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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

THE YEAR 1908.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

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1909.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1908.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aborigines,
Brisbane, 16th June, 1909.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit herewith the annual report on the results of the operations of "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*" for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

By direction of the Hon. the Home Secretary, I left Brisbane on the 11th of June, 1908, on a tour of inspection to various and remote districts of the State, and on my return in October furnished the following report:—

"I left Brisbane on the 11th June last and proceeded by the Government Steamer "Otter" as far North as Lloyd Bay, at which place, on the 22nd June, I joined the ketch "Melbidir," and on the 24th of the same month set sail for the Escape River, arriving at that place on the 26th. I found a man named Bruce had established a camp on the river, and was engaged cutting sandalwood, employing some five or six natives to assist him, all under agreement. I was in hopes of finding a small camp of bush natives at this place, who are in the habit of travelling across the Peninsula from Red Island. These blacks, however, had not been at the Escape River for some time previous to my visit. Somerset was reached on the 27th June, at which place I landed and interviewed the natives in Mr. Jardine's employ. These people are quite contented and happy. After taking in water and firewood, a start was made for Thursday Island, which was reached on the 29th. On leaving Thursday Island I took the school teacher for Saibai, Mr. Minniss, on board the "Melbidir," also the local protector, Mr. Costin. The first place of call was the island of Nagheer, where Mr. Mills has a fishing station and also a cocoanut plantation. He is now engaging in the copra industry.

The population of Nagheer consists of 46 souls—including 8 married women, 1 single girl, fourteen years of age, and 6 female infants.

There are some 1,000 cocoanut-trees bearing, and about 3,000 young trees, all of which have been planted by Mr. Mills. The island of Badu was next visited, and is the head-quarters of the Papuan Industries Company, in charge of Mr. Walker. The company have erected some fine buildings on the island, and have a considerable number of cocoanut and rubber trees planted. The natives were in good health, and the progress of the school satisfactory. The island of Mabuag was reached on the 7th July. After distributing a case of goods, presented by the Hon. the Home Secretary, and which was much appreciated, I interviewed the natives and inspected the school. The health of the people was good, and I noticed considerable improvement in the houses since my last visit. The population of Mabuag is 267 souls—viz., 138 males and 129 females. There are 75 children on the school roll, with an average attendance of 71. The school is under the superintendence of Mr. Cairns, and the progress made is very good indeed. Saibai was next visited, and here the school teacher, Mr. Minniss, was duly installed. About 266 people reside permanently on this island—144 males and 122 females—with 62 children attending school; but for some time, the children have not had the services of a European teacher, and, as a consequence, they are not so advanced as some of the other islands. However, now that a teacher has been provided for them, I feel sure a marked improvement will be noticeable on my next visit. Here also I found the people in excellent health, and they were very pleased indeed to receive a box of presents, also provided by the Hon. the Home Secretary.

The island of Yam was reached on the 11th July. Here the people number 66—viz., 35 males and 31 females—and all were in good health. The children attending school number 21, and are under the control of Miss Smith. At the time of my visit the school was closed, the teacher being absent for the mid-winter holidays. I, therefore, had no opportunity of inspecting the school. The Yam people do a fair amount of gardening, and some of the plots are very creditable, being well looked after. On the 13th July, Darnley Island was visited and the school inspected. I found 70 children were on the roll, and the progress made since my last visit most satisfactory. The children are exceptionally clean, well behaved, and attentive; and the teacher, Mrs. Smallwood, is to be commended for her successful methods of handling and teaching these little ones. Some difficulty has been experienced in the matter of clothes for children, the parents being either unable or unwilling to provide necessary material. Some of the elder girls at school are competent, under the supervision of their teacher, to make simple garments for themselves and the younger children, had they the wherewithal to do so. I think it would be desirable to send a supply of cheap dress material to the teacher so that she would be in a position to have simple garments made, for the girls especially. The population of Darnley Island is about 220 souls. The Rev. Mr. Butcher, of the London Missionary Society, has his head-quarters on the island, and has erected a substantial and comfortable residence for himself and staff.

York Island, some 20 miles from Darnley, was my next place of call. Some 70 persons reside here—39 males and 31 females, including about 16 children of school age. Mr. Moresby, engaged in the fishing industry, has his head-quarters at York, and has resided on the island for a number of years. Two of his sons are legally married to native women. I ascertained from Mr. Moresby that some four or five years since, they had a school on the island under the supervision of Mrs. McLean, but, owing to the teacher's death, the school was closed and has not since been opened. The natives are most anxious to have a school, and, although the number of children who would be benefited is small, yet I think it would be desirable to provide a teacher for them. The health of the natives was excellent, and they expressed themselves as quite happy and contented. After leaving York Island we encountered very bad

weather, the wind blowing half a gale from the south-east, so much so, the captain thought it desirable to run under the small island of Aureed for shelter, where we remained for that night. Next morning we again got under way, reaching Nagheer Island about 3.30 p.m., the weather and sea being very bad. On the 16th July Thursday Island was again reached, where I spent two days in discussing matters connected with the Department with Mr. Walker, of the Papuan Industries Company, and the local protector, arranging for future procedure in regard to the purchase of boats by the natives and the sale of their products. In this connection, I found some six or eight boats had been purchased by the natives from the Papuan Industries Company on the deferred payment system. The buying price of these boats ranged from £25 to £70, and their financial position after two years' work was very unsatisfactory, their present indebtedness to the Papuan Industries Company being from £80 to over £100. After consultation with the manager of the company, it was arranged not to allow the present debt to increase under any circumstances whatever, and each boat was to apportion one-half the value of the catch to the redemption of the vessel, the other half to be expended in food for themselves and necessary repairs to the ketch. By this means it is hoped their present undesirable financial position will be considerably improved.

Mapoon Mission Station was my next place of call. Some 250 natives permanently live at the station, and about 200 others roam about within a radius of 50 miles and pay occasional visits to the station. Just prior to my visit there had been a good deal of sickness in the shape of fever and colds, but had almost entirely disappeared at the time of my arrival. About 30 or 35 acres are being put under cultivation, the crops consisting principally of sweet potatoes, cassava, and pumpkins, and were looking well. The farm is situated about three miles from the head station, and doubtless will prove of considerable value to the mission. Considerable progress has been made in this direction since my last visit. The school, under the control of Mrs. Ward, has a roll of 69 children—viz., 23 males and 46 females. The reading of the children was very good indeed, the absence of the lisp, generally noticeable in native children when speaking English, being almost entirely absent. The geography, spelling, writing, and arithmetic also was much above the average. All the children have a particularly clean and healthy appearance, and their teacher evidently takes a keen and commendable interest in their welfare. After leaving Mapoon, I visited Weipa Mission Station, which is situated some 40 miles up the Embley River, necessitating my taking the dingy and pulling some 20 or 25 miles. About 90 people reside continually on the station, but in addition to these some 70 or 80 bush natives often visit the place. Mr. Richter, who is at present in charge, informed me that all the crops had been a failure this year, owing first to a superabundance of rain and then very dry weather. The cultivation consists of some 5 or 6 acres, chiefly producing sweet potatoes. Mangoes, limes, and pineapples grow very luxuriantly, and there are some very fine specimens of mango-trees. The school is under the control of Miss Schick, who, however, was away on a holiday at the time of my visit. Mr. Richter informed me there were 60 children on the school roll—viz., 30 boys and 30 girls. At present there are only 15 of the boys attending school, and as a consequence the girls are much in advance of the boys in their lessons. The health on the station is very good. During my stay at Weipa about 90 bush natives turned up at the station, to whom I distributed tobacco, and learnt there was plenty of food in the district. The appearance of the people bore out this statement. On the 28th July we dropped anchor at the mouth of the Archer River, and subsequently went some 4 or 5 miles up the river to the landing place for Aurukun Mission. After a walk of one or two miles, the station was reached, where I found some 60 or 70 natives under the care, temporarily, of a very intelligent South Sea Islander. I understand Mr. Richter is to take charge of Aurukun very shortly. No school was being held. The natives presented a very healthy appearance. No cultivation is being carried on. Proceeding on my journey we arrived off the mouth of the Mitchell River on the 31st July, and, after sailing close in shore for a few miles, I landed and met about 120 natives on the beach, amongst whom I noticed several very young children. The majority of these people appeared to be healthy and strong, although a few had apparently syphilitic skin eruptions. By two of these natives, I sent word to Mr. Matthews, who is in charge of Trubanaman Mission Station, some twelve or fourteen miles distant from the coast, asking him to send me a horse from the station, which request was at once complied with. On the mission I found about 40 souls all told at the place, 10 of whom were females. The school, conducted by Mr. Matthews himself, has about 12 pupils. Since my last visit, considerable improvement is noticeable, especially in the demeanour of the natives and their general appearance. One or two substantial buildings are being erected, and although the station has been in existence a little more than two years, it gives every promise of becoming a successful effort to improve, educate, and civilise the aborigines of the district. Mr. Matthews is evidently a practical gentleman, and under his supervision I feel sure Trubanaman will advance in the right direction. A fairly large number (about 200) natives frequent the country immediately surrounding the mission, and, although it may be difficult to induce the older people to fall in with the ways of the mission, yet there is little doubt the younger ones will gradually drift into the station and learn to become useful and cleanly in their habits.

Leaving our anchorage on the 1st August, a course was set in a south-westerly direction for Mornington Island, which was reached on the 3rd August. This island is the largest of the Wellesley group, and second largest on the Queensland coast, situated in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and is about 35 miles in length by about 16 miles across at its widest part, with an estimated area of 415 square miles, and distant from Karumba about 90 miles. The nearest place on the mainland is Bayley Point, about 15 miles. On the day of my arrival, I landed and endeavoured to find natives, but although there were plenty of tracks and recent camps, showing the natives were numerous, none were seen. After travelling about 1½ mile inland, I came across a large salt-water lagoon, literally swarming with wild fowl, but although convinced the natives were in close proximity and watching my movements, I failed to see any. On my return to the "Melbidir," and during the afternoon, a few natives were sighted on the beach, and I immediately went ashore and found them to be three men and three women, elderly people. After many fruitless efforts to make them, by signs, understand, they at last were induced to come off in the dinghy to the "Melbidir," where we offered them food, such as bread, beef, sugar, &c., but although they readily tasted whatever was given, they immediately spat it out, evidently not relishing the white man's food, and knew nothing whatever of the use of tobacco. The mirrors on board the ketch seemed to be the greatest attraction, and caused considerable amazement. After giving a few presents, in the shape of old clothing and matches, they were taken ashore, on reaching which at

once they divested themselves of the garments, and rapidly disappeared. The next day, in company with Captain Schluter and two of the crew (aboriginals), I again landed, and proceeded inland about 4 or 5 miles, and found a ridge of high land running through the island. We ascended the highest part (some 200 ft.) in order to take a survey of the surroundings, but found the elevation insufficient for that purpose. From what I could see, I am of opinion the island is surrounded by a fringe of salt pans, some of large dimensions; the timber is plentiful, composed principally of bloodwood and ti-tree, and other varieties usually found on the islands, but no large timber was seen. On the flats, the soil is of a loamy nature, somewhat sandy, well suited for the growth of sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas, yams, cocoanuts, and similar tropical vegetation. These flats are extensive, and we struck a chain of lagoons with abundance of clear, cool, fresh water, and certainly of a permanent nature. The grass is of the kangaroo variety, of a rather coarse kind, but capable of producing pasturage for horses or cattle, and of course goats, which I think would thrive well on Mornington. Again we failed to encounter any natives, but found many camps of quite recent date. The camps contained no gunyahs, simply a few bushes in a semicircular form merely as a breakwind. On our return to the beach, during the afternoon, some fifty or sixty natives were seen, who at first seemed much alarmed at our approach, shouting and making vigorous signs with their hands. It soon became evident, however, that our friends of the previous day were amongst the number, so, after some hesitation on the part of the natives, we finally obtained sufficient of their confidence to come to close quarters. These people, although emaciated in appearance, are quite free from disease of any sort, and are remarkably agile and strong, and I venture to say are the only surviving tribe of aborigines in Queensland, if not in Australia, who have escaped contact with the white man. Their food consists principally of fish, bulgeroo nuts, yams, and the fruit of pandanus. The teeth of many of the older people are considerably worn. This I attribute to eating the hard fruit of the pandanus.

On our taking the dinghy to return to the "Melbidir," one and all wished to come with us, especially the six who had previously been on board, and, in order to prevent them, we had, in the case of one or two individuals, to use a little gentle force in pushing them away, otherwise the small boat would have been swamped.

The fact of there being no young children with those we interviewed struck me as being peculiar, and I felt convinced the children had been purposely left in the camp. I was therefore anxious to see their camp, and endeavoured to persuade them to take me there, and thought I had succeeded in doing so, but after leading me about half a mile they one and all decamped. I estimate there are at least 300 natives on Mornington, and so far are in a purely primitive state, but I fear these conditions will not long continue, as there is every likelihood of those engaged in the fishing industry very soon turning their attention to the Wellesley group of islands, and, notwithstanding the whole of the group have been proclaimed a reserve for the aborigines, this fact will afford little protection to the natives, in remote places such as this, unless some person armed with the necessary authority is resident at the place, and sees that the regulations in regard to such reserves are duly observed.

Mornington Island offers a splendid opportunity to prove whether or not these much decried natives cannot be brought into a more useful and comfortable mode of life, and I would strongly urge that some steps be taken, before it is too late, to preserve the occupants of these islands from the baneful results, which experience has so fully proved, follow in the wake of indiscriminate association with whites. In order to effectually carry out such a scheme, it would be necessary to appoint a suitable officer to reside at one of the islands, and to provide him with a good serviceable boat. His duty would be to put a fair area under suitable crops, and generally instruct the natives. The cost of such an undertaking would not exceed, say, an initial expenditure of £1,500, and, under practical management, the venture should prove self-supporting in about six or seven years. It seems to me both unjust and inhumane to passively allow these people to gradually drift into the vices of the white man, which means disease, death, and annihilation. The tribe of aborigines inhabiting Mornington Island have been described as hostile and difficult of approach. My experience of them is, they are just the opposite.

On leaving Mornington Island very bad weather was experienced, making it necessary to take shelter under a small island at the north-east end of Mornington, known as Pisonia. Turtle are very plentiful here, and one was procured which made a very welcome addition to our food supply. Leaving Pisonia Island on the 7th August, we ran under the lee, after a stormy passage, of the south-west end of Bentinck Island, and the next day entered Investigator Road, which is the passage between Bentinck and Sweers Islands. I landed and traversed several miles of Bentinck in my endeavour to find the few remaining natives, about fifty in number; my efforts, however, in this direction were futile. These people are very primitive in their habits, building no gunyahs, or canoes, and simply dig a hole in the sand to sleep in. The island is well watered, and fish are very plentiful. Leaving Sweers and Bentinck Island the mouth of the Albert River was reached on the 11th August, late in the afternoon, and next morning, at 4.30 a.m., I took the dinghy up the river to within 5 miles of Burketown, a pull of about 40 miles. From the landing place I walked into the township, and found there were about fifty natives about Burketown, a few of whom were old and sick, and being provided for. There are no half-caste children, and very few picaninnies. The natives here are well looked after, a good many (about 100) being in employment under agreement, and their wages paid through the Protector. I was fortunate in meeting Protector Lamond, who was on a tour of inspection at the township, and I arranged with him to provide a few tomahawks and fishing lines for the use of the blacks.

On the 14th August I arrived at Karumba, the mouth of the Norman River, and on the 16th proceeded by launch up the river to Normanton. I found a severe epidemic had carried off some five or six old people, but little trace of the sickness now remains. There are about 200 aborigines camped within a radius of 15 miles of the township, and appear to be in fairly good health. The boat provided by the Department for their use has proved a great boon, and has been the means of keeping them out of the township. Since my last visit a great improvement in their general appearance is noticeable; practically they get no intoxicating liquor, and opium has almost entirely disappeared. There are thirty banking accounts, principally belonging to women, with a sum of £56 17s. 6d. to credit.

My next place of call was Croydon, where there are some 150 natives. During the cold weather a good deal of sickness prevailed, but no fatalities. The Savings Bank accounts number twenty-three, with a credit of £82 11s. Liquor is sometimes in evidence, and Protector Sullivan informed me there is still a little opium. At my last visit, two or three half-caste boys were in the camp, but since then they are not to be seen, and some mystery seems to surround their disappearance; some persons stating they have been killed and eaten. The police, however, can find no trace of this, and I am inclined to think the boys have found their way to some of the tribes farther North, where food is more plentiful. About sixteen old people are in receipt of rations, the cost running into an average of £11 per month, and several old people who really require additional food do not get any, the expense being so great. I am of opinion it would be better for the people themselves, and much more economical, if these indigent natives were deported to one or other of the settlements.

From Croydon I went to Walker's Bend, *en route* to Cloncurry, visiting Donor's Hills, Hazel Creek, and Tommy's Creek, interviewing the natives on the several stations, who I found are well treated, and expressed themselves as quite satisfied, arriving at Cloncurry on the 2nd September. I found the native population to be about 300 souls. There are 100 on agreement, seventeen of these being women, and the sum to their credit in the Savings Bank is £282, an increase of £85 during the current year. The restriction of the sale of opium in this district has resulted in a marked improvement in the health of the aborigines, but Protector McGrath informed me a little drunkenness is still in evidence, although some six or eight convictions recently obtained for supplying grog to aborigines has had a salutary effect. The natives in the district of Cloncurry do a considerable trade with Alliwango tribe in pituri, a native drug, slightly opiate, and much sought after by the aborigines. Pituri is a small shrub, growing on a limited area only, principally in the Mulligan River districts, and the preparation consists in picking the leaves, subjecting them to heat to make them become flaccid, when they are chewed, to a suitable consistency. The effect of the drug is to produce hilarity, and then sleep.

From Cloncurry I proceeded by train to Richmond, thence to Hughenden, and on to Prairie, where I visited Mr. Chisholm, of the Plains Station, and also Glendower Station. Mr. Reid, the manager, has provided a substantial building for the use of the aboriginal employees. In the vicinity of Torrens Creek there are four old men and six old women camped. They procure game sufficient to live, but a little help now and then in the form of flour would materially assist them. Returning from Prairie to Hughenden, I found on inquiry that ninety-nine natives are under agreement, twelve of whom are women. The banking accounts number ninety-six, with £367 5s. 11d. to credit. Employers in this district, and in fact every district, are falling into line regarding the employment of aborigines under agreement, yet there are isolated cases where the employer objects to the payment of wages through the Protector. Very little grog or opium is obtainable in the Hughenden district.

At Winton, there are about 200 natives all told, twenty of whom are half-castes, mostly boys, employed on the surrounding stations. About fifty natives are under agreement, and the amount to their credit in the bank is £232, one girl having a credit of £53 odd. The practice of having the boys' wages paid through the Protector was not generally carried out until the beginning of the present year. At present, the arrangement is that one-half of the wages is paid to the Protector, to be placed in the bank to the credit of the individual, and the balance paid to the boy. One boy is receiving 25s. per week, another 24s. and several 15s. Very little opium is found, and practically drunkenness amongst the natives is unheard of. About forty are employed casually in the township, mostly elderly people. Protector Brosnan informed me these natives give no trouble, and that they eke out a good living for themselves.

Leaving Winton on the 15th September, I proceeded, as instructed, down the Diamantina River *en route* to Diamantina Lakes Station, visiting Cork and Brighton Downs Stations. At both the latter stations aborigines are employed, all under agreement. They speak well of their treatment, and are quite contented. Diamantina Lakes was reached on the 18th September, and the result of my enquiries has already been communicated to you. There are about thirty bush natives who frequent the Lakes and a little food is supplied to them by this Department. From Diamantina Lakes, I returned to Winton, and thence by coach to Longreach, arriving there on the 1st October. Protector Quilter informed me there are some 350 natives in his district, 208 males and 142 females, and, in addition to these, 29 half-castes. There are 115 employed under agreement with a balance in the bank to their credit of £780 14s. 6d. The rate of wages paid ranges from 5s. to 20s. per week; in one case 25s. per week. Opium is now quite unknown in the vicinity of Longreach, and little or no liquor is supplied to the natives. I personally interviewed a few of the natives and they one and all expressed themselves as being quite satisfied.

