

1930.
—
QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Aboriginals, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates Institution (Dunwich), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Government Relief, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), Prisons, Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, Schools for Deaf and Blind, and Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane), Eventide Home, Charters Towers.

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: JOSEPH HEENEY STANLEY, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

A. 35—1930.

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

Home Secretary's Department,
Brisbane, 23rd October, 1930.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

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

WILLIAM GALL,
Under Secretary.

ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. Challands).
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. Challands).
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. N. Randall; Superintendent, Miss M. Nutt).
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. D. P. O'Brien; Superintendent, Miss M. Scully).
GOVERNMENT RELIEF (Acting Officer in Charge, H. Martin).
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS (WILLOWBURN); Miss E. M. Thomas.
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, W. J. Gall).
QUEENSLAND BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION (Manager, I. Dickson).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).

Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1929.

POPULATION.

The census taken in June, 1929, in conjunction with the Registrar-General and the Commonwealth Statistician, showed the aboriginal population of this State to be 18,046 as under:—

FULL-BLOOD, 14,177.

	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	1,913	1,588
Regular employment	3,039	868
Supervised camps	2,376	2,662
Not stated	859	872
Totals	8,187	5,990
Persons	14,177	

HALF-CASTES, 3,869.

	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	168	127
Regular employment	664	494
Supervised camps	586	694
Not stated	533	603
Totals	1,951	1,918
Persons	3,869	

The noticeable increase in the number of full-bloods from 13,190 and decrease in the number of half-castes from 4,421 in 1928, can only be accounted for by inconsistencies in the enumeration. It is gratifying to see that the people are not dying out, but, under the Department's care, are apparently holding their own.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

The severe drought conditions in the far West again seriously reduced the demand for labour, as many of the stockowners had not been able to return their cattle or restock the holdings.

In the Peninsula, the Gulf, and East Coast districts there was sufficient employment offering, both on station and agricultural farm work.

In the scrub country of the tableland it was difficult to keep the native to settled work, as the abundance of native game and foods awakened the "walkabout" feeling and caused unsteadiness.

The trapping and shooting is, to many, a much more congenial life than regular work, and some make in this way a fairly good living, having their own turnouts.

Even the unemployables manage to subsist fairly comfortably from the proceeds of hunting and what they obtain from those in settled work.

Notwithstanding the decline in the labour demand, the earnings were greater, judging by the increase of over £5,000 in the moneys banked to their credits.

Reports as to behaviour in employment have been very satisfactory and employers generally have similarly observed the regulations.

The number employed under agreement was 3,068 (2,458 males, 610 females), and casual permits for short engagements were issued for 908 (853 males, 55 females). Sixty-four men were engaged as trackers for the Queensland Police and two by the Victorian Police.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

There was no lack of employment for able-bodied labour in Torres Strait. Those not required for the communal fishing vessels were readily absorbed by the private fleets.

Mainlanders from the camps on the east side of the peninsula were also recruited. The number of men so engaged was 570 and their total earnings £5,107.

The islanders working their own communal fishing vessels numbered 430, and the value of the produce won amounted to £24,170, showing a decrease of £2,239 on the previous year's results.

At Cooktown, the demand for fishing crews was fairly good, and 51 men, all mainlanders, were engaged, their earnings amounting to £1,080. This showed some falling-off compared with the year before, but is accounted for by the

increase of engagements through the Thursday Island Office. Sixteen men were also recruited from the Palm Island Settlement by these fishing fleets.

Two members of a boat's crew deserted at Mackay, complaining of ill-treatment, but, after inquiry which proved the complaint groundless, they were returned to their homes by the employer.

The employment regulations appear to have been faithfully observed and, except for the above case, the conduct of native crews was satisfactory.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

Claims were filed in twenty-one cases for benefits, under the Workers' Compensation Act, for accidents to natives in employment. Amounts totalling £793 7s. 5d. were awarded.

These benefits were received on the natives' behalf by the local Protector and disbursed as intended for the benefit of the injured persons or their dependents.

The State Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department again showed their sympathy and courtesy in co-operating with this Department in arriving at suitable settlements.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

The following statement shows the position of the Savings Bank accounts held in trust by Protectors throughout the State, and operated upon as required for the benefit of the earners and their dependents:—

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.		Accounts Transferred Other Districts and Settlements.		Interest Earned.		Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barambah	506	8,659	2 4	10	0 0	160	12 11	6,843	11 0	3,059	16 7
Palm Island	537	7,532	5 6	..	..	330	6 8	7,607	1 4	3,712	0 9
Woorabinda	219	3,989	17 4	54	2 2	127	2 7	4,652	8 3	1,737	12 4
Brisbane	124	3,311	7 8	1,029	9 4	279	12 7	3,798	4 6	7,633	12 11
Various Protectors ..	4,793	82,296	16 2	18,118	4 9	10,467	13 1	75,815	10 2	293,613	17 6
Totals	6,179	105,789	9 0	19,211	16 3	11,365	7 10	98,716	15 3	309,757	0 1

These figures do not include the small private Savings Bank accounts, which a number of the more intelligent run from their accumulated pocket moneys, nor the store credits of inmates of religious missions.

It will be noted that over 93 per cent. of the money so banked was withdrawn and expended, through the Protector, for relief or other needs. This was apart from the pocket money, averaging 40 per cent. of the earnings, drawn at the place of employment.

The actual total is £317,759, as £8,000 of the Settlement Funds (Barambah £3,000, Palm Island £4,000, and Woorabinda £1,000) is invested in Treasury Loan Inscribed Stock at 5½ per cent.

