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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

THE YEAR 1910.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

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1911.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1910.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals,
Brisbane, 31st May, 1911.

SIR,—In accordance with the usual practice, I now do myself the honour to submit my Annual Report on the working of this Department for the year 1910.

In obedience to your instructions, I left Brisbane on the 13th June last, on a tour of inspection in the outlying districts of the State.

I proceeded direct to Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and conferred with the Superintendent and other officers regarding the work to be carried on during my absence.

I then visited Maryborough, and found the work of the Department in a satisfactory state, there being a balance in the Government Savings Bank of £121 standing to the credit of the aboriginals. From Maryborough I went to Mount Perry and Eidsvold; at the latter place I learnt there were about 20 natives, including 9 half-caste women and 4 little half-caste girls. Most of the people were away snaring opossums, &c.; and many of them find casual employment on the station in the off season. Two old women are in receipt of rations from the Government; there is no trace of opium in the district, but occasionally the men obtain liquor. I found it necessary to recommend the deportation of 4 half-caste women and their children, and this recommendation has been carried out.

At Gayndah I was informed there were only a few natives about the place; but at Hawkwood a good many earn a living snaring and also obtain work on the surrounding stations.

At Rockhampton I was told by the local Protector that all matters in connection with the Department were running smoothly. In this district there are about 650 aboriginals, made up of 211 males, 154 females, and 67 children, all full bloods, together with 61 males, 70 females, and 94 children half-castes. The banking accounts number 33, with a credit of £307 4s. 6d.; one of these accounts shows £39 to credit; two others, £19 and £16 respectively; and many others over £10. Most of the natives are in the vicinity of Clermont, Springsure, and Duarunga; many are employed under agreement on the pastoral holdings, whilst a fair number earn a good living snaring. Opium is rarely in evidence, and few complaints are made in regard to obtaining alcohol.

In the Mackay Protectorate the natives number about 190 souls, including 14 or 20 half-castes; 47 males and 5 females are employed under agreement. There are 12 banking accounts, with a credit of £60; and no trouble is experienced in collecting the wages. Very little opium finds its way into the district; and the

natives are not addicted to drink. At Nebo, in the Mackay district, there are about 50 aboriginals; most of the men are regularly employed on the stations, whilst a few gain a livelihood by snaring. There are only 3 half-caste children—1 boy and 2 girls. At Mirani, also in the Mackay district, some 12 or 14 natives are camped, amongst whom are 6 or 8 women, with 2 young half-caste women. These women, I fear, practically live on prostitution; and some steps may have to be taken to remove them from their present surroundings.

At Townsville and Charters Towers everything is going on well, although at the latter place there are some 10 or 12 natives who persist in loafing about the town. These people are addicted to the opium habit, and doubtless obtain a quantity from the Chinese.

In Hughenden the aboriginal population totals 160 souls—102 males, 58 females. The agreements with employers number 107, and 7 men and women are being casually employed. The amount to credit in the Government Savings Bank is £1,282 3s. 2d., distributed over 113 accounts, an average of £11 each. With the exception of one or two instances, no trouble is experienced in the payment of wages. The natives in the Hughenden district very much appreciate the system of agreement and banking accounts. Several of the boys have considerable sums to their credit, one account showing £46 5s. 1d., another £43 5s. 7d., and many others over £20. The average wage paid to the aboriginals is 10s. per week, one-half of which is paid direct to the boys as pocket money, and the balance sent to the local Protector to be placed to the employees' credit in the bank. I consider the system of keeping the books adopted by the Protector in this district is an admirable one; any desired information can be supplied at a moment's notice, and great credit is due both to the Protector and the officer immediately responsible for the care and interest they take in having everything concise and up to date.

Coming back to Prairie, I learnt there were about 15 or 20 natives at Torrens Creek, who obtain casual labour about the town, and thus manage to eke out a living for themselves. Amongst these I found several who did nothing but loaf about the hotels, living on the immoral earnings of the women, and who were in the habit of getting drink to such an extent that on one or two occasions the police had to be called in to quell disturbances created by these people, and I promptly recommended their removal, which has now been carried into effect.

From Prairie I went to Ayr, and inquired into a complaint about the aboriginals, who were, it was stated, in a disgraceful state, being saturated with liquor and morphia, the latter taking

the place of opium. In company with the local Protector, I visited the camp, and am sorry to have to say there was good cause for complaint, and no doubt these particular natives are a source of annoyance to the townspeople. About 77 natives, all told, frequent the Ayr district, some of them very old and many are diseased; and some 40 children, 20 of whom are half-castes, roam about with the older people. These unfortunate little ones receive no attention, and are much neglected. The matter of removing several of these people is now under consideration, and I know of no other effectual means of dealing with such cases other than to deport them to one or other of the settlements.

At the Palm Islands I visited the aboriginal camp, where I found 10 men, 4 women, and 3 children—17 all told. Two of the women are very old, but are well looked after by the younger members. The camp was very clean; new gunyahs have been built, and are well thatched with grass. The health of the people is good. On each of my visits to this camp, I have tried to induce the natives to plant and look after a few sweet potatoes and cocoanuts, but so far without any result. I noticed a solitary banana plant and two or three paw-paw trees. These boys have a cutter and one or two dinghys and procure the bulk of their food from the sea in the shape of fish and other marine products.

At Ingham I learnt the number of natives had neither increased nor decreased since my last visit, there being about 300. The Protector here informed me that opium was coming in more freely, and several convictions have been secured by the police. Altogether aboriginal matters are going on well at Ingham; the natives are in good health, and manage to secure sufficient food for their wants.

Cardwell was my next place of call, and here I found there was not less than 300 aboriginals; and several cases had recently been brought by the police against Chinese for opium-trading. There are 25 Chinese residents, principally on the Tully River. The natives here are easily controlled, and, under proper and constant supervision, would no doubt soon take up a more settled life, learn to help themselves, and ultimately become useful in many occupations.

On my way to Innisfail a call was made on Mr. Bamfield, of Dunk Island, and a few hours spent in an interesting chat with him. Dunk Island is no doubt an ideal spot for those whose tastes lead them to admire the primeval forests and jungle; and Mr. Bamfield is zealously guarding the natural beauty of the place, and at the same time spending his leisure time in giving to the world interesting and valuable information regarding the early history of his immediate district, and supplementing this with many rare specimens of both the animal and vegetable kingdom.

I found at Innisfail (late Geraldton) there are some 350 aboriginals, including about 30 full-blooded youngsters and 20 half-caste children; 129 agreements are in force; the average rate of wages being about 4s. or 5s. a week. Unfortunately, opium in considerable quantities finds its way into this district, for which undoubtedly the Chinese are mainly responsible. The amount in the bank to the credit of the natives is £175 17s. 1d., distributed over 94 accounts. Plenty of employment would be found

for the people if suitable conditions were in existence and some place from which labour could be recruited under Government supervision.

Leaving Innisfail, I visited Fitzroy Island, an out-station of the Yarrabah Mission; then went on to Cairns. At the latter place the number of aboriginals under the care of the Protector is estimated at 300, with a small preponderance of males, a few children, and no half-castes. The agreements number 134, and £187 7s. 8d. stands to the credit of these people. The Protector told me the natives spend a good part of their wages in providing food and clothes for their old relatives and children. Some of the boys are in receipt of good pay, 2 of them receiving £1 a week each; the amount of money paid to aboriginals for their services during the first six months of the present year was £68 17s. 3d. Three or 4 aboriginals were in the custody of the police, deserters from Yarrabah Mission Station. I had an interview with them, and they were soon after sent back to the Mission.

I took the opportunity when at Cairns of visiting several camps of aboriginals, and found them in good health and with sufficient food.

I also visited Atherton, where there are about 180 aboriginals as against 250 twelve months since. The decrease in number is accounted for by the fact that many of the natives drift away to the Mulgrave and other sugar-growing districts. Thirty-three agreements are in force, 20 of which are women; the wages are regularly paid, the amount to credit in the bank being £40. One full-blooded boy, Billy Barlow, succeeded in winning the chopping contest held at Mareeba in May last.

The Protector told me opium was still finding its way into the district, but not so much as formerly. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining this drug and its high price, morphine is being used as a substitute.

Several South Sea Islanders and 4 or 5 Malays are married to aboriginal women; some of them, having their own land, are engaged in growing maize. Most of these people have families; the children are bright, intelligent, and scrupulously clean, and when old enough attend school regularly. The homes also are clean and comfortable, and would compare favourably with the homes of Europeans. There can be no doubt that the parents have the welfare of their children at heart.

In the Atherton district there are over 1,000 Chinese located, and their relations with the aboriginals is most undesirable and vicious. Although the police take every means to stop the association of Chinese with the natives, yet, with such a large number of the former scattered all over the place, it would take quite an army of officers to efficiently cope with the evil.

Port Douglas was next visited, at which place I found there were 105 natives. The sexes are about equal. The banking accounts numbered 39, with a credit of £221 5s. 11d.; 2 women have a credit of £39 11s. 6d. each, and 1 boy over £16; another boy earns 22s. 6d. per week cane cutting. The health of the aboriginals in this district is excellent; no liquor or opium is in evidence.

Unfortunately, when I arrived in Cooktown the local Protector was absent on leave, and I was, therefore, unable to obtain as much infor-

mation as I would have wished. There are some 150 natives, who camp in close proximity to the town, and obtain a good deal of casual employment, thus eking out sufficient food and clothing. A little opium finds its way to the district, but drink is not prevalent. From here I intended to visit the Bloomfield River, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining any quick means of transit, and my time being limited, I was unable to carry this out.

My next place to visit was Cape Bedford Mission Station, where I found considerable progress had been made since my last inspection. The sisal hemp is looking well, and the Superintendent (Mr. Schwarz) has lost no time in getting new areas under crop, which I estimate covers quite 40 acres. A large nursery of sisal hemp plants, about 100,000, was shown me, and are now ready for moving into a plantation. The cocoanuts also are doing remarkably well, there being planted 2,500; in addition to this, some 1,000 young palms are in a nursery awaiting the proper time and opportunity to plant them out. A good number of the older palms (300) are bearing, and numbers of others just on the point of producing nuts. Additional areas of land are being cleared, and on every hand the station presents a busy and business-like appearance; all hands, white or black, are workers, and evidently work not alone with their hands but also with their heads. On the McIvor River, 12 miles distant from headquarters, where land has recently been acquired by this Mission, 5 acres are already under the plough; the whole plot cleared embraces 10 acres, on which the crops growing consist of 400 bananas, 1 acre of pine-apples, and 400 cocoanuts. Necessary sheds and fencing have been put up. The wallabies, however, are numerous, and, although they do not injure the bananas or pines, they destroy much of the other crops; this, it is feared, will necessitate the erection of wire netting, which means an expenditure of money much needed for use in other directions. A family of camp blacks (not belonging to the Mission) practically reside on this cultivation, but they never touch any of the fruit or other products without first obtaining permission from the Superintendent. In order to drain some of the land under cultivation at Cape Bedford, a channel over 30 chains in length, 10 ft. wide on top, and carrying a depth from 3 ft. at one end to 12 ft. at the other, has been constructed. This work has been carried out entirely by the natives themselves, and, considering that only 15 boys were employed and the time occupied three months, it must have entailed a large amount of really hard pick and shovel work, and is a most creditable performance.

The native population at Cape Bedford numbers about 130 souls, and 19 boys and 8 girls attend school under the supervision of Mrs. Schwarz; these children are clean, happy, and bright; their books and exercises are well done, and doubtless their teacher has gained their full confidence. During the year a little sickness has been experienced, and was the means of causing the death of 2 of the school girls; one case was diagnosed as an affection of the lungs, but the other was obscure. Dr. Kortum, of Cooktown, kindly attended all of the cases, 3 of which had to be sent to the hospital at Cooktown. Mr. Schwarz is no doubt a more than ordinarily practical man; the work carried out

at the Mission under his guidance is sufficient evidence of this, and in my opinion it is much to be deplored he should have been located on such an unfertile spot and been compelled to contend against what would have been considered by an ordinary man almost insurmountable difficulties. The thought forces itself on one's mind of what would have been the result of Mr. Schwarz's labour had he been fortunate enough to have secured a portion of our rich coast lands; had such been the case, the probability is this particular Mission would have been a highly remunerative settlement. At Cape Bedford no time is wasted or frivolous occupations entered into, but, on the other hand, regular hours of labour are kept, and yet ample time allowed for amusement-or recreation.

A herd of 140 head of cattle are on the reserve, and are looking as well as could be expected on such poor country; 100 head of goats are also kept on the place, and have proved to be a most useful adjunct to the Mission, providing milk and some meat.

Continuing the journey northwards, Flinders Group of islands was reached. Two or three small luggers were laying at anchor, having had to run into shelter. One cutter from Lloyd Bay was engaged in the sandalwood industry, and in charge of and manned by Lloyd Bay aborigines. These boys are a fine stamp of natives, strong, healthy fellows, with every appearance of being smart and intelligent; the fact of the cutter being placed solely in their charge would point to this conclusion. A small camp of natives were on the islands, to whom I distributed tobacco and pipes; they appeared to be well fed and in good health.

Calling at several islands on the way up North, the "Melbidir" ran into Lloyd Bay and dropped anchor under Lloyd Island on the 27th August. Here I found quite a homestead had been erected by Mr. Giblett, who is engaged in getting sandalwood; he was, however, away, but had left one of his assistants in charge. Mr. Giblett has quite 100 natives working under agreement; and two or three other Europeans, who are also engaged in the same industry, have at least an equal number employed. There are three boats—two cutters of about 15 tons each and a ketch of 25 tons—constantly engaged in conveying the wood to one or other of the adjacent ports, from whence it is shipped oversea. Each of the cutters is in charge of an aboriginal as skipper with an aboriginal crew. To show how smart and reliable these boys are, it, perhaps, would not be amiss to here relate an incident regarding the management of one of the cutters (the "Marie"), which occurred recently. It appears the boat "Marie," in charge of a Lloyd Bay native named Peter (with Cocoonut, Young Dick, and Debbie as crew), was sent to the lightship at Clermont, a distance of 60 miles, for the mails. On their return voyage at night they encountered a heavy gale of wind, and although the night was an unusually dark one, these boys brought their little ship safely home, but not without difficulty, as during the passage one boy was washed overboard and picked up again, the dinghy stove in, and the rudder carried away. Notwithstanding all this, these boys, steering their craft with an oar, came safely to their destination. At the present time quite 300 natives are employed round Lloyd Bay

obtaining sandalwood, and packing it on horses to the beach. Mr. Giblett alone has between 50 and 60 horses at this work.

Between the 9th October, 1908, and the 30th June, 1910, royalty was paid by one man on 327 tons 6 cwt. of sandalwood cut at Lloyd Bay; the value of the wood would be £6,500, and goes to show how unfortunate it was that my suggestion, in 1906, to form an aboriginal settlement at this place was not carried into effect. The aborigines in employment, and also others, are treated very well indeed and speak in the highest terms of their employers. However, the price of the wood has recently fallen very much, so that it is no longer a paying industry, and moreover, the district will shortly be depleted of this particular timber, and I fear, when the present employment ceases, the natives, having been used to plenty of good food and clothes, will keenly feel the hardship of having to again return to their primitive state of existence, and will probably be worse off than heretofore.

After visiting several of the small islands on the way, I interviewed the natives in employment at Somerset and Paira (meaning "little shark"), and found they were well treated and content, although it was considered desirable to send one of the girls at her own request to the Barambah settlement.

From Somerset a distance of 30 miles brought us to Nagheer Island, occupied by Mr. James Mills. The island is in a most flourishing condition; no less than 35,000 cocoanut trees are now growing on the place, and more are being planted. During the fortnight previous to my visit, 2½ tons of copra was shipped away, which realised £25 per ton. Mr. Mills informed me he could quite easily produce 29 tons of copra per annum; in addition to the above, 21,000 nuts for planting have been sold. Nagheer certainly stands out as an object lesson to those who reside on the other numerous islands in Torres Straits, many of them more fertile than Nagheer. The aborigines employed by Mr. Mills are a healthy, happy, contented and well-fed people.

I spent a few days in company with the local Protector at Thursday Island, visiting camps in close proximity to the island and discussing many departmental matters with Mr. Milman, who accompanied me on my tour in the Government steamer "John Douglas" through the Torres Straits islands.

Somerset was first visited, and from there we went to Yorke Island, at which place there are about 50 natives, who expressed themselves as being contented, and, from their appearance, I should say they were well looked after. The next day Darnley Island was visited, and many minor complaints listened to and disposed of. I noticed the ketch "Erub," belonging to the Darnley natives, was lying on the beach in a state of disrepair, and would, if allowed to remain in her present position, soon become a total wreck. Evidently, now the boat has been paid for and become the property of the natives themselves, they are too lazy or indifferent to work her. This state of affairs goes to show the futility of helping these people to provide boats for themselves. I was told the "Erub" had been lying on the beach for the last three months or more.

The population of Darnley is 300 souls, with 78 children on the school roll and an average attendance of 70. The parents in some cases show a disinclination to send their children to school, preferring they should be at home to do any necessary work, whilst the older people passed their time in indolence. The progress at school of those little ones who regularly attend is fairly good. Very little in the way of food is produced from the gardens at Darnley.

At Murray Island a quantity of sawn timber required to repair the school and teacher's residence was landed. The natives number about 460 persons, consisting of 234 males and 226 females. There are 110 children on the school roll—54 boys and 56 girls—and the attendance is very good indeed. Mr. Bruce, the teacher, says the children are intelligent, but, after leaving the school for a few months, the young people seem to forget most of their teaching. The seasons have been very good, with the result there is abundance of food. A garden looked after by the school children was shown me, in which I noticed many fruit trees—viz., oranges, lemons, limes, custard apples, and others. The trees were bearing and looking well, showing evidence of being carefully tended; this is very creditable, and should be encouraged in every way. Mr. Bruce evidently has the children well in hand, and they apparently pay every attention to his advice. After Mr. Milman and myself had attended to a few important departmental matters, we again pursued our journey.

Stephens Island was the next place of call, and here I found a small community of 27 souls—10 men, 9 women, and 8 children. This island, although small, is a most fertile one. I estimate there are about 500 acres of excellent land, which would be capable of producing large quantities of food; a few cocoanuts, pawpaws, yams, &c., are cultivated. The village is composed of the usual thatched huts, and the people appear to be comfortable. The Stephens Island natives have a lugger paid for, and the boat is working well and profitably. There is no school here, but a new church has recently been put up, and is a substantial well-built structure. The water supply is obtained from wells, and at times is somewhat brackish.