I left Longreach on the 2nd October and reached Brisbane on the 5th.

My tour of inspection has been of a satisfactory nature, no cases of ill-treatment of the natives, or other than trifling complaints, coming under my notice. The majority of employers treat their aboriginal employees well, and on nearly every pastoral holding I visited the natives employed spoke well of the treatment they received and expressed themselves satisfied with their surroundings.

There are, however, a considerable number of bush natives, both on the Peninsular and on the lower Diamantina and Cooper's Creek, who roam about the country picking up a precarious living, by hunting the few wild animals that can now be found. Practically the whole of the country is now held under pastoral occupation, with the result of a rapid diminishing of the indigenous game, so necessary to the support of the aborigines. The time is fast approaching when it will be imperative for the Government to take active measures to supply the old and otherwise incapable natives with food and medical comforts. The younger people will always be able to obtain employment, and will not become a burden on the community provided the regulations under the Aborigines Protection Acts are wisely and conscientiously carried out.

It is my intention to treat of this matter in a separate communication, and to offer some suggestion in regard thereto.

In connection with my visit to the several islands in Torres Straits, it seemed to me that in the past these islands have received a great deal more assistance and attention than that meted out to the unfortunate people of the mainland, as, for instance, the islanders have been assisted materially to

procure boats, schools and teachers have been provided, the product of their labour carefully handled and disposed of to the best advantage, and in many other ways favours given them which have been denied to those on the mainland. It may be argued that these island people are more intelligent, industrious, and reliable, but, personally, I hold a different opinion, and venture to say the aborigine of the mainland is equal in intelligence, and much more active and competent to perform more variety of work than the islanders. It must also be borne in mind that no real effort has been made to prove the competency or otherwise of the mainlanders in this direction. I do not think the boats procured by the islanders will prove an unmixed blessing, as it is apparent the interest taken by the natives in owning a boat is now languishing, and oftentimes it is difficult to persuade them to work their craft, they preferring to allow her to remain at anchor, whilst they themselves indolently pass the time away on shore. I certainly think had more attention in the past been paid to the cultivation of cocoanuts and other tropical products, the condition of the natives to-day would be very much better. All these islands are evidently suited to the growth of the coconut, and had a sufficient number of these lucrative palms been planted a few years since, the islands would now be capable of supporting in comfort four times their present population, and the people would be quite independent of outside assistance.

At the time of my first official visit to Torres Straits, I endeavoured to instil into the minds of the people the benefits that would accrue to themselves if such a course was pursued, and also extracted a promise on each island that at least four nuts would be planted each year for every child on the place. I also asked the respective school teachers to endeavour to see this carried out. To some extent my advice has been followed, but not so vigorously as might be desired. What is really required is to have an officer appointed whose duty it would be to see that a certain number of nuts were planted each year. In order to do this, the officer would have to be almost continually afloat, and armed with the necessary authority to enforce the carrying out of the scheme. After a period of seven years the palms would be bearing, and in the manufacture of copra alone would give a handsome return.

As matters are at present, there appears to be, on the part of the Government, a continually increasing expenditure from year to year without any monetary return whatsoever. In my somewhat extensive journeys, and necessarily close contact and observation of our aborigines, I have come to the conclusion they are a people little understood by us—these Bedouins of our Austral land. Their worst is what we know, and oft-times 'tis we who make their worst. Tribes I have come across are bound by laws of much identity with, and strict as, the old Mosaic; punishment for the lawbreaker being swift, stern, and inflexible. When first the wild men had seen from afar, from their mountain eyries, the approach of strange white men, they had been stricken with fear at the hitherto unknown and strange, and they had hidden, and watched, and followed, silent, unseen and all observant, with a growing boldness and evanishment of superstitious awe. They noted everything, and on the actions of the whites they placed their own interpretations, little dreaming how rapid and far-reaching the advance of the white man would be, and how soon they would be dispossessed of their heritage, and their very existence threatened.

I, therefore, most sincerely trust, and believe, our Government will entertain and consider seriously my efforts to bring about better conditions for these unfortunate and ill-treated people. To carry out any scheme for the efficient amelioration of the natives, it is evident some expenditure of money will be necessary, but, surely, in a work of humanity, which we, in common honesty, are bound to carry out, the matter of the expenditure of a little of that wealth we derive from these peoples' own land will not be denied them.

My trip, although an exceptionally rough one and occasioning me much inconvenience and discomfort, cannot be considered other than satisfactory from a departmental view, and I will be disappointed if the beneficial effects of these periodical inspections are not apparent in the immediate future.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

The opinion has always been held by me that hitherto in the care of the aborigines much spoon-feeding has been practised, and the tendency has been to encourage pauperism rather than to remove it, to make these people less self-reliant and more dependent upon the State and the charitable section of the community. Surely it is the most common-sense task to ascertain whether or not, by means of a little education, discipline, and industrial efficiency, both morally and intellectually, this state of pauperism cannot be reduced to a minimum. With this end in view it has been, and is still, the endeavour of the Department to obtain employment for each and every individual, impressing upon them the desirableness of doing their best to satisfy their employer, and at the same time saving some of their earnings for a rainy day. The efforts in this direction are bearing fruit, and most of the natives have now learnt how much more pleasant and comfortable it is for them to have good clothing and a little pocket money of their own, with the result the majority of the people are eager to go to work. In the past no little difficulty was encountered in removing the objections many employers had of placing the aborigines under agreement, and paying a portion of their earnings to the Department, and at times a good deal of friction ensued. I am, however, pleased to say it is only in one or two isolated cases that trouble in this direction now occurs.

Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.—The great difficulty in obtaining suitable white girls as domestic servants greatly enhances the value of the aboriginal and half-caste girl as a domestic help. In a great many cases this good opinion is well justified, the aboriginal girl being instinctively fond of children, kind, patient, and forbearing with them, and most employers with young families report a strong attachment between the young people and the "black" girl. In fact, experience has shown that it is in those families where there are young children that these girls are most satisfactory, appearing to be more happy and content. Every discrimination is used, in placing them out to service, to hire them to reputable and suitable employers; the whole agreement and conditions being carefully explained to the girl, and no coercion used. Care is also taken to inform the employer candidly of the particular faults and shortcomings of the girl, with the reasons for her leaving the last situation. This system is found to work admirably, and, except for a few of the refractory type, who have had to be removed to the reserve for their own benefit, the general behaviour of the girls in employment is excellent. Save for a slight tendency towards extravagance and neglect in clothes, their general appearance is

neat and tidy, and in many cases remarkably good taste is shown. The girls have the benefit of advice and assistance from the Protectress, who is experienced in the qualities and value of clothing, in making their purchases, and in obtaining suitable and reasonable articles. As a general rule, the treatment of the girls in employment is good, and very few complaints are made, and then only arise from the employer's want of knowledge and tact in managing them more than any harshness or cruelty. The following list of regulations for the guidance of employers is kept, and copies supplied to all persons first hiring the girls, and no plea of ignorance can be made for breaches of such. The wages asked are not excessive, more importance being placed on the necessity for a good and comfortable home than high wages; but a reasonable remuneration is fixed out of which the girl receives direct a small pocket money allowance, and the balance is paid to the Department to be placed in the girl's Savings Bank account. A mistaken idea prevails that the aboriginal or half-caste girl, no matter how much more competent, should not receive the wages paid to white girls. No sensible reason can be given, yet much surprise is sometimes shown when a wage that the girl is well worthy of is suggested; and an indignant employer exclaims, "Why, that's nearly as much as I pay a white girl."

During the year, several girls were married, in most cases to other half-caste and quadroon men, and went to live with their husbands in employment on stations as married couples.

Four girls had to be placed in the Maternity Home, and gave birth to illegitimate children, and for three of these children the fathers are paying maintenance to the Department. Of these unfortunate children two died, and the remainder are either with the mothers in employment, or kept in the Salvation Army Maternity Home.

Taking into consideration the large number—202—of these girls sent to domestic service, and the almost friendless position of most of them, no parents to guide or protect them, with no other home than the office of the Protector, no early training in life except that learnt in a camp, and then very often in the invidious position of a person without caste—neither black nor white, and despised very often by each—the percentage of immorality, disease, and illegitimacy is remarkably small, and has been clearly shown to be considerably less than that among her white sisters of equal position.

She also displays a wonderful aptitude in assimilating the manners and habits of her white sisters, and when it is remembered that, to many of them, the camp, with its primitive methods, was their only early training, the quickness with which she accustoms herself to the new life and becomes a useful member of her new home can only call forth admiration.

The health of the girls has been, generally, very good, and cases of sickness have been few. A slight outbreak of measles occurred in the early part of the year, and slight epidemics of influenza from time to time. One girl died of consumption, and three cases of venereal disease were reported and treated in isolation at the hospital. All other cases of sickness were treated by the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Dods, by arrangement, at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter, and that gentleman's kind, sympathetic assistance and attention has been much appreciated. Numbers of the girls during the year were compelled to visit the dentist to have their teeth filled or extracted, and some had either partial or complete artificial sets of teeth.

About twenty-five girls were sent down from Barambah during the year to be placed in service, and a few from the West. Employment was readily found for them, principally with employers in the country, and all these girls are now looking well and happy, and are apparently kindly treated. Two girls were also handed over to the Protectress by the Principal of the St. Vincent's Orphanage, Nudgee, as being of a suitable age to send to service, while three others were handed over to the care of their parents, who were shown to be in a position to look after them. A visit was paid to this institution during the year by an officer of the Department, and much praise and credit is due to the Principal and staff for the splendid discipline, healthy, contented, and tidy appearance of the children, and also for the perfect arrangements for their comfort and attention.

All the girls, when not at employment, are boarded at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter in Mary street, at a small rate per week, and this is found to work most satisfactorily. The girls pay for this accommodation from their banking account, and are, except where the account is too small, of practically no expense to the Department.

It is only just that here a word of appreciation should be given to the officers of the Salvation Army Shelter, who without any remuneration or reward have done valuable work, and rendered this Department, and particularly the Protectress, all assistance in their power in watching the interests, studying the comforts, and controlling the behaviour of the girls from time to time under their care, displaying admirable tact, kindness, and firmness.

During the year seven half-caste and quadroon children were placed in care of the Salvation Army Maternity Home at Breakfast Creek, but a very severe epidemic of gastro-enteritis, aggravated by teething troubles, carried off four of these little unfortunates in spite of the unremitting care of the Home Staff and the best medical attention procurable. The remaining five (including two admitted, 1907), are now healthy and well nourished in appearance, and do great credit to the staff of the Home.

Regulations for Employers of Female Aborigines.—

1. Intending employers are to apply direct to the Protector.
2. All aboriginal servants must be put under agreement, as provided in the Aboriginal Protection Acts.
3. The wages, as per agreement, are to be paid to the Accountant, Home Department, every four weeks, who will place them to the servant's credit in the Government Savings Bank, and act as Trustee.
4. Servants may draw on their bank account at any time on application to the Protector, who will see, if necessary, that the money is judiciously expended for clothing or other requirements.
5. No servants are to be allowed to be absent from the premises of an employer after 6 p.m., unless accompanied by a female member of the employer's family.

6. In no case, without written authority from the Protector, is any employer to expend any of the servant's wages for clothing, pocket money, or amusement.

7. Employers are to at once notify the Protector if they find that servants are unsuitable, or not worth the wages agreed upon.

8. Servants falling ill in the course of execution of their duty are to be provided with medical attention and maintenance at the employer's expense.

9. Employers must allow their servants every opportunity to wash their clothes and keep them in repair, and where clothes are provided by the employer the said employer will be held responsible that the employee is returned at the completion of engagement with clothes equal in quantity and value to that supplied at the commencement of service.

10. A heavy penalty is provided by Section 17 of the 1897 Aboriginal Protection Act for removing aboriginal servants to another district or employer without advising and obtaining the consent of the Protector.

TABLE I.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, &c., APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1907 AND 1908).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector.	Stationed at—	Date of Appointment.	1907.		1908.			
				Males.	Females.	MALES.		FEMALES.	
						Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.
Somerset	Milman, Hugh Miles ...	Thursday Island	31-8-08	399	3	...	371	...	17
Cairns, Mareeba	Malone, H., Sub-Inspector	Cairns	11-10-07	114	4	...	190	...	32
Cook, Palmer	Bodman, F., Sergeant	Cooktown	2-7-08	231	20	113	130	...	20
Coen	Whiteford, James, Senior-Sergeant	Coen	11-1-06	38	6	5	18	1	4
Norman	Daly, P., Sergeant	Normanton	6-6-07	155	48	...	46	...	12
Etheridge	Byrne, R., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Georgetown	11-9-08	29	8	...	6	...	...
Cloncurry, Camooweal	McGrath, J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	10-1-07	55	18	...	45	...	23
Mackay	Garraway, R. W., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Mackay	5-11-08	30	4	3	31	...	3
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Galbraith, P. D. F., Inspector	Townsville	25-1-06	62	10	1	50	...	32
Ingham	Connolly, P., Acting Sergeant	Ingham	15-2-06	80	...	...	55	...	5
Charters Towers, Cape River	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	11-10-06	66	11	...	73	...	7
Hughenden, Richmond	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden	9-5-07	73	13	18	94	...	14
Winton	Brosnan, Mich., Acting Sergeant	Winton	10-9-02	24	6	20	22	6	8
Boulia	Guckian, M., Constable	Boulia	25-12-06	67	19	30	70	...	20
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	Broderick, 2nd class Sub-Inspector	Charleville	2-9-08	167	34	18	95	4	25
Alpha, Aramac, Barcardine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaburra, Tambo, Windorah	Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector	Longreach	9-5-07	127	27	7	100	...	25
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Toowoomba	1-6-04	9	3	...	5	...	...
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Marrett, Charles B., Inspector	Maryborough ...	†25-10-05	619	52	...	589	...	28
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohey, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton ...	27-7-05	111	42	...	52	...	33
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Savage, Charles, Inspector	Roma	27-7-05	49	8	37	45	...	6
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*	17-3-04	30	2	...	68	...	...
Brisbane, etc. (for aboriginal females) (also Superintendent, Aboriginal Reserve, South Brisbane)	McKeown, Mary E. ...	Brisbane	12-6-06	...	186	...	...	...	203
Burke	Murphy, J. A., Acting Sergeant	Burketown	25-6-08	87	...	...	72	...	...
Croydon	Sullivan, Timothy, Acting Sergeant	Croydon	6-6-07	11	2	...	10	...	3
Herberton and Thornborough	O'Donnell, John, Sergeant	Herberton	‡24-6-08	...	...	9	45	...	12
Mourilyan	Robert Moorhead, Sergeant	Geraldton	‡4-6-08	...	...	...	84	...	9
Port Douglas	Hasenkamp, Henry, Acting Sergeant	Port Douglas ...	‡4-6-08	...	...	...	13	...	3
Burke (west of 139th degree east longitude)	Smith, E. P., 1st class Constable	Turn-off Lagoon	26-11-08	...	...	...	...	...	...
				2,653	534	260	2,379	11	510

* Agreements issued at Chief Protector's Office.

† Including Barambah Settlement.

‡ Previous to 18th June included in Cairns district.

TABLE 1 A.—SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTROLLED BY EACH PROTECTOR, WITH HIS INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE AND PATROL WORK.

	POPULATION.	LETTERS		PATROL.	
		Inward.	Outward.	Miles Travelled.	Days Absent.
Boulia	500	100	120	1,000	40
Brisbane	294	...	...	...	..
Burketown	450	70	69	600	...
Cairns	500	500	400	4,000	148
Charleville	520	443	437	2,387	161
Charters Towers	150	350	214	...	*
Cloncurry	330	100	150	...	*
Cooktown	† 138	61	69	300	21
Coen	† 94	64	76	2,000	100
Croydon	200	12	16	...	*
Georgetown	100	...	...	...	*
Geraldton	200	25	20	...	*
Herberton	620	55	75	...	*
Hughenden	154	216	572	1,040	35
Ingham	350	50	500	400	...
Longreach	481	960	500	2,968	97
Maryborough	264	40	33	480	28
Mackay	190	25	25	...	*
Normanton	300	170	161	560	38
Port Douglas	130	35	36	70	6
Rockhampton	645	...	...	3,500	118
Roma	466	50	29	...	...
Thursday Island	4,000 (app.)	200	250	350	7
Toowoomba	122	About	50	500	30
Townsville	† 390	30	20	400	40
Winton	150	209	162	...	*

* No separate record; included in Police Work.

† Immediate influence only; receiving blankets.

The number of aborigines employed by the Police Department as trackers and native police during 1908 was seventy-nine, and seventeen were employed by the Government on improvement works at Peel Island and Dunwich.

It will be seen that in the foregoing returns an addition has been made on that of previous years, to show date of appointment of various protectors, distinguishing between those aborigines employed under agreement and by permit only for casual labour, and giving some small idea of the work performed by local protectors. From the totals it would appear that there has been a slight decrease in the number of agreements and permits issued, but I do not read this as an indication that there has been any falling off in the demand for aboriginal labour, but rather that the aborigine is becoming more reconciled to the system, and more fully appreciates the advantages to himself arising from it, and willingly engages for longer and more settled periods. The very noticeable increase in the totals of wages collected and deposited to their Savings Bank accounts, as shown in Table 2, is evidence of that. It may, however, be partly attributable to the action of the Government, in the latter part of 1907, in prohibiting the employment of aborigines on canefields and thus closing to them one of their most profitable and suitable avenues of employment; a prohibition which, I am pleased to say, has since been removed.

TABLE 2.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1907 AND 1908, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Bank at—	Credit Balance, 1907.	1908.			
		Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Croydon	67 2 0	16	23 16 2	8 14 8	88 6 2
Thursday Island	124 18 3	95	285 4 3	206 16 3	203 6 3
Cooktown	280 0 6	69	97 8 10	61 6 4	314 4 5
Coen	23 13 3	11	23 0 0	...	46 13 3
Cairns	378 0 11	76	380 1 9	29 0 0	137 10 5
Normanton	27 14 9	29	54 3 0	3 17 6	75 15 3
Georgetown	34 13 9	14	...	10 0 10	25 5 9
Cloncurry	197 9 8	45	129 8 8	12 17 6	322 16 10
Ingham	5 6 10	35	75 11 6	5 16 0	75 11 6
Townsville	8 12 6	4	8 3 6	5 7 6	11 8 6
Charters Towers	144 17 9	52	211 5 9	113 9 11	235 3 7
Hughenden	173 16 9	90	708 10 2	272 16 7	611 0 1
Winton	130 16 10	22	180 10 7	97 15 1	280 16 11
Boulia	240 0 1	40	53 8 11	2 0 0	293 9 0
Port Douglas	*	31	35 1 4	...	191 5 8
Burketown	50 7 0	131	85 2 10	2 0 0	619 13 1
Mackay	50 7 0	8	23 8 2	17 4 10	56 10 4
Rockhampton	258 2 4	25	145 6 3	156 19 3	214 14 4
Longreach	256 17 3	149	584 11 4	6 3 6	841 8 7
Charleville	116 18 6	43	118 3 1	14 18 4	222 2 5
Maryborough	89 7 3	16	39 6 0	14 10 7	98 7 10
Barambah (Aboriginal) Settlement...	262 1 8	257	635 11 9	336 19 3	591 18 0
Roma	50 13 2	4	27 6 8	1 0 0	48 8 2
Toowoomba	54 4 0	6	22 17 0	2 16 11	51 13 5
Brisbane (Mrs. Whiplam)	1,002 3 4	202	1,036 14 7	828 14 1	1,104 12 8
Herberton	*	47	29 3 6	...	230 14 6
Geraldton	*	68	119 3 3	...	119 3 3
Total	£4,028 5 4	1,585	5,132 8 10	2,211 4 11	7,112 0 2

* New protectorate formed 4th June, 1908, balances transferred from Cairns.