As natives migrated to other districts or were removed to settlements their Savings Bank accounts, aggregating £19,211, were transferred to those centres to ensure convenient access to their money.

On the death of an account holder, the estate is administered for the benefit of his dependents or next-of-kin. If unclaimed the proceeds are paid to the Aboriginal Protection Property Account for the benefit of natives generally. Seventy-four accounts, including a number of untraced deserters, were so treated, the amount transferred being £3,369 9s. 9d.

In twenty-five cases the rightful claimants were afterwards discovered and the money, amounting to £279 2s. 7d., restored to them.

Contributions to the Provident Fund amounted to £1,620, and £1,220 interest was earned. There is now a balance of £23,331, including £15,000 also invested in the above Treasury loan.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at 31st December, 1928	5,775	16 1	Barambah—		
Collections—			Settlement sewerage	224	8 8
Estates of deceased natives	1,640	18 9	Footballers' expenses	80	1 8
Unclaimed bank balances	1,728	11 0	Palm Island—		
Trust Account—Interest earned ..	1,358	7 7	Footballers' expenses	517	4 2
Proceeds football matches—			Woorabinda—Girls' Quarters	72	3 9
Palm Island	804	6 2	Settlements—Christmas Goods	863	13 2
Barambah	216	17 9	Expenses—Burials, indigent natives ..	69	2 0
Refunds ..			Printing Torres Strait Readers	591	15 6
Advance account loans	92	8 6	Balance building expenses "Melbidir" ..	668	7 11
Payment aboriginal accounts	57	10 11	Building Torres Strait Hospitals	265	15 10
Duty "Melbidir" parts	37	12 0	Various accounts	72	16 10
Loans—			Refunds—		
Ketch "Poruma"	100	0 0	Deceased estates to relatives	279	2 7
Barambah Recreation Hall	200	0 0	Amounts banked for convenience	561	0 5
Mabuiag Island—Timber	125	0 0	Interest on Bank accounts invested ..	210	0 0
	<u>£12,137</u>	<u>8 9</u>	Grants—		
			Cape Bedford Mission	250	0 0
			Yarrabah Mission	500	0 0
			Mitchell River Mission	250	0 0
			Mapoon Mission	350	0 0
			Bishop of Carpentaria	500	0 0
			Loans—		
			Advance Account, Brisbane	40	0 0
			Advance Account, Woorabinda	20	0 0
			Relief—Poid Island	30	0 0
			Balance at 31st December, 1929	<u>5,721</u>	<u>16 3</u>
				<u>£12,137</u>	<u>8 9</u>

ABORIGINAL PATROL VESSEL.

With the provision of the new patrol vessel, also named "Melbidir," for Torres Strait and Peninsula waters, it has been possible to give the important work of supervision of native conditions in these areas the attention necessary. Regular patrols have been made of the islands and building material and stores delivered to the various villages. A patrol of the east coast of the Peninsula, as far as Port Stewart, and inspection of the coastal camps was also carried out.

The benefits of these regular visits has been markedly noticeable. For several years the lack of a suitable vessel had hampered administration, with the result that petty bickering and discontent often developed over small matters that could otherwise have been amicably adjusted. The close touch with local affairs undoubtedly makes for more efficient administration.

The vessel was at sea for 247 days and the distance travelled was 7,825 miles.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

Bonds were entered into for the return of 12 aboriginals, who were temporarily removed by their employers, and 2 permits were granted for the transfer of natives to other districts.

It was not necessary to take action to estreat any of these undertakings.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Regular food relief was issued, according to the needs of the natives, in monthly or weekly

allowances, from 29 centres, the total cost being £1,435.

Casual relief amounting to £301 was also issued. Game and fish were fairly plentiful on the Peninsula, the coastal camps, and the scrubs of the Tableland, and there was no evidence anywhere of serious privation. The camp natives received some help in food from their relatives in employment.

BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued was 3,984. Where more suitable, articles, such as dresses, trousers, shirts, tomahawks, print, tobacco, fish lines, hooks, &c., were distributed in lieu. The purchase of these goods and despatch of them to the various centres was also carried out by the State Stores Board.

The cost of the issues was £2,767, and the freight and handling charges amounted to £325.

Care was exercised to limit the issues to natives who, by reason of age, ill-health, climatic conditions or poverty, were actually in need of them.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1927.		1928.		1929.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	39	£ 488	18	£ 295	26	£ 435
Supplying of liquor ..	8	200	5	130	13	320
Harbouring ..	3	12	1	3	..	..
Illegally employing ..	4	22	1	10	..	..

The Police officers deserve credit for their vigilance in the protection of the people from abuses, especially as regards the traffic of opium and drink.

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Drunkenness	71	60	46
Stealing	3	6	33
Creating disturbance	8	14	3
Obscene language	9	4	6
Assault	3	5	3
Resisting Arrest	2	1	1
Vagrancy	1	3	..
Immoral offences	1	4	..
Entering .. .. .	..	..	3

REMOVALS.

The following return shows the number of natives who for their own benefit or other reasons were removed to reserves on Minister's orders:—

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Barambah	15	4	8	27
Palm Island	58	29	21	108
Woorabinda	13	8	4	25
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah	2	2	2	6
Mornington Island .. .. .	..	1	7	8
	88	44	42	174

HEALTH.

From practically all districts the reports show that the health of the natives has been good. There have been very few serious epidemics. Outbreaks of a mild type of influenza or similar colds occurred in the bush camps at Baralaba, Herberton, Burketown, and Camooweal.

