is an ideal place to form an aboriginal reserve, there being a really first-class harbour, not to mention the Lockhardt River, which itself would afford every shelter, with fairly deep water for many miles up, and no appreciable bar or other obstruction at its mouth, as is so often found in our coastal streams. Lloyd Bay is easy of approach, and can be entered in all weathers from outside with perfect safety. The country surrounding the bay is fairly good, with sufficient scrub land to provide all the cultivation needed for a settlement. The flora is varied, and would, I think, prove an interesting field for botanical research. Game exists in abundance. The timber is not large, nor what could be called good, yet there would be ample for building purposes; and, being situated midway between Cooktown and Thursday Island, would be convenient to either port as a depot from which to recruit aboriginal labour, and, as a matter of fact, is now being largely used for that purpose.

The aborigines are numerous and healthy, and, by forming the settlement here, the natives would come in from many miles, both to the north and south of the bay, and it would prove a convenient place to which natives being deported for misdeeds could be sent.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

It is satisfactory to be able to state that the opposition from both the employer and employee in respect to putting the aboriginals on agreement, and to paying the wages earned to the Protector, has almost entirely disappeared. In the majority of cases both the employer and employee recognise the regulations to be of mutual benefit.

The demand for aboriginal girls as domestic servants still continues, and the reports from the mistresses of the girls' behaviour are generally good. The Protectress reports as follows:—The number of girls in service on the 31st December, 1907, was as follows:—116 half-castes and 70 full-bloods. The amount standing to their credit on that date was £1,002 3s. 4d., the number of banking accounts being 188, consisting of 186 accounts for girls in service, and two trust accounts for half-caste infants.

The wages received by the girls vary in amount from 1s. 3d. per week and clothing to 15s. per week. Pocket money is allowed to the girls according to the rate of wages earned, from 3d. per week to 4s., the balance of the wages being paid to the Protector, who banks the amount to the girl's credit in the Government Savings Bank, and withdrawals are made from the Savings Bank accounts for clothing and cash advances to the girls. To show the necessity of all cash advances and purchase of clothing being made by the Protectress, it is only necessary to state that trouble is now and then experienced with some mistresses, who, instead of encouraging the girls in thrift, encourage them to waste their hard-earned money in clothes far above their station in life, such as a costume at £3 3s. and a hat at £1 5s.

The general behaviour of the girls is good, and an improvement exists in the way in which the mistresses now treat them, though, in one or two cases, the girls had to be removed on account of ill-treatment by their employers. Happily, these cases are becoming very scarce, and employers are beginning to realise that better results can be obtained from the girls by treating them with kindness.

Complaints are now and then made by the mistresses *re* the girls' disinclination for work, but, when these complaints are investigated, it generally turns out that the girls are expected to work from sunrise till 10 and 11 o'clock at night, and even the strongest of girls, physically, cannot stand the continuous strain of hard work.

In cases where the mistress refuses to sign the necessary agreement, drastic measures have to be taken, and the girl removed, and placed with a mistress who will obey the regulations.

Taken on a whole, the girls give satisfaction as servants, but they require tactful handling. They have also a strong tendency towards extravagance, which has to be checked, with a view of encouraging providence amongst them.

The appearance of the girls speaks for itself, as they are very clean in both their persons and wearing apparel.

I have found the girls, on the whole, fairly amenable to discipline. Two of them died last year—Martha Emery and Lucy Bromley—and I have also to record the birth of three illegitimate quadroon children. One girl had to be sent away on Minister's order for bad behaviour—namely, Annie Pope.

TABLE I.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1906 AND 1907).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector—	Stationed at—	1906.		1907.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Somerset	Costin, John Moody	Thursday Island	308	2	399	3
Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Marseba, Mourilyan, Thornborough	Malone, H., Sub-Inspector	Cairns	107	46	114	14
Cook, Falmer	Keogh, Jas., Acting Sergeant	Cooktown	234	45	231	20
Coen	Whiteford, James, Senior-Sergeant	Coen	20	5	38	6
Norman	Lomond, Jas., Inspector	Normanton	134	26	155	48
Etheridge	Garraway, R. W., Sub-Inspector	Georgetown	30	4	29	8
Cloncurry, Camooweal	McGrath, J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	42	15	55	18
Mackay	Martin, Edward, Sub-Inspector	Mackay	19	3	30	4
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Galbraith, Percy Dumas Fead, Inspector	Townsville	38	6	62	10
Ingham	Connolly, Patrick, Acting Sergeant	Ingham	70	...	80	...
Charters Towers, Cape River	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	63	9	66	11
Hughenden, Richmond	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden	42	5	73	13
Winton	Brosnan, Michael, Acting Sergeant	Winton	14	5	24	6
Boulia	Guekian, M., Constable	Boulia	60	25	67	19
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	Nethercote, James, Inspector	Charleville	88	18	167	34
Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaborra, Tambo, Windorah	Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector	Longreach	25	7	127	27
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Toowoomba	9	4	9	3
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Marrett, Charles Beauchamp, Inspector	Maryborough	*254	137	649	52
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton	60	22	111	42
Bellon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Savage, Charles, Inspector	Roma	13	3	49	8
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	White, John Warren, Inspector	Brisbane ... ..	...	...	30	72
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	McKeown, Mrs. Mary Evelyn	Brisbane ... ..	...	129	...	186
Burke	Courtney, John, Acting Sergeant	Burketown ... ..	...	...	87	...
Croydon	Sullivan, Timothy, Sergeant	Croydon ... ..	...	...	11	2
			1,630	516	2,653	534

* Including Aboriginal Settlement, Barambah.

† Agreements issued at Chief Protector's Office.

In addition to those enumerated in the foregoing statement, nineteen men were employed by the Government at Dunwich and Peel Island, and seventy-five men, with their gins, were at service with the Police Department as trackers.

From the above table, it appears 1,023 more males were employed than during last year, and 18 more females during the same period. This fact alone shows that the services of the aborigines are being sought after, and is proof of their being suitable servants in many avenues of employment.

The subjoined statement sets out the amounts held in trust for the aborigines by the different Protectors:—

TABLE 2.—ABORIGINALS' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1906 AND 1907.

Government Savings Bank at—	Wages held in Trust by Local Protector.		Government Savings Bank at—	Wages held in Trust by Local Protector.	
	1906.	1907.		1906.	1907.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Croydon ... ..	...	67 2 0*	Brought forward ...	1,625 13 6	1,837 3 10
Thursday Island	55 4 11	124 18 3	Burketown ... ..	...	50 7 0
Cooktown	240 14 5	280 0 6	Mackay	32 9 0	...
Coen	17 13 3	23 13 3	Rockhampton	116 16 1	258 2 4
Cairns	240 14 5	378 0 11	Longreach	25 0 0	256 17 3
Normanton	466 2 9	27 14 9†	Charleville	19 8 0	116 18 6
Georgetown	99 17 9	34 13 9	Maryborough	61 19 11	89 7 3
Cloncurry	118 14 6	197 9 8	Barambah (Abor. Settlement	100 3 3	262 1 8
Ingham ... ..	...	5 6 10	Roma	3 18 0	50 13 2
Townsville ... ..	...	8 12 6	Toowoomba	9 4 11	54 4 0
Charters Towers	70 11 1	144 17 9	Brisbane (Protector White) ... ..	...	...
Hughenden	4 0 0	173 16 9	Brisbane (Mrs. McKeown)	576 0 4	1,002 3 4
Winton	110 15 9	130 16 10			
Boulia	201 4 8	240 0 1			
Carried forward	1,625 13 6	1,837 3 10	Total	£2,570 13 0	3,977 18 4

* Since July last. † In July, 1907, the majority of Normanton Trust accounts were transferred to the new Protectorate of Croydon and Burketown.

The increase in the amount of wages deposited in the Government Savings Bank by the Protectors in trust for the aborigines is enormous as compared with previous years, and shows that the native is gaining confidence in his Protector and learning habits of thrift. The more intelligent of them are beginning to appreciate the advantage of having an account to draw upon in needy times, and very often send along part or whole of their pocket money to be banked as well as the one or two shillings a week insisted upon by the Protector. It, however, requires some tact to prevent them, when in a speculative mood, from emptying the nest of its golden egg.

Casual Employment.—The system of allowing natives in and around the townships to accept casual employment with respectable and reputable people, and thereby earn a few shillings to assist the relief issued by the Government, has been found to work well. The general opinion of the various Protectors is, that the money so earned has, except in a very few cases, been spent in food or dress, and not in drink as it was feared at first would be the case.

On this question the Protector at Cloncurry says: "A number of male and female aborigines were employed casually during the year, and received some small remuneration for their services, thus relieving applications for relief, which were few." And the Protector at Rockhampton states:—"With purely casual labour the Police see that no advantage is taken of the blacks, and, taken all round, everything has worked smoothly during the year that has just ended."

Protector Whiteford, at Coen, evidently estimates the value of the aborigine as a casual servant, especially in the tropical towns, for in his report he writes:—"There are a number of aborigines casually employed about Coen Town, who are not under permit. I find this plan to work better than if they were, for those of the public who employ them have to feed them well and clothe them, otherwise the blacks will not work for them. If there are any complaints made to me about the blacks stealing jam tins, looking over the fence where sweet potatoes are growing, dirtying the river water, &c., I listen to the complaints, then remove all the aborigines out of the town, and keep them out for about a week. By that-time all the housewives are very pleased to see them return again: and so things jog along smoothly until some poor old gin happens to steal another sardine tin, when out they go again."

But in the cases of regular employment of aborigines, the provisions of the Act are rigidly enforced, and, as a rule, the employers observe the regulations faithfully, recognising that the agreement system is for their own protection as well as for that of the native.

The following table gives a record of prosecutions during 1907 for illegally employing natives:—

TABLE NO. 3.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING (MAINLAND)—1907.

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
1907.			
24 June ...	Croydon ...	E. A. Hayes ...	Fined £1 with 3s. 6d. costs, or 7 days
24 June ...	Croydon ...	William Balzen ...	Fined £1 with 3s. 6d. costs, or 7 days
17 November ...	Croydon ...	Lee Chong ...	Fined £5 3s. 6d., or 3 months
6 February ...	Atherton ...	Willie Amberam ...	Fined £2 and 2s. costs
19 February ...	Mount Garnet ...	Ah Gow ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
9 February ...	Mount Garnet ...	Ah Bow ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
11 March ...	Coolgarra ...	King Sing ...	Fined £25 and 4s. 6d. costs
26 March ...	Maytown ...	Walter Dunn ...	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
3 April ...	Atherton ...	Peter Flanagan ...	Fined £5
17 April ...	Maytown ...	Young Dong ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs
17 April ...	Maytown ...	Ah Sun ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs
30 April ...	Cairns ...	Percy Tierney ...	Fined £5
16 May ...	Cooktown ...	Ah Kee ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
17 May ...	Maytown ...	Fook Lin ...	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
30 June ...	Mossman ...	Ah Sam ...	Fined £1
30 June ...	Mossman ...	Kin Lee ...	Fined £1
9 July ...	Cairns ...	Peter Fantalion ...	Fined £10
12 July ...	Cairns ...	Ah Gun ...	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs
23 July ...	Thornborough ...	Ah See ...	Fined £1
23 July ...	Thornborough ...	Ming Foo ...	Fined £1
24 August ...	Maytown ...	Jerry Dodd ...	Fined £2 and 4s. 6d. costs
24 August ...	Maytown ...	Jerry Dodd ...	Fined £2 and 4s. 6d. costs
12 September ...	Mount Garnet ...	Con Goo ...	Fined £10 and 3s. 6d. costs
14 October ...	Geraldton ...	Ah Singh ...	Fined £2, or 14 days
31 October ...	Geraldton ...	Sabloo ...	Fined £5, or 2 months
31 October ...	Geraldton ...	Koug Chin ...	Fined £10, or 2 months
15 November ...	Chillagoe ...	John McLean ...	Fined £10 with 3s. 6d. costs
15 November ...	Chillagoe ...	John McLean ...	Fined £10 with 3s. 6d. costs
6 December ...	Atherton ...	Ah Lay ...	Fined £10 with 4s. 6d. costs
3 January ...	Maytown ...	Ah Sing ...	Fined £5, or 3 months
3 January ...	Maytown ...	Ah Suie ...	Fined £5, or 3 months
3 January ...	Maytown ...	Ah Choy ...	Fined £5, or 3 months
26 March ...	Maytown ...	Walter Dunn ...	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
17 April ...	Maytown ...	Young Dong ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs
27 April ...	Maytown ...	Ah Sun ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs
15 May ...	Granite Creek ...	Fook Lum ...	Fined 5s. 4s. 6d. costs, or 3 months
25 July ...	Maytown ...	Quong Hay ...	Dismissed
25 July ...	Maytown ...	Fook Lum ...	Fined £10, 4s. 6d. costs, or 6 months
24 August ...	Maytown ...	Jerry Dodd ...	Fined £2, 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month
24 August ...	Maytown ...	Jerry Dodd ...	Fined £2, 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month
17 December ...	Belle Vue Station ...	John McLean ...	Fined £36 11s. 6d., or 3 months
24 December ...	Milchester ...	Thos. Augustus De Soeley ...	Fined £1 and 6s. 8d. costs
18 October ...	Inghan ...	Mrs. Mar. Schmid ...	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs
3 December ...	Cardwell ...	W. J. Byrne ...	Fined 5s., or 24 hours
6 March ...	Georgetown ...	Jalius Ah Gow ...	Fined £10, or 2 months
9 April ...	Compton Downs ...	Eric W. Anning ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs

LABOUR CONDITIONS (ON BOATS).