On Cocoanut Island, like Stephens Island, there is a small camp comprising 40 souls—viz., 11 men, 14 women, and 15 children. Cocoanut is a low sandy island, well adapted, I should say, to cocoanut-growing. As a matter of fact, a good many palms are at present in evidence, probably about 1,000; several of the older trees are bearing well, and a large number of the young ones have recently been planted. The natives here are well and healthy.

Yam Island was next visited. The population numbers 85 all told—45 males and 40 females—including 27 children who regularly attend school, and are making good progress under their teacher, Mr. Richards. The natives own a lugger, which has done well and has a sum of £7 to her credit, with which it is proposed to start a reserve fund to be expended in keeping the boat in good repair. Mr. Richards takes a lively interest in the welfare of the natives, and is endeavouring to persuade them to go in for more cultivation, and in many other directions is making an effort to induce them to better themselves.

At Saibai some 300 people reside. The sexes are about equal. There are about 90 children, 75 of whom attend school and are under the tuition of Mr. Williams, who says the attendance is good and his pupils attentive.

The State school curriculum is adhered to, and works well. A great improvement is noticeable in the village; new dwellings have been erected, and, instead of being built close to the ground as heretofore, are now erected on stumps about 3 ft. high; the effect of this reformation has been to appreciably improve the healthiness of the place; the houses are built in a regular line, thus forming a street, which is scrupulously clean, presenting a most pleasing effect; and Mr. Williams is to be congratulated for his energy and the interest he has taken in the general improvement of the island and welfare of the people.

In addition to the foregoing, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of a large swamp has been reclaimed, and this work is still proceeding. The whole place and demeanour of the natives have greatly improved since my last visit, and it is to be hoped the good work will continue.

Leaving Saibai, we proceeded to Mabuia Island. I at once inspected the school, which is under the care of Mr. Minniss; the attendance showed an average of 74—viz., 33 boys and 41 girls. A great improvement is noticeable in the school work since my last inspection, and Mrs. Minniss has succeeded in teaching some of the girls to do needlework, besides plain cooking. The health of the natives is very good, and, as they are able to procure a sufficiency of food, they are contented.

The population of Mabuia totals 265 persons—149 males and 116 females.

A short time was spent at Moa, where a Mission has been established by the Church of England. Miss Buchanan is in charge here, and the village presented a clean and healthy appearance, the natives looking well and contented. This Mission is, however, not an aboriginal institution in its true sense, but is really a South Sea Island settlement, all or nearly all the inmates being Polynesians, although many are married to aboriginal women.

Boarding the "Melbidir" at Thursday Island, I at once set sail for the Gulf or Carpentaria, the first place of call being Mapoon Mission Station. There are 200 natives permanently resident on the mission, besides a floating population of 250 camp blacks, who occasionally visit and remain for a few days at a time on the station. The Superintendent, Mr. Hey, says the health of the people has been fairly good, although some affection of the lungs is somewhat in evidence. About 100 acres are now being cultivated, about 2 or 3 miles from the head station. Last year the crops were very good, and, as a consequence, food was more plentiful. In addition to this, there are 20,000 cocoanuts in different stages of growth, and more are being planted. The school, under Mrs. Ward, is making excellent progress, the children being more proficient than in any other mission school I have visited. There are 21 boys and 42 girls who regularly attend the school; their knowledge of geography, history, arithmetic, and the manufacture and use of textile fabrics was remarkably good. In answer to questions, they readily gave the names of all the principal towns in Australia,

and their positions; also the sums given them were quickly and correctly worked out; their copy books and exercises were exceptionally clean and neat. The children presented an unusually smart appearance, and altogether the progress all round has been beyond expectations. Mrs. Ward takes a great pride in her pupils, and is to be complimented on the success she has attained.

When at Mapoon, I fortunately met Mr. Brown, of Weipa Mission Station, who was on his way to Thursday Island. From him I learnt the average number of natives residing at Weipa would be about 100, together with 200 others who visit the place spasmodically. About 16 acres are enclosed, 10 of which are under crop, from which a fair amount of food has been harvested. The health of the people has been better during the last year than for many previous years. A jack donkey has quite recently been introduced on this station, and it is expected the results of his visit will be in evidence this season. The school at Weipa is in charge of Mrs. Hall, who has 48 children in regular attendance. Mr. Brown says they are making fair progress.

Leaving Mapoon, a course was set for the Mitchell River, in close proximity to which Trubanaman Mission Station, under the auspices of the Church of England, is situated. Light variable winds were encountered until our little craft was off Cape Keerweer, when strong southerly winds were met with, which soon developed into a fierce gale. It was soon found necessary to "lay to" under the jigger and jib and make everything fast, including the main boom. For forty-eight hours the wind blew with hurricane force, and our small but good ship was like a chip upon the waters. The seas were by this time both dangerous and vicious, at times breaking on the deck of the vessels with great force and compelling one to hold tight to the standing rigging or be washed overboard. However, under the expert seamanship of our skipper (Captain Schluter), the gale was safely weathered, and on the morning of the 14th October we dropped our anchor off Trubanaman (Alligator Home) Creek. The mission is situated 12 miles up this creek, and is in charge of Mr. H. Matthews. On landing, I found a camp of over 100 natives on the beach, to whom I distributed tobacco, &c. These people seldom visit the mission station, but roam both north and south along the coast for long distances, living really in their primitive state. From appearances, I should say food is plentiful, principally fish. Physically, they are strong active people, some of them over 6 ft. in height and few under 5 ft. 10 in.; one woman I noticed stood 6 ft. 1 in. in height. About midday, in response to a request carried by one of the natives, Mr. Matthews kindly met me with horses; and at 4.30 p.m. the same evening we arrived at the mission headquarters. Trubanaman is in the embryotic stage, having been established only five years; there are 80 permanent residents—53 males and 27 females—amongst whom these is a fair sprinkling of children. The children, who appeared bright and happy, regularly attend school, which is in charge of Miss Matthews. In addition to these people, there are a large number of natives who constantly roam over the country and who occasionally visit the mission station. These natives are practically in their primitive state, and at times are inclined to be somewhat hostile. A good deal of improvement since my last inspection is

apparent in the manner and appearance of those aboriginals who constantly remain at the mission. Several new and necessary buildings have been erected; about 22 acres of ground have been cleared ready for the plough, and a fair start made to produce something in the way of food. I noticed some bananas and pineapples looking remarkably well. A herd of 60 head of cattle belonging to the mission are in excellent condition, and, as a consequence, there is an abundant supply of milk; there are also 13 head of horses, of a useful description, in good order. Altogether, I consider the progress made in Trubanan has been very good indeed; the Superintendent, Mr. Matthews, has evidently a practical turn of mind, and is endeavouring to combine the religious teaching with some practical ideas which cannot fail, later on, to become useful to the natives.

Again joining the "Melbidir," we set sail for the Wellesley group of islands, landing first on a small rocky island at the south-east end of Bountiful Island, said to contain guano and phosphate rock. This island is very small indeed, and on landing traces were found of some persons having prospected the place. After taking two or three samples of the soil and rock, the ketch was again boarded, and after passing Bountiful Island the anchor was dropped under the lee of Pisonia Island. Here I landed and planted a few cocoanuts, and secured a couple of turtles, which are very numerous here. No natives frequent this island, nor do they even visit it; and this fact no doubt would account for such large numbers of turtles remaining at the place.

Leaving Pisonia, we reached the anchorage at White Cliffs, Mornington Island. From the deck of the "Melbidir," with the aid of the binoculars, I counted over 60 natives awaiting our arrival. They were gesticulating in an excited way, and the absence of any women or children would lead one to expect an hostile reception. However, on landing, only 10 of the people presented themselves, the others evidently being too timid to meet me. After endeavouring to hold converse (by signs only), with those who remained, and distributing tomahawks, knives, fish-hooks, and some turkey red calico, besides a quantity of empty tins and bottles, which latter were much appreciated, I returned to the ketch. In the early morning of the next day I again noticed a large body of natives on the beach, considerably over 100, but on landing only 20 remained; there were 2 women and 3 men whom I recognised as having seen on my previous visit two years ago.

The appearance of the people was one of robust health, no signs of any disease whatever. Undoubtedly they are extremely agile, and, I think, intelligent. Their complexion or colour is many shades lighter than the natives of the mainland and their noses are less equiline; moreover, their general appearance differs somewhat from the usual type of aboriginal, and circumcision is universally practised. I made several attempts to secure photographs of some of them, but, although they evinced no fear whatever of our firearms, they evidently had a wholesome dread of the camera, for on setting it up they one and all immediately decamped, and, notwithstanding my repeated efforts to instil the confidence necessary to allow me to take the picture, I dismally failed in this direction, only securing two or three snap-

shots whilst they were in the act of clearing out; and it was only by putting the camera away out of sight I could induce even a few of them to return. As reported on my previous visit, I again failed to find their camp or to see any children or women, with the exception of the two already mentioned. In the afternoon I walked some 4 or 5 miles into the island, and saw numerous tracks of both pickaninnies and women, but was quite unsuccessful as regards seeing either. Returning to the beach, I again started in another direction, and travelled about 4 or 5 miles to a swamp I had seen on my former visit. To my surprise, however, the swamp had completely dried up, and the countless waterfowl with which it was covered when I last saw it were entirely absent. The natives evidently obtained a large amount of food from this locality, as the place was literally rooted up in the search for Bulgeroo nuts. I also noticed that fresh water can be obtained at a shallow depth almost anywhere on the island, holes not more than 4 ft. deep having been dug out by the natives in several places; the water is of a whitish colour, but it is fresh and palatable. In going over the island, there was evidence of some persons having visited the place since my last report, and I fear their presence has not tended to inspire the natives with the confidence I have endeavoured to instil. Although no open hostility was shown to me, I am of opinion that the want of a little tact or some trifling action on my part would have at once led to trouble. However, every effort was made to convince this tribe that our intentions were good, and that it was our wish to help rather than injure them.

The Mornington Island natives are a fine race of people; healthy, clean, well fed, and agile, quite in their primitive state, having had little or no contact with Europeans. As the natives possess but little besides what is essentially necessary for their existence, it may be concluded they have used spears for killing the kangaroo, stone axes for cutting out sugar bags, and nets for catching birds or fish since the earliest days of Australia. I estimate there are at least 400 people on the island, scattered in groups of 40 or 50 all over the place, and it would be deplorable to allow them to be indiscriminately interfered with by Europeans or others seeking new channels of enterprise. I took the opportunity of planting cocoanuts, but it is a question whether or not the natives will dig them up and eat or destroy them.

On leaving Mornington, numbers of natives congregated on the seashore, and, judging from their gestures and yelling, with the intention apparently of wishing us good-bye. There must have been at least 200 of them, and coming along the coast of the island numerous fires were seen at long distances from each other, pointing to the probability of there being a considerable number of natives resident on the place. Truly they are a strange people and difficult to understand.

A few days later Normanton was reached. Here I found a camp of some 150 natives, who earn a good living by obtaining casual employment. Fifty-five agreements are in force; the amount in the Government Savings Bank being £303 8s. 7d., distributed over 92 accounts. The local Protector told me there is still a little traffic in opium, but very little liquor is given to the natives; he also said the venereal affections are gradually disappearing.

From Normanton, Croydon was next visited, where there are about 100 aborigines, several of whom are old people who are being provided with a little food by the Department, and some children numbering about 20, with 2 or 3 half-castes. Opium still finds its way to the district, but in very small quantities; and there is very little trouble through the natives getting drink. There are only a few young people about Croydon; all the young men and women appear to have left the district, and those remaining manage to obtain sufficient food by doing odd jobs about the town.

At Georgetown, aboriginal matters are running very smoothly indeed, there being about 120 natives under the control of the Protector; no opium or liquor is obtained by the aborigines. The credit balance in the bank stands at £472, spread over 46 accounts, showing over £10 to the credit of each individual. The boys and girls readily find employment on the surrounding stations, and, as they are steady and willing, there is general satisfaction regarding their employment. The average wage paid in this district is 10s. per week.

Returning *via* Cairns, Townsville and Charters Towers were called at; and, after a trip extending over five months and covering many thousands of miles, most of the journey being in very remote places, Brisbane was reached on the 25th November.

From a departmental view my tour of inspection has been a fairly successful one, although a good many disturbing conditions were met with in the shape of wet and stormy weather, thus causing delay, especially when progress depended upon a sailing vessel, which, had I been able to avail myself of steam or other motive power, would have been avoided. The condition of the aborigines in many places is not good, especially those areas along the coast which have been and are still being used as recruiting grounds for boys engaged in the fishing industry, and in other places on the coast where the Chinese congregate.

In my previous reports I have again and again pointed out the necessity—in fact, the duty—of making some effective provision for our native race. It is heart-breaking, deplorable, and unchristian-like to see these simple people made the victims of European greed and vice. In many places visited by me diseases of a most loathsome description had been disseminated amongst them, principally, no doubt, by the coloured alien population.

With a view of sincerely doing our duties to the aborigines and improving their condition and life generally, my suggestion has been for years, and still is, to form settlements or communities, under Government control, in many parts of the State, notably the Tully River district, Lloyd Bay; another on the western shores of the Cape York Peninsula, and at Mornington Island.

These settlements would each have to be carried on under a suitable officer and perhaps an assistant. The officer appointed to such a position would of necessity have to be an experienced energetic man—one who has the gift of winning the confidence of the natives, and who could instruct them in simple agriculture, and teach them the use of tools.

These communities, if wisely selected and properly officered, would in a reasonable time become self-contained, the present incubus of the

aboriginals on the community would gradually disappear, and the lives of the natives themselves would be healthy, happy, and independent.

The idea, put forward by many, of apportioning large tracts of country to the use of the aborigines under the impression they would be able to provide themselves with food and work out their own destiny would, in my opinion, not only be futile, but cruel and inhumane for the following reasons:—(1) The grouping of many tribes of natives on one area would mean continual warfare amongst themselves and practically the survival of the fittest; (2) a sufficiently large area of land for such a purpose is not now available in Queensland, unless the Government were prepared at a large cost to resume holdings now leased; (3) it is very doubtful if sufficient wild game (except fish) is now procurable to enable a large number of people to obtain enough food, in the way of game, to even sustain life.

The time has gone by when the aborigines may subsist on natural game of the country. Owing to occupation by Europeans, the animals which years ago were so abundant have decreased to such an extent that in many localities they have entirely disappeared, and in a few years will be quite extinct.

The only solution is to take some steps by which the natives will be taught to artificially produce the necessaries of life, and the only means to this end is to form settlements as outlined in my several reports to the Government.

It is my intention to lay before you in separate communications my views regarding the establishment of such settlements in different parts of the State; and I can see no reason why these institutions should not in great measure support themselves, and as the time goes on expense incurred in connection with them will gradually reduce until it becomes a trifling annual outlay or disappear entirely.

I have in previous reports already adverted to the wonderful diversity of languages observable among the aborigines of Australia. The language of the same stock may be of very different materials as respects each other, or, in other words, the corresponding words in each may be very different; but still they have all been cast, so to speak, in the same common mould, their grammatical construction is identical or nearly so, and the stream of thought in the formation of them all has evidently flowed in the same channel.

The black natives of Queensland give distinctive and remarkably appropriate names, descriptive either of the natural features or of the physical qualities by which it is distinguished, to every remarkable locality in the country; and the number of these names, and the consequent facility with which the natives can make appointment with each other, are incredible to a European. Every rock, river, creek, mountain, hill, or plain has its aboriginal name. In this direction I opine the Australian blacks exhibit superior intellectual capacity to that of the Polynesian or South Sea Island race. The ease with which appropriate names are given to objects or implements of European civilisation with the natures or use of which they are unacquainted is remarkable.

In the exercise of this inventive faculty, indeed, they would appear to be superior to the Polynesian; when the latter were first visited

by European missionaries and had frequent opportunities of seeing books in the hands of the missionaries, they had, of course, no native name for the strange object at which they saw the white strangers so often looking, and had no conception whatever of its use. They awaited patiently, therefore, without venturing to give it a name until the missionaries told them what it was and what to call it. It has consequently received the English name with the change necessary to the Polynesian language, and is known all through the South Sea Islands as "Buka" or "Buka Buka." The Queensland native, however, scorns to be indebted to the white man for a name for the foreign object or to confess the same poverty of invention as the Polynesian had exhibited, and the mental process by which he invented an appropriate name for it is as amusing as it is original. It must be borne in mind that the Queensland aboriginal was not made acquainted with books in mere infancy of literature. His first knowledge in this direction is in all likelihood made through one of the latest issues from the press in London brought out by one of the recent European arrivals in the shape of an attractive volume bound with cloth. This new object he proceeds to examine with the keen eye of a naturalist, anxious to ascertain from its external characteristic under what order or class in Nature's system he ought to place the undescribed plant, mineral, or animal he has discovered. He observes, accordingly, that this European curiosity or book has two covers or shells finely marked, that it opens and shuts, that it has a hinge at the back, and in virtue of these characteristics he assigns it its proper place in his system, and gives it the name of "Mooy-oom," a mussel. From this root he forms a compound to designate it generally or everything that may be done with the book in the shape of reading, writing, or arithmetic, which is "Mooy-oom Yacca," or mussel work, the word "Yacca" signifying "to work."

Again, "Beegy," the aboriginal word for the sun, is applied to any object possessing a bright yellow colour—for instance, "Beegy Beegy," the regent bird; and also any European object which serves the same purpose as the sun to the white man by telling him the time—viz., a watch. Many other instances could be given to exhibit the powers of the language. Thus Tarang, the thigh; Tarang-Aba, thigh clothes or trousers; Mawgool, the head; Mawgool-Aba, a hat; Mullira, a black fellow; Mullira-g-Aba, something belong to a black fellow—here the letter "g" is inserted evidently for the sake of sound, for the aboriginal has certainly a fine ear—Paiango, sick; Paiango-ba, sick stuff or medicine.

The Queensland aborigines are fearless, but neither bloodthirsty nor ferocious. Custom or example may sometimes lead them on to bloodshed; but it is usually in accordance with their prejudices or to gratify the momentary excitement of passion. With his many vices and few virtues, I do not think the Queensland aboriginal is more vicious in his propensities or more virulent in his passions than are the large number of the lower classes of what are called civilised whites.