Although productive of considerable opposition when first started, the system of banking portion of the wages of natives in employment has now become a fixed institution, as will be seen by the large amounts collected and banked to the accounts at the various centres; and the very appreciable increase in the amounts standing to credit is evidence that the efforts of the protectors to inculcate the thrifty spirit among them is bearing good fruit. It must not be forgotten that the amounts shown as deposited only represent a minor portion of the wages earned by the aborigines interested. In most instances deductions varying from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent. only, according to intelligence, are made from the wages earned, the balance being paid to the boy direct and expended by him at his own sweet will.

The amount shown as deposited for Barambah represents considerably less than 20 per cent. of the wages earned by the aborigines there, and in addition a sum of £609 1s. 8d. was subscribed towards the upkeep of the settlement, which made that institution, apart from officers' salaries, actually self-supporting. No deduction of more than one shilling a week is made from any boy's wages at Barambah for deposit in the Savings Bank, unless he is agreeable, and the deduction towards settlement upkeep does not in any case exceed 20 per cent. of the wages earned.

Considerable tact has to be exercised in the management of these aborigines' Savings Bank accounts, for they are very easily discontented and upset in their work if they think there is any cause to be dissatisfied. It is always kept in mind that the money in the bank is his own, and provided the Protector is satisfied that the aborigine requires the money for his own use and benefit, he is allowed to draw in moderation such sums as he may need, even to the whole of the account, if the circumstances justify it.

Unfortunately there is a class of employer who, ignorantly or maliciously, and frequently with an eye upon the profit to be made from the spending of the natives' wages in their particular stores, mislead the natives with the statement that that part of their wages collected by the Protector and banked, is taken from them and appropriated by the Government to be given to mission stations, with the result that some of these natives have refused point blank to sign the necessary agreements, and thus lost good and remunerative employment. The totals of amounts withdrawn by natives at the various centres (at one place, Rockhampton, exceeding the deposits for the year and still leaving a solid balance) will show the absurdity of such a story.

It is encouraging, however, to find that the large majority of the employers recognise the advantage of the banking account system, even to them, for when the native is in town on holiday, and can draw on his bank account, he does not attempt to overdraw his wages account.

As shown by the figures for the year in Table 1, the system of allowing natives to accept casual employment is being generally availed of by persons wishing to employ them only for a few hours a day cutting wood, &c., but who are not desirous of permanently employing them. On application to the Protector, a permit for legitimate casual employment can always be obtained by reputable people, as in these cases a rigid application of section 15 of the Aborigines Protection Act of 1897 would be injudicious and only tend towards making a farce of the administration of the Acts.

These Acts were intended for the aborigines' protection, and not to make conditions of his employment so impossible that the average casual employer would not be bothered with him. Most of such casual employment, being almost immediately under the eye of the Protector or his officers, can easily be watched and any unscrupulous dealing easily detected, for the average native knows the value of his services and unless fairly and often generously treated, is not modest about complaining and refuses to work there again.

I here give a few extracts from the Reports of the Protectors on this system:—

Charters Towers (Protector R. M. Graham).—"The only aborigines casually employed are the old camp blacks just outside the town; these wander about from house to house cutting a bit of firewood and getting line props, &c. No one would bother about employing them if compelled to get permits."

Croydon (Protector Timothy Sullivan).—"A large majority of aborigines in this district will not enter into any permanent agreement; they perform a large amount of casual work, and many of them may work for two different persons on the same day."

Coen (Protector Whiteford).—"The blacks about the town will not go under agreement; if they do, they only stay a few days, or at the most, a few weeks, then they desert and clear out to the bush. As I mentioned in my last year's Annual Report, I find that the casual employment scheme works better about the towns, as the blacks like to be always on the move, and they prefer to be free to come and go as they choose."

Port Douglas (Protector H. Hasenkamp).—"With regard to casual employment, I have not issued any permits, on the grounds that the few aborigines working here only show up from the camp when they get hungry and work about the houses for a couple of hours, then away to the Mowbray River after fish, so that between the little employment for food and the fish, it prevents Government relief being issued."

Normanton (Protector P. Daly).—"A number of boys and gins from the camp obtain casual employment from the residents, who employ them at washing, scrubbing, cutting firewood, carrying water, &c., for which labour they are paid in cash; this income, with their fishing and hunting material, leaves them above want."

Roma (Protector Chas. Savage).—"The granting of casual employment has been beneficial to the aboriginal; prior to the present system the employer did not trouble to take out an agreement for employment of this nature, and the aboriginal therefore did not before get so much of this kind of employment. It also meets the occasion of those who do not desire to enter into permanent employment, but keeps them from being altogether idle."

Winton (Protector M. Brosnan).—"There is permanent relief being issued to some old and infirm aborigines in the Diamantina portion of my district, but in the other centres those in employment look after the old and infirm ones. About Winton I always allow the townspeople to employ those boys and gins not in regular employment in scrubbing, washing, woodchopping, &c., and I find that the aborigine is always well able to look after himself in the matter of remuneration for any work so done."

TABLE 3.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING (MAINLAND)—1908.

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
1908.			
23 June ...	Camooweal ...	R. E. Kerwell ...	Fined £1 with 3s. 6d. costs
13 January ...	Bellvue Station ...	Ah Dong ...	Fined £1 with 4s. 6d. costs, or 7 days in lock-up
4 February ...	Maytown ...	Ah Lum ...	Fined £1 with 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month in lock-up
7 February ...	Maytown ...	Foo Chong ...	Fined £1 with 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month in lock-up
14 May ...	Granite Creek ...	Ah Lum ...	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 3 months in lock-up
26 June ...	Maytown ...	Sue Sick ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month in lock-up
16 July ...	Lee's Grave ...	John McLean ...	Fined £10 and 11s. 2d. costs, or 3 months in lock-up
15 September ...	Maytown ...	Foo Chong ...	Fined £5 and 6s. 4d. costs, or 3 months in lock-up
15 September ...	Maytown ...	Ah Yien ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 3 months in lock-up
6 October ...	Hyerstown ...	Ah Gim ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 3 months in lock-up
26 October ...	Alice River ...	David Biddell ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 6 months in lock-up
26 October ...	Alice River ...	Samuel Jackson ...	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 6 months in lock-up
4 February ...	Maytown ...	Ah Lum ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month in lock-up
7 February ...	Maytown ...	Foo Chong ...	Fined £1 and 4s. 6d. costs, or 1 month in lock-up
2 April ...	Mossman ...	Jack Nebo ...	Fined £5 and 1s. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
13 May ...	Bailey's Creek ...	Dick ...	Fined £5, or 7 days' imprisonment
13 May ...	Bailey's Creek ...	Jack Solomon ...	Fined £5, or 7 days' imprisonment
13 May ...	Bailey's Creek ...	Bob Api ...	Fined £5, or 7 days' imprisonment
13 May ...	Bailey's Creek ...	Sam Mullatta ...	Fined £5, or 7 days' imprisonment
14 May ...	Saltwater Creek ...	Charlie Lifue ...	Fined £5, or 14 days' imprisonment
24 February ...	Croydon ...	On Yan ...	Fined £1, or 14 days' imprisonment
16 November ...	Croydon ...	A. Nesbitt ...	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 48 hours' imprisonment
16 November ...	Croydon ...	E. A. Hayes ...	Case withdrawn
16 November ...	Croydon ...	W. H. Shepherd ...	Fined 1s. and 3s. 6d. costs, or 7 hours' imprisonment
16 November ...	Croydon ...	W. Balzen ...	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 48 hours' imprisonment
16 November ...	Croydon ...	Tim Bergin ...	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 7 hours' imprisonment
11 February ...	Townsville ...	W. Kirkwood ...	Fined 5s. and £1 9s. 6d. costs, or 1 week's imprisonment
17 November ...	Ravenswood ...	Quay Leong ...	Fined £20, or 4 months' imprisonment
10 December ...	Townsville ...	Charley Seaton ...	Fined £5, or 3 months' imprisonment
6 May ...	Kynuna ...	A. H. Clarke ...	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
23 May ...	Kynuna ...	A. J. Jackson ...	Fined 10s. and 3s. 6d. costs, or 24 hours' imprisonment
23 December ...	Winton ...	Oh Wah ...	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
10 September ...	Mount Garnet ...	Charley Emmerson ...	Fined £25 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
10 September ...	Mount Garnet ...	H. H. Watson ...	Fined £25 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
10 September ...	Mount Garnet ...	H. H. Watson ...	Fined £25 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
11 September ...	Mungana ...	Ernest Markham ...	Fined £5 and 5s. 4d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
11 September ...	Mungana ...	Lun Chong ...	Fined £5 and 5s. 4d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
24 September ...	Atherton ...	John May ...	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
24 September ...	Tolga ...	George E. Martin ...	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
24 September ...	Tolga ...	George E. Martin ...	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
10 October ...	Atherton ...	J. J. Markham ...	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
29 October ...	Atherton ...	Lee Lee ...	Case dismissed
29 October ...	Atherton ...	David Abraham ...	Adjourned one month
29 October ...	Atherton ...	Lapoo ...	Case withdrawn
29 October ...	Atherton ...	David ...	Case withdrawn
29 October ...	Atherton ...	Lebo ...	Adjourned for one month

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Somerset Petty Sessions District.—The Protector at Thursday Island, Mr. H. M. Milman, in his report, states:—

"There have been no permits issued for casual employment. For permanent employment 181 Torres Straits Islanders and 190 Mainland natives have been signed on articles (all males) during the year 1908, as against 183 and 215 respectively during 1907.

"*Mainland Labour.*—There has been a brisk demand for this class of labour for the bêche-de-mer industry, and a total of 190 of these natives have been signed on during the last year. Whatever have been the methods under which these boys have been recruited, the result has been that the physique of the natives has been, almost without exception, considerably improved during their period of service, a fact which would indicate that they have been well provided with "tucker" (as they call it), and their willingness to sign on again for a further period satisfies me that they meet with fair treatment from their employers. Sufficient time has now elapsed since the industry was first started to allow reliance to be placed on the abovementioned fact, *i.e.*, the desire to be signed on again, the natives fully understanding what the result of their entering into a fresh agreement would involve. I have addressed you already on the subject of want of supervision that is unavoidable under the present system of returning their natives to their homes on the mainland after the expiration of their term of service. Should, however, the proposed recruiting station in the neighbourhood of Lloyd Bay be established, with a suitable vessel attached to it, most of the present difficulty would disappear. That abuses are rife in the recruiting of the natives in the first instance is undoubted. Permits to recruit are granted to *anyone*, alien or otherwise (not being a Chinaman), and whoever takes out on a recruiting voyage the most rum secures the most recruits, and possibly or most probably their woman or girls

also—a truly lamentable state of affairs; but as long as these men can secure a license to be in charge of a boat it is impossible to check it. Liquor found on board these vessels *anywhere* and in *any* quantity should render them liable to forfeiture; that might stop it, nothing else will.

“*Missions.*—No recruiting is allowed on reserves for the natives on these areas controlled by the various missionary bodies, but I am not at all sure that the absolute closing of these extensive lands to outside influence is for the ultimate good of the natives living thereon, and I have already expressed my opinion that if the evils connected with the recruiting of the male adults can be remedied, a large field of labour would be opened, and the young men would cease to be a burden on the respective missions. With the arrival of the “John Douglas” a regular supply of labour could be introduced here, which would readily find employment, if only the prejudices of the governing bodies of these missions can be got over, and they be induced to give the system a fresh trial. The employment on Thursday Island of half-caste and other girls from the various islands and mission centres has been altogether prohibited, and very rightly so in my opinion; a garrison town being hardly the place where such a class of labour can safely be allowed to engage, however careful the employers may be.

“*Torres Straits Islands.*—That the several protective Acts passed of late years for the amelioration of the aboriginal races of the State were framed mainly in the interest of the scattered native population of the mainland, and without consideration for the advanced and superior natives of the islands in the extreme North, is evidenced by results, and an attempt to enforce the several conditions of those Acts might be both harsh and unnecessary. This I have been endeavouring to point out of late years, and it has only been since I was appointed Acting Protector, in addition to my duties of Government Resident, that I have been able to largely revert to the policy formerly in vogue, making use of and falling back on the Protection Acts in but few instances, and only when flagrant abuses have become apparent.

“*The Torres Straits Islanders: Native-owned Boats.*—This endeavour on the part of the Department to assist these people to secure vessels of their own has met with a very varied modicum of success or failure. In its earlier stages, while the principle was new, the natives worked well, and in many instances cleared off the debts on their boats (that is, the moneys advanced by the Government to enable them to be purchased) in a very short time, but as the boats became the property of the native the natural improvidence of the owners became apparent, the upkeep of the boats being disregarded, and no provision set aside for repairs, ordinary wear and tear, and other contingencies, with the result that in some instances further small advances have had to be arranged for to enable the company owning the boat to get to work again so that they may have no excuse for being idle. On the whole, I am of opinion that if the members of the companies who own or partly own these boats had been earning regular wages, more money would have been at their disposal for the support of their individual families. The demand for their services as crew of the shelling and beche-de-mer boats is keen, and those men not known as notorious loafers can command good wages ranging from £1 10s. to £2 5s. per month.”

Cook Petty Sessions District (Protector Bodman).—Protector Bodman in his report says:—

“Agreements were entered into for 130 males (principally on boats) and twenty females (on land), and sixty-nine accounts in the Savings Bank show a balance to credit of £314 4s. 5d.

“The approximate population of my district is 250 coming within my immediate influence. There is a good demand for aboriginal labour, and the behaviour of the aborigine on the whole is good.

“The aborigines in the district are very orderly and give no trouble. They appear to be thriving. A great many more young children are noticeable in the camps lately, and I think it is due to a great diminution of the opium-smoking habit.”

“MELBIDIR.”

The ketch “Melbidir,” under Captain Schluter, has been kept busily occupied with the usual patrols on the coast between Cooktown and Thursday Island, the eastern shores of the Gulf, and round the islands of Torres Straits. She has also proved herself most indispensable to me in conveying me on the coasts to those parts of my protectorate that would otherwise be inaccessible. Stationed at Cooktown she has been readily obtainable by the Government Departments in emergency, and in this direction gave most valuable aid in the searches for the missing ill-fated ketch “Port Stewart,” and the unlucky crew of the Claremont Island Lightship who were marooned in a gale.

I quote a paragraph from the report of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, which makes pointed reference to this vessel and the disabilities, owing, as stated, to her peculiar rig and limited motive power, under which Captain Schluter (who is also a Protector of Aborigines and Inspector of Fisheries) labours.

“After the arrival of the new steamer here (the ‘John Douglas’), the duties of the ‘Melbidir’ will be, presumably, confined to patrol work pure and simple, for which, owing to her peculiar rig, she has become so well known that she is practically useless in these waters. I would strongly recommend that her rig be altered so as to make her indistinguishable from other vessels engaged in the fisheries, and if a motor engine were put on board she would be able to overhaul any vessel without the delay which now ensues, thereby lessening the opportunities which frequently occur of concealing or obliterating any traces of breaches of the Fisheries Acts, such as having women on board, &c., which particular breach, from all I can learn, is still constantly practised.”

The Master, Captain J. Schluter, reports as follows:—

“I have the honour to forward herewith my report on the movements and operations of the Government ketch ‘Melbidir’ during the year ended 31st December, 1908.

“On 4th January I proceeded to Brisbane on leave for two weeks, leaving the vessel in Cooktown Harbour in charge of Mr. Whelan, the mate, where the time was occupied in repairing the sails, renewing

the gear and general overhauling. On the 21st January, by order of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, the vessel was sent in search of a part of the crew of the Claremont Lightship, who had been blown away in a small boat, but who fortunately managed to regain their ship after five days' hardship and exposure.

"Early in February, after delivering rations for the destitute aborigines at Cape Bedford Mission, I proceeded North on patrol, arriving at Thursday Island on the 17th, after having overhauled a large bêche-de-mer ketch and examined her crew, stores, and papers, but found everything in order. On the 19th, by instruction, I proceeded to Mapoon Mission Station with ten natives reported to have been illegally recruited from there by a Japanese, and there conducted an inquiry. As the evidence supported the charge the Japanese was compelled to restore the men to the Mission.

"On 4th March I left again for Mapoon in search of the Police cutter from Thursday Island, which was reported as overdue, and found the cutter and police party bound at Mapoon by heavy weather, which also delayed me there for five days. On my return to Thursday Island, I took on stores for some of the island schools, and after delivering them, proceeded on patrol to the South, boarding and examining five vessels whose masters failed to produce the necessary ship's papers, and were ordered by me to report themselves to the Protector of Aborigines at Thursday Island. I also endeavoured to board two suspicious looking cutters in a shallow creek, but failed owing to the deep draught of the 'Melbidir,' and heavy seas which would have swamped the dingy. I called at the Pipon Island Lightship, bringing mails and one of the assistants on to Cooktown, arriving there on the 1st April.

"The very next day I received urgent instructions from the Chief Protector to go in search of the ill-fated ketch 'Port Stewart,' then reported overdue, and immediately got under way, proceeding with all despatch and inquiring from every likely quarter for information of her. Neither the natives, masters of passing vessels or lightships, could give the desired information. After seven days' careful and diligent search, information was obtained of some wreckage washed ashore five miles south of Stewart River, which was recognised as part of the ill-fated ketch, and unmistakable evidence of the loss of the vessel and all on board of her. I made careful inquiries of the natives and examined all likely places for any possible survivors, and at last, with portion of the wreckage aboard, returned to Cooktown and reported the result to the Harbourmaster there.

"In May I made two trips with stores to Pipon Island and Archer Point, and at latter end of the month patrolled as far south as Townsville. Here I boarded a bêche-de-mer schooner, which I found to be in a most unseaworthy condition. I reported it to the Harbourmaster, who promptly ordered her to be slipped and repaired.

"On 3rd June, on order from the Chief Protector, I left for Orchid Point to await the Government steamer 'Otter,' with the Honourable the Home Secretary, Chief Protector of Aborigines, and party aboard, and arrived there on the 18th, having examined two bêche-de-mer vessels with aboriginal crews on the way. I picked up Senior-sergeant Whiteford and his police party, who had come overland from Coen, on the 19th, and the Government party arrived on the 20th. We immediately left in the whaleboat to explore the Lockhardt River for ten miles, and on returning, the 'Otter' proceeded to Thursday Island. The Chief Protector, after landing the police party, then sailed for Thursday Island, calling at Escape River and Somerset, and reaching his destination on the 29th.

"While here I was called upon to give evidence before the Pearlshelling Commission, and that being done I took stores aboard for the Torres Strait schools, and a new teacher for Saibai, and, with the Chief Protector and local Protector aboard also, left for a trip of inspection to the island schools, calling at Nagheer, Badu, Mabuiag, Saibai, Dauan, Yam, Arden, Darnley, York, and Aureed, returning to Thursday Island on the 16th July. On the 20th I left again, with the Chief Protector of Aborigines aboard, on a visit to the Gulf Mission Stations, calling at Mapoon, Weipa, Archer River, and Mitchell River, and afterwards sailed across to Mornington Island, where the Chief Protector went ashore on a tour of inspection, finding the natives in the perfectly primitive state, but free from disease and uncontaminated by any of the evils of civilisation.

"On 5th August, arrived at Sweer's Island, where we picked up a shipwrecked white man and three aborigines and gave them a passage to Normanton, where Mr. Howard also left us to continue his trip overland, the 'Melbidir' returning then to Thursday Island, which was reached on the 23rd. On the 28th, after loading cocoanuts at Nagheer for the Cape Bedford Mission, I proceeded on patrol down the coast, picking up mails at the lightships, keeping a sharp look-out for boats working on the reefs, calling at Port Stewart on the way, and, discharging the cocoanuts at Cape Bedford, arrived at Cooktown on the 18th, where I had to employ a carpenter for a couple days to do some necessary repairs. On the 26th I left again for Thursday Island to take the Government Resident (and newly appointed Protector of Aborigines) around the islands of Torres Straits, conveying the teacher first to Cape Bedford and delivering mails at the lightships. At Barrow Point the natives reported that a Japanese vessel had kidnapped four of their women, and I was afterwards informed at Flinders Island that three of the women had been landed at Bathurst Head. After some trouble I found the four women referred to and returned them to their homes, reporting the whole facts to the Protector at Thursday Island, by whom the offenders were prosecuted.

