

1933.
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QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

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

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: DAVID WHYTE, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

33—1933

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

Home Secretary's Department,
Brisbane, 19th October, 1933.

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. J. H. Blackburn; Superintendent, Miss M. Scully).
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS, WILLOWBURN (Superintendent, Miss E. M. Thomas).
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, W. J. Gall, C.M.G.).
QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Manager, T. L. Muller).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner; Superintendent, Miss F. Chatfield, O.B.E.).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).

Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1932.

POPULATION.

By the aboriginal census on 30th June, 1932, there is a decrease of 282 in the number of full-bloods and an increase of 16 in the number of half-castes enumerated as compared with the figures for June, 1931.

As the departmental returns show that 384 births, as against 393 deaths, were recorded, indicating a decrease in population of only 9 persons, it is evident that the enumeration of nomadic groups has been incomplete, probably because of migration across the borders of neighbouring States.

Steps have been taken, in collaboration with the Registrar-General, to have the instructions to enumerators amended, to ensure closer check on the movements of nomadic groups, as between neighbouring districts and also other States, and to trace any important and unexplained differences in the returns, as compared with those of last census, with a view to greater accuracy.

Total aboriginal population—17,440. Males, 9,722; females, 7,718.

FULL-BLOOD, 13,372.

—	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	1,551	1,283
Regular employment	2,262	629
Supervised camps	2,871	2,941
Not stated	915	920
Totals	7,599	5,773
Persons	13,372	

HALF-CASTES, 4,068.

—	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	107	74
Regular employment	543	266
Supervised camps	818	830
Not stated	655	775
Totals	2,123	1,945
Persons	4,068	

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

There was a serious decrease in the demand for native labour, particularly throughout the far-Western, Central, and Southern districts, owing to the drought and consequent depression in the cattle industry. The prevailing unemployment amongst whites to some degree affected the situation also, owing to the amount of such labour available, often at rates lower than paid to the native, for the work requiring no skill in riding or bushmanship.

In most of the Gulf districts and in some places in the south-west the demand was fairly strong, and full-blood stockmen had little difficulty in obtaining regular employment. The half-caste, however, was not so much in favour as he is not counted so trustworthy.

Married men with families were also at a disadvantage, owing to the cost of feeding dependents.

Some employers complained of the wages being too high, but, generally, the reports show that the regulations have been well observed and no serious complaints received of the behaviour of natives in employment.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

There was a gratifying improvement in the demand for native labour for the pearl-shell, beche-de-mer, and trochus shell fishing. At Thursday Island all such labour offering was absorbed on the boats engaged in these marine industries, and there was ample employment available for all able-bodied men. Twenty-one men were engaged from Palm Island Settlement, as compared with three in the year before, but the engagement was only for a short period.

At Cooktown twenty-three men were recruited, an increase of eight for the year.

The regulations were generally well observed by the masters and crews, although, in the early months, some trouble was caused by certain Japanese indents bribing natives to recruit, but this was quickly suppressed, the Pearl-ers' Associations as well as the representative Japanese masters assisting by expressing their own strong disapproval.

The engagement of seamen through the Shipping Office, Thursday Island, totalled 366 (Mainlanders 134, Islanders 232), an increase of 70 on the figures of the previous year.

The total wages earned by these fishing crews was—Thursday Island £3,637, Cooktown £401.

Torres Strait natives to the number of 390 worked their own company vessels, the catches, when sold, returning £18,926. Pearls valued at £170 were also sold for them.

The total earnings of the fishermen of this district, either with their own vessels or as hired crews, were £22,733.

Palm Island natives, working their privately owned cutters in trochus shell fishing, earned £193 10s.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Claims for compensation, under the Workers' Compensation Act, were filed in 25 cases for accidents in employment, and a total amount of £316 was awarded.

These benefits were administered in each case for the injured persons by the Protectors of their districts.