Somerset Petty Sessions District.—On the 1st January, 1907, Mr. C. D. O'Brien, who had so conscientiously and satisfactorily performed the duties of Protector in this district for the previous two and a-half years, left the district, transferred to the South, and the position was filled in a most able manner by Sub-inspector George Brett, until the appointment of Mr. J. M. Costin, lately clerk in the Chief Protector's office, in October. The position is a most responsible one, and the duties onerous and heavy. The Protector in his annual report states:—

“**Recruiting.**—Permits to fishing boat-owners and masters to recruit natives on the mainland have still to be issued, I am very sorry to say. In order to keep as many natives employed in the fishing industry as possible, and to obviate the evils of recruiting, I have not been insisting upon the employers taking the natives back to the mainland at the termination of the engagement when the native wishes to continue working on the boats. If the native states definitely, however, that he wants to go home, and will not go to work again before he has a spell, the employer is, of course, instructed by the Protector to take the native back to the place from which he recruited him. An effort was made late in December to collect a number of natives at Normanton and Burketown for service on the boats, and to bring the natives here in batches at the employer's cost, somewhat similar to the way in which the natives of New Guinea are indented to this port; but, up to the present, no natives have been collected.

“On the 15th December last there were 302 New Guinea natives engaged in the industry. These natives are indented under agreement signed at Daru. They do not come near the Queensland shipping office, except occasionally, when they have a complaint to lay against their employers, and no portion of their wages is spent in Queensland, and they occupy, in my mind, places on the boats which should be filled by natives of Queensland.

“I trust very sincerely that the aboriginal settlement at Orchid Point, Lloyd Bay, will soon be in working order, and strong efforts put forth to recover for our own natives the employment to which they are rightly entitled. The Papuan Government has assisted the employer by official recruiting, so that the employer is now able to send an order to Daru for so many boys at a certain wage, to arrive in Thursday Island on a certain date, and, when that order is posted, the employer has no further cause to worry.

"What has been done for our natives? The contrast is most marked, and one which I, as a Queenslander, am ashamed of. Permits to recruit are issued, or, in other words, permission under an Act which was intended to be for the native's protection is given to, in almost every case, an alien, to go on a roving commission in the territory of the native, on the mainland, and amongst the wives and children of the natives. The holders of these permits then adopt whatever means they think best to get natives, and they know that they are far outside the influence of the law. The straight-going man finds that he cannot get a crew unless he uses rum, cajolery, and all the methods adopted by his less scrupulous brother, and so the standard of the recruiter is set by the lowest type of man, and the amount of suffering, disease, and death brought to the natives in this manner is being added to year by year, and so it goes on under the ægis of the Act intended for their protection."

The rates of wages vary from 10s. per month to £2 10s. per month. The mainland natives of the peninsula earn from 10s. to £1 per month as swimming divers on the bêche-de-mer boats, and, though generally of poor physique, are expert swimmers, often descending to seven fathoms. Practically none of these men are engaged on the pearling vessels, not being hardy enough for the work of turning a diving-pump. Considerable trouble, too, is often experienced with them when working close to the shore of the mainland, the whole crew, from some unaccountable impulse, deserting the ship, perhaps in the middle of the night, and clearing into the bush. I am afraid that, in some cases, the blame lies in the treatment meted out to them by their employers.

All wages due to these boys must be paid in full to the Protector at their discharge, who superintends the disbursement of them, the natives frequently not being intelligent enough to know the difference between a £5 and a £1 note, the value of an article purchased, or correct change due. The Protector goes on to say:—

"When these natives are paid off, it has been the custom to give them only 5s. of their money and for the Protector to expend the balance for them in the store. Some of these men have perhaps been working on boats for several terms of six or twelve months, possibly aggregating three years, and to allow them to handle only 15s. of their earnings during that time was a method which tended to coddle the native, and to give no opportunity of showing that he could spend his money on proper things. Somewhat in proportion to the amount of wages coming to the boy and his standard of intelligence, I have paid them much larger sums in cash, varying from 5s. up to as much as £2 (in a few cases), for some of these natives can protect themselves quite as well as island natives, and afterwards endeavoured to trace what the native had done with it. In a number of cases I found that articles of clothing had been purchased at a fair price, gaudy silk handkerchiefs, lollies, cigarettes, cheap rings, tinned food, and, from what I could gather, the merry-go-round accounted for the balance.

"Apparently the minimum wage of 11s. a month (10s. for the native and 1s. for hospital fee) was becoming to be looked upon by some employers as the maximum wage also. Some of these natives, I found, had been working on boats for two or three years, and possibly longer. These men are, naturally, more experienced than the recruit fresh from the mainland, and it is unreasonable to expect even a blackfellow to work all his life for the same wage (the minimum). Personally, I see no reason why these natives should not receive wages, food, and clothing somewhat nearer the value of the work they perform. It cannot surely be less than 10s. per month, and, if it was, I am sure the Japanese would not exhibit their present anxiety to re-engage these men from time to time. As a first step, the wages of natives who are not raw recruits from the mainland, have been raised to 12s. a month. I know that the Japanese are drawing large cheques from the fishing industry here, and, as Protector, have no hesitation in making the Japanese pay a little more for the labour which helps to produce these cheques."

The native of the Torres Strait islands is a better stamp of man. Papuan in features and build, and, in some cases, of magnificent physique, particularly the men of Darnley, York, and Murray Islands. He is much more intelligent, and much better able to take care of himself than his brother of the mainland. The wages paid to Torres Strait Islanders varies from £1 to £2 10s. per month; and, though in the past they have been, to a certain extent, exempt from the provisions of the Aboriginals Protection Acts, for the reasons given above, and allowed the managements of their own wages, it has been found necessary to, in many cases, apply the provisions of the Acts for their protection, unscrupulous employers and alien storekeepers often cheating them, by excessive prices and the encouragement of extravagance, of their hard-earned wages. An effort has been made by the Protector to persuade as many as possible of these men to practise thrift, and deposit portion of their money in the Savings Bank, expending the balance in necessary clothing and provisions for their relatives. This has met with some measure of success, for the number of Savings Bank accounts has increased from twenty-two to forty-nine, and the amount to credit at the time of writing (11th February, 1908) was £265 16s. 3d.

By authority from the Hon. the Treasurer, given in 1903, the natives of Torres Strait islands are allowed a limited number of vessels to work in the pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer fisheries, exempt from the provisions of the Fisheries Acts, with the object of assisting them to become self-supporting and provident. During 1907 eighteen such boats were working. The Department and the Papuan Industries Company, Limited, in equal shares, advanced the money for their purchase, and nine of the boats' crews have already repaid the amount advanced, with interest. But here, the predominating characteristic of the aboriginal race asserts itself, and, immediately they know the vessel is no longer in debt, all incentive to work is gone, the catch of fish decreases, and the vessel is neglected. As instance of this, the catch of marine produce in 1906 was £2,756, and, in 1907, £1,587.

To meet the demand for domestic servants, a few girls have been sent from Mapoon, and a few more from the Torres Strait islands, to engage as servants with reputable employers, under the supervision and care of the Protector, who collects and deposits all their wages to savings bank accounts for them.

Cook Petty Sessions District.—Protector Keogh reports:—"231 males and 20 females signed under agreement during the year, and £280 0s. 6d. lies in the Government Savings Bank to credit of their various accounts. £5 1s. 8d. was collected in deserters' wages, and remitted to the Chief Protector's Office, to credit of Aboriginals' Protection Property Account.

"The aborigines are very orderly, and give no trouble. They appear to be thriving and doing well, and the Act appears to be working smoothly."

There were no prosecutions for illegally employing on boats.

"MELBIDIR."

The ketch "Melbidir," under the command of Captain J. H. Schluter, has done good work during the year, and fully justified her existence.

Besides her work of patrolling the waters of the Northern coasts of Queensland, the vessel has frequently been placed at the disposal of the Marine and Police Departments for emergency work, and has also conveyed the Torres Strait island teachers of our own department, when required, to and from their stations and Thursday Island.

In a report showing the movements of the vessel during the year, the captain adds:—

"During 1907 I sailed the 'Melbidir' a distance of over 6,000 miles, and boarded about fifty bêche-de-mer fishing boats, and found them all in order, except a few boats which had no license or articles to show; but, on making inquiries at Thursday Island, I found that, through some reason or other, the ships' papers had been left either with the owners or the agents. I have given notice to all owners of fishing vessels that all ships' papers, such as fishing and master's license and articles, or a list of crew signed by a shipping master, must be carried aboard of each fishing vessel, and every vessel that is found without such papers will be taken into port at the owner's expense.

"I respectfully wish to mention here that I took charge of the 'Melbidir' in 1900, for the purpose of patrolling the bêche-de-mer fishing ground in Queensland waters.

"In many instances I found boats being over-crowded, and the natives over-worked, underfed, and ill-treated. Those boats were principally worked by Japanese, Manila men, or Malays.

"I will here give an idea how they worked it.

"A Japanese, for instance, is fitting out a vessel for bêche-de-mer fishing. He takes his license out, signs on two or three hands, and away he goes to the first big native camp on the mainland. He fills his boat up with men, women, and children, and proceeds to the reef, and works the poor wretches for all they are worth, and then returns them to the mainland, gives them a few bags of flour, some tobacco, and a few yards of print calico, and dumps them ashore. He then takes another crowd, who fare somewhat similar to the former. If a native thought that the pay he received was not enough for the work he had done, and mentioned it to the master in charge, it would be considered a breach of discipline, and he would be persuaded into the master's way of thinking by the aid of a lump of mangrove firewood. I don't mean to say they were all like that; some of the fishermen were really good to the natives, and, therefore, had never any trouble with them.

"Of the many abuses that were committed, I wish to mention one or two cases (previous to 1907).

"One morning, at the break of day, I sighted a boat in Princess Charlotte Bay, and, on boarding her, I found it to be the ketch 'Mona,' with a Japanese in charge. On looking down the hold, I saw twelve naked natives huddled together without a covering of any description, it being winter time. None of these natives were signed on articles. Five of them were children of about ten years and under. I then took the children on the 'Melbidir,' landed them at their home, and ordered the Jap to follow me to Thursday Island, where I reported the matter to the local Protector, who prosecuted the Japanese.

"On another occasion I landed on Forbes Island, where I found four native women, 'the pick of the Pascoe River,' who were brought to this isolated island for immoral purposes by a Japanese, and, as far as I could learn from the women, they had been there about four or five weeks. The Japanese had left some flour and tobacco for them, and gone out to the Barrier Reef. The Japanese would come in about once a month. I took the women back to their home on the Pascoe River, and proceeded to Thursday Island, where I reported the matter to the local Protector, who prosecuted the Japanese on his return to port.

"I am glad to say that since the fishing grounds have been patrolled by the 'Melbidir' these cases have become less frequent every year, and, as far as the fishing boats are concerned, things are working very smoothly now."

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Five certificates of exemptions from the provisions of "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," were granted to half-castes during the year. In every case a condition was added that a nominal sum of £1 per month be paid by the employer to the nearest Protector of Aborigines, to be deposited to the Natives' Account in the Government Savings Bank, as a provision for illness or pressing necessity. The following are the names of the recipients:—

Lily Wray,
Thomas Barclay Miller,
Lily Livingstone,
Georgina Turner, and
John Downs.

One certificate, granted to Sally Woods during 1906, was revoked, this woman proving incapable of taking care of herself.

RECOGNIZANCES.