"After taking the Government Resident and Protector round the islands I returned to Thursday Island on the 26th October, and patrolled first to Cooktown. After conveying a Police party from Cooktown along the coast to search for a prisoner, which occupied from 19th to 23rd October, I repaired sails and gear and left again on the 28th for Thursday Island, spending the time patrolling the fishing grounds and returning in time to bring the island school teachers in to Thursday Island for the midsummer vacation, and then returned to Cooktown in time for Christmas.

"During my patrols every opportunity was taken to examine the condition of natives employed in the various fishing boats, and, except in a few instances, they appeared to be well treated and well fed. No cases of illegal recruiting, except that from the Mapoon Mission already referred to, came under my notice, and, although there is no doubt it is still carried on in places, yet not to any marked degree.

"Owing to the peculiar rig of the 'Melbidir,' an efficient supervision of the recruiting and working of natives on bêche-de-mer boats is impracticable, for, being unable to come upon them unawares, they have ample opportunity, when near the coast, to land any illegally recruited natives before I can come up with them, and the absence of steam or motor power in the vessel gives me no real advantage over the vessels I have to check and inspect."

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Below is shown the list of half-castes to whom certificates of exemption, under Section 33 of the Act of 1897, were granted by the Honourable the Home Secretary, on my recommendation.

Four young girls were granted the exemption as their father a white man, was well able and desirous of providing for their welfare. Another child was exempted on the wish of her dead father's relatives, who have provided for her, and all the remainder were clearly shown to be capable of managing their own affairs and able to find suitable and satisfactory employment.

No certificates were revoked during the year, and none other than satisfactory reports were received of any of the recipients:—

TABLE I.

Name.	Age.	Residence.	Conditional or Free.	Recommended by—
Cecilia Swabey	32 years	Woodford	Free ...	Officer in Charge of Police, Woodford
Valentine Mingo... ..	18 "	Kynuna	" ...	Protector, Winton
Bessie Barber	26 "	"Goozea," Milo, <i>vidi</i> Adavale	" ...	Protector, Charleville
May Mossman	13 "	Alsace	" ...	Protector, Cloncurry
Aprilla Mossman	11 "	<i>Vidi</i> Donaldson	" ...	"
Norah Mossman	9 "	"	" ...	"
Junella Mossman	9 months	"	" ...	"
Geo. Snelling	25 years	Sandgate	" ...	Chief Protector, Aborigines
John Downs	24 "	Strathfield Station	Conditional	"
Mamie Sawtell Williams	10 "	Wilnadinga, <i>vidi</i> Floraville	Free ...	P.M. "Normanton and T. Nevitt, M.L.A.
Tilly Logan	20 "	Toowoomba	" ...	Chief Protector, Aborigines
Jerry Jerome	"	Warra	" ...	W. Vowles, Dalby
Harry Murray	18 "	Mitchell	" ...	W. J. Green, Merivale
Jimmy Moore	18 "	"	" ...	"
Jas. Sweeney	"	Diamantina	" ...	Protector of Aborigines Winton
Jim Fidler	30 "	Murgon	" ...	Superintendent, Barambah

RECOGNISANCES.

The following list shows the number of recognisances entered into by employers at different centres for the return of aboriginal employees removed by them to other districts or States. The conditions were in each case faithfully carried out, and no complaints were received:—

Brisbane	10	Ingham	—
Boulia	6	Hughenden	4
Burketown	—	Longreach	4
Cairns	1	Mackay	2
Charleville	7	Maryborough	—
Charters Towers	—	Port Douglas	—
Cloncurry	7	Normanton	3
Cooktown	1	Rockhampton	8
Croydon	3	Roma	—
Coen	2	Townsville	4
Geraldton	—	Thursday Island	1
Georgetown	—	Toowoomba	—
Herberton	—	Winton	10

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FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

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

Centre.	Amount.	Centre.	Amount.	Centre.	Amount.
Badu (Thursday Island) ...	£ 0 7 0	Duarina	£ 1 10 0	Millichester	£
Bedourie	2 0 0	Eidsvold	0 15 0	Mitchell	0 5 0
Betoota	4 0 0	Goondiwindi	1 15 0	Moreton	1 0 0
Birdsville	4 10 0	Bowen	1 0 0	Mount Perry	0 15 0
Boulia	5 0 0	Croydon	10 0 0	Musgrave	3 0 0
Burketown	6 10 0	Hammond Island	2 10 0	Yandina	0 15 0
Cloncurry	1 0 0	Kuranda	0 10 0	St. George	3 0 0
Coen	1 10 0	Laura	2 0 0	Tallwood	3 0 0
Coomrith	1 10 0	Maryborough ... ..	...	Thornborough	2 10 0
Coonambula	1 0 0	Mavtown	2 0 0	Thylungra	2 10 0
Cape Bedford	7 0 0	McDonnell	3 10 0	Welltown	2 15 0
Diamantina	4 13 0				

Only necessary articles are supplied, such as tea, sugar, flour, soda, soap, tobacco, meat, dresses, tomahawks, fishing lines, and then only in such quantities as are calculated to relieve the recipient from actual starvation, and assist his own or his friend's effort to provide for his wants. At some of the centres shown in last year's report the issue has been discontinued, the recipients having either died, left for another district, or been removed to Barambah, and several fresh centres have been created. The reports from the various Protectors go to show that if it was not for the discretion used in the administration of certain clauses of the Acts, in so far that natives are allowed to accept casual employment without entering into an agreement, and thus supplement the result of their hunting and fishing expeditions, the amount of such relief applied for would be considerably larger. While making every endeavour to reach and relieve those cases of necessity, which come under notice from time to time, anything approaching "coddling" is strictly avoided; and where possible, the needy ones, if no means of self help are available, are encouraged to go to the settlement, where they can be better attended and looked after.

BLANKETS.

The annual distribution of blankets was as usual carried out by the Government Storekeeper, Mr. McLennan, and much credit is due to him and his staff for the most satisfactory manner in which this arduous duty was performed.

I quote here from his report:—

"The work of despatching the blankets to the various distributing centres began in the early part of January of this year, and by the 1st May following the despatch was finally completed. Every care was taken to insure the arrival of the blankets at the various centres of distribution in ample time for issue to the blacks before the cold weather made itself felt.

"The apportionment of blankets to each centre was made by myself, in conjunction with the Chief Protector of Aborigines, on the basis of last year's distribution, and as very few complaints were received the inference is that the allotment was satisfactory. All the distributing officers reported distribution with the exception of Archer River Mission Station, twenty pairs, Burketown 100 pairs, and Mitchell forty pairs. These are shown on the return as issued to unspecified persons. The Police Officer at Birdsville reports having sent eight pairs to Annandale Station, but had not been furnished with particulars of distribution. Also Police, Mount Molloy, omitted to indicate the sex of sixty-seven of the recipients, while sundry other distributors failed to supply similar information in the case of some twelve pairs issued, with the result that I have had also to show these blankets as distributed to unspecified persons.

"At the special request of the master of the Claremont Island Lightship a quantity of fishing lines, fishing hooks, knives, tomahawks, &c., were supplied for distribution to the blacks in the neighbourhood of the Claremont Islands, to assist them to procure fish and native foods. Instead of sending the usual number—viz., fifty pairs—I sent only twenty-five pairs, but gave him the value of the other twenty-five pairs by substituting the articles named.

"On comparing this year's figures with those of last year it will be seen that some 511 pairs were distributed in excess of the number issued last year. As, however, this is the year for the supply of blankets to the Aboriginal Homes and Mission Stations the excess number is readily accounted for, as for some years past it has been the custom to make only a biennial distribution to those blacks living in the Homes and Mission Stations.

"The number of blankets available for distribution this year at eight homes and mission stations was 737 pairs.

"No reasonable request for blankets for blacks living in a nomadic state was refused, whilst at the same time every care has been taken to prevent duplication of supply in the case of individual blacks, although one instance of duplication of supply was brought under my notice—viz., one able-bodied gin received two pairs; firstly, the sergeant of police at Clermont issued one pair, and the postmistress at Blackridge (who was appointed a distributor for this year) subsequently issued another pair to the same person.

"The recipients this year were 2,966 men, 2,443 women, 1,352 children, and 186 unspecified persons; total 6,947 as against a total of 6,155 last year. The number of centres of distribution was 155 as against 147 last year, and the total number of blankets issued was 5,622 pairs as against 5,011 pairs last year.

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

	£	s.	d.
5,622 pairs of blankets at 8s.	2,248	16	0
Forwarding charges, say	110	0	0
Total	£2,358	16	0

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

Year.	Pairs.	Persons.
1899	7,888	9,403
1900	7,308½	8,193
1901	7,444	9,101
1902	6,858½	8,341
1903	4,914	6,072
1904	4,296½	5,466
1905	4,652½	5,594
1906	5,391	6,704
1907	5,011	6,155
1908	5,622	6,947

"With few exceptions, the distributors were police officers, and the work of distribution was discharged by them in a careful and painstaking manner."

SUPPLY OF LIQUOR AND OPIUM TO ABORIGINALS.

The reports from all sources would indicate a fairly satisfactory state of affairs as regards the opium and drink trouble. Many of the districts report an almost total immunity from one evil or the other. In Brisbane, Boulia, Charleville, Cloncurry, Coen, Georgetown, Herberton, Longreach, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Thursday Island, and Toowoomba, the opium habit among aborigines is now practically extinct, although in most places drink is obtained by them, but not to any great extent, thanks to the vigilance of the police.

I append extracts from some of the Protectors' reports on these questions :—

Brisbane.—"Under the headings of drink and opium, there is little to say. Many of the aborigines, when liquor is procurable, indulge in it to a certain extent, whilst the use of opium is unknown to them."

Cairns.—"Occasionally the blacks get drink, but not to any great extent; and although the number of prosecutions during the past year for supplying opium to aborigines exceeds that of the previous year, I am confident that it is greatly diminishing."

Charleville.—"In the township the blacks may at times get grog from unscrupulous whites, but a few heavy penalties at the beginning of the year, and the strict vigilance by the police, abated the nuisance. I feel quite satisfied that opium is a thing of the past in this district."

Charters Towers.—"The aborigines who do not use opium are generally addicted to drink, and will indulge to excess whenever the opportunity offers. No convictions have been obtained for supplying them during the year. There has not been a great deal of drunkenness owing to the stringent manner in which the Licensing Act has been enforced.

"There have been a number of convictions *re* opium traffic, of which my monthly returns furnish all particulars. Owing to a recent decision of the Supreme Court at Townsville, it has become very difficult to suppress opium traffic; nearly all the principal offenders are now armed with a doctor's certificate, which, according to the decision stated, authorises them to have a certain quantity. The aborigines are supplied with the charcoal, but it is almost impossible to get one who will give information, and the Chinese are too cunning to supply one who does not use it."

Cooktown.—"There are a few aborigines in this town who get drink when they can, and have been locked up for drunkenness. The police are keeping a strict watch on the people who supply them with liquor, but up to the present have not been successful. There is one case where a Chinaman was caught red-handed by the police supplying an aborigine with charcoal opium, and he was prosecuted, and fined £20 and costs of court, in default two months' imprisonment; and since then it has checked the supplying of opium and charcoal to the aborigines."

Cloncurry.—"The evil of drinking among the aborigines does not exist to any great degree. The evils from opium smoking are so far unknown. Several prosecutions for supplying liquor to aborigines within the town of Cloncurry have been gone on with, and the penalties, alike to publicans and private individuals, tends to deter persons who are disposed to supply drink to the blacks."

Geraldton.—"Very little drinking is done among the aborigines, but a great number of them smoke opium when it can be got."

Croydon.—"There is very little liquor supplied to the aborigines here at present. Whilst publicans were allowed to employ them casually, or otherwise, they were often drunk, but since I refused to allow a publican to employ an aborigine in any capacity I have not seen the signs of drink on any of them.

"The Chinese here still manage to get a supply of opium, and, although several of them were fined during the year for supplying the aborigines and being in possession of the drug, the traffic still goes on, and notwithstanding the vigilance of the police here the aborigines are, I am sorry to say, still being supplied with charcoal opium."

Coen.—"The inland blacks very seldom get any drink, but I am sorry that I cannot say the same for the blacks along the coast, as the Japanese supply them with rum whilst trying to get them to recruit. A prominent resident of Port Stewart informed me that he has taken rum from the blacks on many occasions, and when he questioned them as to where they got it from, they told him that the Japanese had given it to them. This is one of the abuses that would be put a stop to if there was an Aboriginal Settlement and Recruiting Station formed on the east coast.

"There are only a few Chinamen in my district now, and there is no opium used."

Hughenden.—"During the year eight convictions were obtained for supplying liquor to aborigines, and two convictions for supplying opium, the latter convictions being against Chinese. With respect to drink and opium traffic with the aborigines, the police throughout Hughenden police district have been very vigilant, and the result is that opium traffic is now almost a thing of the past. Unscrupulous persons are still to be found who will supply liquor to aborigines, but this class of offence will diminish if justices continue to convict under section 8 of the Amendment Act of 1902, which was framed to prevent small fines. When procedure under this section is followed out it will make it almost impossible for persons to traffic in liquor with aborigines without running a risk of severe punishment."

Longreach.—"There were several convictions for drunkenness during the year, but on the whole there has been very little drinking of liquor by the blacks, and the opium habit seems to be a thing of the past."

Mackay.—"But little drink, except in few cases; old hands loafing about outside hotels at odd times."

"Opium is not extensively used. A few old hands manage to obtain small quantities of charcoal opium from the Chinese in spite of the vigilance of the police."

Normanton.—"Although strict watch is kept by the police the aborigines still occasionally obtain drink and opium in small quantities, the Chinese residents being the principal offenders in supplying the drug. Two of the latter were convicted during the year for having opium in their possession."

Rockhampton.—"There is very little drinking amongst the blacks in the district, and, although there is still a small quantity of opium smuggled into the State, the use of the drug by the blacks is reduced to a minimum."

Roma.—"A conviction for supplying liquor was obtained against a European at Mitchell, and the offender was fined £20. Where opium cannot be obtained they exhibit a strong tendency for liquor, and are ready at every opportunity to obtain it, being aided by unscrupulous white men. The Taroom blacks exhibit the strongest tendency for liquor, and they adopt every means of conniving to obtain it. When they do so obtain it the police there often have difficulty in keeping them in order."

"At Roma, Mitchell, Surat, and St. George, several convictions were obtained for unlawful possession and supplying opium, and heavy fines were inflicted."

"The use of opium has considerably decreased in this district, owing to the strict attention paid by the police and difficulty of safely obtaining supplies."

Winton.—"I find that as long as the aborigine can get opium he or she has no desire for alcohol, but if the opium becomes scarce, they endeavour to get liquor, and during the year one man here, who was caught by the police supplying an aboriginal with liquor, was fined £20, which was paid by him; and during the year a Chinaman was fined £2 for unlawfully employing an aborigine, while eight others, convicted for being in unlawful possession of opium, were fined on the aggregate £112 12s., which sum was paid. The aborigines still get opium, notwithstanding the heavy fines inflicted upon them, but not in the same quantities as formerly."

TABLE 5.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM, 1908.

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
1908.			
2 May	Charters Towers	Kong Yow	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
2 May	Charters Towers	Chin Kee	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
2 May	Charters Towers	Ah Chin	Fined £25 and 4s. 6d. costs
5 June	Charters Towers	Tommy Ah Hin	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
5 June	Charters Towers	Peter (aboriginal)	Fined £10, or 1 month's imprisonment
11 August	Charters Towers	Ah Chin	Fined £30 and 4s. 6d. costs
11 August	...	Ah Lee Tim How	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
25 August	...	Ah Lin	Fined £25 and 4s. 6d. costs
25 August	...	Ah Hong	Fined £25 and 4s. 6d. costs
29 August	...	Noble (abor.)	...
29 August	...	Leong Lou	Fined £2 and 2s. costs
29 August	...	Ah Leong	Fined £5 and 2s. costs
...	...	Ah Yen	Fined £10 and 2s. costs
...	...	Yoke Mowe	Fined £5 and 2s. costs
21 September	...	Ah Chong	Fined £5
6 October	...	Sing Chong	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
...	...	Ah Yen	Fined £3 and 4s. 6d. costs
...	...	Ah Ching	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
7 December	...	Ah Jun	Fined £30, or 3 months' imprisonment
13 October	Christmas Creek	Tie Kwong	Fined £25 and 4s. 6d. costs
21 October	Mossman	Ah Sang	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
22 October	Cooktown	Lup Tow	Fined £20 and 9s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
2 April	Mossman	Kim Lee	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
26 April	Mowbury, Port Douglas	Ah Sue	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
26 April	Mowbury, Port Douglas	Hee Sin	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
26 April	Mowbury, Port Douglas	Fong Chong	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
26 April	Nanango Park	Ah Gan	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
26 April	Bonnieoon	Tong Pan	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
26 April	Nanango Park	Lou Fong	Fined £5 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
24 October	Croydon	Billy (aboriginal)	Fined £1 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment

TABLE 5.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM, 1908—continued.