It is not uncommon to hear intelligent people speak of the aborigines as a race which within a few years is certain to become extinct. They point to the diminished number of red men of America and the Maories of New Zealand, and declare their conviction that it is a law of Nature the

uncivilised should die out to make way for the civilised—in fact, that low-class races should perish in order that high-class races might take their places. Very little, if anything, is said in opposition to such statements, and it seems to be taken for granted they are correct.

Although quite willing to grant that appearances, as far as they are connected with Anglo-Saxon colonisation, are altogether in favour of these opinions; but yet, when a wider view of the matter is taken, facts may be seen which suggests that these assertions may not be so correct as they would appear at first sight. If we look very far into the history of the world, we see that a process of colonisation has been going on, and it has not been the invariable rule that the barbarous race should die out in the presence of the civilised. To take a familiar instance: the ancient Britons did not become extinct after the advent of the Roman invaders. However, we need not even go so far back as that. Although the aboriginal races of America were treated with great harshness by the Spaniards and Portuguese, they did not die out so rapidly as some equally fine races, such as the North American Indians; and, to come closer home, the Maories, who are dying out under the just, benevolent, and indulgent treatment of British colonists.

It is also said that colonisation by the Dutch does not result in the destruction of the aboriginal races, but, on the contrary, these races increase and are benefited by the treatment they receive from the colonists. These facts, I contend, would suggest it is at least possible those persons are mistaken who regard the extinction of the aborigines as a painful certainty; also, there may be some faults in our method of treatment which, perhaps, are the cause of such lamentable consequences.

The British, it is well known, are peculiarly disposed to self-government. It no doubt is this which tends to make them such successful colonists. A small community is no sooner planted in any country than they exhibit the results of their national training in a capacity for regulating and organising their own affairs. Australian Governments proceed on the assumption that their people possess ability of this sort, and let them manage for themselves; hence local governing bodies are instituted and other similar institutions. When a number of Frenchmen, Dutchmen, Germans, or Spaniards colonise, they proceed in quite a different way. These nations have been accustomed to regard "Government" as something by which they are managed and regulated, and not so much as an organisation in which they take part themselves; consequently, when an offshoot breaks from the body of the nation, they are careful that a portion of the governing body shall go with them, so that they may be regulated and formed into a community by the authorities to which they are accustomed. The weak are supported; the poor are provided for; the irregular are compelled to yield to the laws of order; the roads, police, and revenues are all under the control of the central power.

If, therefore, there are aborigines in the country to which these colonists go, they are all brought under the central government. What they must do, and what they must not do, is prescribed for them. Officers are appointed with power to rule them; they are forbidden to pursue practices which would be injurious to them, and generally they are required to conform to the regulations which have been made for their benefit. If necessary, force is used to compel them,

as refractory children, to do that which is for their own good, and they do not become extinct under this treatment.

In a British colony, however, all this is reversed. Just as the white colonists are, as far as possible, allowed to manage their own affairs, so the aborigines are left to themselves to do as they like so long as they do not interfere with the whites. Instead of a ruler being appointed for them and the strong arm of authority thrown around them, a protector is appointed, whose duty hitherto has principally been to see that the European residents do not injure them. If an effort is made by the Government to benefit them by trying to induce them to adopt the methods of civilised life, it is left entirely at their option whether they permit themselves to come under the provision made for their benefit or not. It is probable this system of leaving the aborigines to themselves is the principal cause of all the mischief to them.

When the aborigines are brought into contact with civilisation in the shape of a British colony, they are exposed to influences of which they have no experience, and the evil results of which they cannot guard against. The very food and drink of the white people are strange to them, and they are likely to injure themselves by the use of it. So much has this been felt to be the case that in this State the Government has forbidden the giving of intoxicating drink to natives. This inexperience of the native leads to all sorts of injurious and fatal consequences. In their native state these people are able and careful enough to make laws and regulations for their own benefit. In proof of this, their marriage laws may be adduced.

It is evident that in common justice we are bound to see the aborigines do not suffer from our occupation of the soil. I take it we are under moral obligation to see they are no worse off than they were before through the usurpation of their territory. This, I think, will be granted by everyone. Then, if such be the case, it is our bounden duty to make such laws and regulations as will prevent them from suffering through their inexperience of the new state of things which we have set up around them. It will only be a proof of our kindness if, in the capacity of our brother's keeper, we kindly enforce, by all humane means, such beneficial ordinances. This, perhaps, would call for additional special legislation for the aborigines. I am strongly of opinion such new or additional legislation should prescribe the sort of treatment they should receive, and should declare wherein they are to be excepted from the operations of the laws affecting Europeans, besides making special laws suited to their condition, forbidding any barbarous practices which may be injurious to them; and, finally, to set apart reserves to be controlled by an officer of the Government, and provide for their benefit, comfort, subsistence and employment. The benefits conferred should be material and large, and such a law should be enforced (except in cases of crime), not so much by positive punishment as by sternly withholding benefits from the refractory and disobedient and prohibiting their being imparted even by their own people. Nothing hits an aboriginal so hard as to withhold from him benefits which he sees his fellows enjoying. It would be, of course, also necessary that employment of the natives by Europeans should be regulated—in fact, the natives would have to be treated as children in some respects, but not in all. In order to carry out such a proposal as the

foregoing, not only a Protector of Aborigines would have to be appointed, but a ruler—an officer charged with their welfare, having absolute authority over them and responsible only to the Government. It would be the duty of such an officer to have the aborigines taught, not alone the English language, but simple agriculture and some mechanics. They are inclined to be a law-abiding people; and although, at first, there might be some resistance, they would soon submit to it.

It is not wise to attempt to civilise these people too fast. Judgment has to be exercised, and the treatment be adopted to their conditions. It would be unreasonable to suppose they are capable of taking upon them the duties of a state of society which Europeans have been trained for by ages of civilisation.

I sincerely trust some determined and organised effort will be made to save this simple race from utter extinction. There are yet some thousands of aborigines in Queensland, and it is indispensable, if any marked good is to be done, that there should be some alteration of the present policy. It may be our present laws regarding these people would be elastic enough to embrace the foregoing suggestions, but, if not, such amendments could be readily made to enable the proposals to be carried out.

At present the aborigines are being injured, not so much by cruelty as by ill-judged kindness. They are treated by many as almost being without reason; they are foolishly humoured and spoiled, and it is no wonder if they become like spoiled children, and ruin their health and condition by self-indulgence. The restraints of native law, which were to a great degree beneficial, have been removed by the presence of Europeans, and the consequent inability of their chiefs and elders to enforce it; thus, lawless and unregulated, sometimes unwisely indulged, at others half-starved, sometimes clothed, at others times naked, the prey of his lusts and passions, what wonder if the aborigine goes rapidly to destruction and death.

Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.

There are now 131 girls sent to employment through this Office, for whom 191 agreements were issued during the year. The amount of wages collected and placed to their credit in the Savings Bank was £1,072 10s. 6d.; and of this they were allowed to expend, under the supervision of the Protectress, £655 5s. 7d. for clothing or pocket money. They were also allowed to draw direct from their employers regular small amounts from 3d. to, in a few cases, 5s. per week, which would add, say, another £150 to the wages earned. The balance now standing to their credit is £1,573 18s. 10d., averaging a little over £12 per girl.

The new regulation prohibiting any further engagement of girls within city boundaries is being steadily and firmly carried out, and although the employers in the city, fortunate enough to have girls previous to the new rule, do all in their power to retain their service, the number of such girls is being steadily reduced. The general behaviour has been good, and very little trouble has been experienced with either servants or employers. The Protectress spent three weeks visiting girls at their houses, and in most cases reported favourably of the situations. The girls are very fond of dress, and inclined to extravagance if not checked; but many of them have good taste; and all appear prosperous and happy.

The health has been generally good. Two or three girls had to go to the General Hospital for treatment; but the rest were attended to by Dr. Espie Dods, the Government Medical Officer, in his usual kind and sympathetic manner, at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter or at his surgery.

Fifteen girls were admitted to the Maternity Home, and 13 children were born, 6 of which, however, died shortly after or when teething. Seven of the girls were discharged as fit for work, and six are still in the Home gaining strength; the other two dying from the effects of childbirth.

Agreements for maintenance and expenses were obtained in 5 cases from the fathers of the children.

Eleven children are boarded at the Salvation Army Home and 4 at St. Vincent's Orphanage; and their healthy, clean appearance reflects much credit upon the nursing staffs at these institutions. We can also express our appreciation of the valuable help given by the officers of the Salvation Army Women's Shelter, in Mary street, in comfortably housing the girls, meeting them and seeing them off by rail to their situations, and otherwise helping in the care and management of them.

TABLE 1.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, &c., APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1909 AND 1910).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector.	Stationed at—	Date of Appointment.	1909.				1910.				
				MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.		
				Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	
Somerset	Milman, Hugh Miles...	Thursday Island	31-8-08	114	26	...	...	...	51	...	5
Cairns, Mareeba	Malone, H., Sub-Inspector	Jairns	1-10-07	...	127	...	20	...	143	...	37	
Cook, Palmer	Bodman, F., Sergeant	Jooktown	8-7-08	21	132	...	8	...	139	...	6	
Coen	Whiteford, James, Senior-Sergeant	Joen	11-1-06	6	30	4	1	27	55	7	5	
Norman	Daly, P. Sergeant	Normanton	4-6-07	...	64	...	10	Nil	47	Nil	4	
Etheridge	Quinn, M., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Georgetown	26-6-09	7	57	3	...	„	45	...	...
Cloncurry, Camooweal	Byrne, R. J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	23-6-09	...	80	...	25	...	40	...	5	
Mackay	Garraway, R. W., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Mackay	5-11-08	1	47	...	5	Nil	33	Nil	3	
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Carmody, M. J., Sergeant	Townsville	29-11-10	...	90	...	4	„	44	...	6	
Ingham	Connolly, P., Acting Sergeant	Ingham	15-2-06	50	47	...	8	„	50	„	7	
Charters Towers, Cape River	Graham, R. W., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	11-10-06	...	69	...	8	„	82	„	8	
Hughenden, Richmond	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden	9-5-07	30	114	...	15	„	186	„	18	
Winton	Dillon, G., Acting Sergeant	Winton	3-6-10	22	15	8	5	...	13	...	5	
Boulia	Kingston, F. W., Constable	Boulia	1-10-10	30	71	8	19	4	45	...	15	
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	O'Connor, F. J., 3rd class Sub-Inspector	Charleville	19-6-09	90	65	20	18	...	40	...	23	
Alpha, Aramac, Barcardine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaburra, Tambo, Windorah	McGrath, J., Sub-Inspector	Longreach	26-6-09	...	78	...	18	...	84	...	20	
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Toowoomba	6-6-04	20	5	16	5	...	3	...	...
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Marrett, C. B., Inspector	Maryborough†	9-7-10	...	616	...	31	...	728	...	8	
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton	10-7-05	...	84	...	37	...	71	...	31	
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Kelly, M. J., Sub-Inspector	Roma	24-12-10	15	39	...	3	10	32	6	4	
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	...	24	...	...	...	29	...	...
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	Whipham, K. A. (Mrs.)	Brisbane* ..	10-4-09	...	...	...	148	...	...	...	191
Burke	Murphy, J. A., Acting Sergeant	Burketown	25-6-08	18	...	5	...	...	28	...	6
Croydon	Sullivan, Timothy, Acting Sergeant	Croydon	7-6-07	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	2
Herberton and Thornborough	Martell, E., Acting Sergeant	Herberton	30-10-01	15	9	...	17	...	111	...	13	
Mourilyan	Frisch, G. A., Sergeant	Geraldton	30-1-01	...	17	...	14	Ni	158	Ni	12	
Port Douglas	Hasenkemp, Henry Acting Sergeant	Port Douglas	4-6-01	...	1	...	...	„	10	„	3
Burke (west of 139th degree east longitude)	Smith, E. P., 1st class Constable	Turn-off Lagoon	26-11-08	...	2	...	...	...	26	...	7
Turn-off Lagoon					436	2,118			51	2,254	13	441

* Issued at Chief Protector's Office.

† Including Barambah Settlement.

TABLE 2.—SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTROLLED BY EACH PROTECTOR, WITH SOME IDEA OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PATROL WORK.

LOCAL PROTECTORS.	POPULATION.	LETTERS.		PATROL.	
		Inward.	Outward.	Miles Travelled.	Days Absent.
Bouliá	500	200	150	600	21
Brisbane	341	...	...	...	...
Burketown	600	70	50	700	...
Cairns	500	500	500	...	...
Charleville	275	400	600	...	...
Charters Towers	200	429	377	...	...
Cloncurry	200	70	50	...	...
Cooktown	300	49	45	300	21
Coen	1,000	...	...	6,761	271
Croydon	150	15	18	...	...
Georgetown	155	...	134	970	35
Geraldton (Innisfail)	300	20	20	400	26
Herberton	680	476	311	560	...
Hughenden	157	550	760	1,458	47
Ingham	600	...	...	210	7
Longreach	334	1,200	1,000	1,456	179
Maryborough	450	408	474	750	25
Mackay	180	28	45	...	...
Normanton	250	190	221	1,770	118
Port Douglas	190	66	48	100	5
Rockhampton	573	...	...	4,000	120
Roma	445	57	133	770	19
Thursday Island	3,500	440	429	700	17
Toowoomba	94	35	35	500	...
Townsville	500	250	200	600	7
Turn-off Lagoon	200	10	14	350	20
Winton	100	137	184	...	...

No separate record kept of patrols, &c., done while on police duty.

During the year 95 natives were employed as troopers or trackers by the Police Department, but, owing to the rather low rate of wages offered, the best men will not engage. Fifteen shillings per week and "tucker" can readily be obtained in the districts surrounding the settlement, with the privilege of spending week-ends on the "mission," as it is called, and with, what is more to the average natives' liking, short periods of service. So the rate of pay for a tracker and gin—20s. or 25s. a month and found—has no

attraction for him. It may be worth mentioning that the pay for similar work in Victoria is 4s. a day, with 1s. 6d. stopped for cost of food, being really equal to 17s. 6d. a week, food, and uniform.

The work in connection with the administration of the Acts among the officers acting as local protectors is steadily increasing, and is deserving of recognition; and the growing Savings Bank accounts alone are evidence of the zeal with which the interests of the blacks are protected when in employment.

TABLE 3.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1909 AND 1910, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Bank at—	Credit Balance, 1909.	1910'			
		Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Croydon	67 6 5	8	26 18 5	2 17 4	56 16 11
Thursday Island	107 6 7	41	86 11 1	70 12 2	123 5 6
Cooktown	360 14 10	100	77 10 9	20 7 6	454 2 4
Cairns	166 14 2	98	37 9 0	13 3 0	203 13 2
Normanton	146 5 9	98	178 0 0	6 10 7	309 11 10
Georgetown	125 14 4	59	433 0 0	61 3 4	497 11 0
Cloncurry	491 18 4	64	115 5 10	48 7 7	530 7 0
Ingham	151 0 0	64	92 12 6	31 12 6	221 17 8
Townsville	14 11 6	10	58 12 5	21 5 6	51 18 5
Charters Towers	445 6 8	77	1,414 6 1	170 16 10	1,688 15 11
Hughenden	1,051 10 0	127	1,290 2 10	814 6 0	1,590 2 0
Winton	259 12 7	17	200 17 1	137 11 6	299 4 10
Bouliá	537 12 4	83	391 2 9	70 18 0	875 4 11
Port Douglas	197 19 4	39	35 11 0	Nil	234 1 7
Burketown	921 16 7	165	171 0 4	11 14 0	1,081 2 11
Mackay	53 16 5	10	27 10 6	10 0 0	56 11 10
Rockhampton	274 15 5	31	162 12 0	117 19 7	301 8 7
Longreach	1,376 8 10	180	560 6 8	121 15 0	2,081 13 1
Charleville	333 17 3	40	65 7 1	125 2 10	290 9 2
Maryborough	98 11 2	20	37 4 0	12 9 4	161 7 11
Barambah (Abor. Settlement)	743 3 0	375	1,087 11 9	876 9 5	954 5 4
Roma	99 6 5	11	25 2 6	17 7 4	127 8 4
Toowoomba	15 9 2	3	15 12 1	Nil	29 8 3
Brisbane (Aboriginal girls)	1,132 3 4	131	1,072 10 6	655 5 7	1,573 18 10
Herberton	445 2 8	120	134 10 9	59 17 9	495 18 2
Innisfail	183 10 7	96	55 1 6	10 13 6	201 17 7
Coen	63 17 7	19	132 7 6	Nil	196 4 11
Total	£9,865 11 3	2,086	8,037 12 11	3,498 6 2	14,688 8 0

The system of banking a portion of each man's wages is now generally accepted amongst the natives, who are daily becoming more satisfied as to the advantages to themselves.

Some station employers still resist, preferring the native to spend his money at the station store, which they say makes him more contented, and in some cases misleading him into the belief that his money is used to support missions, &c.—an idea which, once planted in the aboriginal mind, is very difficult to remove.

Returns show a large decrease in the number of permits for casual work and a corresponding increase in the number of agreements entered into for permanent employment; but there will always be a large number of natives who object to the permanent engagement, preferring to do a few hours or days' work for food, clothing, or money, which, it is found, is usually spent in meat and bread, and shared with the old and sick. Many others find congenial occupation in marsupial snaring and shooting, and do a regular and profitable trade with the skins, besides keeping themselves and friends well supplied with the native food they are all so fond of.

Some go from place to place, taking engagements of a few days or a week, mustering, driving, or horse-breaking, with short holidays or "walk-about" in between, to catch game and fish.

The Protector at Coen advises that a great number of the natives there obtain casual employment with the sandalwood-getters; and, as evidence that they are satisfied with their treatment, he states that he has the greatest difficulty in preventing boys in permanent situations from deserting to join the tribes so engaged. It would be useless attempting to bind them to regular engagements; so, to ensure their obtaining some benefit from their labours, he collects a royalty of 5s. a ton on all sandalwood exported, which is expended by him for the general benefit.