Veneral disease seems to be most in evidence in the Gulf Country and the Peninsula. Eleven cases were collected in Turn-off Lagoon district and treated in Burketown Hospital. Reports from Cooktown and Coen show that this complaint is prevalent in the coastal camps. A number were treated in the Cooktown Gaol compound.

Dr. Erben, the specialist commissioned by the Australian Board of Missions to carry out a survey and treatment on the Mitchell River, commenced his work in October and, by the year end, had made good progress in clearing up the cases of yaws, gangosa, granuloma, &c.

At Aurukun, on the Archer River, 8 cases were treated and 4 at Lockhart River Mission. Other places at which cases were treated were Cairns 9, Mungana 3, Mount Surprise 4, Townsville 2, and Ayr 2.

A separate report is given below of work done at Fantome Island Lock Hospital.

The missions in the Gulf and the islands of Torres Strait experienced waves of mild influenza. This complaint also broke out at Woorabinda, several old people succumbing to it.

Epidemic malaria of a severe type broke out at Poid Village, in Torres Strait, necessitating nursing and food relief for several weeks. Outbreaks also occurred at Archer River and at Mitchell River.

At Yarrabah, attacks of dysentery and infant colitis were suffered and chicken-pox broke out.

At the Mapoon, Aurukun, Mornington Island, and Monamona Missions, regular hookworm treatment was given, and it is said that many of the natives now recognise its benefit and readily receive the treatment.

At all institutions a regular stream of patients for minor ailments—sore eyes, cuts, sores, boils, &c.—attend for daily treatment, and hospitals wards are provided for serious cases.

The number receiving treatment at Settlement Hospitals were:—Barambah, 1,256 including 325 in-patients; Palm Island (which has a Resident Medical Officer), 15,812 consultations, including 324 in-patients admitted; Woorabinda, 240 examined by Visiting Medical Officer, of which 27 were admitted to hospital.

The following figures will give some idea of Mission Station treatments:—Yarrabah, 85 in-patients and an average of 70 out-patients per week; Lockhart River, 861 cases treated; Weipa, 900 cases; and Aurukun, over 700.

In Torres Strait 243 cases received treatment, principally for influenza and malaria.

The records of natives treated at the main district hospitals show—Cairns 57, Normanton 48, Herberton 40, Rockhampton 16, Gayndah 14, Cunnamulla 12, Mackay 11, Townsville 8, Cooktown 8, Quilpie 7. It was not possible to obtain figures of the cases examined by Government Medical Officers or out-patients treated at hospitals or at country Protectors' stations.

The total deaths reported were 329, of which 81 were Settlement inmates, 65 Torres Strait Islanders, and 183 natives in other Missions and districts.

The number of births recorded was 334, of which Torres Strait can claim the credit for 142, the Settlements for 68, and the Missions and country districts 124.

LOCK HOSPITAL.—FANTOME ISLAND.

Dr. C. R. Maitland-Pattison, Medical Superintendent.—Sixty-seven cases were treated during the year, viz.:—Granulomata, 28; syphilis, 3; tertiary syphilis, 2; gonorrhœa, 32; gonorrhœa ophthalmia, 2.

Of the cases, 35 were discharged cured, 4 died, and 28 remain under treatment.

There were a few changes in the staff, and one native wardman died from pneumonia.

Except for the usual minor disputes amongst the natives, the conduct of the staff and patients was very satisfactory.

Good work was done in improving the appearance of the hospital surroundings; the lawns, shrubs, &c., are now looking well.

There was an abundance of vegetables obtained during the seasons from the hospital garden.

Fish, crabs, oysters, and, occasionally, turtles were obtained, and issued to staff and patients.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Visits were paid as frequently as possible to girls in service within the city and around the suburbs, and inspections made of the conditions of their employment; but the officers of the Female Protection Branch were kept fully occupied in arranging suitable engagements, supervising the purchase of clothing outfits, attending to dental and medical needs, inquiring into complaints, disputes, &c.

There was good demand for such domestic labour, and no difficulty in finding suitable situations for all classes. Trained girls, with general experience, readily commanded good wages. Young girls fresh from school were always in good demand.

Girls with children are not so easily found work and, naturally, with this handicap, have to accept lower wages, but the few placed were settled comfortably with good employers, in country homes, where nourishing foods, such as milk, were plentiful.

Behaviour in employment has been generally satisfactory, very few cancellations of agreements being necessary. These were mostly for desertions, the result of homesickness or lack of understanding on the part of employers.

The country Protectors and Police have given useful help in reporting on situations and inquiring into disputes.

The number of Savings Bank accounts for females controlled from Brisbane has increased to 124, the total amount to credit being £7,633, with an average credit of over £61.

The proportion of wages collected, representing about 70 per cent. of the earnings, amounted to £3,311, and the withdrawals, for expenditure on clothing, dentistry, relief, holiday expenses, &c., totalled £3,798.

Of the above, the number in situations was 107, of whom 70 were employed in the country and 37 in the suburbs of the city.

Owing to reports of unsatisfactory conduct or living conditions, it was found necessary to remove 41 women and 33 children to Settlements and 3 women and 9 children to Mission Stations, where they will receive better care and protection and the children be given necessary schooling.

The maternity allowance was received by 88 half-caste mothers, the money being, in most cases, paid to them through the local Protector, or Superintendent of the institution, who was thus able to supervise its disbursement, as intended, for the benefit of the mother and child.