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
1908.			
26 October	Croydon	Chung Won	Fined £20 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
22 October	Croydon	Lo Chong	Fined £30 and £1 4s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
18 May	Seymour	Ah Chow	Fined £10, or 2 months' imprisonment
25 March	Minnie Downs Station	Ah Mann	Fined £5 and 4s. 6d. costs
25 March	Minnie Downs Station	Ah Mann	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs (second charge)
2 December	Tambo	Sam Foo	Fined £25, or 6 months' imprisonment
17 January	Mackay	Loo Hook	Fined £10 and 4s. 6d. costs
16 January	Mackay	Jessie Hando	Fined £10 and 19s. costs
25 June	Mirani	Ah Hing	Fined £10 and 5s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
1 September	Finch Hatton	Lim Gup	Fined £10 and 5s. 6d. costs
7 November	Mackay	Tum (South Sea Islander)	Fined £10, or 1 month's imprisonment
7 November	Mackay	Albert (South Sea Islander)	Fined £10, or 1 month's imprisonment
10 March	Bundaberg	Rose Munro	Fined £50, or 6 months' imprisonment
9 July	Maryborough	Lena Yanc	} Fined £20 each
		Rose Wilson	
17 July	Maryborough	Dong	Fined £10
17 July	Maryborough	Dong	Fined £20
31 March	Capella	George Lee	Fined £2 and 10s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
5 March	Capella	Ah Mee	Fined £2 and costs
20 April	Clermont	Ah Sing	Fined £40 and 14s. costs
13 November	Rockhampton	Lin Kee	Fined £2 and costs
10 November	Springsure	Hop Yik	Fined £30
10 December	Emerald	Sam Hop	Fined £40, or 3 months' imprisonment
3 January	St. George	Jimmy Lum On	Fined £10, or 2 months' imprisonment
10 March	Roma	Lon Mon	Fined £40, or 6 months' imprisonment
28 March	Roma	Jimmy Chong	Fined £30
14 July	Roma	Look Chew	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
24 August	Roma	Ah Wah	Fined £30 and 6s. 4d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
13 November	Mitchell	Lilian Cleland	Fined £1, or 1 month's imprisonment
13 November	Mitchell	Hugh Cleland	Fined £1, or 1 month's imprisonment
3 January	Thursday Island	Boo Chock	Fined £10
3 January	Thursday Island	Chun War	Fined £10
20 January	Thursday Island	Lee Yen	Fined £5, or 1 month's imprisonment
8 September	Thursday Island	Chiu You	Fined £5 and 2s. costs
9 April	Laidley	Sam Yonk	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
9 April	Laidley	Ah Sow	Four months' imprisonment
20 January	Townsville	Ali Kee	Fined £2 and £2 2s. costs
24 January	Townsville	Sow You	Fined £10 and 5s. 6d. costs
27 January	Townsville	Ah Kee	Fined £3 and £1 1s. costs
9 February	Maidavale	Ah Bang	Fined 10s. and £1 6s. 8d. costs
9 February	Maidavale	Ah Choeng	Fined £1 and £1 4s. 6d. costs
13 April	Townsville	Ma Slun	Fined £4 3s., or 3 months' imprisonment
13 April	Townsville	Ali Coo	Fined £6 3s., or 3 months' imprisonment
2 April	Brandon	Ah Him	Fined £2 and £2 5s. 6d. costs
2 April	Brandon	Ah Lee	Fined £25 and £2 5s. 6d. costs
9 May	Seymour River	Ah Chow	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
12 May	Brandon	Ah Sang	Fined £20, or 6 months' imprisonment
12 May	Cardwell	Charley Toy	Fined £50, or 6 months' imprisonment
15 May	Cardwell	Charley Toy	Fined £10, or 1 month's imprisonment
1 June	Townsville	Tommy Sun	Fined £22 9s., or 6 months' imprisonment
4 June	Townsville	Ah Sam	Fined £6 3s., or 1 month's imprisonment
9 June	Townsville	Francis E. Clarke	Fined £50, or 6 months' imprisonment
12 June	Townsville	Ah Bit	Fined £7 17s., or 1 month's imprisonment
28 May	Ravenswood	Ah Sing	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
28 May	Ravenswood	Ah Wing	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
28 May	Ravenswood	Lee You	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
28 May	Ravenswood	Chong Tai	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
28 May	Ravenswood	Lum Hook	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
28 August	Townsville	Ah Lun	Fined £5 and £1 5s. 6d. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
2 September	Ravenswood	Wong Ping	Fined £25, or 6 months' imprisonment
18 September	Townsville	Jong Chung	Fined £5 and £1 7s. 6d. costs
12 September	Townsville	Ah Bit	Fined £5 and £1 7s. 6d. costs
23 October	Ravenswood	Jang Pang	Fined £5, or 1 month's imprisonment
17 November	Ravenswood	Quay Leong	Fined £25 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
17 November	Ravenswood	Look Wing	Fined £25 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
23 January	Winton	Goon Yee	Fined £60, or 6 months' imprisonment
14 April	Winton	Wong Mew	Fined £10 and 9s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
14 April	Winton	Wong Mew	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
14 April	Winton	Oh Wah	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
14 April	Winton	Yep Shue	Fined £5, or 2 months' imprisonment
21 April	Winton	Wong Mew	Fined £7 10s., or 2 months' imprisonment
11 July	Winton	Fong Sing	Fined £20, or 3 months' imprisonment
26 November	Winton	Goon Yee	Fined £20 and 3s. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
23 December	Winton	Oh Wah	Fined £20 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 3 months' imprisonment
29 September	Thornborough	Ah Chong	Fined £20, or 3 months' imprisonment
29 September	Thornborough	Ah Chong	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
29 September	Thornborough	Ah Gow	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
5 October	Atherton	Loo Kie	Fined £10 and 5s. 6d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
5 October	Atherton	Ah Foo	Dismissed
20 October	Atherton	Ah Hoon	Fined £5, or 1 month's imprisonment
20 October	Atherton	Ah Kong	Fined £12 and 6s. costs, or 1 month's imprisonment
12 November	Atherton	Kong Sing	Fined £20 and 5s. 6d. costs, or 6 months' imprisonment
24 November	Molly Mount	Hoe King	Fined £10, or 3 months' imprisonment
23 October	Atherton	Hong Lee	Fined £2 and 3s. 6d. costs, or 14 days' imprisonment

TABLE 6.—PROSECUTIONS FOR SUPPLYING OPIUM TO ABORIGINES, 1908.—Nil.

TABLE 7.—CONVICTIONS FOR SUPPLYING LIQUOR TO ABORIGINES—1908.

Date.	Situation.	Defendent.	Result.
1908.			
6 February ...	Cloncurry ...	John Stirling ...	Fined £20, or 3 months' imprisonment
12 March ...	Hampden ...	{ James McCarthy ... { Thomas Hidster ...	Fined £25, or 3 months' imprisonment Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
22 March ...	Hampden ...	R. E. Kershaw ...	Fined £20, or 3 months' imprisonment
12 December ...	Cloncurry ...	James Brady ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
8 August ...	Mossman ...	Arthur Kribes ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
17 July ...	Richmond ...	Frederick Entwistle ...	Not punished
19 October ...	Hughenden ...	John Griffith ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
27 October ...	Hughenden ...	John Crowe ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
17 November ...	Richmond ...	Thomas Maddern ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
18 April ...	Seymour ...	Maraka Meina ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
29 January ...	Nebo ...	George Harvey ...	Fined £50, or 3 months' imprisonment
2 April ...	Mirani ...	Ah Sam ...	Fined £20 and 10s. 4d. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
6 May ...	Thursday Island ...	Giddon ...	Two months' imprisonment
23 July ...	Thursday Island ...	Ellen McNulty ...	Case dismissed
26 May ...	Marra ...	Neil Neilson ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
8 May ...	Townsville ...	Ah How ...	Dismissed
21 June ...	Ayr ...	Nana ...	Fined £20, or 4 months' imprisonment
3 September ...	Ayr ...	Joe Manilla ...	Fined £25, or 4 months' imprisonment
8 September ...	Ayr ...	Alexander De Cressay ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
19 November ...	Ayr ...	W. Palmer ...	Fined £20, or 4 months' imprisonment
11 July ...	Almaden ...	John Carr ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
11 July ...	Almaden ...	Vincent Carrol ...	Fined £20, or 2 months' imprisonment
13 August ...	Almaden ...	Ah Sam ...	Fined £10 and 3s. 6d. costs
22 August ...	Chillagoe ...	Lee See ...	Fined £20 and 5s. 6d. costs
19 October ...	Herberton ...	John Howard ...	Fined £20 and 2s. costs, or 2 months' imprisonment

CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

The following list of young women and children, rescued from a life of destitution, immorality, and neglect, and placed in healthier and more comfortable circumstances will show that the Department has not been inactive in its operations for the welfare of this section of the community. There are now eighty-eight of these unfortunate children at school at Barambah Settlement, and the schools on the various mission stations also show a good attendance, and their bright happy faces, neat tidy appearances (hair neatly brushed, and clothes clean and mended if not always tailor-fitting) show whether the change has been for their benefit. They make willing and intelligent pupils, and with very few exceptions are very amenable to discipline.

Many of the young women have married steady hard-working boys, and gone to service with their husbands as married couples on stations or as police trackers.

With a magnanimity that was as amusing as commendable, where the woman had children by an earlier marriage or otherwise, the boy has apparently without hesitation taken them as well as the mother to his heart and home.

The single women on the settlement are occupied as far as possible with looking after the young children, many of whom are orphans. Industrial schools, where children found destitute and neglected are committed by the bench for necessary terms, are instituted at Mapoon, Yarrabah, Deebing Creek, and Barambah, and for the children sent to the first three schools, the mission authorities are allowed a small weekly sum for maintenance.

All superintendents report very favourably of the progress made and improvement shown.

Nellie, a half-caste from Inglewood, was sent to Brisbane and placed in service.

Ida, an aboriginal woman serving a sentence in Stewart's Creek Gaol, was certified insane and sent to Goodna Lunatic Asylum.

Daisy, Albert, Norman, and Kathleen, neglected children, were taken from unhealthy surroundings at Nebo, and sent to school at Barambah.

Langlo Louise, who left her aboriginal husband at Mount Morris and lived in immorality with a white man, was removed to Barambah.

Ellen Smith, and her four children, was, at her own request, sent to Barambah.

Charlie and Rosy Blair, two half-castes at Normanton, who wished to leave camp life, were sent to Barambah at their own request.

Bella McLean, a half-caste domestic servant in Brisbane, was sent to Barambah for immoral behaviour, and absconding from service.

Ida Morgan and two children, Ruby and Maggie Alford, half-caste girls at Croydon, unable to obtain suitable employment, were sent to Barambah, where good situations were immediately procured for them.

Eliza Kirk, at Roma, for drunkenness, prostitution, and obscene language, was removed to Barambah, where she shortly afterwards married, and is now well behaved.

Adelaide, for living an immoral life and getting into trouble, was removed from Ingham to Yarrabah.

Ethel, Norman, and Arthur, neglected children, were sent from Charleston to Barambah to school.

Hilda, an aboriginal girl, given a trial at service at her own request, was, for stealing and night-rambling, sent to Barambah, where she married a tracker, and is now with her husband employed in the Police Department.

Mary Daylight, a half-caste servant girl, for absconding, stealing, and bad behaviour, was sent for three years to Yarrabah.

Zoe, an aboriginal woman, and her three children, who was unable to obtain employment or provide for the children, was sent from Hughenden to Barambah.

Minnie Watekin, a half-caste child, for being a neglected child, was removed from Townsville to Barambah, and sent to school.

Alice Walker, a bright half-caste girl, was taken from the custody of a depraved old man at Inglewood, and sent from Brisbane to a good situation on a farm in the country.

Annie Simpson, a married half-caste woman, separated from her husband, and leading an immoral life, was removed to Barambah.

Fannie Coolagie, an aboriginal girl, ill-treated and traded in prostitution by her aboriginal husband, was taken from him and sent to Yarrabah for her protection.

Laura Broom, Barbara, and Grace Pentecost, two half-castes and an aboriginal girl, were to be removed by the Aboriginal Inland Mission to their home at Singleton, but were instead placed in good service in the Maryborough district.

Nellie Douglas, arrested for desertion from employment, on information by her employer, who refused to take her back, was, by recommendation of the Police Magistrate, Cooktown, sent to Yarrabah.

Annie Weasel, for repeatedly deserting from employment in Cairns, and hiding in the bush, was sent to Yarrabah.

Margaret Mary Mommarile, Thursday Island woman, deserted by her husband, a half-caste Manila man, was, with her child, sent to Mapoon for safety.

Fanny, with her two children, destitute, and unable to obtain employment, was sent from Cloncurry to Yarrabah.

Young women and children were removed from Blackwater to Barambah for six months for opium smoking, prostitution, and neglected condition.

Mabel, Alice, Harry, Alice Brown, and Arthur Brown, neglected children, were sent from Forest Vale to Barambah to school.

As young girls attained the age of puberty at Barambah, it was in most cases not considered advisable to allow them to remain at the settlement, where the temptations of camp life were so great and the means of restraint so inadequate. For this reason, as already mentioned in "Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane," about twenty-five were at different times sent down to Brisbane to the Protectress, and comfortable situations found for them, mostly in the country. These girls are now greatly improved in health, usefulness, appearance, and manners; the change from the camp life to, to them, luxuries of a civilised home, with care and attention of a kind mistress, having a markedly beneficial effect. This policy has been carried out in all the protectorates, and many fine happy-faced girls thus saved from what would have otherwise been a life of degradation and probably prostitution.

The following list shows the girls and women to whom permits under section 9 of the *Aboriginals' Protection Act, 1901*, were given to marry aliens. Mostly Pacific Islanders, Malays, and white men (principally the two former) were chosen by the girls applying, and these were in all cases strongly recommended by the local protectors, the men being of a type and position in life that made it a distinct advantage to the aboriginal woman to marry them, and thus secure a comfortable home. The Pacific Islanders, being exempted from the provisions of the *Deportation Act*, and having none of their own country women here, make good husbands for our aboriginal women, being more civilised in their mode of living, and much more steady and domesticated.

This race, and the Malays, engage principally in farming on a small scale, and cane-growing.

All such unions appear to have been well advised, for no trouble has been reported, and no complaints of ill-treatment or desertion.

TABLE 8.—LIST OF MARRIAGES UNDER SECTION 9 OF ABORIGINALS PROTECTION ACT, 1901.

Name of Female.	Aborigine or Half-caste.	District.	Married to—	Nationality.	Recommended by—
Maudie ...	Half-caste	Cloncurry ...	George Cummins ...	British ...	Protector, Cloncurry
Langlo Louise ...	Aborigine	Mount Morris ...	John Triscott ...	British ...	Cancelled, not used
Rosie ...	Aborigine	Cairns ...	Peter ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Nellie ...	Aborigine	Cairns ...	Harry Singapore ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
May Davies ...	Half-caste	Brisbane ...	Albert Malezieaux ...	New Caledonia ...	C.P.A.
Leesy Craig ...	Aborigine	Cairns ...	Goon Goo ...	China ...	Protector, Cairns
Nellie Dillon ...	Half-caste	Longreach ...	Harry Grey ...	...	Protector, Longreach
Maggie ...	Aborigine	Bowen ...	...	South Sea Islander	Police, Bowen
Maggie Turnbull ...	Aborigine	Brisbane ...	Jack Nongfon ...	Rotumah ...	C.P.A.
Nina ...	Half-caste	Bundaberg ...	Joe Ambrym ...	Pacific Islander ...	Protector, Maryborough
Maria ...	Aborigine	Mapoon ...	Tom Solomon ...	Pacific Islander ...	Superintendent, Mapoon
Mary ...	Aborigine	York Island ...	Charley Daley ...	Pacific Islander ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Jemima ...	Aborigine	Rockhampton ...	Alfred Duce ...	...	Protector, Rockhampton
Ruby ...	Half-caste	Dunwich ...	Barney Delaney ...	Caboollure ...	C.P.A.
Judy ...	Half-caste	Atherton ...	Charlie ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Topsy ...	Half-caste	Springure ...	James Taylor ...	Europe ...	Protector, Cairns (since returned)
Nellie ...	Aborigine	Hambledon ...	Jack Ah Mat ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Fanny ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Joe ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Lena ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Joe Anning ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Mary Ann ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Harry Ross ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Ruby ...	Aborigine	Hambledon ...	Charles Ah Mat ...	Malay ...	Protector, Cairns
Gertie Bulong ...	Half-caste	Gayndah ...	Sam Nebo ...	Tanna ...	Protector, Maryborough
Anne Harnet ...	Aborigine	Darnley Island ...	Josiah Sela ...	South Sea Islander ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Jessie ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Jim Abraham ...	Malay ...	Protector, Herberton
Eliza ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Jim Palmer ...	Melanesia ...	Protector, Ingham
Kitty ...	Aborigine	Atherton ...	Taenguin ...	Malayta ...	Protector, Cairns
Matilda Brown ...	Half-caste	Brisbane ...	Alfred Martin ...	Malayta ...	C.P.A.
Maria Cooke ...	Aborigine	Darnley ...	Albert Warde ...	French Pacific Island ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Essie ...	Aborigine	Murray Island ...	Teerou ...	Rotumah ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Polly ...	Aborigine	Kuranda ...	Podmore ...	Malay ...	Protector, Herberton
Latu ...	Aborigine	Yam Island ...	George Kapiere ...	Rotumah ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Monica ...	Aborigine	Emerald ...	Walter Oram ...	European ...	Protector, Rockhampton
Lucy McCullough ...	Half-caste	Brisbane ...	Edward Ruska ...	Half-caste Portuguese ...	C.P.A. on application
Sarah Ah Quom or Sam	Half-caste Chinese	Burketown ...	Idunny Chong ...	China ...	Protector, Burketown
Lizzie Tamlin ...	Aborigine	...	Goolin Hosien ...	India ...	Rev. Maitland Woods
Bella ...	Aborigine	Mulgrave ...	Pately ...	Pacific Island ...	Protector, Cairns
Lily ...	Aborigine	Yam Island ...	John Wesley ...	Samoa ...	Protector, Thursday Island
Nina Amos ...	Half-caste	...	Joe White ...	Morven half-caste ...	Personal application
Nuncleer ...	Half-caste	Bedourie ...	Georg Gorringer ...	Europe ...	Protector, Cloncurry
Lucy ...	Aborigine	Mapoon ...	Bob Ling ...	Pacific Island ...	Superintendent, Mapoon
Mary ...	Aborigine	...	Jome Sweeney ...	Queensland half-caste ...	Protector, Winton

HEALTH.

The reports received from the protectors, missionaries, and school teachers show a very satisfactory general state of health among the natives in the State. Venereal disease is still prevalent in some parts, principally at Winton, Longreach, Hughenden, Coen, Barambah, Brisbane, Herberton, Ingham, Somerset, and the Gulf country. A few cases of phthisis were reported, and treated principally at Thursday Island, Mitchell River, Barambah, Hughenden, and Herberton. Epidemics, such as measles, malaria, dengue, pneumonia, passed over the Torres Strait Islands, Gulf Mission Stations, and in slight forms over the majority of the districts. The aborigines, as a rule, seem more subject to these diseases than white people, and such epidemics as measles and dengue, when once introduced into the camp, seldom leave it before all have been affected more or less severely. Pneumonia very often follows, and claims a percentage of victims, as the result of ignorance and carelessness, and often, in the more distant districts, because the older natives immerse themselves in cold water to reduce the fever. In the Peninsula leprosy is not unknown, and last year a determined effort was made to stamp out this loathsome disease. A rigorous patrol and search was made, and about twenty suspected cases were arrested, and sent to Thursday Island for examination, of which eleven were pronounced to be genuine. These eleven unfortunates were sent with the Friday Island Lazaret inmates to Peel Island.

Accidents, more or less severe, totalling twenty-five cases, were also reported, and a few cases of sore eyes, blood-poisoning, &c. One death from earth-eating disease is also reported from Mitchell River, where some of the children are affected.

Reference to the report on Barambah Aboriginal Settlement will show what would appear at first a rather alarming report as to the physical conditions of the natives there, the death rate being thirty-three for the year from various causes, principally consumption, natural decay, teething troubles in children, and three only being from venereal disease. But when it is remembered that the permanent resident population of the Settlement is principally made up of the physically infirm, feeble, and helpless, both young and old, removed from time to time by Minister's order from all parts of the State, the apparently large percentage is easily explained.

In practically all centres the natives were treated by the Government Medical Officers, where such were in existence, or as patients at the local hospital. Simple remedies were also issued by the local police in many of the distant districts where a medical officer was not available, the principal requisitions in this direction being for powder for venereal, cough medicine, ointment, lotion, &c.

CRIME.

The return this year shows an appreciable decrease, as compared with the previous year, in the record of crime by aborigines, and speaks well for the vigilance and influence of the local protectors and police officers. The more serious offences—murder, stealing, assault—all show a decrease in the return. The victims of the murders committed were nearly all aborigines, and in this question considerable doubt is often expressed by experienced men as to whether many of these so-called murders should really come within the category of murders according to our Criminal Code. It is very often practically impossible for us, in our general ignorance of the nice points of native law and tradition involved, to decide.

The prompt action of the police in dealing with obstreperous characters, reporting incorrigibles, and by recommendation securing their removal under Minister's order to a reserve, does much towards keeping the crime record a small one, thus securing to the peaceably-disposed aborigines, and the people generally, a freedom from danger and annoyance that speaks well of the wisdom and tact exercised:—

TABLE No. 9.

Creating Disturbance.—Roma, 2; Mossman, 1.

Resisting Arrest.—Thursday Island, 1; Maryborough, 1.

Drunkenness.—Cooktown, 4; Cairns, 1; Charleville, 1; Charters Towers, 4; Cloncurry, 3; Herberton, 1; Toowoomba, 1; Townsville, 16; Thursday Island, 5; Roma, 9; Rockhampton, 2; Maryborough, 8; Mackay, 5; Longreach, 8; Hughenden, 2; Croydon, 1.

Murder.—Boulia, 1; Charters Towers, 2; Townsville, 1; Thursday Island, 2; Rockhampton, 1; Mackay, 4; Longreach, 2.

Deserting Hired Service.—Maryborough, 1; Longreach, 1; Cooktown, 3; Townsville, 1; Thursday Island, 3.

Stealing.—Cooktown, 2; Charleville, 3; Charters Towers, 3; Cloncurry, 1; Coen, 1; Herberton, 2; Roma, 3; Rockhampton, 1; Hughenden, 3.

Assault.—Cooktown, 1; Coen, 2; Townsville, 3; Roma, 2; Longreach, 1; Croydon, 1.

Obscene Language.—Cloncurry, 1; Roma, 3; Longreach, 1; Hughenden, 2.