At Charters Towers the Protector reports that many of the old hands who earn sufficient for food and clothes by casual work in yard or garden would never obtain any employment if a regular engagement were insisted upon. Besides, these old fellows often have families and helpless relations to support, and they like to be able to return to camp at night.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Somerset Petty Sessions District—

The Protector at Thursday Island, Mr. H. Milman, reports:—

"Twenty-two permits were issued to masters of fishing vessels to recruit natives, and 171 natives so recruited signed on articles at the shipping office for service, principally in the *bêche-de-mer* vessels. I have not allowed any single female aboriginal to go to service at Thursday Island during the year, and I believe that the enforcement of such will remove a danger to the welfare of the girls that was very apparent. The mainland natives are being largely employed in the sandalwood industry on the Cape York Peninsula, and thus the pearl-shelliers in Torres Straits have had some difficulty in recruiting such labour for their boats. I do not think, considering the mainlander's own welfare, that the latter fact is to be much regretted—for he can obtain more profitable and congenial work in the cutting

of the sandalwood. As the importation of indentured alien labour is being prohibited by the Federal Government, aboriginal labour in these parts will become much more valuable, and the Torres Straits islanders will doubtless receive more consideration from employers in the future.

"The Q.G. Ketch 'Melbidir.'"

The ketch, still under the careful and capable navigation of Captain J. Schluter, has proved herself as useful as ever for patrol and inshore inspection work. The absence of motor power in her is at times keenly felt, especially during calms and when in chase of vessels, illegally recruiting. From the report of the master, I give a *résumé* of her movements and operations during the year. It was not till nearly April that the decision was arrived at that the establishment of a motor was too costly, and some time was spent then in shipping stores, repairing, and refitting.

"On 20th April, after taking stores aboard, she was towed down the river by the Government steamer 'Cormorant' and set a course for the North, spending some time then at Cooktown, visiting Cape Bedford and the lightships with stores.

"Picking the Chief Protector up at Townsville, after renewing a gaff broken in a heavy squall coming down from Cooktown, she left again for the North, calling on the way as required at Challenger Bay, Lucinda Point, Cardwell, Dunk Island, Johnstone River, Fitzroy Island, Yarrabah, Port Douglas, Cooktown, Cape Bedford, and many places and islands, arriving at Thursday Island on 1st September. On the way up a number of vessels employing natives were boarded and examined and found in order.

"Here opportunity was taken, while the Chief Protector was away in the 'John Douglas,' for a general clean up, and several short trips with Government officers patrolling or visiting the mainland were made. On Mr. Howard's return, Mapoon was visited, and some female mission inmates returned from Thursday Island; then set a course for Mitchell River, but had to 'heave to' under mizzen and head sails for two days in a rough gale with heavy seas. Mitchell River Mission was visited, and later on Bountiful and Pisonia Islands, where some cocoanuts were planted by Mr. Howard.

"Mornington Island was next visited, and a couple of days spent endeavouring to establish friendly relations with the natives by presents of tomahawks, knives, calico, old tins, &c. Some cocoanuts were planted, and some snapshots obtained with the camera. After landing the Chief Protector at Karumba, copper was cleaned again and the vessel returned to Thursday Island, then visited the Lightships and Cape Bedford Mission, cleaning and repairing the vessel's copper again at the latter place, and arriving in Cooktown again on 26th.

"On the way down several small recruiters' vessels were examined, but no cause for complaint found.

"The rest of the year was spent in trips to Cape Bedford and the neighbouring lighthouses and lightships with Government passengers and cargo; and the captain then, before leaving on 28th December for a visit to Brisbane for medical attention, made all snug under charge of the mate and native crew for the annual hurricane season.

“ From inspection on patrol and information gathered at places visited, Captain Schluter is of opinion that matters in connection with the employment of natives in fishing vessels have been satisfactory both in the treatment of the natives and their behaviour. No complaints were made by the camps of natives visited, and, if any serious abuses had occurred, information would certainly have been readily given.”

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Certificates of exemption, under section 33 of the 1897 Act, were granted to 5 males and 4 female half-castes. To be eligible for such a certificate, the applicant must be a half-caste over 16 years of age and not in any way associated with aboriginals, and even then satisfy the Protector of the district that he is capable of managing his own affairs. Three of the men were regularly employed as stockmen on stations, and another worked a small farm of his own. Two of the girls were intelligent servants, and the third woman married a white man with whom she had lived for some time. Several applications were refused, the applicants not being considered eligible or capable of taking care of themselves. In some of these cases the employers, apparently with the idea of evading the Department's supervision, either made the application or prompted the girl to do so; and it is worth noting that, on the only occasion last year in which an application so made was successful, the girl packed up and left within twenty-four hours of receiving her certificate.

RECOGNISANCES.

Only 43 bonds were entered into for the return of natives sent to work in other districts, and of these not one had to be enforced. All natives sent out of their district were returned as per agreement, and no reports of any breaches of section 17 of 1897 Act were received.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

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

Centre.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Ayr	2 15 0
Badu (Thursday Island)	2 0 0
Bedourie	1 17 3
Betoota	4 0 0
Birdsville	4 10 6
Boulia	5 0 0
Bowen	1 5 0
Buckingham Downs	2 0 0
Burketown	6 10 0
Cape Bedford	7 0 0
Coen	1 10 0
Coonambula	1 0 0
Cloncurry	2 0 0
Croydon	10 0 0
Diamantina	6 0 0
Duarina	1 10 0
Eidsvold	1 0 0
Emerald	1 5 0
Hammond Island	2 10 0
Kuranda	0 10 0
Laura	2 10 0
Maytown	2 0 0
McDonnell	3 10 0
Millchester	1 10 0
Mein	1 0 0
Moreton	1 0 0
Mount Perry	1 15 0
Musgrave	1 0 0
Nocundra	1 5 0
Percyville	3 15 0

Centre.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
St. George	3 10 0
Tallwood	2 0 0
Tewantin	1 16 0
Thornborough	2 10 0
Thylungra	2 15 0
Tinnenburra	5 0 0
Welltown	2 15 0
Winton	1 10 0
Yandina	0 15 0

As closer settlement encroaches more on the old hunting-ground of the aboriginals, so the need for relief increases. It will be seen that 6 new distributing centres appear on the foregoing list, and 1 has been discontinued, the aboriginals having left the district. The greater portion of this relief is issued to old and helpless natives, and it is expected that their young and able-bodied friends will supplement it with a share of their earnings. The practice of banking part of the wages of each native whilst in employment has also saved the Department a great deal of expense which would otherwise have fallen upon its shoulders, as many of the natives requiring temporary relief in sickness and idleness have been granted such aid from the money to their credit in the bank.

BLANKETS.

Mr. G. McLennan, Government Storekeeper, again superintended the distribution of blankets, and I give here his report upon the work:—

“ The work of despatching the blankets to the far distant centres of distribution began in the early part of December last, and by the end of April following the despatch was finally completed. Every care was taken to ensure the arrival of the blankets at the various centres of distribution in ample time for issue to the blacks before the cold weather began.

“ The apportionment of the blankets to each centre of distribution was made in accordance with the Honourable the Home Secretary's instructions—viz., by myself, in conjunction with the Chief Protector of Aboriginals—on the basis of last year's distribution; and, as very few complaints were received regarding shortness of supply, it is reasonable to assume that the allotment was satisfactory.

“ Except in a few instances, all the distributing officers reported distribution. The exceptions are Archer River Mission, 23; Eton, 6; Mackinlay, 2; and Windorah, 20. I have, therefore, shown these outstanding blankets on the return as distributed to unspecified persons at the places mentioned.

“ The instructions regarding distribution have, in the majority of cases, been closely followed.

“ At the request of the master of the Claremont Island lightship, a quantity of fishing lines, hooks, knives, tomahawks, &c., were supplied for distribution to the blacks in the neighbourhood of the Claremont Islands, to assist them to procure fish and native foods. A corresponding reduction was made in the usual quantity of blankets sent to cover the cost of the substituted articles. This course was followed last year, and gave much satisfaction to the natives.

“ Last year 5,180½ pairs were issued, as against 5,607½ pairs issued this year; the excess being due to the present year being the alternate year of supply to aboriginal homes, &c.

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

" The recipients this year were 2,990 men, 2,686 women, 1,312 children, and 103 unspecified persons; total, 7,091. The number of centres of distribution was 156. The total number of blankets distributed was 5,607½ pairs.

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

	£	s.	d.
5,180½ pairs at 8s. 9d.	2,453	1	3
Forwarding charges, &c., say	100	0	0
	<u>£2,553</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

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

	Pairs.	Persons.
1901 ...	7,444	9,101
1902 ...	6,858½	8,341
1903 ...	4,914	6,072
1904 ...	4,296½	5,466
1905 ...	4,652½	5,596
1906 ...	5,391	6,704
1907 ...	5,011	6,155
1908 ...	5,622	6,947
1909 ...	5,180½	6,335
1910 ...	5,607½	7,091

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

DRINK AND OPIUM.

The reports of the Protectors generally show a fairly satisfactory state of affairs with regard to the supply and use by aborigines of drink and opium. Of course, most of the natives, particularly the old hands, will take drink as often as they can obtain it, and in some districts where the supply of opium is becoming almost impossible, an increased craving for drink is reported. The chief sources of trouble are the hotel loafers, who make the blackfellow pay for sufficient drink for themselves also, and low-class hotelkeepers who illegally employ him and pay him with grog; and so faithful is the black to his doubtful friends, it is always impossible to get him to give information.

The Protector at Coen reports that complaint has reached him of the Japanese recruiters supplying the natives with drink as an inducement to engage; but he says no cases have come under his own notice. At Normanton three successful prosecutions were instituted, a fine of £20 and costs being imposed in each case.

Early in the year circulars were sent to all Protectors advising them to draw the attention of local benches to section 8 of the 1901 Act, which insists that no reduction of the minimum penalty for breaches of sections 19 and 20 of 1897 Act (supplying drink and opium) be made, not withstanding any powers which justices may be given by section 173 of the Justices Act. In previous years much of the desired effect of prosecutions for breaches of these sections was lost through the action of local justices in reducing the fines imposed to an amount which, particularly in the case of Chinese supplying opium, made a farce of the proceedings. It is pleasing to be able to report that the circular abovementioned has

apparently had the desired effect, for such reductions of fines are now very rare. The good effect is even felt further than this, for nearly all the Protectors report a much more satisfactory state of affairs, and, with a thoroughly strict enforcement of the section prohibiting the employment of natives at hotels, much will be done to minimise, if not thoroughly eradicate, the drink and opium curse; for the number of successful prosecutions is sufficient indication of the vigilance and energy of the police.

In the Cairns, Herberton, Innisfail, Ingham, and Hughenden districts the opium seems most plentiful, and most of the successful prosecutions are reported from them. In some cases it was found that the Chinese were trading the drug for marsupial skins among the natives, and at Cairns the Chinese used it as an inducement to obtain the gins for immoral purposes. But it is noticeable that where opium is freely obtainable the natives do not trouble much about liquor; but, as already stated, where the drug is scarce or unobtainable the craving for the drink increases. During the year prosecutions were successfully undertaken in 23 cases for supplying liquor to blacks, and fines, &c., imposed amounting to £229 7s. 6d.; for supplying opium, 11 convictions were obtained, with fines, &c., amounting to £127 12s. 10d.; and for the unlawful possession of opium, 88 convictions, with fines, &c., amounting to £951 5s. 11d. were secured. Most of the convictions secured for supplying liquor were against low-class Europeans and hotelkeepers, and nearly all the opium prosecutions were against Chinese.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

As in previous years, every effort has been made to rescue the young women and children, if possible, before it is too late, and transfer them to a purer and healthier atmosphere. At Barambah, Yarrabah, and Mapoon, there are industrial schools for the children, where they are cared for and educated as far as possible in useful accomplishments. The reports received show that many of the children, although very dull when first admitted, soon improve both physically and mentally under the better condition of living and gentle discipline exercised. The young girls entering womanhood, however, present the most difficult problem.

As shown in the Protectors' reports, the practice of sending them to service with respectable employers, placing more importance upon the question of good homes than high wages, has proved itself fairly successful. Of course, it has its disadvantages, but, in the absence of properly equipped industrial homes and institutions where these unfortunate girls can be trained and usefully occupied, is not a comfortable home with proper food, attention, and training, in spite of the many dangers and temptations assailing them, better than the certain degradation of the camp life with its idleness, drink, opium, and prostitution?

Every encouragement is given them to marry respectably with their own race, but it is the period of development between girlhood and womanhood that presents the difficulty. With some, unfortunately, the harm was done before they came under the wing of the Department, and it is these principally who have brought discredit upon the domestic-service system. But, no matter how good their surroundings might have been, nothing short of actual isolation from all

intercourse with either white or black races would have kept them from harm; and, to do that successfully, profitable and useful occupation, under strict and regular supervision, would have to be provided for them to keep them from worse mischief.

During the year permits were granted for 25 aboriginal and half-caste women to marry men of other nationalities. Nine of these men were Pacific Islanders, who make really good husbands and treat their aboriginal wives well. For the woman who throws in her lot with the South Sea "boy," the old nomadic life with its hardships and privations is ended. She has a comfortable hut with better food and kinder treatment, her children are generally well-clothed and sent to school, and she herself raised to a much higher plane. Eleven marriages were to Europeans, who in most cases married half-castes; 1 was to a Malay, 2 to Chinese, 1 to a Japanese, and 1 to a half-caste. All these marriages seem to have been well advised. Twelve young girls and 17 children were sent from various parts of the State to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, by order of the Hon. the Minister, for being neglected, living in immoral surroundings, or requiring medical treatment. Besides these, 1 child was committed to Mapoon Industrial School and 1 to the institution at Barambah by the bench.

The number of children now in the industrial schools, for which the extra grant of 2s. 6d. per week per head is paid, is as follows:—Mapoon, 6; Yarrabah, 11; Deebing Creek, 12. At Barambah there are 10 children committed by the bench, but being a Government institution no extra payment is made. There are also 27 children in the Barambah Institution, who have been removed there by order of the Minister.

HEALTH.

The reports from the Protectors show that last year was a fairly healthy one for the aboriginals.

Twenty-three patients were treated in the Brisbane General Hospital, mostly for bronchitis and pneumonia. Six cases of granuloma were sent there from Barambah, and, after some months' treatment, were returned—2 cured and 4 incurable. In the Deebing Creek Mission and Barambah Settlement there were several epidemics of whooping cough and influenza, resulting, at the latter place, in a slight mortality among the children and aged. At Goondiwindi Hospital 8 patients were treated, none of which were venereal. There were 4 deaths, some being due to cancer. Rockhampton Hospital also treated 1 aboriginal for phthisis, 2 accident cases, and 5 general diseases. None of these were of a venereal nature. At Roma 19 natives were treated, principally for influenza and its after effects. At Taroom the medical officer reports granting 450 consultations to aboriginals, mostly of influenza epidemic, and 1 death occurred; 6 of the cases treated were venereal. Charleville, Hughenden, Normanton, Herberton, Innisfail, Port Douglas, and Turn-off Lagoon each report a few cases of this disease, but most of them state that it does not seem prevalent. At Port Douglas 2 natives died very suddenly from eating a poisonous toadfish, and 2 others who also ate a part of it were treated and relieved.

Reports of 61 deaths were sent to this Office, of which 27 occurred at Barambah Settlement, where the majority of the inmates are infirm and

sick sent from other districts. Of the deaths at Barambah, 10 were from senile decay; 5, pulmonary troubles; 2, venereal; 2, epidemic diseases; 2, heart failure; and 6, general sickness, principally teething troubles in children. At this place a medical officer visits monthly for inspection, and is also available for emergency and for consultations at his surgery, and a trained women's nurse is kept, who is also dispenser. Of the remaining 34 deaths reported, 7 were senile decay; 3, venereal; 4, pulmonary; 4, epidemic; 1, epilepsy; 4, accident or violence; and 11, general.

Reports were only sent to this Office in exceptional cases or where advice was required.

The deaths at the following places were:—Brisbane, 5; Cooktown, 3; Charters Towers, 5; Herberton, 20; Hughenden, 7; Innisfail, 10; Ingham, 5; Maryborough, 8; Roma, 10; Port Douglas, 2; Toowoomba, 5; and Winton, 8. Most of these were from natural causes and senile decay; a few only were venereal, and most places report that this disease is decreasing. It is, however, impossible to tell accurately, as those affected are very reticent about it and will seldom acknowledge it until in an advanced stage.

The Protector at Coen reports that numerous deaths have occurred in the bush from natural causes; but there has been very little sickness noticeable.

The teachers of Torres Strait Islands report slight epidemics of malaria, dengue, and dysentery, with a few cases of syphilis and syphilitic sores. At Saibai 6 deaths occurred from dysentery, and a touching story is told of the fidelity of a native policeman who, after nursing his sick friends day and night till their recovery, eventually himself succumbed to the disease.

From the various mission stations several cases of ankylostomiasis are reported, and a few deaths from phthisis. In the Gulf missions tubercular and venereal diseases have claimed a few victims; while malaria, sore eyes and ears, blood diseases and periodical coughs have been the chief ailments requiring treatment.

It is worth pointing out that at Aurukun, with no other medical assistance than a home medicine chest, 221 cases were treated; and the Superintendent reports that not one death occurred during the year.

CRIME.

Very favourable reports on the behaviour of the aborigines have been received from all Protectors, and the record of crime is not a large one. As stated last year, this is due to the vigilance of the members of the Police Force and their very intelligent and tactful control of the natives. The records from police courts show the following convictions against aborigines during the year:—Drunkenness, 45; stealing, 25; obscene language, 14; common assault, 13; desertion from service, 13; disorderly conduct, 9; murder or manslaughter, 7; trespassing, 6; resisting arrest, 4; cruelty to animals, 4; absconding from reserves, 3; insanity, 3; unlawfully wounding, 2; indecent assault, 1; indecent exposure, 1; carnal knowledge, 1; attempted rape, 1; unlawfully removing, 1. Drunkenness, as usual, is in the lead; but the fault lies, as said before, with hotel loafers and low-class publicans. Still, considering the large aboriginal population, the number of cases is remarkably small; and it is

pleasing to be able to show that such a small number of the most serious offences—murder and rape—occurred.

Besides 12 young girls and 17 children already mentioned, 58 males, 9 females, and 9 children were removed by the Minister's order to the Barambah Settlement, most of these being old people, infirm and incapable of caring for themselves, and neglected children to be sent to school. Some also were sent from the districts as an example to others, in some cases after serving a sentence in prison, to remove them from bad influences, and to provide them with healthy occupation under proper control.