The Maternity Allowance Commissioners' Department readily availed itself of this department's help in inquiring into the eligibility of the large number of cross-breed claimants, and the courtesy of its officers is much appreciated.

It was at times difficult to make these poor women understand why the cross-breed of Asiatic strain was not eligible for the allowance, when their European half-caste friends received it.

Permission was granted for the legal marriage of 16 aboriginal and half-caste women, in all but one case, to men of their own race. One half-caste woman was married to a European.

The number of orphan children maintained in homes was 60, as shown in the following return, the cost of their maintenance being £1,229:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island	24
Yeronga and Chelmer (Girls)	.. 12
Indooroopilly (Boys)	.. .. 1
Purga (Girls and Boys)	.. .. 23
	—
	60

HALF-CASTES.

The big decrease of 550 in the number of half-castes shown by the last aboriginal census cannot be accepted as correct, and is evidently due to inaccurate description of the darker cross-breeds in some of the bush camps as full-bloods.

It may be regarded as some evidence of the effectiveness of the department's efforts to check miscegenation that the increase in the number of half-castes, if any, has been very small.

Despite the critical examination of all cases, before certificates of exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginals Protection Acts are given to half-castes desiring their freedom, it is questionable whether more than 10 per cent. of those granted the privilege honestly live up to it.

The social handicap imposed by their colour practically forces them back to the camps or to the society of other less privileged half-castes, and it is not unusual for them to nullify the privilege given by marrying women subject to the Acts.

Although 78 applications for exemption were received, in only 33 cases were certificates approved—viz., 24 males, 9 females. One certificate previously issued to a female was cancelled, the holder having by misconduct forfeited the right to the privilege.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were paid to the settlements of Barambah, Woorabinda, and Palm Island, also to the mission at Purga and the native village at Myora.

It was not possible to pay any official visits to the Northern mission stations owing to pressure of business.

RESERVES.

During the month of May, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Goodwin made a two weeks' tour of the islands of Torres Strait in the vessel "Melbidir," attended by the Protector of Aboriginals from Thursday Island. All the important islands were visited and the schools and villages inspected. At each island the natives warmly welcomed His Excellency and gave most interesting displays of their native village life, customs, and dances, and in many ways demonstrated their keen appreciation of this evidence of interest from such a distinguished visitor.

The Native School, the Half-caste Orphanage, and the Native Seamen's Hospital on Thursday Island were also inspected by the vice-regal party.

His Excellency, on his return, expressed himself as pleasantly surprised at the social, educational, and industrial progress made by the island people and the high state of efficiency of the administration in these islands.

As Chief Scout of Queensland, Sir John was keenly interested in the fine troops of Native Boy Scouts and companies of Girl Guides. He warmly commended these movements, stating that, in his opinion, they provided these young people with an entirely new outlook on life.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines, Somerset district—
C. O'Leary.

Health.—With the exception of Poid Village, on Moa Island, the islands were free from any serious sickness. The usual mild waves of influenza were experienced, but at Poid, early in the year, an outbreak occurred which at first appeared to be dengue fever, but which Dr. Roberts, the Federal Quarantine Officer, on inspection diagnosed as epidemic malaria. Practically all the Poid villages were affected, necessitating the closing of the school for several weeks. As the people were unable to do any work in their gardens or on their fishing vessel, relief rations and medical supplies had to be provided. As a result of the measures adopted the epidemic was effectively controlled.

The scheme for distribution of medical supplies to the islands, instituted by Dr. Vernon, Government Medical Officer, has proved its success in the marked improvement in the health of the people. Other factors aiding in this are the efficient sanitary services now conducted on all islands and the provision of further concrete tanks on Cocoanut, Saibai, and Boigu Islands, where water supplies are not of the best.

The first of the proposed system of Island Cottage Hospitals on the larger islands was put into commission at Darnley. This has proved a boon, as patients admitted are under the direct supervision and receive the personal attention of the Government teacher. The proper care of the sick in the native village before was often impracticable owing to the distance of the patient's home in the village.

Visits of inspection have been paid to all islands by Drs. Vernon and Roberts, who have given valuable help and advice to the officers stationed there. Their keen interest in the health of these island communities and their prompt assistance on all occasions has earned the gratitude of the Department and its proteges.

Population.—The census taken in June 1929 gives the population of the Torres Strait Islands as 3,183 and the mainland natives of the Somerset district portion of Cape York Peninsula, not on the Aboriginal Mission Reserves, as 255. The births numbered 142 and the deaths 65.

Schools.—Steady progress has been made. All the schools have been fully staffed and regular inspections have been made by the head teacher of the Thursday Island State School, who for this purpose has been appointed a visiting inspector.

The condition of the buildings is generally satisfactory. A new school was erected at Cocoanut Island, which is a credit to the islanders. A commencement was made towards the end of the year with the provision of a new building at Yam Island, and, with the completion of this work and small additions to the Saibai and Darnley Island buildings, the islands will all have substantial accommodation.

Villages.—Creditable work has been performed in the improvement of village living conditions. Concrete tanks, of 10,000 gallons capacity, have been installed at three islands—Cocoanut, Saibai, and Boigu—and a good well has been sunk and concreted at Badu. The first of the new Cottage Hospitals has been erected and equipped with furniture at Darnley. A spacious Recreation Hall has been built by the Boy Scouts Troop at Murray, and at Saibai good work has been done in reclaiming the old village of Saim. Road-building has been continued at Murray and Darnley Islands, and before long the former will be encircled by a good road. House-building has proceeded steadily at all places, and the improved type of home which the natives are now providing marks a new era of native life.