Rape.—Toowoomba, 1; Maryborough, 1.

Illegally on Premises.—Longreach, 1; Hughenden, 1; Winton, 1; Burketown, 3; Townsville, 1; Roma, 1.

Illtreating Horse.—Charleville, 1; Roma, 1.

Disorderly Conduct.—Maryborough, 1.

Lunacy.—Rockhampton, 1.

Destruction of Property.—Mackay, 1.

Neglected Children.—Roma, 5.

The following were the natives removed, under the order of the Home Secretary, to aboriginal reserves, and reasons for such removals. Many of these men, after a short probation on the settlement, have engaged in service with suitable employers. Some even have married, and most now have opened an account in the Savings Bank and settled down in their new home, quickly adapting themselves to the new and more useful life. The behaviour of these men, since removing them from their old surroundings and planting them in a strange district, with the steadying effect of a little useful occupation, has been most exemplary, and very few express any desire to return.

John, an aborigine, for proving troublesome and a menace to the missionaries at Weipa, was removed to Barambah.

Polly and Mary, two old and infirm gins at Prairie, who were not able to take care of themselves, were removed to Barambah.

Albert McDonald, imprisoned for indecent assault and stealing at Longreach, was removed on his release from Rockhampton Gaol to Barambah.

Fred, an opium smoker and dangerous character, was removed from Mungindi to Barambah.

Neddy, for opium smoking and trading gins in prostitution, threatening and assaulting the police, was removed from Nebo to Barambah.

Black Harry, a quarrelsome and dangerous character, was removed from Nebo to Barambah.

Archie Tweedie, after serving a sentence for indecent assault, was removed from Brisbane Gaol to Barambah.

Blind Dick and gin, helpless and destitute, were removed from Rockhampton to Barambah.

Billy Newman, a confessed nympho-maniac, after serving a sentence in Stewart's Creek Gaol for indecent assault, was removed to Barambah.

Mick, a habitual drunkard, was removed from Torrens Creek to Barambah.

Yellow Harry, a suspected murderer and bad character, was removed from Mackay to Barambah.

Dick Manwaring and two others, ringleaders in cattle spearing, were removed from the Gulf to Barambah. Dick was eventually employed as a tracker by police.

Jimmy Goodiman, old and feeble vagrant, removed from Myrtle town to Barambah.

Jacky and Gilbert, for stealing, intimidating residents, and killing cattle, were removed from Stateen River to Barambah.

Four very old and feeble aborigines not able to provide for themselves were removed from Brighton Downs to Barambah.

Rose, an old gin, imbecile, was removed from Bundaberg to Barambah.

Billy Lillas removed to Yarrabah in 1907, but escaped, was re-captured, but escaped again. (Has since this been again re-captured and sent to Barambah.)

Tommy Condimingo, suspected murderer and a danger to other natives, was removed from Ukalunga to Barambah.

Jack Scraggs, defective in intellect, and an easy prey to unscrupulous people, was sent from Yeulba to Barambah.

Biamba, for illtreating a girl and trading her in prostitution with Chinese at Clump Point, was removed to Barambah.

Mickey, maliciously maiming cattle and a ringleader in mischief, was removed from Townsville Gaol to Barambah.

Garibaldi, for being a source of fear to women, was removed from Rockhampton to Barambah.

Henry, for loafing, malingering, and defying authority at Barambah, was imprisoned for one month, and then removed to Yarrabah.

Dilbin, for being a nuisance to residents and a disturbing influence among other blacks, was removed from Emerald to Barambah.

Paddy, helpless, crippled, and subject to fits, was removed from Cloncurry Hospital to Barambah.

Five old natives (two of royal blood), infirm, and indigent, were removed from Cambridge Downs to Barambah for better care and attention.

Fred, blind and helpless, and Johnny, epileptic cripple, were sent from Croydon to Barambah.

Captain, a ringleader in cattle spearing, was removed from Vanrook Station, Normanton, to Barambah.

George Munro, for depravity among children, was removed from Charleville to Barambah.

Spider, a leader in stealing and mischief, removed from Herberton to Barambah.

Billy and Johnny, for petty thieving, removed from Cairns, after serving a sentence in gaol, to Barambah.

Tommy Campbell, for criminally assaulting women, was removed from Emu Park.

Tommy Costello and Paddy, imprisoned in Cooktown Gaol for stealing and terrorising residents, removed on release to Barambah.

Grouchy and Craigie, for viciously maiming cattle in the Gulf country, were removed from Rutland Plains to Barambah.

Twenty-three men, women, and children, for trading in opium, loafing, prostitution, and being syphilitic, were removed from Blackwater to Barambah for six months.

Lenny and Gilbert, loafers, traders in prostitution, opium smokers, and nocturnal ramblers, were removed from Bowen to Barambah.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

The reports from the Protector, Thursday Island, and the teachers of Torres Strait Islands schools, show a fairly satisfactory state of affairs. The children have given a good account of themselves at school, and the teachers all report very favourably of their appearance and progress. On some of the islands a step in the right direction has been made by planting more cocoanuts, a very useful provision for the future, and more attention has been paid to gardening, &c. Very unsatisfactory reports are received of the workings of the native-owned boats; not enough energy has been thrown into the work, and too much time has apparently been spent in hunting for dugong, turtle, &c., and probably visiting the neighbouring islands, and several of the teachers express the opinion that these men could have been more profitably employed in other directions. Some sickness occurred among the island teachers, and several of them had to avail themselves of sick leave during the year. I quote from the report of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island:—

“The population of the Straits Islands may be said now to be a mixed one, owing chiefly to the intermarriages of South Sea Islanders with the island women.

“The Federal authorities having granted permission to many of those South Sea Islanders, who have formed family ties with the natives in the past, to remain within the Commonwealth, an endeavour has been made to collect these people into one community, and a reserve has been set aside for them on the large and sparsely inhabited island of Moa, where the Church of England are conducting a mission with considerable possibilities for its future.

“With the advent of the ‘John Douglas,’ these isolated people, who are acting as teachers at the various centres, will find their lonely lives much ameliorated, their wants and requirements will be better attended to, and the difficulties they have hitherto experienced in getting their supplies will be at an end. They are doing good work individually, and are deserving of all attention and assistance from the authorities here. They tell me that they find the children remarkably quick and perceptive, and it is to be hoped for and expected that when the next generation take the place of their parents (to whom all knowledge came as strange matter) the benefits acquired will be of a more permanent nature than can be looked for at present. You have particulars of attendance at each of the schools, so that it is unnecessary to recapitulate them here. The children as a whole are very amenable to discipline, and take kindly to physical drill, in which they would compare favourably with any of the State school pupils.”

The teacher at Badu, Mrs. L. C. Weston, reports :—

"The school was open 232 days. The total attendance for the year was: Boys, 5,206; and girls, 4,855; and the daily average attendances were: Boys, 24'6; and girls, 23'0.

"Through severe illness I did not have charge of Badu School for the first half-year, but took up the duty again in July. The parents and pupils rejoiced over my return to them all, for some one had told them that I would never come back again.

"I found a number of the pupils had gone to other islands, but new ones come in their places every month, so I have sixty-one pupils on the roll at the present time, all getting on splendidly in everything they are taught.

"The children attend remarkably well."

The teacher at Darnley Island, Mrs. E. Smallwood, reports :—

"*Health of the Island.*—This has not been satisfactory. There has been a great deal of sickness throughout the year. Dengue fever, malarial fever, &c., have been very prevalent from March to December. The children (many of them) have suffered much from native sores. The people, as a rule, are too indolent to keep themselves and their houses clean. Six deaths occurred during the year—3 men, 2 boys, and 1 woman.

"*The Council.*—A more energetic man is required at their head. I think they should bestir themselves more to see that the people keep their houses and yards cleaned; also try to prevent food being stolen from the gardens.

"*Boats.*—There is only one boat here now that has been supplied by the Government to the natives, that is the 'Erub' belonging to the Darnley Company. This company did very little work throughout the year. The boats supplied to the natives by Mr. Walker, of Badu, were taken back again as they would not work sufficiently to pay for the hire of them.

"In consequence, a great many of the men have signed on to work in diving boats. Comparatively little is done in the bêche-de-mer now.

"*The Gardens.*—There was a great shortage in the Kumula crop owing to, I think, the people having planted from the diseased plants. Last year the roots were found to be very diseased when taken up. Healthy plants could easily have been procured from other islands. I suggested them doing so, but was informed they would have to buy and they were not inclined to do that. Manix, sugar-cane, corn, bananas, yam, water melon, and pumpkins are the principal foods grown.

"The crops were not good owing to the island being so windswept.

"*The School.*—The attendance has been fairly good during the year. A great many of the children from time to time have been kept away through sickness. The work has been well done; the children as a rule are industrious, but there are only a few that are really bright. They are clean in their work, and, with a few exceptions, their clothing and persons are clean. The girls' sewing has given me great satisfaction.

"In conclusion, I would respectfully ask that a law be passed to safeguard the young girls of the island, that any act of immorality on the part of a man towards an unmarried girl should be severely dealt with. The length of punishment to be determined by the Department. The punishment not to be shortened at any one's discretion; the sentence to be carried out in Thursday Island."

The teacher at Mabuia, Mr. A. S. Cairns, reports :—

"*Boats.*—The natives of this island, numbering nearly 300 persons, have four boats, each of about seven or eight tons register. Two of these, the 'Mabuia' and 'Urupi,' are their own property, and two were given by the Papuan Industries, Limited, to certain natives to 'work out' on fairly easy terms. I regret that I cannot report very favourably on their ability or willingness to work these boats. When they first got them, they worked splendidly. During the first fourteen months their total catch of shell was 4 tons 8 cwt., while their catch during the two years 1907 and 1908 amounted to only half that quantity. As soon as the novelty of possessing boats of their own wore off, their zeal lessened. These boats, are, of course, very useful to the natives in bringing in supplies of food, such as dugong, turtle, fish, &c., but this the natives did equally as well in the previous years with their canoes, and I take it that it was never intended, when the Government allowed them to have these boats that so much time should be wasted looking for dugong. When the men were, for the most part, wage earners, their children used to come to school looking very neat and clean, always well and respectably clothed, and had plenty of food. Now some of them come, not only hungry, but boys with nothing on but a lava-lava made of coarse corn sacks or flour bags, and the girls in dresses which are almost in rags and very dirty. I do not suggest that the boats are an absolute failure, nor do I forget that the weather has, to a very great extent, hindered the men working, but they have not done anything like as well as they could and should have done, nor will they do so unless some vigilant supervision is exercised over them.

"In order to prove that my statements are not made at random, it may be interesting to quote a few figures in connection with the cutters abovenamed, and which you can no doubt verify from your books. The boats were purchased during October, 1904, at a cost of £170 each. The gross earnings since that time amount to about £996, the amount received for mother-of-pearl shell being £872 7s.—an average of about £97 per ton; for pearls, £69; and for bêche-de-mer, turtle shell, dugong hides, and black-lip shell, they got £54 17s. Deducting the sum of £340 for the boats, and £511 for stores, gear, repairs, insurances, interest, &c., it leaves £145 for distribution among the crews as wages. Say we average each boat's crew as ten men—a very moderate average indeed—it means that throughout the whole period—October, 1904, to December, 1908—twenty men only, out of the whole population, have earned nearly 30s. per annum, an amount which any of them, as crew in some diving boat, could earn in one month. This shows the necessity, I think, for compelling a proportion of the male population to go out and earn wages. Already quite a number of the natives of Saibai and Badu, being dissatisfied with the amount they earn on their own boats, have 'signed on' at wages of from 30s. to 45s. per month.

"*Gardens.*—A walk over the island gives evidence of the fact that greater attention is paid to the gardens than was formerly the case. During the year rain fell nearly every day, and a splendid

supply of kumalos, cassava, yams, taro, pumpkins, bananas, &c., resulted. I am pleased to report that at the present time all the flat places on the island are under cultivation, and, if the seasons are good, there should be an abundance of food during the year. The young cocoanuts planted during the year, to the number of 650, are doing very well. I anticipate that many more will be planted this year. The old coconut trees again yielded a large supply of fruit.

"Court.—There were no cases tried at the court during the year, which does, or does not, speak well for the vigilance of the native police.

"Councillors.—In accordance with your request, the four councillors, only two of whom had given some satisfaction, were retired, and I held an election, which resulted in three new men getting this most coveted position, only one of the old councillors being re-elected. I hope and believe that the new council will give greater satisfaction than the last.

"Health.—The health of the natives all through this year was exceptionally good.

"Statistics.—The following is a summary of the births, deaths, and marriages for the year:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births	6	4	10
Deaths	2	3	5
Marriages	0	0	0

"School.—I have again to report that the attendance of the children has been very good indeed, and they have been very punctual. The number of the days on which the school was open was 171.

The aggregate number of attendances was 5,460 boys, 7,049 girls; total, 12,509.

The daily average attendance was: Boys, 31'9; girls, 41'2; total, 73'1.

Throughout the year the school has been carried on in the Government building, and we have found it in every way satisfactory, except in size, and I trust that it may not be long before we have increased accommodation and better material supplied for instruction. The girls still receive a fair amount of instruction in domestic duties, needlework, &c., but owing to the lack of proper tools, and an inadequate supply, also to the poorness of the soil, I have been unable to undertake much in the way of gardening. I hope, however, to do more and better work this year, if the weather is suitable.

"Progress.—The progress made by the pupils in their respective classes and subjects has been good, but this I will leave to your own judgment, as you saw all at work, and examined them when you were here with us.

Owing to my illness—which necessitated my going into the hospital at Thursday Island—I was not able to conduct affairs during the last month of the year, but my wife superintended in my absence. The monitors, also, have been of genuine assistance to me.

On the 23rd June, 1908, the members of the Royal Commission on Pearl-shelling arrived in the ss. 'Champion.' Mr. J. M. Costin accompanied them. Again, on the 8th July, we were visited by the Chief Protector, Mr. R. B. Howard, and Mr. Costin. Later on you were able to pay us a visit, which was much appreciated.

The pupils very much appreciated the thoughtfulness and kindness of the Honourable the Minister, in sending them presents, and prints, knives, beads, handkerchiefs, &c."

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

The school was opened, after the summer vacation, on Monday, 3rd February, when there were present 100 children for enrolment. The children have shown good progress in their school work throughout the year, and their general behaviour in school has been good. The attendance has not been quite so regular as could be desired, as this has been an exceptionally sickly year here. Nearly every child attending school was laid up with fever at some time between the months of April and June.

It has also been a busy year with the parents in preparing ceremonial feasts, and the children's services are always in demand for assisting on these occasions. The school was closed for the summer vacation on Friday, 18th December.

Classification of children enrolled for the December quarter:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
First class	28	19	47
Second class	8	19	27
Third class	11	9	20
	47	47	94

Total attendances for the year: Boys, 7,526; girls, 8,813; total, 16,339.

Average attendance: Boys, 34'5; girls, 40'4; total, 74'9.

Mean quarterly enrolment: Boys, 48'5; girls, 47'5; total, 96.

Number of days the school was open: 218.

"Health.—Owing to the heavy and continuous rains in the early part of the year, malarial fever was very prevalent from March to May, and just as we were beginning to recover from it, a fever, similar to dengue in its symptoms, broke out, from which hardly one on the island escaped, from the youngest to the oldest. We got clear of it about the end of July.

At present the general health of the people is good. Registration:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births	7	10	17
Deaths	6	9	15
Marriages	0	0	3

"Food Supply.—The splendid rains we had in the early part of the year resulted in abundant crops from the gardens. The bananas and yam yields were exceptionally good—the best we have had for some years, so that the people have had a plentiful supply of food all through the year.

"Our most prolific food seasons here are always due to an excessive and continuous rainfall, and on that account are generally sickly and unhealthy, causing a high death rate (a low death rate generally follows a year of drought and scarcity of food).

"Early in the year cocoanuts and fruit trees were planted on each side of the road on the north-west side of the island, to act as a fence and shade, as well as an increase to the food supplies when they grow up. Arrangements have been made for the continuation of the planting on the other portions of the road in January next.

"Court.—A number of cases were brought before the Mamoose's Court at intervals during the year. The majority were assault cases and land troubles, but none of them were of a serious kind. I attended the court on each occasion, and visited the portions of land in dispute to arrange the boundaries.

"Council.—Monthly meetings of the council were held at the Court House, and the work arranged of keeping the roads in good order and repair, cleaning of villages and wells, and the necessary works. The Mamoooses and councillors were very regular in their attendances at the court and meetings of the council, and gave every assistance in carrying out all the improvements recommended to be done.

"The biennial election of councillors took place at the Court House on 8th December, when eight candidates were nominated for the four seats in three divisions. A vote by ballot was taken, and the four successful candidates elected.

"Native Boats.—The two boats owned by the natives have been working at times during the year, and made one trip each to Thursday Island for the purpose of having their produce sold. The lugger 'Barb' was sold last January by the Protector at Thursday Island, and the proceeds of the sale were placed in the bank to the credit of the Dauan tribe. The hull of the lugger 'William,' that was wrecked last year at Darnley Island, was also sold."

The teacher at Saibai Island, Mr. W. C. Minniss, reports:—

"According to my report, this school was open 219 days, and there was a total attendance of 7,140 boys and 5,114 girls; the daily average attendance being 32·2 boys and 23·2 girls. Since your last visit to Saibai, I have lost a number of the big boys through going into the boats, but during dirty water, when boats come back to the village, I am always pleased to see them come back to school again, although it may be only for a few days.

"Mrs. Minniss has the older girls in the school three afternoons in the week for needlework—Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. She has quite a nice class of about a dozen girls. Last year was a bad year all through the Strait for boats through dirty water and weather not being suitable. Still, Saibai boats sold over 700 shell before Christmas, which brought them in over £40, so they did not do so badly. I have heard no complaints of shortness of 'Kai Kai,' everyone seeming to have sufficient. Only four cases came before the native court.

"The councillors and native police have worked well and faithfully in looking after the conduct and welfare of the village.

"Annual return of the Saibai Aboriginal School:—

Enrolment—boys, 32; girls, 26; total, 58.

Number of days on which the school was open = 219.

Total attendances—boys, 7,140; girls, 5,114; total, 12,254.

Average attendance—boys, 32·2; girls, 23·2.

		POPULATION.		
		Males.	Females.	
Married	...	40	28	
Unmarried	...	34	34	
School children and infants	...	67	44	
		141	106	Total 247

Births, 12; deaths, 8; and marriages, 4.

"Population of Dauan Island—

		Males.	Females.	
Married	...	13	13	
Children	...	8	14	
		21	27	Total 48."

The teacher at Yam Island, Miss M. T. Smith, reports:—

"The average attendances for the year 1908 were—girls, 12; and boys, 14.

"The boys and girls have made very great progress for the year. They are particularly good in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and spelling. The two head classes do sums in money and bills of parcels. All learn mental arithmetic, dictation and geography, also object lessons. School commences each day at 8 a.m. to 1 o'clock, ending in manual drill and songs. They are very obedient, cleanly, and healthy. The women are hard working, as they help in their gardens, also make mats and hats, which are sold at Thursday Island, and are a great help towards food and clothing. Both men and women are quiet and kind, and are healthy, occasionally getting malarial fever. There have been three marriages and two births—one girl and one boy."