One Torres Strait Islander, with wife and family, and two discharged prisoners were also sent to Yarrabah.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

Good reports are made by all of the European teachers on these islands, particularly of the behaviour and progress of the children. During the first half-year malaria and dengue epidemics somewhat disturbed the work, but the attendances were good. In all the schools now, where the daily attendance reaches 50 scholars, allowance is made for a native monitor at a small yearly salary, two monitors being allowed where the attendance is 80 and over.

A few of the island "company" boats did fairly well—others earned practically nothing. The reports from the various teachers quoted further on will give full particulars.

Torres Strait Islands—

In his report Mr. Milman, Government Resident and Protector, says:—

"Instruction at the various island schools has gone on **uninterruptedly** during the year. The teaching staff have been assiduous in the carrying out of their duties, and much progress has been made in the schools. I was pleased that the Department had acted on my suggestion that the monitors at those schools where there were more than 50 pupils should be paid a slight remuneration as an incentive to themselves to do good and to others to emulate their example.

"The conditions under which the teachers at Mabuiag and Murray Islands have been living have been greatly improved. The Government carpenter has effected extensive repairs at both places, and the teachers are much more comfortably housed than hitherto. It is with some regret that I have to note that at two of the islands there has been some friction between our teachers and the Samoan missionaries stationed at such places. I have already written you *in extenso* on the subject, and need only add here that I do not think that the fault lies on the side of our teachers.

"Although several of the native-owned boats have done very well during the year, yet, taking them as a whole, there has been very little improvement in the way these crafts have been worked by their aboriginal owners. The two Mabuiag Island boats—the 'Mabuiag' and the 'Urupi'—have done especially well during the year. The Stephens Island natives, who own the 'Ugar,' have been very successful—one pearl they found being sold for £67. But the majority of the native-owned boats have been worked in the usual haphazard manner. For instance, the 'Martha,' owned by Adolphus Island natives,

brought in only £5 worth of produce during the year; and the vessel has been allowed to get into such a deplorable state that it was decided to sell her by auction. The amount she brought at the sale paid for auction expenses only, and the Department has had to wipe off as a bad debt the sixty odd pounds that were still owing by the natives on account of the original purchase of this ill-fated boat."

Badu Island—

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

"The population is:—Males, 68; females, 48; children, 115. There were 7 births, 4 deaths, and 7 marriages. The number of children on the roll is:—Girls, 39; boys, 44; and the average attendance was 68.63.

"During the year there has been very fair progress made in the school. The subjects taught are writing, reading, arithmetic, geography, and sewing. Writing in copy-books, letters about local events, and transcription is the writing done by the first class. The same class can do simple bills of parcels and money sums. Geography is mostly Australian and local. During the year 3 of the older girls married, leaving a very small first class. There are very few children between the ages of 9 and 16; the first class is, therefore, not well advanced. The head boy, a very bright and intelligent lad, is leaving school this year and is to be taught boat building and repairing at the Papuan Industries' boat slip. He has shown great ability that way, and is most anxious to learn. The general conduct of the children has been very good, and the parents are all very anxious to help me. Until November I had 14 children from Moa attending school; they lived at one of the councillor's houses, but I had so many complaints about their destroying the councillor's property that, after consulting Mr. Milman, they have been returned to their home at Adam until next year, when we hope to get a separate house built for them by the Moa men. Since these children have attended the school, and have had the regular food supply, they show a marked improvement in manners and in health. In the south-east season, when the native food was plentiful, the parents sent some yams, bananas, &c., for the children. I have impressed on them the importance of the fresh food for their children. The weeks that there has been a plentiful supply I have been able to get some print for clothes, for when the children came they had no clothes to wear. There are only a very few old men at Adam; some of the younger men are signed on, and others have left Adam and gone to live at Hammond Island. The monitor, James Williams (the L.M.S. teacher), has been of great assistance to me, and teaches the little children.

"The native gardens have been fairly productive this year; pineapples and bananas have been very plentiful. Yams and kumala have not done too well, but the natives have made new gardens and hope to have a plentiful supply next year. The surplus fruit is brought to Dogai and exchanged for flour, rice, &c. The "company" boats have worked very well indeed, and have been very successful. In "clear-water" week the men are out shelling, but in "dirty-water" time they go out for turtle and dugong. There has been no scarcity of food this year, and I do not think there is any fear of a shortage this north-west season. The Papuan Industries Company have not made out their returns for the boats yet,

so I am unable to give you the figures. Mr. Walker will forward you the returns early next year.

"The natives have made no roads this year, but a number of houses are being erected and others repaired. A number of the young married men are building houses, which I think is an improvement on the old fashion of so many people living in one house; later I should like to have an order from you to the effect that each married couple must have a house to themselves. The village has been kept clean, and the councillors have helped in seeing to this. During the year 50 coconuts have been planted in the school reserve, and are all growing well. This year I hope to have many more planted, and am trying to induce the natives to plant more nuts themselves.

"The health of the children during the year has been splendid; we have had no epidemics, and, with the exception of slight colds, there has been no sickness among them. The same can be said of the whole village. During October, Dr. Breinl, of the Tropical Institute of Medicine, visited Badu and inspected the school children; he found one family of 3 children, who had recently come from another island, suffering from "yaws," but the other children were all in good health. I am pleased to say that, with the exception of 2 men who have recently been to Papua, there are no cases of malaria. These men are improving rapidly under the doctor's treatment. Mr. C. H. Walker, of the Papuan Industries, is of great assistance when treating the natives, and they go to him for medicine for colds, &c. I only know of 2 cases of syphilis—one an old man with a very bad leg, and the other a child from Moa. Dr. Breinl prescribed for both, and I have been treating them. During the year there have been 4 deaths—2 old women—from syphilis as far as I could judge (they both died before the doctor's visit), a man about 45 from some internal complaint, and a baby twelve days old. The man died suddenly after complaining of internal pains, and I only knew of his illness an hour before his death. Several have gone into Thursday Island for slight complaints to be treated at the hospital.

"During the twelve months there have been 12 minor cases tried at the court—1 of fighting; 4 of indecent conduct, and 2 of immorality. In all cases the councillors have been most anxious to punish the offenders, and have fined them heavily. In the case of immorality the offenders were tried separately, and each fined £2. The amount of fine money was £12 14s., and dog licenses 19s.

"The general behaviour has been good, and the councillors do their duty with a will and try their best to maintain law and order. The best feeling exists between them and myself, and they refer to me on all matters of importance.

"On the whole, the year has been a very prosperous one, and things have progressed with little or no friction."

Darnley Island—

The teacher, Mr. P. G. Guilletmot, reports:—

"The enrolment of scholars has now reached the total of 83. The children have made fair progress during the year, but their attendance is very irregular and gives the teacher great trouble and annoyance. The fault, apparently, lies with the parents. Some more stringent regulations are absolutely necessary to enforce a regular

attendance. Mrs. Guilletmot has been giving instructions twice weekly in sewing—scarcity of material was the only drawback—cooking, laundry, and other household duties, and they have made good progress. Some parents have great objections to their daughters being sent to learn housework, and it has caused us much trouble. It is of no use taking these people before the local court; they should be brought before the Protector to be dealt with. Both the Hon. the Home Secretary and the Chief Protector pointed out to me the necessity of instructing the girls in household work. The children, with few exceptions, are dull; their persons and clothes are not clean by any means—in fact, in some cases absolutely filthy; and I was compelled to be very strict to enforce cleanliness. The school was open for 214 days. The number of boys on the roll is 51 and girls 32.

"The subjects taught were:—Reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic up to proportion (simple and otherwise), grammar, letter-writing, geography, history, money, &c.

"The total population is 315. There were 19 births, 6 deaths, and 3 marriages.

"A very sad accident occurred here some time ago. A boy named Daniel Lipau, who had only left school about 3 months—a well-behaved and bright lad—accidentally shot himself dead with a pea-rifle, not knowing it to be loaded. The pellet entered the left ventricle of the heart. There is no blame attached to anybody but the boy himself, who had, unknown to his employer, taken the rifle, which, through careless handling, exploded and killed him.

"The school is held in the mission church, which is not suitable in many respects. We have no cupboard where books and other school materials can be kept, and, as the mission people do not wish the church to be filled with the stuff, everything has to be carried forward and backward to my house—where there is not sufficient room for our own things—and, of course, the material suffers in consequence. I think the people should build a schoolhouse out of grass, at building which they are past-masters, on the new site recently purchased by the Department. They have done so for the missionaries, and I see no reason why the same cannot be done for the Government and their own children.

"I beg to thank you for your interest in securing the new site and shifting of the teacher's residence, and the Home Secretary for granting same. The rooms of the house are small and low—only 9 ft.—for the climate; and it is nothing short of torture to have to live in them during the north-west season. We have only one 1,000-gallon tank now, quite insufficient for our needs in a place where there is no rainfall during seven months in the year, and therefore must ask you to supply me with at least one more tank. [Since supplied.] The white ants have been very active in the building, and some timber requires replacing.

"The health of the people on this island during the greater part of the year has been very indifferent. Many have suffered very severely from malaria fever, and I have been kept going, sometimes day and night. Mrs. Guilletmot, myself, and children have all been laid up several times for weeks at a time; and on one occasion—never to be forgotten—all of us were down together, and nobody could assist the other.

Besides malaria, some people, old and young, suffered severely from skin disease and open, evil-smelling running sores, no doubt the effect of their parents' sins, which are not the most pleasant things in the world to treat. The people are too lazy to keep themselves and their surroundings clean.

"No medical man has visited us for the treatment of sickness. Dr. Breinl visited the island inquiring for some special tropical diseases; but we keep a very good and fairly complete supply of drugs and medicine, and have been rather successful in curing some bad cases. Of all the people, seriously sick, whom I treated, only 1 died and he was too far gone when I was called in.

"Monthly meetings of the council were held at the court-house to arrange for keeping roads, culverts, wells, &c., in good order and repair. The councillors have been fairly regular in their attendance, and have given every assistance; but the people themselves do not care a straw about these things, and constant vigilance is absolutely necessary to keep the villages fairly within the mark. About 600 cocoanuts have been planted along the Government roads, and the work will be completed at the beginning of the north-west season, when about another 1,500 will have to be planted.

"Several cases have been brought before the court and settled. Only one—apparently a criminal one—had to be left to the jurisdiction of the police magistrate at Thursday Island. All evidence was put down into the court book by me, and I rendered accounts of fines collected and expenditure to the Protector, Mr. H. Milman, at the time of his visit in company with the Chief Protector, Mr. R. B. Howard. Thirty-seven dogs were registered, and owners paid the reduced tax of 1s. per head. I have also started a new register of births, marriages, and deaths, which in time, if kept going, will be of some value and assistance to the teacher as well as to the people themselves.

"The food supply has been ample for the needs of the people; but the sweet potato crop proved a failure owing to the presence of a certain grub destroying the tubers.

"A supply of plants and seeds suitable for the climate and soil of the island would be greatly appreciated. It would enable me to start a school garden, which could also be utilised as a nursery, from which plants and seeds could be issued to the people, and which, no doubt, would be a boon to the place besides instructive, and perhaps later on of some commercial value. Mr. D. Jones, who has paid us a visit some time ago in company with Dr. Breinl, would be, I am sure, only too pleased to give advice as to a suitable selection of plants and seeds.

"I am afraid that the venture of supplying the natives with boats is a complete failure. Nothing, it seems, can move these people—not even fines and imprisonment—to look after their boat and go to work. The 'Erub' has been lying idle for three or four months at a stretch, and is literally going to pieces, not having even earned expenses for repairs. It would really be advisable for the people's own good to sell the boat, and the men would then be compelled to sign on and work on the diving or bêche-de-mer boats, where they receive good pay and treatment.

Crews are very hard to get, and there is no danger of not being able to get constant and remunerative employment.

"I regret having to report that some unprincipled people, even white men, have brought liquor to the island and treated the people. This is a scandalous shame, and should be put down with a firm hand."

Mabuiag Island—

The teacher, Mr. W. C. Minniss, reports:—

"We commenced the year with a roll attendance of 61, and when the school closed for Christmas holidays there were 74 on the roll, showing an increase of 13 for the year.

"I am pleased to report that the year has been one of the best Mabuiag has experienced. The boats were most successful in getting about 4 tons of shell at an average of £112 per ton—supplemented by a bonus of 50 per cent. on any price realised above £112, the price paid by Papuan Industries' Company—a few pearls, shell turtle, and black-lip shell, which will bring it up to £500. Besides this, some of our young men signed on with diving boats, and, when their time was up, came back to the island, bringing over £100 with them, which makes over £600 earned by the village people during the last twelve months.

"The boats are in splendid order, having been fitted with new sails and been recoppered. Everything is paid for, and there is still a credit balance in the bank.

"All available ground in the island is under cultivation, growing kumela, yams, mainoe, bananas, pineapples, sugar-cane, and any amount of cocoanuts—in fact, the natives annoy me over the cocoanuts; and I have told the council and the natives themselves that there is a big demand for copra, for they can get £14 a ton for it locally, but they are too lazy—they prefer, as they say, to be 'flash' and give them away. In September they gave the Papuan Industries' Company over 3,000 nuts for carriage of cement from Thursday Island for their new church in course of erection, and in October another 4,000 as a present for their native friends in Badu. During the Christmas holidays their Moa friends, over 80 in number, came for a fortnight's visit and took back with them over 7,000 nuts. I like to see them liberal, but not foolish. I think the Moa people are more entitled to them than the others, as they were formally residents of this island, and it was agreed that they were to be supplied with a certain quantity every year for six years. This is the last year; the trees then revert to the island, unless Mr. Milman, our local Protector, grants them an extension of time.

"The Government carpenter has enlarged the schoolroom, also painted and repaired our dwelling-house, both of which were very much required and were also very much appreciated.

"The population comprises 72 male and 57 female adults and 124 children. The births number 12, and deaths 4. Two marriages were celebrated.

"Conduct generally has been good. The subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, geography (principally Australia), and local singing. The senior boys have been taught how to plant cocoanuts, also garden seeds. They planted over 100 cocoanuts in the compound last season, which are doing splendidly, and we intend to plant a considerable number this year.

"Mrs. Minniss takes charge of the senior girls and teaches them housework, cookery, and sewing; you saw some of their work, and spoke of it as excellent. Some of the married women have also asked Mrs. Minniss if they might come to the sewing class; they seem to enjoy it just as much as the girls.

"There have been many improvements. Some new houses have been put up, old houses repaired, and a new church is in course of erection.

"The health has been good. There were no cases of serious sickness; a few cases of fever occurred after last wet season, but all were amenable to local treatment with quinine, &c. There has been no visit from any medical officer since my coming to the island in April, 1909.

"In the native court, one case was tried. Fines were imposed amounting to £3, which were paid. No dogs are allowed on this island, as there are no wild pigs."

Murray Island—

The teacher, Mr. J. S. Bruce, reports:—

"The population of this island is 233 males, 225 females; total, 458. There were 8 births, 12 deaths, and 6 marriages. The increase of births over deaths from 1st January, 1892, to December, 1910, is 68. The birth rate this year has been the lowest since 1892.

"The number on the roll at school is 51 boys, 56 girls; total, 107. The school was reopened after the summer vacation on Monday, 24th January, when 88 children were enrolled, which filled up to 93 the week following. The children have made good progress in their several classes throughout the year, and their general behaviour has been good; improvement is also shown in their punctuality and personal cleanliness in coming to school. The monitors have been regular in their attendance, and gave good assistance in school work. The attendances were much broken during the year through an epidemic of fever, which lasted off and on from January to June, during which time nearly every child in the school had an attack of it. In November, 75 per cent. of the children were taken away by their parents for from two or three weeks to one of the adjacent islands (York), to assist at the opening ceremony of a new church, which diminished the attendances. The children are divided into three classes with an advanced draft attached to each; the schedule of lessons and subjects taught in the classes are as near as possible to those laid down in the regulations of the Department of Public Instruction.

"Garden work is carried on in the school garden three hours weekly.

"The chief industry is gardening, for the Murray natives are agriculturists, and depend on their gardens for their principal food supplies. The people are divided into seven main tribes, each of whom has its own tribal or communal division of land with defined boundaries; each division is subdivided into portions amongst the members of the tribe. Boundary lines and landmarks are generally made by heaping up a ridge of soil, or by special trees growing along the line of boundary.

"The seasons are defined by various signs, as the rising of certain stars or constellations or the

blossoming of particular trees. In their cultivation the rotation of crops is not practised, but they quite understand that continual cropping exhausts the soil, so that every year finds them preparing new garden patches and allowing the older worked ones to drop out of cultivation to lie fallow for a few years. New gardens are prepared in August and September, when the bush is cut down, then burned off in October and November. As they get their patches of ground cleaned they plant yams and bananas, but nearly all their foods are planted any time from November right on to February. Sweet potatoes are not planted until January, when the north-west monsoonal rains have set in. The new foods are ready to be eaten in April or May. All the members of a family assist in the preparation and planting of their garden. Owing to the heavy rainfall we had spread over the first half of the year, splendid crops were taken from the gardens, which provided the people with a plentiful supply of food this year.

"The food plants indigenous to here and cultivated are—the cocoanut, banana, yam, sweet potato, taro, and sugar-cane. Food and fruit plants introduced are—maize, pumpkins, watermelon, paw-paw apple, mango, orange, lemons, lime, and custard apple.

"Two boats are owned by the natives—a lugger and a cutter, both of which are clear of all debt. They have been collecting *bêche-de-mer* with them at intervals during the year, but there has been no regular steady work done with them. The boats have given the older men, who do not wish to work away from the island, an opportunity of providing themselves with the means of purchasing some of their requirements. Fish to the value of £182 4s. 1d. was sold at Thursday Island from the working of the two boats this year. A good number of the lads and young men this year shipped at Thursday Island as crews for pearlshell and *bêche-de-mer* boats, for which work they receive good wages and do far better than they can working with their own boats.

"The only marine production of commercial value collected here is *bêche-de-mer*; until a few years ago black-lip shell was also collected, but it fell in market value, and there has been no demand for it since.

"A good road, averaging 24 ft. wide, has been made round three parts of the island and continued across the centre of it, in all 5 miles in length; cocoanuts have been planted on both sides the whole extent of the road.

"There are four wells (round), average depth 27 ft., substantially walled with stones; they all give a permanent supply of good water.

"The school house is a weather-board building on blocks with iron roofing, 62 ft. by 31 ft., with 10 ft. walls. The teacher's dwelling-house has four rooms, built of corrugated iron on blocks, 51 ft. by 13 ft., with front veranda 8 ft. wide; a detached kitchen built of corrugated iron on blocks 10 ft. by 8 ft. with bathroom and closet, also built of corrugated iron.