At Cowal Creek more scrub was cleared on the eastern bank, and a new village, for the reception of the tribe from around the McDonnell telegraph station who are migrating to the coast, has been commenced.

Island Funds.—The contributions to the various Island Funds amounted to £2,537 and the disbursements £3,088, the balance at credit now being £5,136. These funds bear the cost of maintenance of sanitary systems, pensions and relief to indigent and sick natives, the latter being a heavy drain on all of the funds.

The principal items of expenditure were—£75 from the East Coast Fund, paid to the Lockhart River Mission to reimburse them for relief given to old and indigent mainland natives; £120 for concrete tank at Saibai; £65 for completion of the Scouts' hall at Badu; £125 for a concrete tank at Boigu; £145 for new school and a further £115 for a concrete tank at Cocoanut; £187 at Poid Village, Moa Island, for relief to sick and indigent natives during the malaria epidemic.

Practically all of the large permanent works required on the islands are now completed, and for some time the Island Funds should be relieved of any heavy call for expenditure on new buildings.

Island Company Boats.—The native fishing fleet had another successful year—the total value of produce won being £24,170 or £2,239 below the record of the year 1928. The decrease can be attributed to the cold weather experienced in the winter months by the boats working south down the reef. In addition, the lugger "Saibai" had the misfortune to run on the edge of reef off Green Island near Cairns, and had to return to Thursday Island to undergo repairs, thus losing three months' good working time. The "Wakaid" again headed the list, her gross catch being £3,105, only £71 less than that of year 1928. At this figure she can boast of being one of the best boats engaged in the trochus shell industry. Her captain and crew received wages which would have been impossible for

them to earn by working under any other system. The "Wakemab" won £1,278, and credit is due to the captain and crew for this fine effort, as their vessel is only a cutter of 8 tons gross. Their catch amounted to 17 tons of trochus shell. This amount has never before been won by a cutter in Torres Strait.

This same captain and crew are taking over an 18-ton lugger for the coming season, and this should give them scope for even better working.

The following figures show the earnings of some of the vessels:—

Vessel.	1928.	1929.
	£	£
"Wakaid"	3,175	3,104
"Badu"	1,062	870
"Yaza"	907	788
"Wakemab"	1,437	1,278
"Erub"	530	539
"Don"	1,462	1,346
"Taigai"	699	730
"Danan"	529	556

Insurance.—These native fishermen have established a Boat Insurance Fund and also a Crew's Insurance Fund against loss or injury by accident.

The contributions for the Boat Insurance Fund amounted to £82 9s. 7d., and the amount to credit at the end of the year stood at £764 8s. 11d. The Crew's Insurance Fund contributions amounted to £84 0s. 5d., and the credit was £215 7s.

Five claims were paid from the Crew's Fund, including one fatal case—the dependent, the deceased's father, receiving a small but regular pension. This evidence of its benefit has convinced the natives of the value of the scheme and they willingly support both funds.

The vessels owned by the half-caste firm, Mosby Brothers, of Yorke Island, were not so successful, the year's work showing a decrease of £198 in earnings of the "Kismet" and "Nancy" as compared with the 1928 figures. A new cutter was launched by them in December, and this should help to improve their earnings during the coming year.

Recreations.—The Boy Scout movement has spread gratifyingly, and further troops have been formed at Poid, Darnley, Murray, and Saibai Islands. The fine hall built at Murray Island as a recreation hall for the boys has been completed. A company of Girl Guides has also been formed at Murray Island.

The greatest credit is due to the teachers on the various islands for the work done and zealous spirit shown in fostering this valuable movement amongst the native boys and girls.

Patrol.—With the new patrol vessel now in commission it has been possible to give the important work of patrolling the islands the attention necessary for successful administration. All islands were regularly visited, and a patrol was made also down the East Coast to Lockhart River Mission and Port Stewart.

The work of supervision of the island fishing vessels and inspection of repair and boat-building work at Badu has also kept the master of the vessel well occupied.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Barambah (Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple).

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

Woorabinda (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).

Labour.—The supply of station labour was, as a result of the prevailing business depression, in excess of the demand, and it was difficult to find sufficient outside employment for many of the men available.

Female domestics, however, were all suitably placed without difficulty.

The number of engagements recorded was:—

—	Under Agreement.	Under Casual Employment.
Barambah ..	149 (M. 34, F. 115)	568 (males only)
Palm Island ..	85 (M. 74, F. 11)	..
Woorabinda ..	84 (M. 38, F. 46)	14 (males only)

Of Palm Island engagements, 16 were men recruited for work on fishing vessels.

Notwithstanding the above slackness in employment, the wages earned showed a good increase, the sum of £20,181 being deposited to the workers' bank credits.

There was also a slight increase in the withdrawals, which amounted to £19,103.

Settlement Revenue.

Collections.	Barambah.	Palm Island.	Woorabinda.
	£	£	£
Wages, fares, produce, &c. ..	6,620	4,720	2,068
Interest on bank accounts ..	160	330	127
Native contributions ..	168	219	188
	£6,948	£5,269	£2,383

Population.

Settlement.	Total.	Full-blood.	Half-castes
Barambah	755	245	510
Palm Island	876	630	246
Woorabinda	409	210	199
	2,040	1,085	955

Crime.—There has been no serious crime. The usual minor offences have been dealt with on the settlements. There has been very little trouble over procuring drink, but the gambling habit is difficult to check, and there are always the usual domestic squabbles to settle.