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

Mission.	BARAMBAH (Via Murgon).			MAPOON (Batavia River).			WEIPA (Embley River).		CAPE BEDFORD (Via Cooktown).			DEERING CREEK (Via Ipswich).			YARRABAH (Via Cairns).			AURUKUN (Archer River).			TRUBANAMAN (Mitchell River).		
	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Highest Attendance.	Average Attendance.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
Government Aid ... ..	...			...			...		£250.			£250.			...			...			...
January	210	6	216	...	...	...	75	61	118	30	148	77	...	77	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	40	
February	208	1	209	...	...	...	71	60	115	30	145	70	...	70	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	40	
March	201	2	203	...	...	...	63	53	110	30	140	78	...	78	...	...	...	...	...	38	...	38	
April	200	...	200	...	...	...	82	59	106	30	136	83	...	83	...	...	...	...	21	...	36	...	36
May	201	...	201	...	...	...	101	66	106	40	146	83	...	83	...	...	...	...	21	...	35	...	35
June	199	2	201	...	...	...	73	69	125	40	165	83	...	83	...	...	...	...	...	35	10	45	
July	202	...	202	...	...	...	65	60	110	40	150	83	...	83	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	35	
August	221	...	221	...	...	...	200	57	110	40	150	85	...	85	...	...	...	...	...	34	14	48	
September	196	...	196	...	...	...	69	63	130	135	265	88	...	88	...	...	...	...	30	...	30	22	52
October	219	...	219	...	...	...	109	74	150	135	285	85	...	85	...	...	...	17	26	43	38	...	38
November	233	...	233	...	...	...	111	88	150	135	285	85	...	85	...	...	...	20	19	39	40	40	80
December	264	10	274	...	...	...	213	88	150	35	185	86	...	86	...	...	...	17	43	60	50	...	50

TABLE 11.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES, &C., MAINLAND)—1908.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.						
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					Number of School Days.	Total.		Average.			
					Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	Infants.	I.	II.	III.		IV.	V.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Yarrabah. £70.	March	64	62	126	5	11	10	19	7	12	14	7	15	7	9	10	57 Boys. Girls. 43 62 41 39	3,118	2,849	54	49
	Sept. Dec.	59 59	59 51	118 110	19 16	... 10	6 5	17 13	6 7	11 8	7 5	7 6	20 21	8 7	6 6	11 6		2,272 2,076	3,281 1,635	49 50	52 41
Mapoon. £100.	March	31	50	81	...	21	7	3	...	...	...	19	16	15	...	...	50	1,152	2,315	23	46
	Sept. Dec.	26 21	50 45	76 66	...	14 9	8 9	4 3	...	...	...	26 19	4 11	13 15	...	...	51 53	1,042 1,062	2,074 2,291	20 23	40 43
Deebing Creek. £100.	March	16	11	27	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	1	...	...	48	643	522	13.3	10.8
	Sept. Dec.	19 22	11 13	30 35	...	19 18	...	...	...	...	...	8 7	2 5	1 1	...	...	58 57	930 1,013	623 674	16 17.7	10.7 11.8
Barambah. £52.	March	29	44	73	...	20	5	4	...	...	...	22	16	6	...	...	46	...	...	...	...
	Sept. Dec.	28 31	29 32	57 63	...	23 26	3 1	2 4	...	...	...	14 19	12 7	3 6	...	...	58 63	...	...	...	...
Mitchell River. £100.	March	11	5	16	...	*5	...	+6	...	...	...	*4	...	+1	...	...	26	70	40	2.69	1.5
	Sept. Dec.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cape Bedford. £100.	March	17	13	30	...	16	1	...	...	...	...	5	8	...	...	...	40	680	518	17	12.9
	Sept. Dec.	17 16	12 12	29 28	...	16 11	1 5	...	...	...	...	5 ...	7 12	...	...	...	62 50	1,051 800	744 584	16.9 16	12 11.6
Weipa. £80.	March	18	31	49	...	4	6	8	...	...	...	14	8	9	...	...	50	489	1,463	10	29
	Sept. Dec.	20 28	34 36	54 64	...	6 19	5 6	9 3	...	...	...	15 11	9 9	10 16	...	...	50 51	557 621	1,509 1,460	11 12	30 29

* Classes I. and II. † Classes III. and IV.

TABLE 12.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (DEPARTMENTAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1908.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					No. of School Days.	Total.		Average.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
urray Island. £200.	March	49	54	103	27	10	12	...	...	20	20	14	...	...	40	1,405	1,893	35.1	47.3
	Sept. Dec.	48 47	48 47	96 94	23 23	9 8	11 11	...	...	18 19	18 19	12 9	...	...	60 58	2,159 1,794	2,436 2,052	36.0 31.0	40.6 35.3
arnley Island. £100.	March	35	34	69	18	7	5	5	...	13	6	9	6	...	47	1,461	1,438	31.0	30.59
	Sept. Dec.	38 37	32 33	70 70	21 20	8 8	5 5	4 4	...	14 16	6 7	7 7	5 3	...	62 43	2,148 1,236	1,795 1,108	34.64 28.74	28.95 25.76
au Island. £36.	March	11	11	22	...	3	3	4	1	1	3	2	2	3	47	964	...	20.4	...
	Sept. Dec.	12 13	11 12	23 25	...	4 4	3 3	4 4	1 1	1 2	3 3	2 2	2 2	3 2	58 47	1,227 1,122	...	21.2 28.4	...
abuiag Island. £130.	Mar. Dec.	37	46	...	{ I. a } 15 { I. b } 8	5	5	4	...	{ I. a } 18 { I. b } 20	7	1	...	...	71	2,330	2,929	32.8	41.2
	March	30	25	55	I. and II. 16	8	6	...	...	I. and II. 14	6	5	...	...	48	1,290	1,128	26.2	23.1
adu Island. £84.	Sept. Dec.	28 31	29 30	57 61	...	15 6	7 9	6 16	...	...	15 5	7 11	7 14	...	54 54	1,237 1,543	1,192 1,431	23.0 28.6	22.0 26.5
	March	34	28	62	...	16	...	III. and IV. 18	...	...	15	...	III. and IV. 13	...	55	1,819	1,105	33.4	20.5
ilal Island. £84.	June	37	27	64	...	15	...	...	...	12	...	15	...	61	2,097	1,511	34.32	24.47	
	Sept. Dec.	37 32	27 26	64 58	...	15 17	...	...	...	12 17	...	15 9	...	48 51	1,604 1,528	1,161 1,239	33.20 29.2	24.69 24.1	

Barambah Aboriginal Settlement (B. J. T. Lipscombe, Superintendent):—

"The number of natives on the settlement at the end of the year was 276.

"The average number receiving rations during the year was 195.

"The health of the natives on the settlement, taking everything into consideration, has been fairly satisfactory, although a few epidemics passed through the settlement (measles, influenza, pneumonia, &c.). These were brought by natives returning from affected places, Myora in one instance. But, being supplied with a medicine chest, nothing very serious resulted.

"A good many natives are sent here under Minister's order from different districts. The majority of them over the age of maturity are suffering from syphilis or similar complaint, and it is not until they get into an advanced stage that it is brought under my notice, and even then they often deny that anything is the matter with them.

"On the settlement at present it is a matter of impossibility to successfully isolate such cases until extra supervision is appointed.

"Deaths.—During the year 33 death occurred from various causes and reports in each case were regularly forwarded to the Chief Protector's Office.

"The following is a list of complaints they died from, viz.:—Consumption, 9; syphilis, 3; natural decay, 5; measles, 2; tumours, internal, 1; pneumonia, 1; confinement, 1; convulsions, 11; total, 33.

"It will be noticed that the mortality among infants heads the list. The majority of them died during the night or early morning.

"To a casual reader the percentage appears very large, but when taken into consideration that the population is composed principally of those sent here from different places by order of the Minister, viz:—

- (1) Children committed to the industrial school;
- (2) Adults removed for the good of the public and for their own protection; and
- (3) Old and infirm, and those not able to take care of themselves

(this latter class provides the majority of deaths among adults)—these figures will not appear so surprisingly large.

"Births.—During the year 12 children were born.

"Marriages.—During the year several availed themselves of the services of the minister who visits the settlement to get married. The following is a list of the marriages celebrated:—

Brangee, aboriginal, to Ruby, aboriginal; Edmund Kutch, half-caste, and Agnes Mack, half-caste; Jack Cavanagh and Ada Morgan, both half-castes; Cabbo, aboriginal, and Biddy Cameron, aboriginal; Lawrie, aboriginal, and Gipse, aboriginal; and Tom Thumb and Zoe, both aboriginals.

"School.—At the beginning of the year, the teacher (Miss Kennett) resigned to be married, and Miss A. A. Lipscombe was appointed in her place.

"Considerable progress has been made during the year, and, although the number of pupils has consequently increased, and no addition made to the staff of the school, yet the manners, cleanliness, and proficiency of the pupils in all directions is excellent testimony of the teacher's work.

"Work on the Settlement.—During the year many permanent improvements were made and good work performed. For example, a bridge over the muddy gully was built by the natives out of bush timber, being squared and erected under the supervision of the assistant superintendent.

"Lying-in Hospital, is another necessary building that was erected, in order to stop them lying out under a sheet of bark in all sorts of weather during the necessary period; and the intelligent women appear to appreciate the building erected for their convenience.

"The Windmill.—It was found, after erecting it on the side of the creek, that it was not in a suitable position. It was therefore dismantled and a well sunk about 45 ft. deep, calculated to be on a level with the bed of the creek, which is fresh water, and when sufficient water of suitable quality is found, the windmill will be erected over the well.

"A verandah has also been added to the office previously erected.

"Painting.—The superintendent's house was painted by the natives, and a very creditable job they made of it.

"Ringbarking.—During the year about 100 acres were ringbarked on the flats of Barambah Creek.

"Fences.—On the outside boundary of the reserve, I found there was only one wire in the fence at certain parts, and in order to make it more secure I ordered seven coils of barb wire and five coils of plain wire. After we have put a gate in the fence at the short cut, I consider that the paddock will be secure enough to put some of our surplus stock in.

"On the suggestion of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, 100 shade trees were obtained and planted, and strong guard fences erected.

"Soon after they were planted they had a very severe check from frost, and nearly all of them were cut down, but some are now growing and I think when they have grown will be an improvement to the settlement.

"*Cultivation.*—We planted cotton seed twice, but, owing to dry seasons, I am sorry to say it is a failure again this year.

"*Corn.*—At the present time we have 12 acres of maize growing and it should yield a good crop.

"*Potatoes.*—This crop was a failure for the want of rain.

"We planted 1 acre of pumpkins and they look promising.

"*Sweet Potatoes.*—We also planted 1 acre of sweet potatoes, and I think we will have a fair crop.

"We also planted $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre of water melons, but some mischievous natives got in and spoiled a considerable quantity or we should have been cutting them by now.

"*Employment of the Settlement.*—During the year, 588 males and 27 females went out on 503 agreements. The work principally was scrub falling, brushing, corn-planting, harvesting, stock work, and general labouring, which would include chipping and other work, the agreements being from one month to twelve months in duration.

"*Wages.*—The wages the boys have received for the work are:—

Scrub-falling	...	...	...	...	...	10s. to 19s. per week and rations.
Brushing	...	...	...	...	...	10s. to 15s. per week and rations.
Stock-riding	...	...	...	...	...	10s. to 15s. per week and rations.
General work	...	...	...	...	...	7s. 6d. and upwards.

"So it can be seen the wages are similar to last year's, with the exception of scrub-falling, the wages for which have risen from 10s. to (in the majority of cases) 19s. per week. The boys therefore could have a considerable sum in their respective banking accounts if they were compelled to put more in the bank.

"I find that the more intelligent of the boys have the least in the bank, for the simple reason they will not go out to work only at a prohibitive wage, but stop on the settlement in order to gamble the money from those not so intelligent as themselves. I do not think there will be the demand for the boys this next year as there was the last, unless the wages asked are more reasonable. I also notice that if there are any boys coming on to the settlement with the wages they receive from their employers, they will not return until it is all finished, or until some of the knowing ones gamble it from them.

"*Cattle.*—On the 24th December I had a muster, and found there were—

75 cows, 4 three years old, 27 two years old, 7 one year old, also 18 calves	...	131
4 bulls, 2 four years old, 20 three years old, 36 two years old, 9 one year old, and		
25 calves	...	96
Failed to muster—about	...	23
		250

"*Horses.*—Six horses, 4 mares, 2 filly foals = 12. Most of the horses are done and ought to be replaced. [Two new horses since purchased.—C. P. A.]

"*Goats.*—95.

"*Office.*—During the year the work in the office has been considerably increased. The inward correspondence was about 2,000, and the outward 1,799, which has necessitated my being in the office the principal part of my time, when other work had to be neglected. Mr. Bleakley paid two visits to the settlement during the year, and made certain alterations, which considerably improved the methods of bookkeeping previously obtaining here. The old cumbersome ledger was replaced by a card system of keeping the wages' accounts and a collection account was opened in the Queensland National Bank at Wondai, thus relieving me of the responsibility of having large sums of money in my possession, the undesirableness of which will be apparent. There is still, however, more clerical work to be performed than can be reconciled with my other duties, although under the system instituted by Mr. Bleakley the work is simpler and fraught with less responsibility to me. The appointment of a clerical assistant is very necessary. [This has since been done.—C. P. A.]

"The total cost of upkeep, not including salaries (£252 3s. 3d.) was £643 14s. 4d., and the collections from all sources towards settlement support amounted to £687 11s. 3d. Refunds of railway fares were collected also, amounting to £52 15s. 7d.

The various mission stations report as follows:—

Yarrabah, *riâ* Cairns (Superintendent, Rev. E. R. Gribble).—"During the year several changes have taken place in the *personnel* of the mission staff. Mr. and Mrs. Dell, of Brisbane, joined in January; the former has proved himself valuable in many ways, but especially in the training of the brass band and in the management of the Yarrabah Poultry Farm, which is now one of our most important industries.

"Mrs. Dell did good work amongst the women, but a serious illness compelled her to give up her work for a time, and she is at present in Brisbane to recuperate.

"Mr. Gosper has been away on furlough and returned bringing back Mrs. Gosper, who, for part of the year, took charge of the day school.

"The Rev. G. W. Morrison, M.A., of Milton, Brisbane, joined the staff in July last, and has taken charge of the boys' school and the college, which latter has, at present, twelve senior boys as students.

"We have also had the valuable assistance of Miss Cheffins for most of the year. This lady came from Victoria in order to gain experience in aboriginal mission work. We have also had the services of Mr. Hyndman Jones and Dr. Bernard, and both these latter, it is to be hoped, will shortly be attached to the permanent staff. Their services, rendered gratuitously, have been invaluable; the presence of a medical man for such a large population has been most beneficial.

"*The Schools.*—During the year, a change has been made in the school arrangements. It has been found necessary to have separate schools for boys and girls. Miss Gribble, assisted by Myram Komble, a half-caste, and several pupil teachers, has taken up the girls' school, which meets each morning, while Mr. Morrison has taken the boys' school, which meets each afternoon. Our school is by far the largest of its kind in Australia, and we are justly proud of its present condition. We do not aim at anything elaborate in the way of education, unless it be with a few promising pupils who may become useful as teachers later on. As soon as a fair standard has been reached, the scholars give the whole, instead of a part of their time, to the general work of the settlement. Arrangements are shortly to be made whereby separate buildings will be in use.

"Attached to the girls' school is the infants' school which is by no means a small affair.

"*Agricultural.*—A deal of work has been done in this direction in the way of cultivating the land already cleared, but a start has now been made at a place fifteen miles distant with a very large clearing of scrub land. During the year, bananas, yams, sweet potatoes, pineapples, and vegetables have been produced in large quantities.

"There are now fourteen villages and farms dotted about the reserve, and the people are engaged in agriculture and poultry raising. Arrangements are now being made whereby these people resident on farms and at villages are to obtain articles, such as tobacco, sugar, tea, soap, &c., only by the barter of produce, such as vegetables, cotton, eggs, and fruit.

"Cotton is being grown at six centres, and there is at present in hand nearly a ton of cotton in the seed. Shipments to Brisbane and Melbourne have been made of ginned cotton, the ginning having been done at the Yarrabah Mission by means of a gas engine and saw gin. For the lint 6d. per lb. has been obtained, the variety being Sea Island.

"One great need is capital to purchase large numbers of orange and mandarin trees, for which we have large areas of land ready. During the year several small shipments of citrous fruits and pines have been made.

"Cocoanuts are continually being planted in all parts of the reserve near the sea.

"*Fishing.*—Apart from agricultural, other industries are being developed with every sign of success. A fine vessel has been obtained, through the kindness of one of the members of the staff, and has already proved of very great service in taking the members of the mission brass band and the singers on tour down the coast as far as Townsville. The cutter 'Hephzibah' has done good work, and had several escapes while on the Barrier Reef. The value of bêche-de-mer obtained came to £18, and the whole settlement was kept in fresh meat by the supplies of turtle and dugong brought in at the end of each week.

"*Buildings.*—At Yarrabah, a large bungalow, built entirely of native material and thatched with grass, is being erected, and is to serve as a college. Here the clergy and students will be located.

"Four new out-stations have been formed, one fifteen miles away in the centre of fine scrub land. Here is a village called Buddabahdoo, with six married couples in residence. At a place called Judoo, a married couple have established themselves, and have the care of our flock of Angora goats. Umah and Morbundie are the other new settlements, both agricultural.

"*Health.*—The health of the institution has been excellent throughout the year. Seven deaths have occurred, and there have been sixteen births, all, with one exception, being legitimate. Eleven marriages have been celebrated. New arrivals have been admitted and the general conduct has been good, although the admission of incorrigibles from other institutions has undeniably had a bad effect upon our young lads. This, we hope, will not be lasting, yet we have found it necessary to deport several to Fitzroy Island for insubordination.

"Of work of all kinds we have abundance; what with bridge building, road making, cultivation, fishing, milling, and care of stock, we could do with more able-bodied men.

"Our great need is cattle, we have only ten head, while we hold country capable of carrying many hundreds.

"Our horses do well and the increase has been good. Five young colts have been broken and will shortly be sold. In the Cairns show we secured prizes for Angora goats and over forty prizes for poultry.

"During the year we raised £386 14s. cash and consumed £215 12s. 11d. worth of home-grown produce.

"The total population is 321, permanent."

Cape Bedford, near Cooktown (Rev. G. H. Schwarz).—Twelve months have passed since I sent my last report to you, and yet, after reading it over again now, I am afraid my report for the year just ended will be very much like the one of last year. There are no great changes, no great improvements, &c., to report which would give me the right to call the year just gone, one vitally different from former ones.

"Minor improvements, of course, have to be made continually on any station if it is not wanted to go back instead of going ahead, and improvements of that kind have not been neglected on our station either.

"There has always been plenty of work for all hands on the station. The number of aborigines permanently resident is at present 130. There are from 130 to 200 aborigines on and around the reserve who are, in smaller parties of 20 and 40, regularly coming to the station for relief; they stay for perhaps a month or so and then make room for another party. During their stay here, those who are able to do so are expected to help at the general work in the plantation, and I must say that they are most willing to do something for the rations given to them. No doubt you remember that the only land near Cape Bedford at all worth cultivating is a large Pandanus swamp, and there is a great deal of labour attached to preparing such land for planting. I am sure it requires less labour to prepare 10 acres of forest land than it would to get ready one acre of the soil we have to cultivate here.

"The plantation has been kept in good order; five more acres have been added to it, cleared, and partly planted with bananas, partly with sweet potatoes and pineapples. We had a fair amount of sweet potatoes last year, also a good crop of bananas and pineapples, but as the soil is only good enough for two, or possibly three, years, results and labour do not compare favourably at all.

"The coconuts, however, planted all over the plantation are doing well, and so are those at the old plantation on the north side of the Cape. But as at the time of the cyclone nearly all bearing trees were destroyed, we do not get many nuts at present.

"I wish to thank you here for assisting Captain Schluter in procuring such a fine lot of seed nuts for me, and allowing him to bring them down from Thursday Island in the 'Melbidir.' These nuts are ready for transplanting now, and I hope to hear soon if my application for extension of reserve has been granted, for I intend to plant them near the McIvor River, as there is no more suitable land nearer to Cape Bedford.

"Towards the end of last year we planted about 12 acres of sisal hemp, which seems to do well. But 12 acres of it would not be enough to make it worth while to buy an expensive machine, without which no quantity of hemp could be got ready for market.

"Concerning the health of permanent inmates of the Station, I am pleased to say that it could hardly have been better; no serious sickness of any kind occurred during the whole year. Minor complaints or ailments common to children and babies, of course, have often to be attended to by Mrs. Schwarz, but as our natives are in the habit of reporting any signs of sickness at once, Mrs. Schwarz's treatment, so far, always proved sufficient to prevent such ailments from developing into anything serious.