The number of recognizances entered into by employers during the year for the return of aborigines to their own districts when taken away by them to employment is eighty-seven, an increase of ten upon the number entered into during 1906. The local Protectors see that the conditions are carried out, and there has been practically no complaint of aborigines having been left stranded.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

The following table shows the permanent centres for distribution of relief, with the approximate monthly expenditure; which, from a comparison with the previous year's report, will be seen has increased in number by ten, considerably extending the operations of the Department for the assistance of the sick and needy:—

Centre.	Amount.	Centre.	Amount.	Centre.	Amount.
Atherton	£ s. d.	Coonambula	£ s. d.	Mitchell	£ s. d.
Betoota	1 0 0	Diamantina	0 15 0	Moreton	0 5 0
Birdsville	6 0 0	Duarina	4 15 0	Mount Perry	1 0 0
Bowen	4 10 0	Eidsvold	1 10 0	Mungindi	0 15 0
Burketown	1 0 0	Goondiwindi	0 12 6	Musgrave	3 0 0
Childers	6 10 0	Thursday Island	2 0 0	St. George	0 15 0
Cloncurry	1 0 0	Irsinebank	2 12 6	Surat	3 0 0
Coen	1 0 0	Kuranda	2 5 0	Tallwood	0 15 0
Cooktown	1 10 0	Laura	0 10 0	Thornborough	2 15 0
Coomrith	1 0 0	Maytown	2 0 0	Thylungra	2 10 0
Croydon	1 11 0	McDonnell Tele. Station	2 0 0	Welltown	3 0 0
	8 10 0		3 10 0		

Besides this, a large amount of miscellaneous relief is issued to sick, infirm, and needy aborigines, and aborigines travelling in search of employment, upon the recommendations of the local Protectors, in the way of rations, medicine, clothes, blankets, &c. It is one of the objects of the Department to disabuse the mind of the native of the idea, instilled into him so often by thoughtless and ignorant whites, that the Government is a kind of fairy god-parent, to whom he can look for the necessaries of life and comfort, without doing anything to assist himself. Cases of malingering, extravagance, and thriftlessness upon the part of able-bodied men and women are promptly and severely dealt with, and the culprits rarely make a second application. In many avenues of employment the aborigine is an expert, and can, when in health and strength, easily support himself and dependants. He only requires kind, tactful treatment to make him learn that, in the time of plenty he must provide for the time of sickness and necessity, and not leave the provision for those times to the before-mentioned fairy god-parent. He must be taught that if he would eat he must work; it is time enough to look to the Government when circumstances place this beyond his power. The same rule applies in the management of the coloured girls at service. The Department starts them on their career with a complete outfit of clothes, and, where such is not provided by their employers, they must, within reason, keep themselves supplied from their wages, the Protectress superintending the purchases and allowing, at her discretion, pocket money for spending.

With such an education, there is no reason why these men and women should not become self-reliant and useful members of society.

BLANKETS.

The distribution of blankets was, as usual, undertaken, and most satisfactorily performed, by the Government Storekeeper, Mr. McLennan, who, in his report, says:—

“The distribution this year has been most satisfactory, little or no complaints having reached me, which I attribute to the return, this year, to the old system of an entire blanket distribution in place of the substitution of various articles, such as knives, tomahawks, fishing-lines, dresses, &c., which had been the practice in vogue during the three preceding years, so far as the Northern part of the State was concerned.

“On comparing this year's figures with those of last year, it would appear as though the number of blankets despatched during this year was less than the number sent last year. Such, however, is not the case, the difference is owing to this being the ‘off’ year for the supply of blankets to the various aboriginal homes and mission stations throughout the State, which are only entitled, under the regulations, to a biennial supply of blankets. Apart altogether from these homes, the supply to the various centres of distribution has been greater this year than it has been for some four years past. As a matter of fact, no reasonable request for blankets for blacks living in a nomadic state has been refused.

“The recipients this year were 2,645 men, 2,429 women, 1,031 children, and 50 unspecified persons; total, 6,155. The number of centres of distribution was 147, and the total number of blankets issued was 5,011 pairs.

“As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution and the attendant expenses were:—

5,011 pairs of blankets, at 8s. 1½d.	£2,035 14 5
Forwarding charges, say	90 0 0

Total £2,125 14 5

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

Years.	Pairs.	Persons.	Years.	Pairs.	Persons.
1898 ...	7,296	9,047	1903 ...	4,914	6,072
1899 ...	7,888	9,403	1904 ...	4,296½	5,466
1900 ...	7,308½	8,193	1905 ...	4,652½	5,594
1901 ...	7,444	9,101	1906 ...	5,391	6,704
1902 ...	6,858½	8,341	1907 ...	5,011	6,155

"With few exceptions, the distributors this year were Police officers, and the work of distribution was carried out by them in their usual efficient manner."

SUPPLY OF LIQUOR AND OPIUM TO ABORIGINES.

Except in a few districts, the supply of drink or opium to the aborigines appears to be decreasing, and in some places is practically nil. This satisfactory state of affairs is due to the strict watch kept by the police officers; the severe punishment of any offenders; and, in the case of opium, the prohibition of the drug by the Commonwealth Government. Of course, there are in each district a few of the old aborigines, who still have a secret craving for drink, and, despite the watchfulness of the authorities, manage to obtain it from unscrupulous hotel-keepers and aliea storekeepers, who give it to them as payment for their casual services or for aboriginal curios and bush plants. I give here a few extracts from the reports of Protectors upon this question:—

Thursday Island.—"There were no prosecutions for supplying grog to natives. I wish I could report that the natives did not get grog here. The white people say the Chinese supply them with liquor, and the Chinese say the hotel-keepers and Japanese are to blame.

"During the year two Chinese were each fined £5 for the unlawful possession of opium, and three natives were each arrested for drunkenness, and discharged with a caution."

Cooktown.—"I have noticed several young children in the camps lately, both here and at Geraldton, and I certainly think that it is through the aborigines not being able to procure opium in the quantities they used to. There is very little liquor supplied to the aborigines at Cooktown."

Cairns.—"During the year, as you are aware by the return of prosecutions forwarded to you, the number of prosecutions for unlawful possession of opium, supply of opium and liquor to aborigines, unlawful employment of aborigines, and a few other offences under the Acts, have been tremendous.

"In many of these cases the fines inflicted were very heavy, and in a great many, or, rather, in most cases, the fines, amounting to a very considerable sum, were paid, the exceptions being, for the most part, those fined for supplying opium to aborigines, and as they are for the most part poor or vagrant Chinamen, the minimum fine inflicted is rather heavy, and they have to go to gaol as the alternative. The opium seized by the police in connection with these cases and forfeited to the Crown is valued at somewhere near £2,000. With the exception of a very small percentage, convictions were obtained in all these cases. Notwithstanding the vigilance of the police to detect the unlawful possession of opium, supply of opium and liquor to blacks, and whose efforts are attended with marked success, these offences, especially the former one, continue to be detected up to the present, for this year some thirty or forty prosecutions have taken place, and, in most cases, convictions obtained."

Croydon.—"Some of the publicans here still supply the aborigines with liquor; but it is done in such a manner that it is almost impossible to detect them. However, there is a case now pending against a publican for supplying an aborigine with beer. The Chinese still supply opium to the aborigines here, and, although several Chinamen have been heavily fined for supplying the drug and also for having it in their possession, the traffic goes on, and, I am sorry to say, that about 80 per cent. of the aborigines here are addicted to the opium habit. It is not necessary for me to add that the aboriginal opium-eater will not take any permanent employment. He loaf about town, and the result is that there is a large number of aborigines in the town who will not work if they can avoid it, and, in some instances, will not work at all, but loaf on the others."

Ingham.—"There is very little drunkenness found among the aborigines, largely owing to the strict watch kept by the police on some low whites, who are at times to be found ready to supply the aborigines with liquor.

"Opium to aborigines is much on the decline, although opium is still brought into the district. Three Chinamen were caught supplying opium to the aborigines during the year; but, before they could be summoned, they disappeared.

"Search warrants have been issued, but only in one instance opium has been found. The Chinaman who was found in possession of it was proceeded against and fined the sum of £1 with costs."

Cloncurry.—"The practice of supplying liquor to aborigines still continues; but, I think, has decreased. No opium has been sold or supplied to the blacks during the year."

Boulia.—"It gives me great pleasure to report that the aborigines of this district neither use liquor nor opium, not even the latter, previous to the prohibition by the Federal Government."

Longreach.—"On the whole, there has been very little drinking of liquor done by the blacks, and the opium traffic appears to be a thing of the past."

Mackay.—"Taking the aborigines generally, opium in any form is not extensively used, owing to the constant vigilance of the police. But in spite of this, occasionally in outside districts some of the older blacks do manage to obtain charcoal opium in small quantities, chiefly from Chinese, whom it is somewhat difficult to detect."

"Aborigines seldom obtain liquor now; older hands will do so when possible, and there is no doubt that a certain class of the publicans (who occasionally have aborigines loafing around their premises looking for odd jobs) give dregs of beer, &c., to these aborigines. The police are quite alive to the fact, and use every effort to detect such breaches of the Act."

Brisbane.—"I cannot discover that any of these blacks use opium, but many of them drink when they get the chance."

I append returns showing the prosecutions for supplying liquor and opium, and for having opium in possession:—

TABLE NO. 5.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM, 1907.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1907.			1907.	
Croydon	23 July ...	Ah Cock	Cairns	14 October ...	Luan Pan
Table Top (near Croydon)	12 August ...	Ah Wee	Geraldton ...	14 October ...	Ly Soong
	12 August ...	Ah Sue	Mossman	22 October ...	Luk Yee Fung
	13 August ...	Ah Wee	Mossman	22 October ...	Chan Lee
Croydon	10 November	Ah How	Atherton	30 October ...	Ah Saw
Nelson	19 January ...	Ah Yin	Cairns	31 October ...	Thomas Evans
Hambledon ...	23 January ...	Ah Quay	Chillagoe	2 November ...	Ah Hing
Cairns	13 March ...	Jack Ah Pin	Chillagoe	2 November ...	Jimmy Ah Young
Cairns	14 March ...	Ah Lin	Alomba	6 November ...	Quai Kee
Cairns	14 March ...	Ah Lum	Nelson	6 November ...	Ah Young
Mareeba	5 March ...	Ah Hing	Cairns	19 November ...	Young Kum
Maytown	9 February ...	Ah Chin	Cairns	23 November ...	Long Chang
Mount Garnet ...	19 February ...	Chin Lin	Mareeba	25 November ...	Low Chock
Cooktown	21 March ...	Low Dong	Cairns	9 November ...	Mrs. Wong Fong
Mossman	26 March ...	Sam Kee	Cairns	27 November ...	Lee Goon Shun
Cooktown	30 March ...	W. H. Wilson	Mareeba	3 December ...	George Lum Pan
Geraldton	5 April ...	Ah Wat	Atherton	6 December ...	Tommy Ah Sam
Geraldton	5 April ...	Aom Chin	Mareeba	7 December ...	Con Bow
Geraldton	15 April ...	Man Lin	Mareeba	28 December ...	Wong Song
Mossman	22 April ...	Ah Woh	Maytown	8 February ...	Ah Chin
Mossman	22 April ...	Ah Lov	Maytown	11 April ...	Yen Cow
Maytown	27 April ...	Ty Hing	Maytown	11 April ...	Ty Hing
Maytown	27 April ...	Yen Cow	Cooktown	29 April ...	Ah John
Cooktown	2 May ...	Ah John	Hellensvale ...	1 May ...	Ah Moo
Cooktown	2 May ...	Ah Woo	Hellensvale ...	1 May ...	Ah Kee
Cooktown	2 May ...	Ah Kee	Charters Towers	26 July ...	Ah Chum
Cooktown	5 May ...	Ah Hing	Charters Towers	25 October ...	David
Geraldton	6 May ...	Ah Moo	Ingham	16 November ...	Charley Chuck
Mossman	29 May ...	Sam Yow	Bollon	19 November ...	Ah Chung
Mungana	1 June ...	Charlie Young Fat	Townsville	1 February ...	Ah Dit
Mareeba	3 June ...	Chee Duck	Townsville	22 March ...	Ah Yow
Cairns	2 July ...	Kong Sam	Townsville	3 April ...	Willie Lye
Irvinebank	3 July ...	Ah Tong	Townsville	3 April ...	Ah Yow
Atherton	5 July ...	Ah Sick	Townsville	3 April ...	Ah Yow
Atherton	9 July ...	Ah Chong	Townsville	19 April ...	Ah Dit
Cairns	15 July ...	Fong Chong	Townsville	19 April ...	Wong Chew
Geraldton	18 July ...	Ah Sam	Townsville	25 May ...	Mu Gow
Atherton	18 July ...	Lee Joy	Townsville	25 May ...	Ah On
Cairns	22 July ...	Ah Sam	Townsville	25 May ...	John Chung
Cairns	23 July ...	See Lee Chou	Townsville	18 June ...	Ah Yow
Mossman	24 July ...	Hoon Kou	Townsville	18 June ...	Ah Coe
Mount Garnet ...	27 July ...	Ah Sue	Townsville	18 June ...	Ah Yow
Cairns	31 July ...	Ah Sing	Townsville	18 June ...	Wong Tie
Cairns	3 August ...	Cee Lee	Ayr	21 June ...	Ah Bang
Chillagoe	6 August ...	Lee See	Ayr	21 June ...	Ah Joy
Chillagoe	8 August ...	Lee See	Ayr	22 July ...	Ah Min
Chillagoe	8 August ...	Ah Sam	Townsville	8 October ...	Ah Yow
Cairns	8 August ...	Jack Moss	Townsville	8 October ...	Mu Gow
Atherton	19 August ...	Ah Jew	Townsville	8 October ...	Ah Chong
Thursday Island ...	20 August ...	Ah Sang	Townsville	21 October ...	Wong Tai
Thursday Island ...	20 August ...	Long Sing	Mackay	8 November ...	Ah Foo
Herberton	23 August ...	Ah Man	Mackay	12 November ...	Sah Sam
Mossman	27 August ...	Ah Sam	Farleigh	15 November ...	Con Tie
Cairns	5 September	Ah Bung			Ah Fat
Cairns	25 September	Ah Jaw	Normanton ...	14 February	Ah Chee
Cairns	27 September	Ah Gun			Tommy Ah Young
Cairns	30 September	Ah Qun			Ah Gee
Geraldton	9 September	Pand Sing	Normanton ...	5 March ...	Ah Sam
Geraldton	21 September	Low Won	Normanton ...	1 May ...	Tommy Dodd
Atherton	20 September	Ah Bow	Longreach ...	20 August ...	Loney Go
Mossman	8 October ...	Ah Sam	Roma	5 October ...	Ah Chang
Chillagoe	9 October ...	Ah Tie	Roma	5 October ...	Jimmy Chong
Cairns	11 October ...	Ah Chow	Capella	4 June ...	Jimmy Gee