All conditions considered, the conduct of these larger settlement communities is a testimony to the sympathetic control of the officials.

Retail Stores.—These stores, established for the benefit of the inmates and to better enable their trading to be supervised by the officials, have been well appreciated. Without this means of augmenting the Government issues from their earnings at employment, the cost of maintaining the families left on the settlement would be considerably heavier.

As all profits are devoted to settlement industrial development, the inmates benefit entirely from the trading done through them.

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Barambah ..	781	3,660	1,011	5,452
Palm Island ..	980	6,217	610	7,807
Woorabinda ..	1,349	1,793	220	3,362
				£16,621

Schools.—Progress at the Native Schools has been very satisfactory and good reports were received from the Public Instruction Department's inspectors.

At Barambah the number on the roll was 185 (91 males, 94 females). Attendances were regular and the children clean, well dressed, and bright.

The boys received weekly lessons in simple carpentering from the settlement builder and showed creditable aptitude. The girls were taught sewing, basket-making, fancy work, &c.

At Palm Island the number of pupils was 151 (71 males, 80 females), but the primitive nature of the accommodation precluded any vocational training being given.

Similar difficulty was experienced at Woorabinda, where the pupils number 62 (30 males, 32 females). As soon as practicable, suitable school buildings are being provided.

Agricultural.—Despite drought conditions during the latter half of the year at Barambah, the farm operations resulted fairly satisfactorily.

Good crops of lucerne hay and about 15 tons of oaten hay were harvested. Three hundred bushels of maize were also grown, thus providing ample fodder for the working horses and dairy stock.

Eight acres of lucerne were planted and a further 6 acres of land cleared for cultivation. A good supply of fresh vegetables was grown and issued for food to the inmates, including 10,600 cabbages and cauliflowers, 20 tons of potatoes, marrows, pumpkins, tomatoes, beans, carrots, turnips, &c., and 8,800 bunches of other vegetables.

The dry weather hampered farming operations at Palm Island, but fair supplies of bananas, sugar-cane, tropical fruits, and vegetables were grown. A good crop of corn was raised and 29 bags sold to Stewart's Creek Prison.

At Woorabinda a fine crop of wheat was stunted by the lack of rain, but was used as fodder for the dairy cows, ensuring a plentiful milk supply. Plantings have been made of maize and sorghum, but the ground is very deep and porous. Fresh areas are being prepared.

Fairly good supplies of vegetables were raised in the gardens around the administrative village, and were appreciated by the inmates.

Industrial.—The sawmill at Barambah worked steadily, turning out 78,900 feet of sawn building timber, but was hampered towards the end of the year, owing to poorness of the teams

New fences have been erected at the Wondai end of the reserve. Larger dip yards have been built and 2,200 acres of country ringbarked. A new telephone line to town was also erected.

At Palm Island a new milking shed was built, and some new fencing put in. A large stone breakwater and jetty was commenced, the rock being blasted from the face of the hill. The portion built is a good solid piece of work.

Large gangs were employed cutting and hauling timber for the steep hills and rafting logs for the mill. The quantity of timber cut was 73,900 superficial feet.

At Woorabinda, 16 miles of new fencing have been erected, and 800 acres of country ringbarked. A fine cattle yard and dip have been built, and a large number of serviceable gates and cattle grids made.

Stock.—The season was a fair one for cattle, the young stuff doing exceptionally well.

At Barambah the breeders did well and 269 calves were branded. One hundred young breeders were added to the herd. Five good Hereford bulls were bought.

The number of settlement fat cattle killed for beef was 126. Forty-nine old cows were speyed. The return for hides sold was £114.

The dairy cows were fed throughout the winter, and milk supplies never failed.

The small herd at Palm Island has increased to 100 head, and are in good condition. A good Tarzali bull has been added to the herd.

The cattle at Woorabinda have made gratifying improvement, as a result of the introduction of good bulls, and can now compare with any in the district. The killers are prime and average over 700 lb. weight. The ringbarking of country has ensured good feed, and water was maintained in good quantity by sand troughing.

Except for the dry months of August and September, milk supplies were fairly well maintained.

The number of calves branded was 198 as against 65 in the previous year. Eighty-one bullocks were killed for beef. The herd now numbers 606.

BUILDING AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT.

At Barambah, the Boys' Home was completed and fitted with substantial living conveniences. Five new native cottages have been added to the village. The sewerage and drainage system has been extended and is proving a great boon.

The hospital and school buildings have been repainted, and additions made to the storekeeper's house, an additional bathroom at the hospital, and several extra sanitary conveniences in the camp. The five new native cottages have been fenced.

Fifty French pines, donated by the Forestry Department, and also a large number of other ornamental trees have been planted.

At Palm Island, a new Free Issue Store was built, and the existing buildings were as far as necessary renovated.

One native cottage was added to the main village and frames of a number erected in the farming outstation.

At Woorabinda, the storekeeper's house was completed and improvements effected to the girls' dormitory and the two stores.

The ornamental trees in the settlement village have made good progress.

Social Improvement.—The old-time insanitary gunyah is steadily giving place to the more civilised and comfortable cottage in the various institutions. The example of the younger educated inmates, who desire better conditions of living, is having its effect in inducing the older ones to provide for themselves better types of dwellings. The more cleanly and well-dressed appearance of both children and old people is a natural result.