The State Government Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department officers, with their usual courtesy, conferred with this Department, when necessary, in dealing with the cases submitted, with the object of arriving at an equitable settlement and to enable the Protectors to supervise the disbursement of the benefits.

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.		Accounts Transferred Other Districts and Settlements.		Interest Earned.		Actual With-drawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cherbourg	573	2,949	12 1	528	9 4	130	14 9	2,700	19 11	984	16 6
Palm Island	757	3,288	15 8	4,009	17 2	620	3 0	5,928	7 9	7,577	14 0
Woorabinda	263	2,122	3 1	1,273	5 11	98	17 1	2,796	15 7	2,045	5 9
Brisbane	111	1,964	14 7	307	10 9	238	16 1	2,521	0 1	8,175	10 2
Various Protectors ..	2,851	53,946	0 0	40,647	0 0	8,309	0 0	54,306	0 0	239,813	0 0
Totals .. ..	..	64,271	5 5	46,766	3 2	9,397	10 11	68,253	3 4	258,596	6 5

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

This year shows a further decrease of £4,506 in the amount of wages deposited, as compared with 1931, due to the decrease in demand for labour explained in an earlier paragraph.

The Settlement inmates suffered a reduction of £677 in their earnings, and the loss to the district blacks amounted to £3,828—the whole representing a decrease of 6.5 per cent. in their earnings for the period.

Notwithstanding this loss in income, the withdrawals for expenditure on relief and maintenance to supplement the natives' earnings were with commendable thrift kept within the income but left practically no saving.

It must be pointed out that the native with funds now pays, as far as he can reasonably

afford, his own expenses for the maintenance, clothing, dentistry, hospital treatment, and travelling of himself and his dependents.

The actual total of native savings in trust is £270,596, as £12,000 (Cherbourg Account £3,000, Palm Island Account £8,000, and Woorabinda Account £1,000) is invested in Commonwealth Conversion Loan at 4 per cent., thus earning for the native owners in the Settlements £480 in additional interest.

The migration of natives from one district to another necessitated the transfer of accounts totalling £40,414 for their more convenient use.

Inoperative accounts, of a value of £6,351, were transferred to the Aboriginals Protection Property Account to be held in trust until the missing owners or the next of kin are traced.

The following statement shows the operations of this account, the unclaimed moneys being, by regulations, used as occasion requires, for the benefit of aboriginals generally:—

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance as at 31st December, 1931 ..	7,673 1 0	Refunds—	
Collections—		Deceased Estates to Relatives ..	1,158 2 9
Estates of Deceased Natives	3,948 9 7	Credit Balances Aboriginals Located on Settlements, &c.	1,475 12 1
Unclaimed Bank Balances	4,173 12 8	Loans—	
Accumulated Interest	847 10 7	Advance Account	48 10 0
Loans—Repayments—		Grant—	
Advance Account	40 0 0	Yarrabah Mission	500 0 0
Cape Bedford	150 0 0	Hammond Island Mission	75 0 0
Mapoon	50 0 0	Expenses—	
Aboriginals—Miscellaneous	49 7 5	Burials of Indigent Natives	91 9 3
Telephone Line, Woorabinda	75 14 7	Scientific and Economic Research Marine Produce	311 5 0
		Medical Survey	105 18 8
		Contributions—	
		Reserves and Homes, Christmas Goods	22 12 3
		Accountant, Home Department, to Supplement Various Votes	6,472 19 4
		Miscellaneous	40 0 7
		Material, Buildings, Wages Native Carpenters	178 6 5
		Balance as at 31st December, 1932	6,527 19 6
	£17,007 15 10		£17,007 15 10

In addition there is £14,000 invested in Inscribed Stock.

The Aboriginals' Provident Fund, established in 1919, by Regulation, for the benefit of the tribal and family dependents of able-bodied natives in employment, has again had to meet a portion of the cost of relief of the indigent, supplementing the reduced Votes by £7,977, thus saving the natives from undue hardship or deprivation.