TABLE NO. 6.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR SUPPLYING OPIUM TO ABORIGINES—1907.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1907.			1907.	
Croydon	17 July ...	Ah Chow	Geraldton	10 September	Willie Ah Tin
Croydon	8 October ...	Ah Wee	Geraldton	26 September	Ah Fat
Golden Gate	12 November	Ah You	Cairns	23 October ...	Ah Gim
Croydon	17 December	Ah Sam	Maytown	3 January ...	Ah Sing
Cairns	14 February	Ah Shoosy	Charters Towers	25 October ...	David
Hambledon	2 July ...	Ah Sing	South Townsville	11 January ...	Charlie
Cairns	8 July ...	Ysen (Malay)	Nebo	20 November ...	Ding Duck
Cairns	11 July ...	Ah Look	Mungindi	— March ...	Peter Fat Chong

TABLE NO. 7.—CONVICTIONS FOR SUPPLYING LIQUOR TO ABORIGINES—1907.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
	1907.			1907.	
Cairns	18 January ...	Ah Fat	Ayr	9 September	A. McAllister
Mossman	24 June	Joe (Malay)	Brandon	27 December	James Mitchell
Coolgarra	31 July	Reg. Trooby	Mackay	11 January ...	— Davis
Coolgarra	31 July	H. T. Wals	Mackay	17 January ...	Edward Corcoran
Chillagoe	12 August ...	Sydney Thorpe	Mackay	5 February ...	Thos. Ottaway
Chillagoe	7 September	Henry J. Harvey	Mackay	13 February ...	John Ryan
Chillagoe	31 October ...	John Christensen	Mackay	1 April	Jong Charlie
Chillagoe	5 November	John Wilson	Maryborough ...	18 January ...	Alfred Crocker
Cooktown	7 November	Florrie Nelson	Kingaroy	3 July	John Taylor
Conn's Crossing ...	24 September	George Hall	Blackall	14 February ...	R. A. Smith
Conn's Crossing ...	24 September	John Gardener	Hughenden	11 December	John Frost
Cloncurry	8 June	Richd. Delmar	Taroom	2 February ...	James Richardson
Cloncurry	6 November	John Lushman	Charleville... ..	30 January ...	Wm. Aldridge
Ayr	22 April	Sam Madras	Charleville	20 March	Robert Logan
Ayr	22 July	Chas. Bustain	Charleville	19 October ...	Jack Hunter
Ayr	15 August ...	Fred. Huffee	Charleville	27 December	Wm. Walsh

CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

For the old aborigine little can be done beyond relieving him in pressing necessity, finding him suitable employment, and watching his interests. But the needs of the children and young women especially call for much earnest attention on the part of our officers. On the teaching and training they obtain in early life depends a great deal of the after-success of the growing boys and girls. On the settlement, mission reserves, and islands of Torres Strait, schools for the aboriginal and half-caste children are established, where they receive training calculated to be of use to them in after life. As a rule, the teachers report favourably of their intelligence, industry, and cleanliness. To these mission stations and settlements young neglected children found in camps, &c., are sent, and, in every case, the result has been most satisfactory. The children have improved in appearance and manners, and would often do credit to any large *white* institution.

Alice Laurie, a half-caste, was removed from Winton and placed in the Orphanage at Townsville.

Jessie Smith and two half-caste children, left destitute in Thursday Island by her husband, who died there, was forwarded to Mapoon Mission.

Leslie Mundabill, a boy imprisoned for illegally using a horse, was sent to the hospital for treatment, thence to Barambah, and ultimately to employment.

Minnie, an aboriginal girl, absconded from service at Lucinda Point. Her mistress would not take her back, and she was sent to Ingham, and placed in good service there.

Lena, an aboriginal, was removed on her release from Stewart's Creek Prison to Yarrabah Mission, to prevent her continuing her former immoral life.

Ellenor, a half-caste, was removed, on Minister's order, from Bowen to Barambah, for frequenting Chinamen's dens and living in harmful surroundings.

Nellie Spies, an incorrigible, from Charleville to Barambah.

Clara Huggins, an aboriginal, and three half-caste children, were recommended for removal to Barambah from Mungindi, but cleared into New South Wales.

Bismarck and Percy, twelve and nine years respectively, were ordered to be removed from Wombelbank Station and sent to school at Barambah, but absconded into the bush, and cannot be found.

Daisy (half-caste), Rosy, Maudie, and Clara (aborigines), removed from undesirable surroundings at Hughenden to Barambah, for their own benefit.

Hilda McAlister, aborigine, from Townsville Gaol to Barambah.

Biddy Cameron and three half-caste children, Herbert, Kelly, and William, were removed from Rockhampton district to Barambah.

Lily, a young half-caste girl, removed from undesirable surroundings at Normanton, and sent to service from Barambah.

Jack, Jancy, and Willy Scraggs, half-caste children, whose mother, an aboriginal, had died, were removed from Roma to Barambah, and sent to school.

For the boys, employment on farms and stations can be readily found when finished school, and for the girls openings are always waiting in domestic service. And here, one of the greatest cares of the Department begins. Unfortunately, there are, in every town, a number of young profligates who always regard a coloured girl as common prey for immorality, and, therefore, very strict, and, to the girls, irksome rules have to be enforced in hiring these girls out to domestic service. Occasionally it occurs that a girl falls into trouble, but here the Department appears upon the scene, and, if possible, makes the cause of the mischief provide for the support of the result. Where these girls and any aboriginal women desire to marry men, even of other nationalities, who, in the opinion of the Protector, are respectable and able to keep them in comfort, no objection is raised, as it is usually found that, if permission is refused, they will probably live with them in immorality. But it is found, on comparing statistics, that the percentage of immorality among aborigines is considerably lower than among their white brethren, and, though argued by many, that allowing these girls to engage in domestic service would only increase this percentage, isolating them from contact with the right class of white people has not proved any more beneficial.

The following permissions to marry under section 9 of the Aboriginal Protection Act of 1901 were granted during the year:—

TABLE No. 8.—MIXED MARRIAGES.

Nay, a Murray Island woman, to a South Sea Islander. Thursday Island.
 Nellie, a native of Port Douglas, to a Pacific Islander. Cairns.
 Lena Solomon, a half-caste, to a Cingalese. Cairns.
 Bella, an aboriginal, to a Pacific Islander. Nelson, Cairns.
 Sarah Purcell, a half-caste, to a white man. Croydon.
 Maggie, an aboriginal, to a white man. Georgetown (1).
 Maggie, an aboriginal, to a white man. Georgetown (2).
 Biddy Milwah, an aboriginal, to a native of Malayta Island. Cairns.
 Barney, a femal aboriginal, to a native of Malayta Island. Cairns.
 Polly, an aboriginal, to a native of Singapore. Cairns.
 Maggie, an aboriginal, to a native of Mulgrave district. Cairns.
 Nellie, an aboriginal, to a Pacific Islander. Bowen.
 Susannah McCauley, to a white man. Hebel, Roma.
 Dolly Griffith, a half-caste, to a quadroon. Brisbane.
 Ellen Fitzpatrick, a half-caste, to a European. Charleville.

HEALTH.

The health of the natives generally has been good. Along the coasts of the Cape York Peninsula and in the Gulf of Carpentaria venereal disease is prevalent, owing to the visits of recruiting boats, carrying a low class of alien fishermen, and the practice of immorality. The missionaries stationed on those coasts give much commendable labour and attention to the relief and eradication of this vile disease, and it is expected that the establishment of the settlement at Lloyd Bay to place the recruiting entirely under Government control will do much towards attaining this end.

The Protector at Thursday Island says: "I regret to say a number of the natives of the mainland are afflicted with venereal disease. There are a number of cases of this nature. The native is recruited from the mainland, works for a short time on the boat, is brought ashore, and enters the hospital, in a short time is discharged as incurable, and sent back to the mainland. In what manner their existence is continued I do not know, and I am afraid a number of them but suffer and suffer till death takes them."

Odd cases of this loathsome disease appear in the Southern centres, but are promptly treated in isolation tents at the local hospitals. But the majority of the Protectors report an almost extraordinary freedom from sickness and disease. The officers at Coen, Normanton, Croydon, Boulia, Betoota, Rockhampton, Roma, and Toowoomba give a most encouraging report, and attribute this improvement to the prohibition of opium in most cases. Such few cases of sickness as occurred were treated at the local hospitals with the usual success.

Malarial fever was rather prevalent in the Burketown district, proving fatal to many of the old and feeble. As a rule, although the majority of hospitals object to the admission of the aborigines, satisfactory arrangements were made when necessity arose, and the natives were successfully treated. Among the wilder tribes, the missionaries experienced some difficulty in preventing the friends of the fever patients from treating them by their own drastic measures for reducing temperature—*i.e.*, dipping into ice-cold water, or plastering with wet clay. But, wherever the officers of the Department or the missions are stationed, the native soon gets to look to them for relief in sickness and distress with confidence and trust.

A tendency was noticeable on the part of a few employers, when an aborigine fell sick, to shirk the responsibility entailed upon them by the terms of the agreement, and send their boys or girls to the Department for treatment.

CRIME.

Crime of a serious nature has not been very prevalent among the aborigines during the year. The employers, as a rule, speak very well of the behaviour of the native servants, and when kept apart from drink, the aborigine is generally inoffensive. A few of the incorrigible type had to be removed from their districts to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, but, in some of these cases, the fault lay with a low class of white sporting men, who exploited these poor creatures for money-making purposes, and introduced them to drink and vice. Every effort was made where cases of this kind arose to remove the native to healthier surroundings.

In a few of the tropical centres, too, some trouble is caused by a few of the old fellows, who are too cunning and lazy to work, trading the gins in prostitution to the alien and larrikin element for rum and tobacco; but, thanks, to the vigilance of the police officers, such cases, when discovered, are promptly settled by removing the gins and their lords to the reserves, under Minister's order.

Following is a list of crimes by aborigines dealt with at the different centres:—

TABLE No. 9.

Creating Disturbance.—Thursday Island, 1; Cloncurry, 1; Townsville, 2; Mackay, 1; Maryborough, 1.

Resisting Arrest.—Cloncurry, 1.

Drunkness.—Thursday Island, 1; Cooktown, 7; Charters Towers, 7; Ingham, 1; Cloncurry, 14; Boulia, 2; Townsville, 24; Mackay, 7; Maryborough, 16; Normanton, 3; Longreach, 5; Hughenden, 4; Roma, 3; Charleville, 3; Brisbane, 4; Rockhampton, 5.

Murder.—Cooktown, 4; Charters Towers, 4; Thursday Island, 2; Normanton, 2; Hughenden, 1; Coen, 1; Burketown, 2.

Deserting Hired Service.—Cooktown, 8; Boulia, 1; Lammermoor, 3.

Stealing.—Cooktown, 1; Charters Towers, 4; Boulia, 1; Townsville, 1; Mackay, 4; Maryborough, 1; Normanton, 1; Roma, 4; Charleville, 1; Rockhampton, 2; Coen, 1.

Assault.—Charters Towers, 1; Ingham, 3; Mackay, 1; Maryborough, 1; Toowoomba, 1; Longreach, 1; Roma, 2; Rockhampton, 1; Thursday Island, 3.

Obscene Language.—Charters Towers, 1; Cloncurry, 6; Boulia, 2; Mackay, 1; Toowoomba, 1; Longreach, 1; Roma, 2; Charleville, 1; Rockhampton, 2.

Rape.—Ingham, 1; Rockhampton, 1.

Breaking and Entering.—Cloncurry, 2.

Illegally on Premises.—Townsville, 1; Longreach, 1; Hughenden, 1; Rockhampton, 1.