"No deaths were recorded during the year, but there were four births.

"The management of the school is still in the hands of Mrs. Schwarz, who was appointed to that position in June, 1900, and held it till now. At present there are 28 pupils attending school, and their attendance is so regular that the daily average would only be a very small fraction less than the number attending altogether. This number is divided into five classes."

Mapoon, Batavia River, (Superintendent, Rev. N. Hey).—"I have the honour to submit to you the annual report of this station for the year 1908.

"Considering that you have recently visited the Mapoon Station, I may be allowed to be very brief.

"The number of aborigines who have benefited by the rations issued during the year was 250. A large number of natives still continue their wandering life, but visit the station periodically.

"The health of the Mission inmates has been, with the exception of a severe malignant attack of fever, on the whole good. Outside the Mission compound the same epidemic was the cause of death of a number of old people who persisted in going into water when the fever ran high.

"There have been five births and thirteen deaths during the year on the whole reserve, comprising 1,000 square miles.

"The general conduct of the people has been excellent, and a spirit of peace and contentment has pervaded the whole settlement.

"£80 worth of home-grown food has been consumed, and over £40 raised by the sale of the station products. Besides, a constant meat, milk, and egg supply was enjoyed by all the Mission inmates.

"A start has also been made with settling the young couples upon little homesteads of their own, which seems to me a happy solution of the problem as to the future of this unfortunate race, at least in the North.

"The reserve is stocked with 90 head of cattle, 7 horses, besides goats, pigs, and fowls.

"The average daily school attendance was 65, and much praise is due to the teacher for the satisfactory progress made by the children. Excellent discipline was maintained all through the year.

"The needed recreation for the aborigines on the Settlement was not overlooked, and the innocent sports and games were greatly enjoyed by both young and old.

"In conclusion, I beg to thank you for your kind consideration and helpful advice. I also desire to tender to the Government, on behalf of the natives, my best thanks for the grant for rations and the blankets received.

"The daily average number of natives who were treated for various diseases was 5.

"No medical officer visited the Mission."

Weipa Mission Station, Embley River (Superintendent, Rev. E. Brown).—"In reviewing the year for the writing of my annual report to you, the predominating impression is that of having been seriously handicapped in our work by reason of the smallness of our 'grant.' Instead of clearing and fencing more land, and so increasing the area under cultivation, we are scarcely able to hold our own, especially after a bad wet season, as last year's was. Then heavy floods destroyed the garden produce,

and it has only been by going rather heavily into debt to the storekeepers that we have been able to go on as well as we have. Unless our 'grant' is at least brought up to its old standard we have absolutely no opportunity of showing what we can do. I have frequently to turn men away when they come for work, owing to having no food to give them. As an example, this year we made an attempt to add about 6 acres to our main garden. We got it partly cleared, and some of the fences split and laid, and then we had to stop for want of food.

"Some of the improvements to the station are:—A strong slab bridge over the gully on the road to the landing; completed a large substantial house with slab walls and iron roof for the young men; and finished a new dormitory for the girl boarders. This is a larger and more airy building, with room underneath for kitchen and dining room.

"A gift of £5 from a gentleman in Victoria enabled me to buy a blacksmith's bellows, anvil, and vice. So a house was built as a smithy, and a forge built with some home-made bricks. We are now able to do our bit of blacksmithing better than formerly, when an oil drum served as forge and an old flat iron as an anvil.

"Mr. Hay, of Mapoon, and I, having joined together in purchasing a Jack donkey for mule-breeding, necessitated the making of another paddock, and so I have ten men working on contract to put up $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of fencing. This, when finished, will, together with the river and creek, which form boundaries on two sides, enclose a piece of land between seven and eight miles in circumference.

"The school has been carried on as usual. The ordinary school 'Returns' and the special information asked for will give the necessary details. We have made somewhat of a departure latterly in employing two of the older and advanced scholars, young married women, as monitors.

"For the first eight months of the year the station was under the care of the Rev. A. Richter, of Aurukun, whilst we were away on furlough. On our return in August the children, under Mr. and Mrs. Richter's tuition, gave a nice little concert to welcome us back. In part songs, recitations, and mouth-organ playing the young people acquitted themselves very creditably indeed.

"A gramophone and a number of records which we brought has added greatly to the enjoyment, and, we trust, edification of the people.

"For the bigger school boys and the young lads who have recently left school, a company of the 'Boys' Brigade' has lately been formed. We trust that it may not only further our Christian aims with them, but, by teaching them prompt obedience and smartening them up a bit, equip them the better to fight this life's battles.

"Population.—Males and females about equal.

"Drawing Rations.—As many as we can afford to employ.

"Resident on Reserve.—About 300, belonging to Weipa.

"School.—Number attending, 76 names on register during the last quarter. Classification: Classes 1, 2, and 3. Average daily attendance, 46.

"Health.—No record kept of number of patients treated. Deaths, 6. No visit from a medical officer."

Aurukun, Archer River (Superintendent A. Richter).—"The report of Aurukun Mission Station for 1908 will be somewhat incomplete, as we have only spent less than four months on that station. The past year was full of events, especially the first few months. These will, indeed, be long remembered by our people, and thus form markstones for their calendar. I refer to the murder of Peter Bee and the shooting down of the murderers, the appearance of the police, as well as the frequent changes of sub-managers. The events after our arrival here on the 9th September were the appearing of Acting Police Sergeant Whelan, and some weeks later that of the Thursday Island police, under Sub-Inspector Brett, to take away the suspected lepers. Four of them have been found. The needful help to the police was rendered by myself, in order to get the sick ones, who were hiding in the bush. Since that time another boy has come to the station who caused great suspicion of being a leper.

"Our arrival here was marked by a definite joy, expressed by the natives through their smiles and shouts of joy running to meet us. Great hand-shaking followed the next day. Though well treated and pretty well cared for by Dick Kemp, the South Sea Islander in charge before our return, who won the people's esteem, the blacks had been longing for our return. It was pleasant indeed to notice that we had much gained in confidence during our absence. Even the wild and once troublesome blacks give us daily instances of this fact. The different tribes had been living in fear one of another, and many had avoided the station till we came.

"Of course, there cannot be spoken of a progress during 1908. Though for the past four months we have been busily repairing, not everything is in order yet, for there has no repairing been done since April, 1907, about the time we left for Weipa. Also, the school could not be held during our absence. Thus the children have forgotten most of the implanted wisdom. The school has begun with New Year 1909.

"Of the 250 fruit trees which I had planted in 1904 to 1906 very few had died away. Most of the trees, especially those that no more needed special care, have grown well. Some of the eldest mango trees, as well as some two-years-old custard-apple trees, began to bear. Especially well have the pineapples done, which had been planted with special care, each plant extra manured.

"The first trial with cotton turned out to be a failure, as the seed was bad and not one would grow.

"The state of health was not the best when we returned, finding many covered with sores or ringworm. Of the latter sickness many are not better yet.

"The blacks behaved very well here since our return. We believe that Dick Kemp had a good influence over them; also, they seem to be tired of fighting. Though little private quarrels arose every now and then, the people were only too glad when I interfered and squared things for them.

"The Christmas festival was a time of great joy again to everyone at the station; about 300 people were present, including a great number of children. All were satisfied.

"Just before Christmas our staff of workers was increased by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. The latter has taken up the work as school teacher, and we trust the children will soon be settled and the school prospering.

"Thus I have great hope that we shall be able to push on the work and to mend what the quarrels of the past year have broken down, so that I could report well on the station the next year."

SUMMARY OF FOOD CONSUMED BY THE NATIVES AT AURUKUN DURING THE YEAR 1908.

	£	s.	d.
Flour, 7½ tons	87	0	0
Tea, 4 lb.	0	4	0
Sugar, 3 bags	2	5	6
Tobacco, 7 caddies	20	3	6
Soap, 1 case	1	3	6
Rice, 17½ cwt.	13	0	0
Medicine and instruments	0	18	6
Kerosene, 1 tin	0	5	6

Further—

For tools, was spent for building purposes	4	10	0
„ iron nails, &c.	13	3	5
„ Freight and other charges	2	14	1
	£145	8	0

Trubanaman, Mitchell River (H. Matthews, Superintendent).—“Area of Reserve, 600 square miles.

Number drawing rations (average per day)	45
Resident on Reserve (approximately)	500
Within influence only	300

“These latter come in at different times in the year, and receive medical attention if required, and trade their weapons and other curios.

“*School*.—Number attending, average 12. Boys, 9; girls, 5; total, 14. Classification: First class and infants.

“*Health*.—Venereal: Four cases, one man and three women. In Camps: Pulmonary, 8 (one death); epidemics, nil; accidents, nil; no medical officer has visited the reserve during the year. On Mission: Venereal, one case, brought in from camp for treatment; died. Earth-eating, one death. A slight form of malaria is fairly prevalent, but it quickly yields to treatment. Coughs and colds are frequent, but there are no serious cases.

“*Cultivation*.—This is being pushed on as rapidly as possible. There are 8 acres under cultivation. Five acres were planted with maize, the return from which was very disappointing, the total amount of corn gathered being 1,740 lb., or 6 bushels per acre. We hoped for at least about four times that amount. Bad weather was the cause of failure. The corn was planted directly after a good rain, and then no rain fell for some weeks, so that the young shoots were retarded in growth, and as a climax, just as the corn was tasseling or blossoming, exceptionally wet and boisterous weather prevailed, which effectually stopped fertilisation of nearly half our crop.

“The remaining 3 acres were planted with potatoes, pineapples, and other fruits and vegetables. Owing to changes in our staff and other causes, the area under cultivation is not so large as it should be.

“We recognise, however, the great importance of extending and developing this branch of our work, and are doing what circumstances will permit to provide a greater proportion of our food supply.

“*Live Stock*.—Ten head of horses, 16 head of cattle, 14 goats, and 5 pigs.

“We are gradually increasing our stock, and are paying particular attention to breeding. We recently added, by purchase, six head of cattle, and these, added to those already in possession, together with natural increase, bring the number up to that stated. The staff enjoy a constant supply of fresh milk, and I have no doubt that the good health we enjoy is largely due to this.

“*Improvements*.—Owing to lack of material, and long delay in procuring same, no more buildings were erected during the past year. Material came to hand in December, however, and preparations are being made for several new buildings. A large windmill has been erected on the premises, and an attempt will shortly be made to utilize this power to drive a circular saw, with which we hope to cut timber for building purposes. Whether the experiment will be successful or not remains to be seen.

“*General Remarks*.—A great deal more assistance is needed, both of money and men, if we are to cope effectually with the problem of civilising the aborigine. At present we have merely touched the fringe of the work. We are, as it were, a haven in the midst, and our very presence here will have good results. A boy comes as an inmate and remains perhaps for a few weeks or months, sometimes only for a few days, and then the ‘call of the wilds’ comes to him, and he leaves the comforts and luxuries (?) of civilised life for his own wild and free mode of living.

“Short as the time of his sojourn on the Mission may have been, he has surely learned something, and, be it much or little, that he carries to his friends in the bush, and in this manner we are advertised, and the blacks learn more about us and our reasons for being here.

“So confidence grows, and so we hope eventually to win them.

"Arrangements are being made to bring in as many married couples and their children as will be persuaded to come. By these means we will have the children under our direct influence and control, and in the children lies the ultimate salvation of these people as a race.

"We have every reason to be satisfied with and thankful for the progress made and the influence gained during the past year; but, to quote the words of that great statesman and nation builder, Cecil Rhodes, "There is much to do, so little done."

"*Food Return.*—The following is a return of the food consumed by the aboriginal inmates of the Trubanaman Mission for the year 1908:—Flour, 11,668 lb.; tea, 128 lb.; sugar, 612 lb.; meat, 400 lb.; tobacco, 189 lb.; treacle, 682 lb.; maize-meal, 1,740 lb.; oatmeal, nil; soap, 68 bars; baking soda, 59 lb.; rice, 2,730 lb.; potatoes, 112 lb.; cream of tartar, 67 lb.; milk, 240 gallons; jam, 35 lb.; and pumpkins, 101.

"Average daily number of natives who received the above food, 45.

"Births, nil; deaths, 2."

Report, Deebing Creek Home, 1908.—"The committee have to report that meetings have been held regularly on the first Wednesday of each month, the executive meeting between times and visiting the Home as required.

"At each of the monthly meetings a report was read from the Superintendent, and at all of these meetings, with one exception, the Superintendent was present for conference with the committee.

"The conduct of the inmates has been very satisfactory, and manifesting some improvements towards the close of the year. Only once during the year has the committee had to interfere, by sending a letter to three of the men for coming home under the influence of drink.

"The committee are confident that the removal of the Morgan boys at the close of last year (1907) had a good effect on all that remained. To this may be added also that they have been more regularly employed during the year than for some years past, and many of them are manifesting an anxiety to improve their condition and that of their family.

"The number of people on the Home regularly getting rations has been 86, with 16 others occasionally paying visits of longer or shorter periods.

"The health has been good. There were two deaths. The doctor had only to pay one visit; all the others were able to come to town to see him when required. There were no accidents, venereal or other diseases, save one case of consumption and mild measles epidemic.

"The young people who have gone out to situations have all been visited. Some have changed their employers, but all who have done so have done it at better wages. We have had no complaint concerning any one of them, and two of them have earned good characters, and much regret was expressed at having to part with them.

"There are only twelve out of all the people on the Home who can be considered as able to work even the necessary four hours per day. The others are all wholly dependent upon the Home for life's comforts. Mr. and Mrs. Morrison, who took charge at the close of 1907, have done much to improve the condition of the people, and have been indefatigable in their efforts for the good of both young and old. Their new methods were not adopted without some friction, but that soon passed away, the inmates coming to realise the benefits; and the committee were able to find the necessary funds to make the changes. It is hoped that the future will reap the full benefit. There is still some contract work to be done, which we hope will yield some funds to aid during the year. The cotton-growing which the committee hoped to have tried during the year, owing to the specially dry weather and the failure of other crops, could not be undertaken. We will still keep it before us as an object to be attained.

"The school under Miss Bain continues to maintain its high place in the estimation of the School Inspector. The number enrolled each quarter were 27, 30, 35, 32. Of the children at present at the Home, 13 are committed under the Industrial School Act; the others are those who have parents or friends on the Home. It was found necessary to make a home for the committed girls, so a new building was erected near the school, and Superintendent's dwelling. This we believe to be much more likely to be helpful to them, both physically and morally, than having them under the care of the natives as formerly.

"The ticks have caused a good deal of trouble and expense in connection with the stock, and the crops, except English potatoes, have been almost a complete failure, the season has been so irregular. Hopes were high again and again, to be disappointed.

"Tools and agricultural implements are all in good repair and sufficient quantity to meet all requirements. All the produce was used upon the Home except a few bags of English potatoes. The work done on the farm, owing to the character of the seasons, has done little more than cover expenses incurred for seed and labour, by the food provided for the Home, and the potatoes which were sold. Three cows died during the year. One was killed for food, 16 steers, 1 pony, and 2 pigs were sold. The following statistics in tabulated form giving details. Reserves at Deebing Creek, 345 acres 2 roods. At Purga, 163 acres. At Nine-mile, 112 acres—629 acres 2 roods. At Peak Mountain, 1,600 acres. This last, owing to the distance and tick regulations, cannot be utilised with advantage at present.

Population resident, 86—44 males, 42 females.

Within influence, 16—10 males, 6 females.

School enrolment, 35 to 27; average attendance last quarter, 32.4.

Under Industrial School Act, 1865, 13 at 10/10 per month.

Health: 2 deaths, 1 of consumption and 1 infant; 4 births. Epidemic of measles.

"No accidents. No venereal. Doctor paid one visit.

Stock at Home—		£	s.	d.
2 Bulls, value	...	4	10	0
26 Cows, value £3 15s.	...	97	10	0
22 Young cows, value £1 10s.	...	22	0	0
3 Horses, value £20	...	60	0	0
1 Horse, value £15 10s.	...	15	10	0
2 Horses, value £5	...	10	0	0
1 Horse, value £2 2s.	...	2	2	0
Total value	...	£211	12	0

Labour and Material for Home—		£	s.	d.
Two miles fencing and wire	...	40	0	0
Home for children—material and wages	...	25	0	0
Addition to store	„	10	0	0
Hut at Nine-mile	„	5	0	0
Stumping, &c.	„	10	0	0
Cattle yards	...	5	0	0
Farm work	...	20	0	0
		£115	0	0

Stock and Implements Bought—		£	s.	d.
1 Draught mare	...	15	10	0
1 Plough	...	3	0	0
1 Pair harrows	...	3	8	0
1 Saddle and harness	...	6	0	0
		£27	18	0

		£	s.	d.
Government Grant for Home and Industrial School	...	305	6	10
Other sources	...	388	11	6
Income, total	...	£693	18	4

		£	s.	d.
Debit, 1st January, 1908	...	104	4	6
Rations and beef (contract)	...	420	9	5
Other accounts	...	78	9	8
Salaries	...	78	0	0
Bank interest and charges	...	5	0	0
Balance, 31st December	...	7	14	9
		£693	18	4

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

To this account the unclaimed estates of deceased aborigines, and wages collected from employers of those deserting their situations, are deposited, and is operated upon by the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the benefit of natives all over the State as required. Serviceable outfits of clothes are bought for those entering employment for the first time, and it will be seen by the attached statement that £140 10s. 5d. was spent in this way last year, a considerable increase upon last year's expenditure, but easily accounted for when attention is given to the large increase in natives' Savings Bank accounts and the balances to credit, showing the considerable number of new applicants for employment.

At the beginning of the year £190 2s. 7d. was owing by the several Torres Straits Islands of the amount advanced to them in 1906 to purchase boats, and, from various causes already mentioned, no redemption has this year been paid, and the same amount, plus interest, is still due. The receipts from usual sources show a decrease on last year's statement, as only £161 7s. 9d. was received, of which £47 was deposited from employers to cover cost of natives' travelling expenses, of which £31 9s. was so spent and the balance was refunded to employers. No advances to Torres Straits Islanders were made during the year. The balance to credit of the account at the beginning of the year was £228 12s. 5d., but at the end of the year was £150 11s. 2d. This does not include £190 2s. 7d. (and interest), owing by Torres Strait Island native boats, and £36 12s. to be refunded by natives in employment for necessary clothes supplied in advance to them when out of funds.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Disbursements.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Balance to credit, 1st January, 1908	...	228	12	5	Burial fees	...	8	13	6
Wages and Estates—					Clothes and medicine to needy natives or going to employment	...	140	10	5
Deserters	...	87	6	1	Clothes purchased in advance for natives, to be refunded when in credit	...	36	12	0
Deceased natives	...	47	1	8	Sustenance of natives on Court cases	...	3	13	8
Deposits—					To supplement advance account of Protector of Aborigines (temales), Brisbane	...	20	0	0
Cost of fares by employers	...	47	0	0	Fares of natives to employment deposited by employers	...	31	9	0
					Refunded to employers of portion of above deposits	...	16	18	0
					Refunded to employer of deserters' wages	...	1	12	5
					Balance to credit, 31st December, 1908	...	150	11	2
		£410	0	2			£410	0	2

EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINES BY DIFFERENT STATES DURING THE YEAR 1908.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Amount.
Queensland	*20,000	9,989
South Australia	3,800	4,679
Victoria	265	4,400
Western Australia	*27,000	23,600
Northern Territory	*16,000	1,418
New South Wales	*6,933	25,739

Approximate only.

OFFICE WORK.

The correspondence totalled 6,320 letters—3,240 inward and 3,080 outward.

In conclusion, I must again record my thanks for the kindly and valuable assistance given me at all times by the Commissioner of Police and his officers. My thanks are also due to the staff of my Department, whose interest in the work of the office never flags, and who are always ready and willing to render every assistance in their power. Mr. Bleakley has, as on former occasions, been called upon to prepare a large portion of this Report, the work often necessitating his remaining in the office until late at night, and it is gratifying to me to be able to record the high estimation I have of his services.

I have, &c.,

RICHD. B. HOWARD,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Price 4s.]

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Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year 1908

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