Religious Instruction.—Regular religious services and Sunday school instruction have been given at all places by the missionaries of the Aboriginal Inland Mission and by visiting clergy of neighbouring parishes. The inmates appear to appreciate these services and attend them regularly.

Recreations.—With the co-operation of the officers of each institution, healthy recreations have been organised, including football, cricket, and tennis matches, concerts, picture shows, dances, &c. The natives entered heartily into the enjoyment of them and gave good account of themselves when allowed to compete in matches against whites in neighbouring districts.

The teams from Palm Island and Barambah played in football matches at the Exhibition Ground, in Brisbane, against picked Brisbane teams, and their good behaviour and play won the appreciation of the public. On both occasions His Excellency the Governor attended.

The brass bands at Barambah and Palm Island are in good practice, and have given much enjoyment. Each place has its annual sports day, at which visitors attend in good numbers.

The native games, however, were not neglected, for corroborees, displays of throwing spears and boomerangs, were regularly indulged in. Fishing and hunting were always popular.

The Christmas and New Year were marked with the usual sports, Christmas trees, gifts and feasts, in which young and old participated. The officers deserved every praise for their unselfish work for these happy gatherings.

MISSIONS.

Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, W. McCullough), Anglican.

Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, L. Borgas), Seventh Day Adventists.

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

Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula (Superintendent, H. Rowan), Anglican.

Moa Island, St. Paul's, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. J. W. Schomberg), Anglican.

Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. P. R. Currell), Presbyterian.

Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. H. Armstrong), Presbyterian.

Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. W. F. McKenzie), Presbyterian.

Mitchell River, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. W. Chapman), Anglican.

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

Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Commandant W. Perrem), Salvation Army.

Conduct.—No reports of serious crime have been received. Only in one or two cases has it been necessary to call in the help of the police. A few cases of determined tribal fighting occurred on some of the Gulf Mission Reserves, principally disputes amongst themselves over native burial rites and wife-stealing. As an example, four men were removed from Weipa to a settlement and the trouble died down. Some reliable natives from Aurukun managed to straighten out the trouble on their side.

Two others had to be similarly removed for cattle-spearing. Otherwise, reports of conduct from all missions have been good.

Religious Training.—Missionaries express themselves as very gratified with the evidences of interest in religious services and instruction, and the influence of the teachings on the life and conduct of the people.

At Aurukun, the village people are evincing great interest in work for the evangelisation of the bush blacks, and some have volunteered to minister to them.

Education.—School has been carried on regularly at most places, and the attendances have been good. The distant institutions are frequently hampered by inability to keep continuous staffs, owing to lack of suitable teachers offering.

Some schools report a growing interest on the part of wandering blacks, whose children often want to come in to school before they are old enough.

A secondary school has been started at Moa Island Mission for teaching of business and domestic subjects.

Industrial and Agriculture.—The following is a brief account of operations towards self-maintenance on the various stations:—

Yarrabah.—Loss of two capable and experienced officers placed the station at a disability, but important improvements were made to the sawmill machinery, also its train lines, tanks, bridges, &c. Several of the men are good mechanics and ironworkers.

Two new houses were built and several others commenced in the village. The hospital was reroofed and the store floored with cement.

A 20-foot launch and four dinghies were built by the men, who showed good skill.

A large area was under maize, but the crop failed. Wild pigs also caused heavy damage.

About 1½ tons of produce was sent in from private gardens and over 2 tons from the Mission farm.

The cattle number 200 and the goat herd 100. There are heavy mortalities from a poisonous fungus in the wet season.

The milk supply was ample and all butter required was made.

Monamona.—Sixty acres of land is under cultivation and yielded 60 tons of potatoes, 3,000 bunches of fine bananas, and an abundance of pineapples.

The kitchen gardens produced all vegetable requirements for the station.

The produce raised was valued at £550.

A large dining-room was erected and two native houses built for newly married couples. Repairs to buildings, fences, &c., were also effected.

Cape Bedford.—The community farm raised 40 tons of sweet potatoes and 1 ton of maize. A few hundred seed coconuts have been planted on the river bank at McIvor River. About 1½ tons of copra was sold, but, as the price is low, the nuts will be kept for food in future.

The fishing vessels only earned £60 for fish, but augmented the food supplies by catching a large number of dugong, from which 180 gallons of dugong oil were sent to market.

The boats' crews worked at farming and land-clearing when the weather was not favourable for fishing.

Lockhart River.—The villagers worked their private gardens keenly, and 11 acres are now under cultivation and 4 more cleared in readiness.

Small plots of cotton have in the past been successfully grown, but this year's larger venture failed through dry weather and lack of proper cultivation. A cotton gin has been installed and a storing shed built. Ploughs have been obtained and a large area is to be tried.

Many of the young men have been working on fishing fleets. The "company" boat did fairly well, but was laid up for four months undergoing repairs.

St. Paul's, Moa Island.—Work on the building of a new church of concrete made fair progress, although many of the men signed on for work in the fishing fleets. The Moa Fishing Company has disbanded and wound-up the venture.

A number of new houses are under construction in the village.

A weir has been built in the creek, conserving a large body of water for garden irrigation.

The grounds are looking very attractive, with the shrubs and flowers planted.

Mapoon.—Some of the people are engaged in bêche-de-mer and turtle fishing, also timber-getting, but, as the earnings were poor, many preferred to engage on the fishing fleets.

Pumpkins, sweet potatoes, pineapples, &c., were grown for home consumption, and wild yams in the forest, and fish and oysters in the river, were plentiful.

The women earned £60 by doing fancy work.