Ill-treating a Horse.—Townsville, 1.

Illegally using a Horse.—Maryborough, 1.

Disobeying Orders.—Townsville, 1; Maryborough, 1; Brisbane, 2.

Disorderly Conduct.—Mackay, 1; Toowoomba, 1; Charleville, 1.

Lunacy.—Rockhampton, 1.

Vagrancy.—Toowoomba, 1.

The following natives also were removed, under the order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, to certain reserves, for the reasons given. In the majority of these cases it has been found to have a good effect upon their behaviour, becoming industrious and useful servants when allowed to go to employment:—

Sandy, from Brisbane to Barambah, for idleness and vagrancy.

Antonie, from Stewart's Creek to Barambah.

Billy Lillas, from Gympie to Yarrabah.

Nipper, South Australian native, returned to his own country.

Tip Toe, from Stewart's Creek Gaol to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement.

Jacky Lake, from Brisbane to Barambah, for drinking.

Echoe, from Croydon to Barambah, for threatening and annoying the residents.

Toby, Tiger, and George, from Burketown to Yarrabah, for causing trouble and inciting the other blacks to depredations.

Paddy, *alias* Jimmy Butler, from South Townsville to Barambah, for being a serious danger to females.

Tommy Patterson and Monkey, suspected murderers, removed from Coen district to Barambah, at request of Police Department.

Tommy Lake, for being a danger to both black and white residents of Taroom, was, at the expiration of a period of imprisonment, sent to Barambah.

Jimmy Garvey and Warry, suspected murderers, removed from Coen to Barambah, at request of Police Department.

Oscar, for attempted rape and being unlawfully on premises, was imprisoned, and afterwards sent to Barambah.

Jimmy was removed from South Townsville to Barambah.

Ninety-eight aboriginals were removed from Normanton township for continually loitering about the hotel yards and Chinese quarters, and allowed to form a camp in the old Native Police Paddock. They were provided with hunting and fishing material, and a flat-bottomed boat, and, with the assistance of the money earned by casual labour, cutting firewood, &c., eke out a fairly comfortable existence.

Bumblefoot and Mungowly, for suspected murder of an aborigine named Kilpatrick, at the Mitchell River, were arrested, tried, and acquitted, but afterwards sent to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement.

Jacky Wilson, for proving troublesome, was removed from Minnie Downs Station to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement.

Two brothers, named Morgan, aboriginals, were removed from Ipswich for being incorrigibles and in undesirable surroundings, and sent to Yarrabah Aboriginal Mission.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

It may be interesting to here delineate the system of self-government obtaining on the islands of Torres Strait as instituted by the late Hon. John Douglas, C.M.G.

The governing body consists of the native chief or "mamoose," assisted and advised by the councillors or elders of the village, with a staff of native police to uphold his authority and to keep order among the inhabitants or visitors.

The European school teacher acts as clerk and treasurer of the native court, assisting with suggestion or advice when requested, but otherwise has no authority to interfere in the internal management of affairs.

The duties would be as follow:—

The mamoose acts as a police magistrate and governor, with power to deal summarily with offences and breaches of local regulations, and is directly responsible for the behaviour and cleanliness of his village to the Government Resident and Police Magistrate at Thursday Island. He may inflict punishment by fine or imprisonment upon minor offences, but misdemeanours and serious offences must be reserved for the bench at Thursday Island. The councillors attend at courthouse to assist the mamoose with advice, and, in order of seniority, may act on his behalf during his absence. They also meet to confer with the mamoose monthly, upon any questions concerning the conduct of affairs.

The native island police, under a native sergeant, are responsible to the mamoose for the good behaviour of the inhabitants, &c., and may arrest and lock up offenders till the next meeting of court. They have also to inspect and see that each householder keeps his premises and grounds clean, and that the portion of the public road adjacent to his residence is kept in good repair and order; also that the public properties (coconut-trees, fish-traps, &c.), and buildings (court-house, lock-up, school-house, &c.) are not damaged or destroyed.

The European teacher resident upon the island acts as clerk of the court and registrar of births, marriages, and deaths, keeping all books and records, and also as treasurer, keeping an account and

taking charge of all collections from fines, taxes upon dogs, &c., the mamoose having authority to expend all such collections upon public improvements, repairs, &c.

The island schools are, in most cases, in charge of European teachers, paid by and responsible to the Chief Protector of Aborigines, and under the inspection of the local Protector at Thursday Island, through whom the teacher forwards periodical reports, returns, and requisitions to the head office.

He should teach the children the elements of the three R's, and, if married, instruction, if possible, should be given to the boys in agriculture and handicraft, and to the girls in cooking, laundry, sewing, and ordinary domestic duties.

He also acts as the local medico, and reports all cases of infectious diseases and improper attention to the mamoose, treating in simple remedies from a medicine chest, but recommending serious cases to the hospital at Thursday Island for treatment.

The island fishing boats are the property of the tribe, and used for the general benefit. The mamoose is nominally in charge as representative of the village, and is responsible to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the proper care of the vessel and the disposal of the produce earned, through the Protector at Thursday Island, and the equal distribution of the nett proceeds. The Protector at Thursday Island takes charge of all such produce, sells it by public auction or tender, devoting 50 per cent. of the money to the payment of interest and redemption, another smaller percentage to repairs, renewals, purchases, &c., and the remainder is either handed to the mamoose or his agent, or expended by the Protector for the general benefit.

The aboriginal schools in Torres Strait have apparently been making good progress, and the teachers generally report very favourably of the intelligence and behaviour of their pupils. The teachers of these schools have a trying time of it, and much to discourage them. Shut away for months at a time from civilisation and congenial companionship, with no break in the monotony of their existence but the arrival of the mail in a passing boat, the excitement of the capture of a dugong, or a "cobba-cobba" (native song and dance), yet they labour on patiently, often without the satisfaction of witnessing the results of their years of work. The attendance of the children is very often irregular, sickness, occasionally, and gatherings of the natives on other islands, often causing a break in the attendance of the children, which tends to unsettle them for application to their class work. Then, the boys and girls leave school at an early age, and it is difficult for the teacher to keep in touch with them afterwards, and watch the growth or witness the withering and dying of the seed of knowledge planted by him.

The teacher at Murray Island, John S. Bruce, in his annual report to the Government Resident, reports the total attendance for the year was—boys, 6,577; girls, 7,009; and the average attendance during 209 working days was—boys, 31.4; girls, 33.5.

Sickness was prevalent, and the death rate in excess of the birth rate, as follows:—Births, 11; deaths, 16.

Five marriages were contracted.

The mamoose and councillors have been very regular in their attendance, and energetic in carrying out improvements and repairs.

The native court met regularly, and 22 cases were heard and dealt with—viz., land disputes, 8; assaults, 6; creating disturbance, 3; harbouring girls, 2; recovery of goods, 1; breaches of local regulations, 2.

Twelve dogs were registered.

The food supply has been ample. All the crops of yam and kumela suffered somewhat from want of rain.

Of the fishing boats belonging to the tribes, not much can be said of the energy in working the vessels by the natives, for now the vessels are free of debt some of the incentive for work has gone. The lugger "William," belonging to the Komet tribe, sank in Darnley Harbour last August, but has been lifted up and put on the reef.

The teacher at Mabuiag, Andrew S. Cairns, in his report, says, "The school was open 232 days, and there was a total attendance of 7,530 boys and 9,725 girls, the daily average attendance being—boys, 32.4; girls, 42. Agriculture, needlework, cookery, laundry work formed part of their education, and the children took great interest in it, the scarcity of suitable tools being the only drawback. Twenty papa rubber-trees (a present from the Papuan Industries Company), a large number of cocoanut-trees, and native fruits and vegetables were planted.

Notwithstanding the general belief that the native child after leaving school soon forgets all he has learnt, Mr. Cairns stated that he has often found them willing and anxious to continue their education, and, to assist them in this matter, he has opened a night school for the young men, who attend twice a week when home from work.

The councillors and police have worked well and faithfully, and done much in extending and improving the village and dwelling-houses.

The food supply was sufficient for all needs until July, the year being a good one, and the crops of cocoanuts, kumalos, and native vegetables plentiful, but at the "May" meeting, held on the 25th July, the natives of Badu, Moa, Yam, Coconut, York, Three Sisters Islands attended and remained a few days, eating up all the garden produce, and causing some hardship later on.

The natives now own five good boats, and have worked well, keeping the island well supplied with dugong, turtle, and fish, although the catch of pearl-shell was only moderate.

Only five cases came before the native court, speaking well for the efforts of the native police to keep order.

The health of the people was good, and only one death occurred, the birth rate being 16.

The population now is 127 males and 127 females, not including 5 Pacific Islanders.

The teacher at Yam Island, Mrs. Ethel M. Zahel (since resigned), reports:—

"I find the children very obedient and under perfect control.

"They are particularly proficient in arithmetic and reading, and some of them are very good writers.

"During my time I taught the elder pupils money sums and bills of parcels; they learnt the sums very quickly.

"At the end of the year there were 20 children on the roll—11 boys and 9 girls. As will be seen by the quarterly return, the average attendance was good.

"The teacher's house is in good repair, except one of the stumps, which I have already reported to you.

"In September I forwarded native mats and baskets, &c., to be sent to the Women's Exhibition, as requested by the Department.

"I regret having to resign my appointment. I like the natives, both adults and children, and during my stay was treated with the greatest kindness by them all."

Barambah Aboriginal Settlement (via Murgon).—The Aboriginal Settlement at Barambah is progressing most satisfactorily, and I am pleased to say has now become practically self-supporting, as foreshadowed in my report for 1906. Numbers of boys are daily sent away from the settlement to employment, whilst, of course, many return, but only to again be off to further employment. Numerous letters from employers have reached the Superintendent speaking of the boys as being willing, well-behaved, and obedient; in fact, the demand for natives (both male and female) is far in excess of the supply, and, as a natural consequence, a better wage is offered and procured. The Superintendent of Barambah Aboriginal Settlement reports that the average attendance during the year was 217 (107 males and 110 females).

"An epidemic of influenza gave nearly everyone on the reserve, including the officials, a very severe shaking, and claimed a few victims; but, with the advice and assistance so kindly and readily given by Dr. Thos. Bancroft, and the institution of a medicine chest, most common sicknesses and ailments are treated on the settlement, with good results; but the necessity for a regular inspection by a visiting medical officer is much felt. Serious cases are sent to the Maryborough Hospital for treatment, and, under the care of Dr. Le Garde and his staff, have, where the disease has not been too far advanced, been attended with successful results.

"The attendance at the school has been good, and much praise is due to the teacher, Miss Kennett, for the progress made by the children in their lessons, particularly the sewing done by the girls. The behaviour has been good, and the general appearance of the scholars neat and clean.

"Every able-bodied inmate drawing rations must do a share of improvement work and necessary repairs. Several buildings have been erected, and about 25 acres are under cultivation with maize, potatoes, lucerne, oats, vegetables, and fruit. An experiment was made with an acre of cotton, but, owing to unfavourable weather, the results were only medium.

"The services of the boys are in great request for scrub-felling, clearing, farm and station work, shepherding, shearing, fencing, and dairying, and, as a rule, the employers speak well of their behaviour and industry. Numbers are hired to the Police Department as trackers, and in this class of work are unrivalled.

"The wages range from 1s. 6d. per week, with clothes and rations, &c., in the case of boys, to £1 a week and rations for men, and in a few particular cases as high as 4s. and 5s. a day.

"A new plough, corn-sheller, saddles, and blacksmith's tools have been added to the stock of implements, and have proved of great service.

"The live stock at the end of the year comprised 180 cattle, 10 horses, and 78 goats. The fat cattle are now being killed to provide the natives with meat occasionally, thereby considerably reducing the meat provision expenses. It is one of our objects to teach the native thrift, providence, and self-help, and, to that end, all in employment contribute a small percentage of their wages to the up-keep of the settlement. Not including the salaries of officials, the cost of maintenance for the year amounted to £863 0s. 6d., and the revenue from natives' contributions, and proceeds of sale of produce, over and above the requirements of consumption, amounted to £720 18s. 4d.—a very satisfactory position of affairs.

"Sums of 1s. a week and upwards are also deducted from the boys' wages, and remitted by the employer to the Superintendent, to be deposited to their banking accounts, and, although somewhat averse to that arrangement at first, the natives now begin to appreciate the value of having an account to draw upon in holiday times or pressing necessity.

"Amidst all this, the recreation of the aboriginal was not forgotten, and, at Christmas time a round of pleasures were arranged. Picnics for the children, sports and dances for the adults, and a good Christmas dinner were provided; an extra supply of rations was issued, including a few luxuries, and a bullock killed for the occasion. The genuine delight and whole-hearted enjoyment of the festivities by young and old was sufficient testimony to the pleasure afforded."

It is only fair to add that a great deal of the progress made during the preceding year is due to the energy and zeal of the Superintendent and staff, and the real interest in the welfare of the settlement and its inmates evinced by them.