"The court-house is a concrete building 40 ft. by 22 ft., with 12 ft. walls and 8 ft. veranda all round, roofed with corrugated iron. The lockup is a grass-thatched building 20 ft. by 12 ft.

“Repairs to the school house and teacher’s dwelling were carried out during the latter part of the year by the Government carpenter; both buildings are now much improved and made more comfortable. The native houses from a sanitary point are healthy dwellings; they are usually built with the flooring well off the ground, with two doors and windows, and the sleeping accommodation, too, is always raised a good height above the ground. As a house only lasts from five to six years, a fresh site is generally chosen for the new house, and these conditions assist in keeping them in good sanitary condition. The surroundings of the houses are kept in a cleanly state, and at stated periods the villages get a thorough overhaul in cleaning. The wells are also cleaned out and their surroundings overhauled at regular intervals. According to the by-laws, the following offences are punishable by fine:—Washing clothes within a definite distance from a well or wilfully defiling it; keeping pigs within a defined distance from a dwelling-house; committing a nuisance in the vicinity of a dwelling-house or village or above high-water mark on the beach.

“Sickness was very prevalent during the first six months of the year through epidemics of malaria, dengue fever, and dysentery, scarcely one on the island being free from an attack of one or other of these diseases. The physically weak and those suffering from other diseases suffered very much. The latter half of the year, however, was very healthy. The children are strong and healthy-looking, but, like other children, suffer from the usual infantile disorders and epidemic diseases. The adults are of good physique and generally healthy, but are also very subject to epidemic disease. There has been no regular record kept of the cases of sickness and accidents treated during the year. The principal cases were fever-ague and malaria, influenza, dysentery, pulmonary trouble, heart disease, and syphilitic sores. The accidents were mostly cuts received at work in the bush or on the reef, and two broken bones through a fall from a tree. The treatment of cases is of a simple kind, and a stock of medicine for that purpose is kept on hand.

“We have been visited at occasional times by medical officers from Thursday Island. Dr. Breinl, of the Tropical Diseases Hospital, Townsville, visited here last November, and made a thorough examination amongst the people to decide whether any of them were suffering from leprosy; his report had not come to hand at time of writing.

“During the year 36 cases were brought before the court:—Common assaults, 2; assault husband and wife, 7; land disputed, 7; abusive and threatening language, 6; village disturbance, 3; stealing, 2; unlawfully detaining a girl, 1; disputed ownership of property, 1; wilful destruction of property, 1; parent neglecting to send child to school, 1; surroundings of houses not clean, 2; not assisting to clean out wells, 2; keeping pigs in dwelling-house, 1. Seven cases were dismissed. The fines amounted to £8 19s. 6d. The fines are expended in the purchase of medicine, paints, &c. Twenty-three dogs were also registered. None of the cases brought to court were of a serious kind; a number of family wrangles and land disputes of a trivial kind

were arranged out of court. The general behaviour of the people throughout the year has been good.

“Monthly meetings of the council were held at the court-house to arrange for works of improvement and cleaning required to be done. The mamoose and councillors were regular in their attendance, and gave their assistance in connection with the work. I was present at all the sittings of the court and meetings of the council. On Monday, 21st December, there was an election of councillors by ballot; seven men were nominated to take the places of the four retiring members, one of whom was re-elected along with the three new councillors.”

Saibai Island—

The teacher, Mr. T. A. Williams, reports:—

“The number of boys on the roll is 45, and girls 35. The daily average attendance of boys for the year is 41.6; girls, 32.3. The children are making slow but steady progress in reading, writing, and arithmetic; also in general knowledge. The greatest difficulty here is to get the children to speak English; when spoken to they refuse to answer except in their own language. Moreover, the Papuan child’s idea of general subjects is very limited; and it is difficult to get them to grasp facts beyond their range of observation. Many of them have never seen anything larger than a dog or pig; beyond these of the animal world they have no idea. A few have been to Thursday Island, there they have seen the cow and horse. After one of their recent visits to Thursday Island, one little fellow was telling an interested audience of the wonders he had seen and the great buildings seen there. When they were told that buildings in America were higher than three cocoanut trees placed one on top of the other, one youngster exclaimed, ‘Oh, do not tell lies, teacher.’

“At general knowledge instruction, I asked, ‘What is the meat of sheep called?’ ‘Tinned beef,’ was the prompt reply.

“The boats have done fairly well this year; the lugger ‘Saibai’ has cleared herself all but £8, but the cutter ‘Papua’ is still £50 in debt. The total amount earned by the natives at shelling this year was £119 4s. 9d., and for copra, £3 3s. 9d.

“The married people all have gardens, the chief product being taro (of the Arum family). Owing to the swampy nature of the ground and the constant heavy rainfalls, they have been very short of food; fortunately, New Guinea is near, and the natives have been able to purchase food from there. The single men have not gardens; they go out shelling every clear water; at other times they clean the boats and repair sails.

“There has been no serious crime during the past year; no act of immorality. What slight offences occurred—such as ‘family disputes’ or having dirty houses—have been settled by the councillors. One of the great drawbacks here is kava-drinking. ‘Kava’ is the native name handed down through Melanesia for the plant *Macropiper methysticum*; natural order, Piperaceæ. The juice is prepared and made into an intoxicating beverage. This drink has a peculiar effect; it induces a sort of intoxication different from the form that alcoholic inebriation assumes. Men

under the influence of kava neither speak thickly, shout, nor want to fight; but a sort of shiver affects the whole frame. They do not lose consciousness; the head is quite clear, while the legs refuse to obey the will. The mode of preparation is beastly beyond words; the root is chewed in the mouth until it is changed to cones held together by saliva. Boys and girls do this; failing these, men chew the plant. It is then mingled with water in a wooden vessel and gently squeezed in the hand. It is then handed round in a half cocoanut shell; first to the chief guest, who drains the shell; while he is drinking slowly, the entertainers charm their guests by howling, yelling, groaning, clapping of hands, and beating tom-toms. No doubt such music is very charming, and can only be appreciated by those who have an ear for music. Alas! I have not.

"The general health has been fairly good, except at the latter end of the year. The natives while on a visit to Daru, B.N.G., contracted dysentery, resulting in the death of six. Deba, the No. 1 policeman, during my absence attended the sick, washed them, fed them, and administered medicine. So attentive was he to the sick, watching them night and day, that I can positively say the recovery of many is due to his energy and care; until at last he, poor fellow, fell a victim to the disease and died. There are a few cases of sipoma, a variety of ringworm (*Tinea circinata tropica*). These are attended to by daily applications of chrysophania.

"The populace is very free from venereal disease; there is not a single case, nor has there been since I have been on the island; neither have I seen any of the forms of diseases rising from venereal, which would certainly appear if not attended to in first cause.

"One little boy fell from a cocoanut tree and fractured the right humerus. His arm was put into splints, and the boy was sent in to the doctor at Thursday Island. One of the men while out diving was attacked by a shark; fortunately, he was near the boat, and, in swimming to get clear, struck the shark's mouth with a back sweep of his hand, tearing his hand badly against the brute's teeth. Probably the shark was as much frightened as the man, for both got clear away.

"Last Easter news reached here that a raiding party of Tugeri from Dutch New Guinea were coming east; there was not very much in it. However, the people were upset and very unsettled, going about from house armed with bows and arrows, tomahawks, and guns; the gardens and house-building were left neglected for quite three months.

"The population of Saibai comprises males, 146; females, 119. At Dauan there are also 21 males and 30 females, and at Boigo 50 males and 42 females."

Yam Island—

The teacher, Mr. F. Richards, reports:—

"The population of the island is:—Males, 44; females, 40; total, 84. There were 5 births and 1 marriage, but no deaths. The number of children on the roll is 26.

"I took charge of the Yam Island school on the 10th January, 1910. From that date the

children have attended very regularly, and are very punctual and tidy. The girls receive instruction in needlework and domestic economy.

"We have done a little gardening, and have grown some fine cabbages, carrots, turnips, parsley, cucumbers, radishes, and tomatoes. We have been manuring the ground with burned turtle backs, burned sharks, and manure from the pig pens.

"The subjects taught were:—Reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, and drill. I was very disappointed when I arrived here as far as the education is concerned. The children were not nearly as clever as the previous reports said they were. The progress, on the whole, has been slow. The children cannot apply any knowledge that is imparted. If this could be overcome, I am certain that good results would follow. One boy, 'Jeram' by name, is very smart and pays great attention to his work.

"Owing to splendid rains, the gardens have thrived well and the food supply has been very good. The natives pay great attention to their gardens, and some very creditable plots are the result. Some of the natives are now short of garden food, but this is owing to their liberality. They give too much away to their island friends, and never think of the future; hence the shortage. There are South Sea islanders here, and their gardens are far superior to those of the natives.

"The Yam Island natives have one boat, the 'Yam.' I cannot report favourably as regards the working of this boat. Since my arrival here they have been out to work five times altogether, about 29 days, and then with a small crew. There are nine men here who should go to work, but only four or five go out to work at a time, while the remainder play marbles or other childish games on shore. They very rarely go out dugong or turtle spearing; therefore, they waste no time in that direction. The boat is in a bad state of repair and full of vermin. In making the above statements, I do not forget that the weather has hindered their work considerably. They have not done as well as they could and should have done, nor will they, unless the Government take steps to make them. They have not earned enough money this year to clear expenses.

"There have been no buildings put up this year. One road, 8 ft. wide, has been made through the island. Cleanliness is well carried out, and the health of the natives since January has been exceptionally good.

"There have been several cases brought before the court since January, 1910, and they were all satisfactorily settled. The policeman 'Cologne,' who was given this position when the Protector visited us in September, has given every satisfaction. The councillors have now been in power about five years, only one of which (P. Wilson) is worthy of the name of councillor. The mamoose, 'Maino,' is not a suitable man for the position, and I am certain that better results would follow were he disgraced. A new council is badly needed. The councillors' work is hindered by the power of the mamoose. In my opinion, the council will not be a success until the Samoan missionaries cease to interfere, and the mamoose's power is lessened."

TABLE 4.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS AT EACH STATION IN THE STATE DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1910.

MONTH.	YARRABAH.			MURRAY.			WYFA.			CAPE BEDFORD.			DEEBING CREEK.			BARABAH.			ASCHER RIVER.			MITCHELL RIVER.		
	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	320	...	320	110	10	120	...	...	...	115	120	235	94	...	84	370	Nil	370	24	17	41	70	25	95
February	320	...	320	120	5	125	...	...	...	115	80	195	81	2	83	321	..	321	25	19	44	70	20	90
March	320	...	320	109	1	110	...	No records.	No records.	115	80	195	73	12	85	322	..	322	21	12	33	70	...	70
April	320	...	320	110	10	120	...	No records.	No records.	115	45	160	75	12	87	316	..	316	17	16	33	70	16	86
May	320	...	320	120	30	150	...	...	...	115	45	160	75	5	80	309	..	309	27	9	36	70	20	90
June	320	...	320	120	21	141	...	...	...	112	30	142	71	5	76	297	..	297	21	12	33	70	25	95
July	320	...	320	120	13	133	...	46	96	112	30	142	71	5	76	330	..	330	20	14	34	70	24	94
August	317	...	317	120	11	131	...	23	108	113	30	143	71	...	71	345	..	345	24	19	43	70	24	94
September	317	...	317	91	14	105	...	33	93	113	30	143	67	4	71	315	..	315	28	40	68	70	20	90
October	318	...	318	91	14	105	...	35	95	114	35	149	58	5	63	298	..	298	24	13	37	70	20	90
November	318	...	318	91	24	115	...	43	103	115	35	150	58	5	63	328	..	328	25	12	37	70	20	90
December	319	...	319	94	42	136	...	168	228	115	35	150	63	6	69	387	..	387	22	37	59	70	20	90

TABLE 5.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES AND SETTLEMENT).

Situation.	Quarter ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.										
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					Number of School Days.	Total.		Average.							
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.		Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.						
Yarrabah	Mar. 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	Vo	re	cc	is																				
Mapoon	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31			68 72 64 67	15 21 14 18																				
Weipa	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	33 21 32 30	32 31 29 26	65 52 61 56	25 14 26 24																				
Cape Bedford	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31			29 29 19 27	11 11 8 11																				
Deebing Creek	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	21 21 22 21	13 10 11 11	34 31 33 32	6 6 7 8	9 9	6 6																		
Barambah	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	44 42 43 45	43 43 44 40	87 85 87 85	35 34 35 37	7 6 6 6	2 2 2 2																		
Archer River	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	23 16 16 30	8 7 10 10	31 23 26 40	9 7 9 21	14 9 9																			
Michelle River	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	12 10 16 16	7 8 10 11	19 18 26 27	2 2 6 6	3 3 4 4	7 5 6 6																		

TABLE 6.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (TORRES STRAITS ISLANDS)—1910.

Situation and Teacher's salary	Quarter ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										ATTENDANCE.									
		Boys.	Gi s.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					No. of School Days.	Total.		Average.						
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	III.	IV.	V.	Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.							
Murray Island—£200	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	46 46 54 51	49 50 56 56	95 96 10 07			10 10 10 8																	
Darnley Island—£100	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	46 49 51	33 31 32	79 80 83	29 32 35	6 7 7	6 3 3	7 6 5																
Yam Island—£96	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	12 14 14	12 13 12	24 27 26	4 6 7	7 7 6																		
Mabuiag Island—£130	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	27 26 33 33	35 32 41 41	62 58 74 74	20 20 26 26	4 3 4 4	3 3 3 3																	
Badu Island—£96	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	41 44 44 44	37 36 39 39	78 80 83 83	5 7 7 7	4 4 7 8	2 2 10 9	21 22 23 20																
Sabai Island—£96	March 31 June 30 Sept. 30 Dec. 31	40 40 41 45	36 35 36 36	76 75 77 81	22 28 29 33	8 6 6 6	10 6 6 6																	

ABORIGINAL RESERVES—SETTLEMENTS AND MISSION STATIONS.

Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, Murgon—

“This institution was regularly inspected during the year, and can report satisfactory progress. Most of the able-bodied male inmates are regularly employed on the farms and stations surrounding the settlement, and consequently there is not very much labour available for agricultural or building work; but about 60 acres are kept under cultivation, and, besides produce and vegetables for home consumption, some very good corn was sent to market and realised a good price. The retail store commenced at the end of last year was completed; it was made almost entirely of timber cut on the settlement by pitsaw or split and squared with axe and adze. The stockyards were considerably enlarged, and a strong crush erected for inoculation and other purposes. A good deal of fencing was renewed, and some new paddocks closed in. Fuller particulars of work performed will be found in the following report from the Superintendent: A professional nurse for women is now employed, and with the large number of women and children in all stages of sickness and helplessness, especially with the epidemics which so frequently visit them, her services have proved invaluable. Better quarters for the orphan boys are being erected, and a soup kitchen, where the old and helpless can have good nourishing food prepared, has also been erected and a cook installed.

“Dr. Junk, of Wondai, now visits monthly, and is also available at his surgery for consultation or within a few hours, if occasion arises, for a special visit in an urgent case. His sympathetic and skilful treatment is gradually and surely gaining him the confidence of the natives.

“The retail store has proved a marked success, by not only enabling the native to procure, with the money earned at work, food and clothing for himself and family in addition to the allowance of rations, but has assisted materially in reducing gambling and drinking among them, by providing them with a means of spending their money to advantage, and by keeping them from the town, where the temptations to drink assail them. The natives show their appreciation of the store by spending their money freely, and, as only serviceable goods of reasonable price are kept, the officers are able to satisfy themselves that the native gets some real benefit from the money he earns.”

The Superintendent, Mr. B. J. T. Lipscombe, reports:—

“The number of natives resident on the reserve at the end of the year was 387, but, as many were still out at employment, that does not cover the whole of those who look upon the settlement as their home. If all were in, I think there would be over 500. The number of rations issued during the year was 92,374, being an average of nearly 7,692 per month; the largest issues being in January and December, with 8,979 each.

“The health of the natives has caused us, at times, a great deal of anxiety on account of the epidemics brought on to the settlement by those returning from employment sick or passing through infected areas. The complaints most prevalent were German measles and influenza. Although warned of the consequences, some of

the sufferers persisted in bathing in the creek thereby contracting a chill, which brought on pneumonia.

“Twenty-six deaths occurred from the following causes, detailed reports of which have been regularly furnished:—Convulsions in children, 4; pneumonia, 3; syphilis, 4; dysentery, 2; senile decay, 8; natural causes, 5. In considering this apparently large death rate, it must not be forgotten that large numbers of natives in all stages of sickness, infirmity, and debility are constantly being sent to the settlement; and it is really due to the care and attention they receive from the medical staff that the death rate is not even a much higher one.

“In the beginning of August, Doctor Pointon, who for the previous twelve months had held the position of storekeeper and medical attendant, resigned. Doctor Junk, of Wondai, was appointed visiting medical officer, and Nurse Beeston took up the duties of storekeeper and nurse; and to the conscientious and sympathetic treatment of Dr. Junk and the unremitting care and attention of the nurse much credit is due. The principal complaints among the natives are bronchial pulmonary and gastric trouble and venereal disease. Some time ago a number of cases of venereal, principally granuloma, were sent to the Brisbane Hospital for treatment and returned after a few months with two cases cured and the balance—five, all women—incurable. In the absence of proper facilities for the isolation and treatment of this disease, the incurable cases were housed at some distance from the camp in a building erected for the purpose; but the need for a proper lock hospital for aboriginals in a suitable and central locality is very apparent. Altogether 58 men, 21 women, and 26 children have been sent to the settlement from different parts by order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, and a few more have come here of their own accord. It is very desirable that all natives so sent should, as far as possible, be examined for disease and treated, where necessary, before their admission; also, the wives of married boys should, as often as possible, accompany their husbands. If this were done much discontent and camp quarrelling would be obviated.

“The work performed on the settlement by the boys when not out at service, included timber cutting and sawing for buildings, fencing, ringbarking, carting stores, agricultural, dairy-ing, cattle-dipping, branding, and inoculating. About 90 chains of new fence were erected, another 15 chains of old fence repaired with new, and a substantial new fence and crush also added to the stockyard. A building, 30 ft. by 21 ft., of four rooms and veranda was built as a retail store and dispensary, almost entirely of timber cut and squared on the settlement with a pit saw and squaring axe; a soup kitchen for the preparation of food for the old and helpless, a small building as temporary lock hospital, and the cartshed was re-roofed with iron.