Improvements have been effected to several buildings. New cottages have been built and a new retail store was nearly completed. A fine

mission kitchen, with good cooking range, has been added to the dormitory.

The herd of cattle number 400, and have furnished regular supplies of milk and beef to the institution.

Weipa.—The people have worked their family gardens, growing sweet potatoes, papaws, pumpkins, &c., but many prefer hunting. There was a plentiful supply of native game and bush foods.

Aurukun.—Good crops of peanuts, cow peas, and sweet potatoes were grown. About 10 acres were under cultivation. Forty seed coconuts were planted and 100 more placed in nursery for next year.

The workshop and machinery shed has been enlarged and the men are acquiring creditable skill in the use of tools, squaring the timber to floor their native huts and build additions, such as verandas and kitchens.

Five hundred yards of new fencing was built to renew a part of the boundary fence destroyed by the ravages of white ants.

Mitchell River.—About 50 acres of gardens was worked by the natives in family plots, and yielded abundant crops of vegetables and fruits. A trial patch of cotton proved disappointing.

Dingo scalping, shark fishing, and work on stations enabled many to earn money for clothing and other necessaries.

A two-roomed fibrolite cottage was built at the Belburra Children's Settlement and the married officers' quarters at Kowanyama was renovated and enlarged. Additions were made to the store and children's shelter shed.

Materials are now on the ground for a new school.

The cattle herd now numbers 3,000.

Mornington Island.—Many of the buildings have had their stumps replaced by concrete piles, thus overcoming the white ant pest. A new boys' dormitory and two native cottages have been erected from timber cut by the mission sawmill plant, although millable trees are scarce.

The vessel "Albinia" has been overhauled ready for the fishing season and the "Morning Star" fitted with new rigging.

The live stock are in good condition, numbering 160 head of cattle, 13 horses, and 12 pigs.

The fishing vessels only earned £135, the season being a poor one. The garden yielded 17½ tons of vegetables and fruit.

Cowal Creek.—The population of this village now numbers about 200, being all members of the old Seven Rivers and Red Island tribes, who have voluntarily adopted the settled life.

The settlement is governed by its own councillors and secular and religious instruction is given by a native deacon of the Torres Straits Anglican Mission.

Good progress has been made in the education of the children and the improvement of the living conditions of the people, their village being laid out in neat orderly streets and made attractive with coconut palms.

The families have maintained themselves with their fishing vessel, their gardens, and hunting.

Purga.—The mission industries are farming, dairying, pig-raising, and poultry breeding. About 53 acres are under cultivation with vegetables, maize, potatoes, &c., primarily for home consumption, but surplus produce is sent to market.

The male inmates found steady employment at fencing work, pear-clearing and farm labour.

NATIVE PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

Gayndah (Teacher, C. Turner), Roll 13 (5 boys, 8 girls).

Myora (Superintendent, R. Morrison), Roll 11 (7 boys, 4 girls).

Thursday Island (Teacher, H. G. Simpson), Roll 50 (24 boys, 26 girls).

Satisfactory progress has been made and the children have attended school as regularly as their parents' circumstances made possible.

Credit is due to many of the parents who, though often hampered by lack of settled employment, sent their children to school neatly dressed and clean, and tried to keep the home conditions up to the standard expected.

RECREATIONS.

Most civilised sports, such as football, cricket, tennis, hockey, foot-racing, jumping, &c., were popular, especially amongst the younger people. The old people, of course, enjoyed their native dances.

Favourite holiday amusements were fishing, hunting, picnicking, and camping-out excursions, when parties of the young people went out in charge of some responsible officials.

Most institutions had their annual sports day, when the events were always well contested.

The Christmas and New Year season was in all places celebrated by suitable festivities, when the ever-popular "Father Christmas" distributed numerous gifts, provided by kindly friends from the cities.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.

All missions report encouraging evidences of desire for better living conditions, and claim that much of the warlike spirit has died out,

and when once the people have adapted themselves to the settled village life, public opinion has invariably strengthened in favour of law and order.

More of the bush people have voluntarily entered the institutions and expressed a desire to settle. The villagers have welcomed these new recruits and readily assisted them to build dwellings.

One tribe from McDonnell River, in the Peninsula, has migrated to Cowal Creek and started a village on lines similar to the voluntary settlement at that place.

In many places, active interest is being taken in the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements, as well as other Church social activities, and greatly improved moral tone and domestic life has been the result.

GENERAL.

The expenditure on relief administration amounted to £61,344 and the collections throughout the State of aboriginal earnings, wages, store sales, sales of produce of fishing vessels, settlements, &c., amounted to £167,155. This does not include the value of produce sold by missions or of fodder and food crops raised and used for home consumption.

It is desired, in conclusion, to express grateful appreciation of the loyal and zealous services of all officers of the department throughout the State, especially the Protector at Thursday Island, the Superintendents of Government Settlements and Mission Stations, the Medical Officers, Hospital Staffs, Ambulance men, and all others who, in their kindness, have assisted to relieve the distress of the people under this department's care.

The staff of the Head Office have also at all times given willing help and co-operation.

The sympathetic assistance of the Home Department and other Government departments has also been warmly appreciated.

It has been pleasing to receive expressions of gratitude from the officers of various aboriginal institutions for the assistance received by them from this department and its local officers.

Report upon the Operations of certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department - Aboriginal Department, Information contained in Report for the year ended 31st December 1929

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

RS 25.4/3

www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/qld_prot_list.html
vn1594192-12x_a.pdf