Mission Reserves, Reformatories, Schools, Homes.—There are in all eight areas of land reserved for the use of the aborigines, of which one—Barambah, in the Kilkivan district—is a settlement under the full control of this Department. The remaining seven are controlled by representatives of different religious organisations, and are assisted by subsidy and allowance from the Government. On each reserve an industrial school is kept, and the salary of the teacher paid by the Government. To these institutions neglected aboriginal children are either committed or sent for their better care and training, as they are found by or reported to the officers of the Department.

The following tables in their order show the average monthly attendance of natives (distinguishing between permanent and casual residents), the quarterly attendance of children at the Aboriginal Reserve schools, and the quarterly attendance of children at the Torres Strait island schools:—

TABLE 10.—AVERAGE MONTHLY NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS ON MISSION RESERVES, &c.

	YARRABAH (<i>Vid Cairns</i>).			MAPOON (<i>Batavia River</i>).			WEIPA (<i>Embley River</i>).			CAPE BEDFORD (<i>Vid Cooktown</i>).			DREIBING CREEK (<i>Vid Ipswich</i>).			BARAMBAH (<i>Vid Murgon</i>).			AURUKUN (<i>Archer River</i>).‡			TRUBANAMAN (<i>Mitchell River</i>).		
	£450.			£250.			£120.			£250.			£200.			£*			£150.			£150.		
907.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	325	...	325	89	16	105	†	†	†	102	30	132	113	...	113	230	15	245	...	...	..	...	...	...
February	322	...	322	81	15	96	40	14	54	102	30	132	111	...	111	214	...	214	...	...	...	...	...	...
March	322	...	322	80	11	91	40	13	53	102	30	132	110	...	110	223	3	226	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	321	...	321	81	15	96	40	14	54	102	30	132	107	...	107	222	...	222	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	320	...	320	83	15	98	54	23	77	102	30	132	107	...	107	218	...	218	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	320	...	320	83	15	98	52	18	70	102	30	132	108	...	108	200	...	200	..	...	...	...	...	...
July	319	...	319	81	13	94	65	23	88	104	30	134	106	...	106	201	...	201	...	...	...	...	...	...
August	322	...	322	83	15	98	48	20	68	104	30	134	100	...	100	198	...	198	...	...	...	...	...	...
September	320	...	320	82	13	95	49	15	66	104	30	134	100	...	100	180	...	180	...	...	...	...	...	...
October	319	...	319	88	17	105	50	11	61	118	...	118	99	...	99	180	...	180	...	...	...	...	...	...
November	327	...	327	89	23	125	49	30	79	118	...	118	96	...	96	232	...	232	...	...	...	...	...	...
December	326	...	326	90	16	106	50	36	86	118	...	118	94	4	98	246	10	256	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Entire cost provided by Department.

† Not obtainable.

‡ Not obtainable. Superintendent absent.

TABLE 11.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES, &C., MAINLAND)—1907.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.						No. of School Days.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.			Girls.				Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Yarrabah. £70.	31 Mar.	70	63	133	17	17	18*	21	14	11†	37	2,195	2,006	56	54
	30 Jun.	69	65	134	18	17	16*	23	14	9†	41	2,416	2,177	58	53
	30 Sep.	64	58	122	18	13	19*	25	10	9†	45	2,583	2,049	55	45
	31 Dec.	64	60	124	17	12	30*	24	10	9†	37	1,767	1,740	48	47
Mapoon. £100.	31 Mar.	24	50	74	18	4	2	18	17	15	47	940	2,147	20	45
	30 Jun.	30	51	81	24	5	1	20	16	15	52	1,110	2,369	21	46
	30 Sep.	32	56	88	21	7	4	25	16	15	52	1,295	2,292	24	44
	31 Dec.	31	51	82	20	7	4	20	16	15	47	1,212	2,277	25	48
Cape Bedford. £100.	31 Mar.	20	13	33	I. Div. 1. 5	2	I. Div. 2. 6‡	I. Div. 3. 5	4	I Div. 4. 4	37	708	481	19.1	13
	30 Jun.	16	13	29	" 14. 2	I. Div. II. 2	I. Div. 3. 4‡	5	8	...	60	933	780	15.5	13
	30 Sep.	16	13	29	" 14. 2	2	...	5	8	...	53	848	687	16	12.9
	31 Dec.	17	13	30	15	2	...	5	8	...	69	946	766	16	12.9
Deebing Creek. £52.	31 Mar.	12	21	33	12	...	...	14	5	2	48	431	730	8.9	15.2
	30 Jun.	10	15	25	10	...	...	11	4	...	59	490	774	13.1	8.3
	30 Sep.	12	16	28	12	...	...	12	4	...	57	406	757	7.1	13.2
	31 Dec.	14	17	31	13	1	...	10	3	4	54	529	757	9.7	14
Barambah. £52.	31 Mar.	26	44	70	22	4	...	28	10	6	48	1,025	1,979	21.17	41.11
	30 Jun.	26	48	74	16	9	1	16	17	15	63	1,376	2,804	21.33	44.32
	30 Sep.	21	43	64	14	6	1	16	16	11	43	734	1,711	17.3	39.34
	31 Dec.	25	41	66	17	6	2	16	15	10	53	949	2,090	17.48	39.33
Archer River. £100.	31 Mar.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 Jun.	21	10	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	126	77	10.5	6.5
	30 Sep.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	31 Dec.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Weipa. £90.	31 Mar.	26	34	60	Ia. 11	II. 7	Ic. 8	Ia. 17	II. 8	Ic. 9	47	620	1,462	13	31
	30 Jun.	36	35	71	" 9	" 7	" 20	" 17	" 8	" 10	51	858	1,629	17	32
	30 Sep.	41	35	76	" 7	" 6	" 28	" 17	" 8	" 10	49	751	1,593	15.4	32.4
	31 Dec.	35	33	68	" 6	" 6	" 23	" 14	" 8	" 11	43	754	1,252	17	29
Mitchell River. £100.	31 Mar.	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 Jun.	12	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	509	...	19	...
	30 Sep.	11	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	368	...	9.2	...
	31 Dec.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* March—Boys.—IV., 14; V., 4. † Girls.—IV., 14; V., 3.
 * June— " IV., 14; V., 4. † " IV., 14; V., 5.
 * Sept.— " IV., 3; V., 11. † " IV., 6; V., 9.
 * Dec.— " IV., 13; V., 2. † " IV., 14; V., 3.
 ‡ March—Boys.—IV., I. Div. 3, 7.
 § June— " IV., I. Div. 4, 6; V., II, 2.

TABLE 12.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (DEPARTMENTAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1907.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.								No. of School Days.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.				Girls.					Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	I.	II.	III.	IV.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Murray Island. £200.	31 Mar.	46	51	97	29	13	4	...	29	11	11	...	44	1,465	1,768	33.2	40.1
	30 Jun.	49	56	105	23	13	13	...	17	20	19	...	47	1,675	1,847	35.6	39.3
	30 Sep.	50	53	103	26	11	13	...	17	21	15	...	58	1,516	1,787	26.1	30.8
	31 Dec.	49	55	104	26	11	12	...	19	20	16	...	60	1,921	2,327	32.0	38.8
Darnley Island. £100.	31 Mar.	37	29	66	15	8	6	8	7	6	10	6	24	817	644	34.04	26.83
	30 Jun.	38	31	69	15	9	6	8	7	6	10	8	62	2,082	1,729	35.58	27.88
	30 Sep.	38	34	72	15	9	6	8	9	6	10	9	59	1,919	1,853	32.52	31.40
	31 Dec.	33	30	63	12	8	6	7	8	6	10	6	52	1,517	1,503	29.17	28.9
Yam Island. £96.	31 Mar.	14	10	24	1	5	5	3	3	1	3	3	44	581	404	13.20	9.18
	30 Jun.	14	11	25	1	5	5	3	3	2	2	4	49	645	470	13.16	9.59
	30 Sep.	11	9	20	1	5	2	3	2	2	3	2	62	657	494	10.59	7.97
	31 Dec.	11	9	20	1	4	3	3	3	1	3	2	51	524	429	10.27	8.41
Masbiag Island. £130.	31 Mar.	32	45	77	Ia 10, Ib 7	6	9	...	Ia 17, Ib 18	8	2	...	55	1,658	2,310	30.1	42.0
	30 Jun.	31	41	72	11	6	11	4	15	16	8	2	57	1,706	2,308	30.0	40.4
	30 Sep.	41	46	87	25	7	5	4	35	9	2	...	60	1,994	2,452	33.2	40.9
	31 Dec.	39	48	87	24	6	5	4	37	9	3	...	60	2,173	2,655	36.2	44.2
Badu Island. £84.	31 Mar.	26	27	53	I. & II., 15	...	9	2	I. & II., 12	...	16	5	48	1,186	1,232	24.5	25.6
	30 Jun.	26	28	54	" 16	...	8	2	" 15	...	8	5	47	1,142	1,209	24.3	25.7
	30 Sep.	26	27	53	" 17	...	8	1	" 15	...	7	5	58	1,432	1,509	24.7	26.0
	31 Dec.	17	17	34	...	I. & II., 10	6	1	" 7	...	5	5	5	85	85	17.0	17.0
Saibal Island. £84.	31 Mar.	26	23	49	I. 7	II. & III., 6	A. B. & C. 9	†4	4	II. & III. 5	A. B. C. 8	†6	42	986	927	28.20	22.3
	30 Jun.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 Sep.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	31 Dec.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

* No European teacher from 1st April. School carried on by native monitor Little Primer

The Torres Strait island schools are under the immediate supervision of the Department, and the teachers are appointed and paid through this office.

The various aboriginal mission stations report as follows:—

Yarrabah, via Cairns (Superintendent, Rev. E. R. Gribble).—The year has been one of great progress on all sides, in spite of the fact that the staff of Europeans has been considerably reduced in numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Woolrych have resigned, Nurse Thompson died in Sydney after a long illness early in the year, Miss Monaghan has entered the General Hospital, Brisbane, for a three-years' course of training, at the end of which she is to return to Yarrabah. Mr. Wriede, our accountant, left us about the middle of the year to enter into business elsewhere. Mr. Cole has been away on a three-months' holiday, and Mrs. Reeves has left this month for a lengthened sojourn in the South, as well for the benefit of her little daughter as herself. Mrs. E. R. Gribble and family have also left for Brisbane, where they will reside for some considerable time, owing to the continued ill-health of Mrs. Gribble.

"During the year £150 worth of home-grown food has been consumed, and over £80 raised by sales of cotton, fish, and fruit, so that the results of our efforts for this past year amount to about £250.

"**CULTIVATION.**—At Yarrabah the area under cotton has been increased to about 15 acres; land is now ready for the planting of 200 orange-trees as soon as they can be obtained. Rubber has been planted whenever possible. At the Reeves Creek Settlement 12 acres of good scrub land have been cleared, and, so far, 2,000 banana plants have been put in, but we need 3,000 more. Corn and pumpkins have also been planted. The old plantation at this settlement has been planted with cotton. From the other settlements good returns have been sent in, in the way of yams, bananas, pineapples, and sweet potatoes, and at each place Caravonica cotton has been planted. During the year 1½ ton of cotton has been exported, and 150 cases of oranges and pineapples sent to Brisbane, the latter realising £18.

"**STOCK.**—There has been a good increase in the number of our ponies. In the flock of Angora goats there has been an increase of 37.

"Five of the outside settlements and farms have been supplied with poultry from the centre, and shortly it is intended to form a duck farm on the banks of a running stream some 6 miles from Yarrabah.

"**FISHING.**—During the year the cutter "Hephzibah," of about 10 tons, was purchased, and a start made in the *bêche-de-mer* fishing on the Barrier Reef. The vessel was placed in charge of Bob Underwood, one of our younger men, who had had the care of the oil launch for some years. In these trips Bob and his crew have cleared the cost of the vessel, as well as supplied every man and big boy on the mission with a new singlet. The vessel worked along the Barrier as far south as Hinchinbrook Island, each trip lasting about two months. In 1908 it is intended to make a start supplying fresh fish to Cairns, and to use the "Hephzibah" in conjunction with the oil launch "Yarrabah."

"**MEDICAL INSPECTION.**—During the year we have been fortunate enough in having had a medical examination made of all the population in the reserve by Dr. O'Brien, of Cairns. The doctor has also been very kind in coming over when needed in urgent cases.

"During the year a trip to Port Douglas was made in the mission launch by a number of our young people. The mission brass band had been engaged to play during the local show upon the showground, and the Yarrabah singers gave a concert at Mossman. The trip was very successful, and the mission gained many friends by the outing.

"We have also to record the securing of thirteen prizes at the Cairns Show for sewing, fancy work, poultry, and fruits. One of our small girls secured the gold medal against all comers for best sampler. In the non-competitive section the mission had exhibits of school work, cotton, rubber, &c. The mission band played upon the grounds during the first day of the show.