“Three hundred acres of land were ringbarked and 15 acres were ploughed and planted with corn by two natives on shares. There was a strong demand for the services of the boys, and at times the supply was unequal to it. The police gave valuable assistance in inquiring into the characters of intending employers, and as a result very little trouble was experienced in collecting wages due, and very few complaints were received.

"Young boys and girls just leaving school are largely sought after and good wages are offered—5s. a week and found for boys, and 3s. a week for girls. The men were principally employed in scrub-falling, stock-driving, corn-harvesting, chipping, and planting, for which wages from 12s. 6d. to £1 a week were paid. A number were engaged by the Police Department as trackers, their gins accompanying them; but this employment is not very popular among them, as the rate of wages, £1 or £1 5s. per month, is too low.

"The cattle suffered severely from redwater, and between 70 and 80 were lost. The Government stock inspector paid us a visit and inoculated 274 head, and I am glad to be able to say the inoculation was very successful, and no more were lost.

"We have now a good serviceable team of 14 bullocks, and it is intended to break in some more of the steers as early as possible. For the conveyance of stores from the railway to the settlement, its services are invaluable.

"The goats, numbering 138, provided a welcome addition to the meat supply. They have lately suffered from a sort of footrot in wet weather, but a new site on higher and drier ground has now been chosen for their yards, and they will as soon as possible occupy their new quarters.

"The horses, numbering 7, are most of them nearly worn out, and 2 more light draught and 2 saddle horses are badly needed. In future there will not be so much use for the dip, as new dips have been constructed nearer the township, but I expect to be able to make it pay for the cost of replenishing.

"The school has made satisfactory progress under the control of Miss Lipscombe, and it is gratifying to report the success of the children's work at the Brisbane and Gympie Exhibitions, where prizes were secured for exercises and sewing. Fully 90 names are now on the roll. At Christmas time a large quantity of toys were sent to the children by two Brisbane firms, and were much appreciated by the little ones.

"The clerical work has considerably increased, the inward correspondence reaching the registered number of 2,853, exceeding the previous year's tally by 300 letters. The outward correspondence was also proportionately large. Collections amounted to £2,027 10s. 6d., and, as this represents, roughly, but one-third of the total amount earned, it will be seen that the inmates of the settlement received in wages about £6,000 for outside labour. Of this, £1,087 11s. 9d. was placed to their credit in the Savings Bank, and, although they were allowed to draw freely on the account for purchases in the retail store, there is still a balance of £954 in the bank to their credit. It will be seen that the clerical work involved in the collection and disbursement of these moneys and general management of the employment system leaves me little time for the very necessary supervision of the outdoor operations.

"The conduct of the natives has been good generally. Considering the very mixed character of the inmates, due to the deportations from all quarters of old, helpless, sick, neglected, and incorrigibles, it is remarkable that the percentage of crime is so small. It was only found necessary

to proceed against two natives—one for assaulting his gin, and the other for absconding with his neighbour's wife.

"One conviction was obtained against a European for supplying drink, and in another case for illegally entering the reserve. In each a heavy penalty was inflicted, and I think has had a good effect, for apparently very little drink finds its way now on to the reserve."

Yarrabah Mission (*vid* Cairns)—

The Superintendent, Rev. W. Ivens, reports:

"The late superintendent of Yarrabah, Rev. E. R. Gribble, resigned his post in June, 1910, and Rev. G. W. Morrison was acting superintendent till my arrival in August. This report deals only with the months from August to December.

"The general health on the station has been good, and births exceed deaths by 1. Of the deaths, 2 were of women suffering from disease contracted before their coming here, and a third was that of an infant born of one of these women. A child died from the effects of a burn; a third death was that of a woman in consumption, and her end was hastened by nicotine poisoning. Mr. Newport, the Superintendent of Kamerunga State Nursery, who was recently here in order to make a report on the place, commented on the number of babies, and drew the natural conclusions that, given such conditions as prevail here, the aborigines need not necessarily be regarded as a dying race. Ankylostomiasis is fairly common amongst the younger children, but all cases have responded to treatment.

"The main money-producing industry here is that of *bêche-de-mer* fishing. The lack of both launch and whaleboat during the first part of the year kept the ketch at home, but the revenue from the fishing was £200. We hope in 1911 to employ a second ketch. The sea life is good for the boys and men; they learn discipline, and are taught to be smart and handy. We have now secured good moorings for our ships, and if they should be lost in a blow it will not be for want of proper care.

"We have also made money with our poultry, and hope to rear larger numbers of ducks. Owing to lack of funds, we cannot at present buy the fencing material necessary for keeping out the great pests of the place—the wallabies and bandicoots—that do so much harm amongst the sweet potatoes. As time goes on, we shall doubtless start to fence in several acres in order to plant sweet potatoes, but at present we are going in for such crops as are immune from these pests—viz., taro and cassava. We can get sufficient quantities of the latter to plant a big acreage, and in our sandy soil cassava does well; but there are no taro plants to hand, and we have to send some 50 miles by sea to get taro tops for planting. Taro is the food most used by the natives (*kanakas*) in the large islands of the Solomons, and taro and fish constitute the staple diet of the men of Malaita, who in the days of labour trade were so well-known in Queensland. There is plenty of fish in the waters here, and we have begun making a stout hempen net, and intend to look after it once it is made. During the year we received a present of a young Suffolk Punch stallion, valued at 100 guineas, from the well-known breeder, Mr. A. A. Dangar, of Baroona. We have already several blood mares, and hope to considerably increase their number. A great deal of the mission reserve

consists of well-watered, lightly-timbered rolling plains, with a sandy soil covered with a rank growth of 'bladey' grass. This makes admirable country for horses. Quite half of the reserve is swampy, and there are two mountain ranges on it, so the amount of land fit for cultivation is but little, and the soil is mainly granite sand. The cycas palm abounds everywhere, and, as the eating of it gives cattle 'rickets,' we shall have to fence and clear off cycas if we wish to keep cattle.

"A good deal of building and alteration has been going on during the past five months. The girls' dormitory has been replaced by a large new building with a grass roof and with sides of plaited cocoonut leaf. The matron's quarters are attached; the only expense connected with this building was for nails and flooring. All the timbers were procured locally. The new dormitory is very cool, and is more healthy than the old iron-roofed place. A good water system has been installed, the plumbing, &c., being all done by our own boys. A pressure tank has been erected and three shower baths in various places—one for the staff, and one each for the native men and women. The sanitary arrangements have also been thoroughly seen to. Several bridges have been built, and roads have been made and repaired. A paddock of 10 acres has been cleared, fenced, drained, and sown with grass.

"The people on the outstations have all been gathered into three centres. This has necessitated a large amount of house-building, and the frame work has been temporarily hindered. The same style of house is being built everywhere. The frame work is of scrub timber, and everything is tied with creeper vines, and no nails are used. The roof is of grass or palm leaves laid on in layers, and the sides are of grass. The house is floored with slabs of palm, and the floor is well raised. These houses are cool and comfortable, and involve no monetary expense. The women's work has been thoroughly taken in hand, and they are daily engaged in plaiting mats of pandamus leaf, and in making rush hand baskets. We hope soon to begin making rush hats. For all these things there should be a ready sale. The women on the outstations do a certain amount of hoeing and weeding, but as most of them have young babies they cannot do very much field work. Sewing classes are a regular institution, and all the clothes required on the place, except the men's singlets, are made locally.

"School has been conducted regularly."

Cape Bedford Mission (via Cooktown)—

The Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz, reports:—

"It hardly seems a year since I wrote my last report on the working of Cape Bedford Mission Station. Certainly not much has happened on the place during the last twelve months which would help to make this report a very interesting one. But, nevertheless, I do not think that anyone who had seen Cape Bedford at the end of 1909, and would pay us a visit now, would think things had been at a standstill in the intervening time.

"Concerning the inmates of the station, or rather their number, there is hardly any change noticeable. The number, at present, of aborigines permanently living here is 115—60 males and 55 females. The place is also visited at almost regular intervals by the remnants of the sur-

rounding tribes, who come here to receive relief rations (a special grant for the purpose having been made some years ago by the Department). The number of those benefiting by this distribution I estimate to be about 150 to 160, chiefly old people really in need of assistance, and, therefore, thankful for getting it. Their number lessens with every year considerably.

"Amongst the permanent inmates of the station there are 2 deaths to record (both cases of consumption) against 4 births. The state of health amongst the rest, I am pleased to say, is excellent; no disease of any kind having been noticed except a case of ankylostomiasis, which, however, was successfully treated by Dr. Kortum.

"The staff of the station underwent no change during the year; it still consists of myself, my able assistant (Mr. Kenny), and Mrs. Schwarz, in charge of the school, to which position she was appointed by the Government in May, 1900.

"The school has been attended very regularly during the last twelve months; the daily average attendance being 27 or at least a number within a small fraction of 27. The school is not under the Industrial School Act, and there are no children specially paid for by Government.

"The Cape Bedford Mission was opened by a Bavarian Mission Society (Lutheran) with headquarters at Neuendettelsau (near Nuenberg), and has since chiefly been supported by that society. Concerning the industrial side of our work at Cape Bedford, I may say that we do all that possibly can be done at a place like Cape Bedford, aiming at ultimate possibility of making the station self-supporting. In last year's report I stated that we had 30 acres under sisal hemp, and that I hoped to double that area during the year just ended. Although we have not quite succeeded in doing so, I am glad to say we have at least 50 acres of hemp growing now. The number of cocoanuts growing at Cape Bedford at the end of 1909 was 2,500. This number has been increased to about 3,500 during last year. Of course, it is not only a matter of planting—the cleaning of the land takes most of the time. We also had to dig a new canal to more successfully drain our home plantation, which originally was nothing but an unapproachable large swamp. Operations on our outstation on the McIvor River had to be suspended on account of financial inability to keep the two places open at present, but at the same time I am convinced that it is absolutely necessary for us to start work at the McIvor River seriously if we want to make the station self-supporting. As I said in my last report, we are not able to make a successful start at this new place without some assistance from the Government. I intend to apply for some such help to the Government; and, as you personally know Cape Bedford and also the McIvor country, as well as the way in which the two places are worked, I do hope you will be able to support our application and explain the situation to the Minister on our behalf.

"At Cape Bedford we cannot grow any food for the aborigines at all; at the McIvor almost anything will grow, and grow well. We have planted there, for a trial, corn, potatoes, peanuts, bananas, pineapples, &c.; and everything seems to do well. Only last week our boat returned from there with a load of bananas, pineapples, and melons. But no farm can be expected to

pay unless it is properly and continually looked after. This is just what we, so far, were unable to do with our outstation on account of the above-stated reasons. We certainly have a nice area of land under hemp at Cape Bedford, but the largest part of this land is so poor that I am convinced 10 acres on the McIvor would, as far as results are concerned, equal about 40 or 50 acres of Cape Bedford soil for the purpose of growing hemp. For other crops the land at Cape Bedford and the land on the McIvor cannot be compared at all, for nothing will grow here and almost anything grows well there. These are facts which have been conclusively proved, and we earnestly hope that the Government will see its way clear to help us over our present difficulty.

“Trusting to be able to report more important improvements and further developments next year.”

Mapoon Mission (via Thursday Island)—

The Superintendent, Rev. N. Hey, reports:—

“The number of aborigines who have again benefited by the mission during the year was 290—only 200 of whom, however, can be called *bonâ-fide* residents—including 81 children. Besides these, there is still a number of natives who continue their wandering life, but who periodically visit the station, especially in times of sickness and trouble, seeking help and advice.

“The general conduct of the natives has been good, though 3 young men had to be sent to the Thursday Island Protector for unlawfully killing a cow.

“The health of most of the mission inmates has been satisfactory, and a great contrast is observable between those who have gone through the mission routine and those who were not so fortunate. The former are healthy and comparatively free from disease, and the women are in consequence more prolific. Six births and 8 deaths took place on and near the station during the year. Most of the deaths were the result of tubercular and venereal diseases, and the latter disease is still very prevalent amongst the old blacks.

“The average daily school attendance has been 63; school hours were two and a-half in the morning and two in the afternoon, and the results achieved are very gratifying indeed. I cannot do better than to quote from your own statement after your visit to the Mapoon school: ‘Was delighted at the marked improvement of the children, their nice demeanour and general progress, which I must, in justice, say, excels that of any of the aboriginal schools I have visited.’

“At the end of the year we had 56 permanent boarders, 6 of whom are reformatory inmates. Besides these, there are a number of weekly boarders, all housed and provided for by the mission.

“The education of the young has always been practical in its character, and our aim is still to equip both boys and girls for the life we wish them to live. What our people want most is homes, and the young must be trained to make them. There is no activity more adapted to fit the young for life than the farm. History bears me out.

“One half-caste and 1 full-blooded couple were married during the year.

“The Mapoon outstation for agricultural purposes, has been divided into two separate settlements, and vigorously pushed forward. One settlement, comprising about 40 acres with six little homesteads, is under the care of a very intelligent full-blooded native. The other settlement, with about 60 acres divided into seven homesteads, is under the supervision of a South Sea islander, married to an aboriginal woman. As a rule, I visit these settlements twice a week, when the respective caretakers report to me. All aborigines who wish to work have an opportunity to do so, and are provided for. The results achieved, considering the many difficulties which have to be faced, are very gratifying. This system of settling the young couples upon the land seems to me a happy solution of the problem as to the future of the remnant of the aboriginal race.

“It may be stated that the Mapoon outstation is practically self-supporting, and is no longer a burden to the State or a financial loss to the mission.

“The major portion of the Government grant for rations, amounting to £250, has been required for the support of the children, the sick, and the aged, numbering over 100 persons, none of whom are able to provide for themselves; £361 7s. 10d. has been expended for rations and building material for the sole benefit of the natives. This amount does not include clothing, freight, upkeep of boats, &c.

“The cocoanut plantation at Mapoon has been extended, and the live stock increased to 105 head of mixed cattle and 7 horses, all of which has afforded a good training for our young men. A large amount of home-grown produce was consumed at the station, and 8 bullocks killed for the needed meat supply.

“The needed recreation for the aboriginals on the mission was not overlooked, and many kinds of innocent sports and games were greatly enjoyed.

“In conclusion, I beg to thank the Government on behalf of the natives for the ration grant and the blankets received.”

Weipa Mission Station (Embley River)—

The Superintendent, Mr. Edwin Brown, reports—

“In common with the aborigines in other parts of the land, our people are gradually decreasing in number. This year again there has been a slight decline, the number of deaths being 9, whereas there were but 4 births. Unless a change soon takes place through the more vigorous health of those who from their youth up have been under our care, it will only be a matter of a few years before the decrease will be very marked. We confidently expect such a change, inasmuch as we can already see it in some degree—*e.g.*, there is one small tribe which less than any other have put themselves under our care, and 4 out of the 9 deaths are from that tribe, whilst it is considerably over a year since there was a child born into the tribe. As near as we can estimate, our people—that is, those who are living on the reserve, and so come under our influence—number about 300, males and females being about equal in number. We have never followed the plan of getting a certain number to settle more or less regularly, excluding the remainder; but have always endeavoured as far as possible to benefit

all. Consequently there is scarcely a person on the reserve who does not, for longer or shorter periods during the year, draw rations from us either as a worker, a scholar, or an invalid. At the same time, there are many who practically live all the year through on the station even when foraging for themselves. Naturally, such are not shown in any returns which we make, as in such only those are entered who day by day draw rations from us.

On the whole, the general health has been good. We had no serious epidemic to contend with. Of the 9 who have died, 3 were old women, who, by reason of bad colds added to infirmity, were unable at the time to forage for themselves, and so were abandoned by their relatives. The other was a puny boy whose parents were both dead. This boy, about four years of age, was deliberately abandoned by his stepfather, and when others, more humane than he, found the little fellow, he was dead. Two other deaths were of young children who died from ankylostomiasis. We are unable to show the number of patients treated for various diseases, as we keep no record of such. We do the best we can from what knowledge of medicine and surgery we have, but have never yet had any assistance from a medical officer, as such never visit us. The health of the staff has also been, on the whole, good.

"The school has been maintained throughout the year without interruption, and so, in the nature of things, it ought to be possible to report progress; but, not having had any visit from an inspector or official visitor, we are not in a position to present any report from such. We might speak as from ourselves of progress being made, but might be charged with being specially biassed. In accordance with the general decrease of population, the school also is smaller than it was a few years ago. The highest attendance for the year was 65, whilst the average for the year was 41. The one cheering feature is that all of these are native to the reserve; and all but 5 are full-blooded aborigines. Being divided into four classes, the teacher has her hands full all the time, especially as some of the older pupils, who last year were acting pupil teachers, have now left on account of marriage. Our school is not under any Industrial School Act, neither are any of the children paid for, either by the Government or out of rates.

"The Sunday school and Bible class for young men and big lads have been maintained.

"The women's weekly sewing class, which is followed by a Bible lesson, affords a valuable means of reaching the women, as they always put in a good attendance.

"The brass band has made considerable progress. They meet on one or two evenings each week for practice, and have become sufficiently proficient to perform in public on special occasions, *e.g.*, at weddings. On the King's Birthday they specially remembered him by playing the National Anthem. This, by the way, was the first tune they learnt to play. In September we took them to Aurukun to join the Mapoon band in enlivening the proceedings at the opening of their new church.

"In December we received a gift of a fine bass drum from Mr. W. S. Park, of Sydney, which same is a great attraction.

"In February Mrs. Brown started a bi-weekly evening singing class for the young men. This helps the ex-school boys to keep up their singing, and also keeps them abreast of the new things which the school children learn.

"The weekly meeting of the 'boys' brigade' (under Lieutenant Hall) for drill has made the regular attendants proficient in a fairly extensive repertoire of exercises, of which they gave a public display after church parade on 23rd December, which was observed as Christmas Day for our people. There are now 30 boys enrolled.

"In February we extended operations by enlarging the main cultivation paddock to about double its original size. Part of this had already been cleared, and so we were able to get that part cropped. Owing to the bush fires, we find it wise to get all fences cleared with the hoe as soon as the grass begins to get dry. We have sometimes attempted this by day labour, and found it an almost unending job by reason of lack of adequate supervision. This year we let the fences in sections by contract to different families. It was thus done much more expeditiously and cheaply.