"We have also to record a severe epidemic of measles during the year. No less than 186 patients passed through the mission hospital.

"During the year there have been 10 marriages, 7 births, and 8 deaths.

"The work of the year has been very severely felt by the members of the small staff, but early in January, 1908, we hope to have the pleasure of welcoming Mr. and Mrs. Dell, of Brisbane, and shortly afterwards the Rev. G. W. Morrison, at present Rector of Milton, Brisbane. The school has been conducted by Mrs. Reeves, assisted by Miss Gribble and a staff of eight aboriginal teachers. Of work there is abundance on all sides, and we could well find employment for fifty more men.

"During the cotton season we have found the children useful, and they took great delight in the picking of the cotton, and also in keeping the plants clean of insect pests.

"One section of the cotton plantation is cared for entirely by the senior girls, who are divided into parties, one party working in the cotton field while the other is at household duties, and change work every day.

"Of new arrivals there have been eight, seven of whom came through the police, for various reasons; of these, four absconded almost immediately after arrival. These all claimed to having their wives left behind, and, in my opinion, if their women were sent with such people they would far more readily settle down in their new quarters.

"The general conduct has been excellent, and we still boast of having neither lock-up nor police. Our native court now meets monthly instead of weekly. There are five separate farms and five village settlements upon the reserve, and another farm and another settlement are in contemplation. The work in hand includes a new jetty, two paddocks, stables for six horses, a cocoanut plantation across the bay, and additions to the boys' home. Two strong bridges over the tidal streams have been built for vehicle traffic, and a road made across the reserve for 8 miles.

Trubananman, Mitchell River (H. Matthews, Superintendent; T. A. Williams, Acting Superintendent).—"I have to report satisfactory improvements and progress during the year.

"About half a mile N.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. from the mission settlement, on the banks of the Trubanaman Lagoon, a heavy two-railed fence has been put up, enclosing 5 acres of ground suitable for garden. Kumaras (sweet potatoes) and yams are growing in abundance; also bananas, pineapples, oranges, and mangoes.

"There is a large fence, enclosing 11 acres and the settlement, with two double swinging gates made of mangrove wood, which certainly would do credit to more civilised parts. An iron store on piles, with three windows, has been put up; also a very large thatched shed, with work benches, forge, bellows, and anvil, also a corn-crushing machine. A dray has been built on the premises, except the wheels, which were sent, also a galvanised tank made and fitted here during the year.

"This tank is a great boon, insuring pure water, a very great necessity in tropical climates. Often the lagoon water becomes putrid, and the stench is terrible. Apart from this, it is quite impossible to prevent natives from bathing and washing clothes in drinking water other than what is in a tank. Wells have also been sunk. Though nearly 10 miles from the coast, and quite close to the fresh-water lagoon, the water is quite salt, yet, on the coast, where a well has been sunk in the land, the water there is excellent.

"Adjoining the settlement fence the bush has been cleared, and another 30 acres fenced in. Mr. De Le Parelle says: 'The clearing and grubbing up was done by the natives, though the tools suffered.' This certainly is very creditable, considering they are quite unaccustomed to the hard work of the pick and the hoe.

"A large quantity of ploughing—about 8 acres—was done by the natives, and Indian maize planted as an experiment, in order to meet the increasing demand for food, and to endeavour to make the mission, if possible, self-supporting.

"The result is beyond expectation; as an example of what the ground will produce I am forwarding you a sample cob.

"On the coast a number of cocoanuts are planted, with a view that some time in the future a copra industry may be opened up.

"EDUCATIONAL.—The young people have made very good progress in both reading and writing; a few write exceedingly well on slates; in reading they have mastered the "Little Primer." The adults are very slow, and do not take kindly to school, or make any effort to learn; but there are exceptions. One boy mastered the alphabet at one sitting, and remembers it, too. Teaching them arithmetic is hopeless; for instance, one boy was asked, 'If there are a hundred horses, and one is killed, how many are there left?' After a lot of consideration, the answer was, 'One hundred and ninety-nine.'

"CONDUCT.—Looking through the mission diary I find conduct to be very good, on the whole. There have been one or two instances when boys have been deprived of a day's tobacco for wilful laziness and sometimes fighting. A few have left dissatisfied, but returned again of their own free will. Reports have reached me from the cattle stations that cattle have been speared this wet season, but on inquiry I found them to be conflicting. One serious blot is on the reserve's record—viz., the murder of Kilpatrick, an aboriginal youth, by nomadic tribes visiting the settlement. Reported here 9-5-07.

"HEALTH.—Unfortunately, fever has been severe, malignant in its attack, resulting in the death of Rhoda, a baptized married aboriginal woman, late of Yarrabah. The great mortality amongst the bush people, I am positively sure, is due to their drastic measures to abate the raging heat of fever. I caught them bathing one of my fever patients in cold water in order to bring his temperature down, which was up to 105°2! Later, they plastered the throat, thorax, and abdomen in cold clay, fresh from the lagoon, and exposed him to a bitter cold night draught, while in a high state of perspiration. The result was almost fatal; the night through he was gasping for breath, as a person *in extremis*, in delirium, with hæmorrhage from nose and mouth.

"There has been one case of "angina pectoris." I found trinitrine most beneficial, speedily giving relief. Condyloma and granaloma is predominant amongst the bush tribes. A few suffering from specific diseases come in occasionally for treatment; but, when they camp near us, we go out to them; some are cured, others are chronic and hopeless.

"The neighbouring station managers have been exceedingly kind and helpful. Mr. Coombi (South Sea Islander), of Gumhole, lent three milch cows and a bull in order to supply the settlement with milk. The sick have reaped a great benefit: their speedy convalescence is due to his kindly loan.

"PHYSIQUE.—Many of the natives are great strapping fellows, surprisingly tall, and of distinct Malay origin. Many are well over 6 feet. One, lately deceased, a native of the Nassau district, stood 7 feet 2 inches, and built in proportion. Like most savages, they are polygamists, but are not cannibals, as some suppose. Their staying power of continuance is remarkable; women, and even children, will go for a long tramp of many hours, sometimes days with nothing to eat, only a little water to drink.

"SUMMARY.—Taking a retrospect from the time we first came on the reserve, there is a marked improvement. The fear of the white man is gone; the frightened look, so often seen in the eyes of wounded animals and birds, is no longer to be seen in the eyes of children here, and, instead of shrinking away when approached, they come boldly up, beaming with smiles—evidence of contentment and happiness."

Mapoon, Batavia River (Superintendent, Rev. Nicholas Hey).—"I have the honour to forward you my annual report, showing the results of a year's missionary operations for the year ending 31st December, 1907.

"The total number of aborigines living upon the Mapoon Reserve is 425, all of whom are under my supervision, and have benefited by the mission.

"Only 180, however, can be called *bona fide* residents, including 65 children, who are housed in separate homes, under suitable supervision.

"The general behaviour of the natives has been all that could be desired, but the presence of a number of recruiting boats, which succeeded, at the beginning of the year, in enticing 21 Mapoon natives away, have been the cause of much trouble.

"The health of all the mission inmates has been good. A very great contrast is observable between those who have gone through the mission routine and those who were not so fortunate. The former are far healthier, and comparatively free from disease, with the result that they are becoming more prolific.

"Six deaths and three births took place on the station during the year, which, in spite of the improved condition in the life of the aborigines, is a clear indication of the disappearance of the race.

"The health of the inmates of the dormitories, 21 of whom are reformatory children, has been excellent. Three of the half-caste girls have been hired out to service to Thursday Island employers.

"The average daily school attendance has been 68. The general attention, good conduct, intelligence, and obedience of the scholars bear witness to the untiring energy and tact of the teachers.

"All the buildings connected with the Mapoon Settlement (45) have been kept in good repair, and the fences and paddocks have been renewed.

"The reserve is stocked with 85 head of cattle, 7 horses, and a number of goats and pigs, all the work being done by the natives under my supervision, assisted part of the time by a European.

"The cocconut plantation has produced a good return, and the value of same is increasing every year.

"Owing to the sandy soil at Mapoon, cultivation will always remain a secondary matter; therefore, we had to turn our attention more to the sea. Two small cutters and six large canoes have been at work during the fine weather, in the neighbourhood of Mapoon only, and the products in fish, turtle, and béche-de-mer yielded a fair income, and gave congenial employment to a number of men.

"Nowmanya, an outstation for cultivation, 7 miles south of Mapoon, has been vigorously pushed on. Twelve acres have been cleared, and part of it is already planted with cassava. As soon as we get sufficient rain, all the remainder will be planted with corn, beans, potatoes, and other tropical fruits.

"We have now made arrangements that all aborigines who wish to work have an opportunity to do so, and are provided for. This is far better than to separate families by sending the male members for twelve months to work on boats, leaving their wives and children unprotected and unprovided for at home; and, when they eventually return with their wages—mostly in eatables—it lasts only for a few days.

"I may also mention that, both on the Mapoon and Weipa Reserve, there are cases of suspected leprosy among the natives, and syphilis is very common among the adults. I do not think that the Government realises the grave responsibility incurred in advocating the recruiting of natives, bringing them into contact with Europeans without strict medical inspection in every instance."

Mapoon Reformatory and Industrial Home.—"The number of inmates at present residing in the home is 18—6 boys and 12 girls.

"Two girls were hired out to service during the year whose times of sentence were not expired. A third one, whose time was expired, but who, being only eleven years of age, has been drafted to the other inmates of the mission.

"Little trouble has been experienced in the management of the inmates. They require firm but kind treatment in guiding them.

"A dengue epidemic visited the home during May and June, and only one child escaped. There have been no fatal cases, although it left most of them in a very weak condition.

"All the inmates regularly attended the mission school, both morning and afternoon, and fair progress has been made.

"The boys receive further instruction after the school hours in the use tools, training of horses, dairying, and gardening, according to their taste and strength.

"The girls qualified themselves in dressmaking, cooking, gardening, and household work.

"There is no doubt that continual employment assures the best discipline and behaviour.

"Social habits and mutual help and improvement amongst themselves have been cultivated, and all have learnt to give and take.

"Athletic sports and games of many kinds are greatly enjoyed, and, in consequence, the physical development of all the inmates is excellent.

"The future of those unfortunate children is still a problem only partly solved.

"In conclusion, I desire to thank you on behalf of those under my care for the allowance of 2s. 6d. per week for each inmate, which has been of the greatest use to us, as it helped to supplement the foodstuffs we have raised ourselves."

Weipa, Embley River (Superintendent, Rev. E. Brown).—"In our dealings with the blacks we are always aware of our great duty—the lifting up of the black race to a higher standard of life; I may say, from the animal life to the human life. Keeping this always in view, the school, as well as the manual labour, assist in the religious teaching and give us more control over their daily lives.

"The school has been kept almost without interruptions. These were caused only by the arrival of a boat, and proved to be a nice break in the everyday course of duty, after which the lessons were learned again with fresh joy. The change of teachers appeared to be no difficulty to the children, though it takes some time before each individual is thoroughly known to the teacher. All the subjects have been taught, and the girls of the first class have assisted me in teaching the younger classes in turn.

"Though the station is built up, the MANUAL LABOUR will always continue. Repairing fills up most of our time.

"Among the improvements on the station is the renewed "Assistants' Home," a new "Girls' Dormitory," and a new "Bachelors' Home," the latter not having been completed. The village is enlarged by two houses, and mango-trees planted before and behind each house. We got the owners of the houses, of course, to plant the trees themselves.

"Several of the young men have prepared a patch of ground as garden, and planted over with cassava, sweet potatoes, pineapples, &c. The station garden was put under cultivation as before, and we trust it will give us a satisfactory harvest. Until now, the garden has given a good supply of food to the natives. Without this it would have been impossible to feed so many people here. The station has supplied the school children and a number of people with cassava and sweet potatoes, as well as a good quantity of fresh fruit. Milk and eggs have often been enjoyed by the school children. Besides that, our friendly neighbours at York Downs Cattle Station have frequently presented the children with beef.

"The BEHAVIOUR of the blacks here was not satisfactory at first after our arrival. They did not at all like their missionaries going away, and, therefore, got a little upset. Very soon, however, we got into smooth waters again, and the people were satisfied.

"Notwithstanding, there is a man at the station called John, who had been very troublesome the last six months with Mr. Brown, and continued his misbehaviour with us. At last he got dangerous to ourselves, wherefore I sent a petition to the Home Secretary some time ago, asking for John's removal from the reserve, as his influence is demoralising others. (This man has since been removed.—C. P. A.)

"The Christmas festival passed off without any disturbance; there was great joy among young and old. On Christmas Day, also, a bullock was killed, which had been given to them by Mr. L. Kennedy, of York Downs. There were over 200 persons present, and each individual received some gifts.

"During the past year three young couples got married, the wives having been girls from the dormitory. We count this a great success, as these girls were promised to old men, even from their babyhood, and it is not so easy for the missionary to break the old laws for the benefit of the whole nation, as the old men are very selfish, especially when they have to give up something.

"As far as my knowledge goes, the station has been almost free of sickness during the year. Wounds, however, in different places appeared and were attended to.

"The religious teaching and services have been kept as usual, knowing that the savage's mind has to be changed before he will change his life, and that only Divine power can thoroughly change the human being."

Aurukun, Archer River (Superintendent, Rev. A. Richter).—"The Superintendent of Weipa having left for a much-needed furlough, the supervision of this mission has been in the hands of the Rev. N. Hey, of Mapoon, although the Rev. A. Richter still attends to the clerical and financial part of the work.

"A married Samoan, Peter Bee, who had a European training, has been installed at Aurukun since 1st July, 1907, as manager, and he has discharged his duties in a most satisfactory manner. He is ably assisted by two well-trained married couples from Mapoon.

"Much valuable work has already been accomplished under Peter Bee's energetic management.

"A deep well, with good and permanent water, well timbered throughout, has been completed in October, and a girls' dormitory and a schoolroom are in the course of erection.

"Several acres of land have been cleared and put under cultivation, and other improvements tending to the welfare of the people effected.

"There has always been a large number of natives at or near the station, but few, so far, have permanently settled down.

"No trouble has been experienced in dealing with the natives, although there are constant petty quarrels among themselves, which are better left alone.

"Those natives residing at the station live in a large building, 80 feet long, divided into small sections, with only two entrances. This system, which is in use in New Guinea, had to be adopted on account of the Langie blacks, an inland tribe, who attempted several night attacks upon the local natives.

"It is to be regretted that no regular school work has been carried on, though the young boys and girls have occasionally received instruction in reading and writing.

"The practical instruction in carpentering, gardening, and fencing has been very apparent, and the natives happy and contented.

"The manager, Peter Bee, is very competent, and his treatment and dealing with the natives is quite original and unique. He served his time (five years) as engineer, spent two years in a shipbuilding yard in Sydney, and has perfected himself in the building trade.

"Not only have I visited the Aurukun Station and consulted the manager, but I have been in constant communication with him, and advised and directed the natives.

"The health of the natives has been good; but to keep a true record of births and deaths was impossible."

Cape Bedford, near Cooktown (Rev. G. H. Schwarz).—"The general and regular working of the station was very suddenly and effectively interrupted by the cyclone which swept over Cape Bedford on the 19th January, the violence of which was such that the station was practically a complete wreck after it had passed.

"I informed you of the fact at the time, and wish to make use of this opportunity of again thanking you, and through you the Home Secretary, for the liberal financial assistance granted to us for the purpose of helping towards the rebuilding of the station.

"In my letter to you about the matter, I stated that I thought to repair the damage done by the cyclone would cost us between £500 and £600. I find now, at the end of the year, that I have underestimated our losses, for it required the above sum for building purposes alone, although I only employed one labourer for seven weeks to help me to get the most perishable things under roof again.

"All work in connection with the building up of the station has been done by the aborigines themselves. Of course, all the timber, iron, &c., had to be bought, as there is no suitable bush timber available within any reasonable distance of the station.

"Besides the damage done to the station, as far as buildings are concerned, our losses in the plantations were very considerable indeed. On our cocconut plantation nearly every bearing tree was broken off, a loss which will be felt for many years.

"In our cultivation paddock we had about 4 acres of very good sweet potatoes, which would have helped towards the keep of our people for a long time, but the floods we had with the cyclone, and the heavy rains afterwards, converted our plantation into a veritable lake for some weeks, and, of course, there was hardly a potato left when the water went away. It required a great deal of work to get the ground dry enough to work on it and plant anything again. To a certain extent, I am glad to say, we succeeded.

"During the year we got some 20 tons of sweet potatoes, a few tons of bananas, and a very good crop of pineapples.

"We also planted about 2 acres of corn, but that turned out an absolute failure.

"For some time the aborigines have been employed ring-barking, on which we planted sisal hemp afterwards. About the eventual success of the latter industry I must say I have no very great hopes. I have been induced to start growing sisal hemp, chiefly on account of two statements repeatedly appearing in the papers, and made by men who seem to know all about sisal hemp growing—viz., sisal hemp will grow on *any* soil, and requires no fencing, as stock will not touch it. If these statements are correct, Cape Bedford must have the misfortune to be, in this case, the exception proving the rule, for I find it does *not* grow on any kind of soil, and our cattle *are* rather fond of it. However, we got about 8,000 plants growing, and intend to give it a fair trial.

"We planted about 500 coconuts during the year.

"The number of aborigines on the station during the last twelve months remained practically the same. No death or even serious sickness amongst the inmates of the station occurred. Five children were born.

"Since you thought it advisable to stop payment of special grant for outside aborigines coming to our station for relief, I admitted as 'permanents' those from amongst them who were least able to make their own living, chiefly old people. For, although I informed them of your decision and advice to go to their local Protector for relief, they would not go to Cooktown, because their tribe is not on friendly terms with the Cooktown tribes, and some of them have not even seen Cooktown before. It is impossible for me to keep them all (and this time of the year they do need relief).

"The school work has been carried on regularly, as usual, by Mrs. Schwarz.

"The Rev. Mr. Poland and Mrs. Poland have returned during the year from their trip to Germany and resumed work."

Deebing Creek, via Ipswich (Superintendent, Mr. Robert Morrison).—"The committee have to report that meetings were held regularly on the first Wednesday of each month, and of the executive officers as required in the intervals.

"At all these monthly meetings reports were read from the Superintendent, who was generally present to answer questions and receive instructions.

"The home was also visited on various occasions by the chairman, the treasurer and secretary, as well as other members of the committee, as arranged for at the monthly meetings.

"The conduct of the inmates has been fairly good during the year, and, with few exceptions, there has been no necessity to take severe measures with any of them, although two brothers, Morgan, had to be sent away from the home for misconduct, the committee believing no other course was open to them in the interests of the home and the young men themselves, whilst they were convinced that the white men under whose influence they were (for racing purposes), were more to blame than the boys themselves.

"The average number of people on the home this year has been much smaller than in former years, the average being 105. There have been several deaths (seven) and only one birth and one marriage.

"A goodly number of the young people, both boys and girls, have gone out to service, the boys through the Superintendent at the home, and the girls through Mrs. McKeown and the Brisbane home.

"The boys are doing well, and are in good situations. Those who are able have been kept in constant employment, either at the home or at contract work.

"There are many who are quite unable to do any work, as well as having little inclination for it if they had the power. In several of the contracts we have been rather unfortunate, the work proving on more than one occasion heavier than was anticipated, and the expenses of railway travelling to and fro made them anything but profitable, when, as in former years, one half of the contract money had to be paid to the workers.

"Towards the end of the year Mr. T. Ivins, who, with Mrs. Ivins, has been in charge for so many years, and has given the committee so much satisfaction, resigned, with the view of going on the land and making an opening for his family, which is now growing up. The committee were pleased to secure the services of Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, who were in charge of Barambah under the committee, and who continued there under the Government since Barambah was given up by this committee, their experience among the aborigines being a good pledge for the future of the home. Several new arrangements in the working of the home have been suggested by Mr. Morrison, especially in the employment of the workers, and have been adopted by the committee.

"It is also hoped that we may be able, now that the cotton mill is again started in Ipswich, to do something by way of cotton-growing, in which we may find useful employment for those who are not so strong, and of forming habits of industry in the young, even though it may yield little or no financial benefit for the working of the home.

"The agricultural land is being prepared for crops; unfortunately, the first crop this year yielded little more than green food for the stock, and the second was also lost. Ticks and tick fever have been the cause of much anxiety to us, as well as loss amongst the cattle. The work in the school under Miss Bain continues to give the fullest satisfaction to the committee. The removal of the older scholars has reduced the numbers, and, with only the young, what can be done with them is not so manifest to visitors, but the Government Inspector speaks in the same high terms of the work which is being done, with which the committee heartily agrees.

"The committee regrets that the balance-sheet does not look so satisfactory as in former years. The amount of money received from the Government has not been so large by £124 6s. 5d.; the expenditure has increased, which has given us a debit balance for the first time in our experience; but there are some payments to be made in hand for work done and under process, which, when turned into money, the committee is confident will more than meet all its debts.

"Tools and agricultural implements, many of which had to be replaced, are now in sufficient quantity to meet all requirements, and necessary furniture has been provided for the Superintendent's home.

	£	s.	d.
Balance from last year covering outstanding liabilities ...	58	2	10
From Government for home school ...	351	16	6
From other sources ...	99	17	3
Debit balance ...	104	4	6
	£614	1	1

EXPENDITURE.

Rations, &c., under contract Cribb and Foote ...	367	18	2
Butcher ...	65	7	6
Men's wages and sundries ...	102	15	5
Salaries ...	78	0	0
	£614	1	1
Value of work on home, much the same as last year, say ...	75	0	0
Supply, with vegetables, &c., say... ..	30	0	0
	£105	0	0

STOCK.

		1906.	
		£	s. d.
52 Cattle value	150 0 0, decrease	6	0 0
7 Horses ,,	59 0 0, increase	25	0 0
	£209 0 0		
10 Cattle died value	47 0 0, increase	17	0 0
5 Cattle used for meat ,,	24 10 0, ,,	24	10 0
	£71 10 0		

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The fund is derived from the wages due to aborigines deserting from or dying in employment, and is devoted entirely to the benefit or assistance of aborigines generally.

From this fund aborigines without banking accounts are provided with a serviceable, if plain, outfit of clothing when going first to employment, and, as will be seen by the statement attached, £65 2s. 4d. was spent during last year in this way. A further £70 was advanced to the natives of Torres Strait to purchase a vessel for Mount Adolphus Island; £100 more was paid off the total amount advanced to these natives, and the account at the conclusion of the past year stood as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Principal still unpaid by Torres Strait island boats ...	151	8	5
Interest due ...	24	13	5
Held in reserve, No. 2 Account, Thursday Island ...	14	0	9
	£190	2	7

£30 advanced to Yarrabah Mission Station during the year previous was repaid, and £24 expended in the eradication of prickly pear was refunded by the Lands Department.

The balance to the credit of the account at the beginning of the year was £61 5s. 11d., but at the close was £228 12s. 5d., not including the £190 2s. 7d. still due by the Torres Strait island natives.

TABLE 13.—ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT, 1907.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Disbursements.		£	s.	d.
Balance to credit, 1/1/07	...	61	5	11	Refunds—				
Wages—					To employers	...	16	8	0
Deserters	...	129	11	4	To relatives deceased	...	3	7	6
Deceased natives	...	20	17	7	Purchase clothes for natives	...	65	2	4
Natives left State	...	3	17	10	Fares—Natives to employment	...	30	14	6
Refund—					Transferred to natives s/c N.S.W.	...	3	17	10
Loan to Torres Strait Islanders	...	100	0	0	Remitted, Home Office—Refund fares, sub- scription settlement, &c.	...	20	3	7
Lands Department, prickly pear	...	24	0	0	Wages deposited, Savings Bank	...	4	19	0
For clothes purchased	...	4	10	11	Advance to T. S. Island natives for boat	...	70	0	0
Loan to Yarrabah	...	30	0	0	Balance to credit, 31/12/07	...	228	12	5
Cost railway fares	...	8	5	1					
Deposit—									
Cost of railway fares	...	47	10	0					
Wages	...	7	7	0					
Subscriptions, gramophone, Barambah	...	5	19	6					
		443	5	2			443	5	2

EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINES BY DIFFERENT STATES, 1907.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.
Queensland	*20,000	£ 9,417 13 5
South Australia	3,800	4,540 0 0
Victoria	270	3,050 0 0
Western Australia	*27,000	14,000 0 0
New South Wales	6,960	14,000 0 0
Northern Territory	*16,000	1,246 0 0

* Approximate only.

OFFICE WORK.

The correspondence totalled 5,842 letters—3,281 inward, 2,561 outward.

In September, Mr. J. M. Costin, who had occupied the position of clerk for the previous two years, was transferred to the position of Shipping Master, Inspector of Pearl-shell Fisheries, and Protector of Aborigines at Thursday Island, and, until the arrival of Mr. Bleakley, his successor, the work was performed by Mr. E. Eagle, an officer kindly lent from the Income Tax Department.

In conclusion, I will take this opportunity of recording my thanks and appreciation for the ready, willing, and valuable assistance given me by the Commissioner of Police and his officers. In no single instance have I experienced any difficulty in procuring every possible aid from the police officers in the various districts my duties require me to visit. To the staff of the Department my thanks are also due for the cheerful and intelligent manner they have worked. The work of preparing a large portion of this report has devolved upon Mr. Bleakley, who has not in any way spared himself in carrying out the work, and he deserves every credit for the conscientious and pains-taking manner in which he has so materially assisted me in efficiently carrying out the work of the Department.

I have, &c.,

RICHD. B. HOWARD,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Price 2s. 6d.]

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