"A new feature was introduced by the collection and sale of sandalwood. This industry being so general throughout the Peninsula, we would rather have left our reserves untouched for the present, and put it upon the market later on, when less is being sent in from other parts and the price consequently higher; but, in spite of the Minister's wise and humane refusal to throw open the mission reserves to all and sundry to work their sweet will with men, women, and children, some outsiders made attempts to get it from this reserve, and so we decided to get our people to cut it under our supervision, rather than be in constant conflict with such men. To enable us the more adequately to deal with it, we have purchased a small cutter, and for a while we had a kanaka engaged, who went out with the people, received the wood from them, and issued daily rations to those engaged in getting it; but we have now dispensed with his services, and for some few weeks I was, myself out with the people. Thus I was able to do mission work amongst them as at home. This method we intend to follow in the future as long as there is any wood procurable, my assistant and self taking it in turns.

"Another new feature was the taking of a contract to build a concrete cattle dip for a neighbouring cattle station with some of the more useful young men. This contract is not yet completed. Meanwhile the general work of the station has gone on—*e.g.*, the church was plastered over on the outside with lime which we burnt from fish shells, and the inside (walls and ceiling) was painted with a mixture of lime and pipeclay.

"Water-fetching from the lagoon (about three-quarters of a mile distant) every day for about six months makes labour for man and horse, and, incidentally, occasionally for the missionary also in the repairing of trolley or tank.

"Having gone in for mule-breeding, a paddock has been fenced for keeping the jack donkey in. Horses have been fairly extensively employed hauling timber for building and fencing, and in the cultivation paddock. The station received a useful gift of the wheels and axle of a dray, and some harness for same, from our

neighbour at York Downs cattle station; and a further gift of a fat bullock provided a sumptuous wedding feast a couple of days after Christmas.

“As usual, Christmas again this year was made a very joyful time for our people by the abundant gifts of clothing, toys, &c., from kind friends in the churches in the South.

“Before closing this report, I would like to tender special thanks to the Minister and yourself, on behalf of the people, for the increase made in the grant for this station at the commencement of the financial year 1909-1910. I was unable to do this in my last report, not having been advised of the fact at the time of writing it.

“For continued prosperity and many mercies, we render thanks to God, the giver of every good and perfect gift.”

Aurukun Mission (Archer River)—

The Superintendent, Mr. A. Richter, reports:—

“The year 1910 has been pretty much the same as the former year. There was no sickness among the staff, and, therefore, no interruption in the work at all. Thus a steady progress is seen in every department of the work.

“As mentioned before, the school has been kept without interruption; however, as the children always become a little unsettled when the rainy season is over, I tried to give them a few holidays at Easter. The result was not as I had hoped. Another little break was in September, when our new church, which after New Year, 1911, is to serve as school house also, was consecrated. The two days of ‘spell’ were greatly enjoyed and appreciated, and so were the Christmas holidays. The average attendance in school is low, but the pupils were very steady; hence so little difference in the aggregate attendance. The progress with the boys has been satisfactory, but the girls did not advance as much as their teacher would have liked, during the past year. Of course, those that have tried to teach children just come from the bush will know that it takes a while before the ice of dullness breaks. Out of school the girls are as lively and noisy as one can hardly imagine, and in executing their duties in the children’s household the bigger girls appear fairly intelligent. The average attendance for the year was 18.

“Aurukun has no children under the Industrial School Act, neither does the Government pay for any children here. The number of people given in the monthly returns include only those that receive rations from the Government grant. These are the school children, a number of permanent workers, and about half a dozen infirm people. The number of people settled on the station is about 45; while others regard the station as their home, and spend here most of the time, but are sometimes off again into the bush and spend weeks camping somewhere in the neighbourhood. They often receive work, and would immediately settle down if we only could occupy them oftener; but, having to live mostly on native food, they cannot be continually at the station. They will, nevertheless, in a few years all be citizens of Aurukun. Thus the number of our station people is, all in all, about 82, classified as follows:—Men, 29; women, 32; boys, 11; girls, 10. This includes the boarders. The

southern tribes living in our reserve are more numerous. From what we have seen of them during those six years here, there may be over 600. Whether they all are living on the reserve, I cannot say. Besides these, there are a number of tribes living outside the reserve towards the east, in the country of the Little Archer, between the 142nd and 143rd degree of longitude. Their original home has been given to cattle station-owners, and so they consider Aurukun partly their home, are working here for longer or shorter periods, and spend generally the Christmas festival with us. They have also given some of their girls into our special care. These people seem to number over 100; so we have dealings with about 800 blacks. A few times aboriginals even from the Upper Archer and Coen River, paid us visits, but as they are under the influence of the Coen police I do not count them as ours. These 800 people have about 200 children, but the majority of them we only get to see occasionally. Last Christmas we had 213 natives with us assembled; among them were 60 children. Because we cannot occupy such a crowd of people for any length of time, not having rations enough, they soon leave us, taking their children with them.

“Like the year 1909, the past year was filled up with manual labour of all kind. The chief work was the new church, which is to serve as schoolhouse as well. As we had not the promise of any financial help from any part, we intended to make the house, free of cost, from the native material only. The timber was brought from the bush under great difficulty. Not having had any horses on the station, the blacks had to carry the heavy trees on their shoulders or load them on the trolley, which often cut deep marks into the ground. In our yard or in the large airy workshop, these trees were shaped by the natives, under the supervision of my assistant (Mr. R. H. Wilson), into posts and beams by means of adze and saw. For the walls and roof, messmate bark was taken. As this, however, is not waterproof, the roof is covered a second time with tea-tree bark. The flooring is made of flat clay, which the old men and women carried from the landing, almost 2 miles from the station. The house is large and cool, 50 ft. x 30 ft., the ridge being 26 ft. high. The building is an illustration of what can be done by native material. In spite of all earnest attempts, however, we were obliged to seek financial help, and my appeal was met with enthusiasm by some members of the Presbyterian Church in all States. Thus we are able to procure windows, doors, benches, desks, and platform. We were presented with a harmonium, a bell (gift from children in Sydney), a lamp, and other things.

“The opening of this building was the great event of the year, and I might say the greatest festival ever witnessed by the people at Aurukun. We were favoured on this occasion with the presence of the missionaries from Mapoon and Weipa, who had brought their two brass bands with them. The house is not quite finished yet, owing to much other work pressing. A great value of the manual labour, and the training of natives connected with it, is that they have discovered more ability in themselves than they ever had imagined. Thus a number of young men again set to work, and built private houses on their own accord. Two men had made houses in 1909; now during the past year four more houses

have been added. The camp has now six native huts, all having been made by the blacks without any assistance from the missionaries, only receiving nails and advice.

"The garden has been cultivated as the year before, and the result pretty much the same. Sweet potatoes were again a failure; corn was poor; pumpkins and watermelons, planted under very different conditions, did well; so did peanuts; cassava did splendidly, and I hope to cultivate this in future on a large scale. The china or snake bean supplied us and the children during the rainy season, and the new bean during the dry season, with vegetables. The labour and care of former years bestowed upon the fruit trees seems to begin to reward us now. In the past year we have seldom been without fresh fruit. We had granadillas, paw-paws, tomatoes, pineapples, custard-apples, guavas, and mangoes at their respective seasons, and even the first three kinds we had all the year round.

"Improvements consist of a large new nursery and a new cotton-field. The latter one turned out a failure, as most of the seed was evidently not good. The building up of the station, including repairs, still needs the greatest consideration, and demands the best workers; therefore, agriculture can only be done with us on a small scale, especially as we have no agricultural implements, and only two months ago was I able to buy two draught horses. So far, all work has been done chiefly by the women with the hoe; and, as the building up of the place does not bring us any direct profit, we can only keep a small number of people working.

"Again, in the past year we have been kept free from epidemics, and sickness was a scarcity. No member of the worker's staff was at any time laid aside, neither was there among the natives much extraordinary sickness. The medical treatment has been throughout the year pretty much the same every day, such as we have to expect among a dying-out race. The number of patients treated were as follows:—Malaria fever, 10; influenza, 1; inflamed gum and throat (very severe), 1; sore eyes (acute), 24; sore eyes (chronic), 2; inflamed ears, 5; scrophulosis, 1; sores from impure blood, 35; syphilis in the third grade (incurable), 3; sexual disease (without distinction, whether syphilis or not), 6; accidental hurts, 39; spear wounds and violent injuries, 15; burns, 5; coughs, 49; and teeth drawn, 2. I have not written down the duration of each case. Some were treated once or twice, others for six months or even longer. We had here no pulmonary epidemic, but coughs almost appeared epidemically. All cases were successfully treated, except syphilis in the highest state, which we consider hopeless. Against syphilis in the first stage, as we often find it among children, we are having a constant fight. So far as my knowledge goes, we never came across granuloma yet; however, as I have had no experience with this seldom-appearing disease, I would ask you kindly to send me a very definite diagnose of it. I have asked the Thursday Island doctor for such, but so far received no answer to my letter.

"Aurukun has to report 5 deaths against 4 births. Two of the deceased were new-born children, the other 3 adults. As all of them died in the bush away from the station, we had no funeral in 1910 on the station. No medical officer has paid us a visit, and in such an out-of-the-way place we hardly expect it."

Trubanaman Mission (Mitchell River)—

The Superintendent, Mr. H. Matthews, reports:—

"In reviewing the past twelve months, one is forced to admit that progress has not been as rapid as one could wish. Still it cannot be denied that there has been progress in every department. The spearing of Mr. Bowman and the shooting of the black is much to be deplored. Two of the mission boys were removed from the mission for alleged cattle-spearing, and 1 black from a camp in the vicinity was also taken. These regrettable incidents acted as decided setbacks for a time, but life is going on much the same again now. Work has been regularly carried on during the year; several new huts, a workroom and school, a new workshop, and a washhouse and girls' dormitory were erected. About 8 acres of land were cleared, 5 acres of which were fenced, ploughed, and planted with corn. We have about 3 acres under sweet potatoes, 1 acre under cassava, and 1 acre under pineapples; these are bearing; also custard-apples, limes, mangoes, and bananas, and paw-paws. A marked improvement is noticeable in the industry of our people. They can now be trusted to work without constant supervision. There are 15 married couples on the mission, and they have about 1 acre divided into gardens, in which they have planted potatoes and cassava. They attend to their gardens in spare time—an hour in each morning and after tea. During the day they are occupied in the field at getting timber, &c. Our cattle have increased to 90 head; goats, 22 head; fowls, 15.

"During the past year our mission boat, the 'Francis Pritt,' was sold, and a ketch of lighter draught purchased. We can now bring our goods up the river to about 4 miles from the mission station. The boat is manned by aboriginals—who make excellent sailors—under the captaincy of a South Sea islander.

"During the period under review, a chaff-cutter was purchased, and with this we cut up several tons of grass, which we stored in a pit as an experiment in ensilage. We are now having our rainy season, which has proved exceptionally heavy.

"The corn and potatoes planted this year look very well, and give promise of good yields.

"School has been held regularly, and the scholars are making fair progress in their studies. Miss Matthews instituted a sewing class for small boys, and several of them made their own knickers. Miss Matthews reports good progress amongst the married people in sewing and care of their clothes and tidiness of their huts.

"The health of all has been fairly good, and the improvement in manners and morals excellent.

"The following list shows the amount of food consumed on the mission during the year:—Flour, 20,740 lb.; tea, 111 lb.; sugar, 880 lb.; tobacco, 154 lb.; treacle, 169 lb.; rice, 5,320 lb.; corn, 112 lb.; soap, 285 bars; potatoes, 2,727 lb.; and cassava, 283 lb.

"Average number of inmates, 85; births, 3; and deaths, 2 (infants)."

Deebing Creek Mission (via Ipswich) -

The Secretary of the Mission Committee, Mr. W. H. Foote, reports:—

“The committee meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. The home has been officially visited at intervals during the year by the president, secretary, and treasurer, the visiting magistrate, and Dr. Le Strange.

“At all the meetings of committee, Mr. Morrison, the Superintendent, has been present, and a general report for the month has been read and discussed.

“A semi-official visit was paid to the home by one of the Scotch Commissioners and Mr. A. Meston.

“The conduct of the inmates has been of a fairly satisfactory kind; we may almost say there was really no trouble except that caused by drink. All the young people able to work have been sent to situations. Concerning all of them we have had on every hand very favourable reports. The older men are settled down to the new working arrangements notified last year, and have been fairly well employed outside or working on the home farm.

“Whilst it is to be regretted that they spend some of their money on intoxicants, they and their families are well dressed, wearing many of them watches, chains, and rings; and buying guns for opossum shooting, and bicycles, and other such marks that they are realising something about civilised manhood and womanhood. Every year is showing a marked improvement in homes and home life in the case of those who have been longest under its influence, which must have an elevating effect on the others, although they may be lagging behind.

“The religious meetings were well attended, and there is much to lead us to believe that there is an improvement within as well as that which is so marked in their outside lives.

“There has been 4 births and no deaths during the year. The average number of permanents has been 71, the highest number for any month being 84, and the lowest 58, with casuals from 2 to 12, indicating that, with many, the wandering habit is dying out and they make it a true home.

“Three men for insubordination were removed from the home for six months. One has made ample apology and returned. The others, we learn, would return but for the pride which prevents them from making an apology.

“The general health has been good. There has been no venereal and no accidents. A number of the children had whooping-cough and influenza, which, with one exception, did not assume a serious form.

“Dr. Von Lossberg was called to visit the home twice—once for a child and once for a woman, who needed no doctor when he arrived, she having had more fear than sickness. One girl, suffering from sore eyes, has been twice to the Ipswich Hospital, and is now going for the third time. Her eyes have always been in a bad state. She was nearly blind when she was committed to the home from the west. Dr. Le Strange recommends that she be sent to the seaside for salt-water bathing. The committee hope that some such arrangement may be made for her when she is able to leave the hospital.

“The attendance at school has been regular. The enrolment for the year was 31; average attendance, 30.7. The school was visited by the school inspector, who closes his very satisfactory report in these words: ‘General condition much improved since last year. The tone is more cheerful, and the pupils appear happier.’

“The committee feel that they have every reason to be satisfied with the work of the superintendent, matron, and teacher, all of whom are in manifest sympathy with our work as well as faithful in the discharge of their duties.

“During the year several acres of ground were cleared and stumped at the Nine-mile, and 12 acres have been under crop. Maize, English potatoes, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and melons, besides other vegetables, have been grown and used at the home, as well as some which were sold. The crops promise a large yield at the beginning of the new year.

“The cattle have done well, although the increase has not been so large as we anticipated. No doubt the ticks and the regular dipping has had something to do with that, although it has preserved the older cattle from redwater, from which many neighbouring farmers’ cattle have died. Two cows and 2 calves died during the year from other causes. The increase was 11, leaving 71 head of cattle—10 horses and 3 pigs, 1 boar and 2 sows—purchased during the year.

“With a view of lessening bookkeeping in town, a ‘worker’s and petty cash’ account was opened at the home, the income of which during the year was £102 3s., the expenditure £59 12s. 4d. The balance, £42 10s. 8d., was added to the general or bank account. This has been found to be a satisfactory arrangement, saving not only the booking of such small amounts of money, but the workers many journeys to the city for a few shillings.

“Our stock now comprises 71 head of cattle, valued at £138 15s., a number of horses worth £116, and pigs worth £7 2s; 2 cows and 2 calves, worth £10 10s., died; £23 worth of produce was grown on the farm; and £46 worth of improvement was done on the mission by aboriginal labour. We started the year with a debit balance of £14 0s. 5d., and at the close show a credit balance of £64 11s. 8d.”

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

As will be seen by the following statement of receipts and expenditure, in accordance with clause 14 of the Regulations of 1904, all estates of deceased natives and unclaimed wages of deserters are paid to this account and expended in the relief of the destitute, principally in providing outfits of clothing for such natives when first entering employment, medicine for the sick, and burial of aboriginal paupers. £57 10s. is still held as an advance account; and a fairly large amount, about £150, not counting interest, is yet unpaid by the various islands in Torres Strait, who received loans to purchase fishing boats. Only £33 9s. 7d. was paid on redemption, and £1 5s. interest on one boat’s loan; but another boat, the ‘Moa,’ was found to be so heavily in debt to the Papuan Industries Limited, for cost of repairs and renewals, that she was sold by public auction and the proceeds devoted to part payment of the debt.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
January 1st, balance from 1909	164	12	3
From Deserters' wages	133	13	0
„ Deceased natives' estates	81	12	1
„ Redemption of loan to Torres Strait islanders	33	9	7
„ Sale of Moa Island boat	74	7	9
„ Interest due on Mooraling for year 1909	1	5	0

£488 19 8

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
By Clothing to destitute natives	52	4	1
„ Dentistry, &c., to destitute natives	10	8	0
„ Burial expenses	10	7	0
„ Medicine	2	13	6
„ Refund to Papuan Industries of proceeds of sale of Moa	74	7	9
„ Balance on 31st December	338	19	4

£488 19 8

EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINES BY DIFFERENT STATES.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Amount. £
Queensland	*20,000	11,259
South Australia	4,600	4,200
Victoria	256	4,255
Western Australia	*27,000	24,450
New South Wales	6,897	14,000
Northern Territory	*16,000	2,071

* Approximate only.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without recording my appreciation of Mr. Bleakley's services in connection with the work of this Office, which have been invaluable; his interest in and loyal devotion to the work has enabled me to

carry out efficiently the multifarious duties appertaining to the Department, which otherwise would indeed have been a hard task. To the Staff generally my thanks are due for their loyalty and readiness to perform the several duties allotted to them; and, also, to the Commissioner of Police I desire to record my gratitude for the very necessary assistance afforded me by his officers throughout the State. In all but one instance the office of Protector of Aborigines in country districts is held by the officer in charge of police at the several localities; and the capable and tactful manner in which these officers, sometimes at considerable inconvenience to themselves, carry out their duties in this respect is beyond cavil. When on my tours of inspection these officers are always ready and willing to afford me every assistance, and indeed were it not so it would be difficult, if not impossible, for me to carry out my duties satisfactorily.

To the Government Printer I am much indebted for his uniform courtesy and the prompt and excellent manner in which the work of reproducing the illustrations and letterpress of my reports is carried out; and, in fact, my duties as Chief Protector of Aborigines have been rendered both pleasant and profitable by the readiness to assist and general courtesy extended to me by all the Public Departments with which, in the course of such duties, I have had dealings.

I have, &c.,

RICHARD B. HOWARD,
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

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