The contribution by natives in employment to this fund amounted to £997, and the account earned in interest £672.

The Aboriginal Industries Trading Station in Torres Strait, which was financed by a loan of £12,000 from the Fund in 1930 and of which the Torres Strait Natives Account took over £4,000 in 1931, made a further redemption payment of £550, leaving the amount still owing at £6,450. The business paid a sum of £408 to the fund in interest at 5 per cent.

A further amount of £2,060 is also invested in Inscribed Stock, £20 in Bonds, and £6,450 on loan to the Aboriginal Industries.

ABORIGINAL PROVIDENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 31st December, 1931	8,493 1 6	Account, Home Department, to Subsidise Vote	7,977 8 6
Contributions for 1932	997 11 11	Balance, 31st December	2,736 2 8
Interests—			
Inscribed Stock	82 8 5		
Bank Credit	182 2 8		
Loan, Aboriginal Industries	408 6 8		
	672 17 9		
Refunds—			
Lighterage, Q.G.K. "Melbidir"	50 0 0		
Repayment Loan, Aboriginal Industries	500 0 0		
	550 0 0		
	£10,713 11 2		£10,713 11 2

ABORIGINAL PATROL VESSEL.

The auxiliary vessel "Melbidir" has covered 7,511 miles on sea patrol, necessitating an absence of 224 days at sea on this work. This included a special trip to Dutch New Guinea on police work and the conveyance of a prisoner and towing of a launch from there to Cairns.

The usual duties of conveyance of teachers to and from their Stations, lightering of stores to Aboriginal Industries Station at Badu, and to the newly opened branch stores on the islands as well as general stores to the various Island Schools, were also performed.

The Deputy Chief Protector spent 29 days on patrol, covering 1,080 miles, and the local Protector, similarly, was on board 55 days, travelling a distance of 1,947 miles.

During these patrols 141 inspection visits were made to the various Island villages.

The vessel was also for six weeks on the slip, undergoing overhaul, and is now in good order. The total expenditure in repairs and upkeep of the vessel, not including wages and salaries, was £855.

During the patrols and when in harbour the master was able to render valuable assistance in the examination of vessels of the native fishing fleet and their running gear and in the supervision of necessary overhauls and repairs.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

Bonds were entered into for the return of six (6) aboriginal employees, temporarily removed from their own districts. There were no complaints of failure on the part of the employers to fulfil the agreement, and it was not found necessary to estreat any of these undertakings.

RELIEF.

Food relief was issued, at regular periods, from 26 centres to the amount of £1,698. Casual relief was also granted, as required, to stranded, travelling, or indigent natives to the amount of £309.

The distribution of these rations was supervised by the local Protectors with the assistance of Police officers.

The depression in the pastoral industry necessitated the transfer of a number of native families, left unemployed, to the Settlements, but many were able to maintain themselves over the difficult time from their savings.

The relief rations are granted in quantity and variety necessary to supplement the recipients' own efforts in casual work, hunting, or fishing.

In the Northern Coastal and Peninsula districts native foods and game were plentiful and relief was therefore seldom needed.

BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued was 3,078. The usual supplies of clothing, material, hunting, and fishing gear were substituted where more suitable because of climate or the circumstances of the recipients.

The purchase and despatch of the goods, on the requisitions of this Department, for the various distributing centres were satisfactorily carried out by the State Stores Board.

The cost of the blankets was £1,460, of goods in lieu £411, and freight and other charges £184.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1930.		1931.		1932.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	10	£ 292	8	£ 195	2	£ 40
Supplying of opium ..	4	138	10	270	9	250
Supplying of liquor ..	4	60	3	60	2	45
Harbouring ..	..	..	1	10	..	..
Assault ..	1	4	..	..	..	..

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Drunkenness	62	26	31
Stealing	23	9	6
Creating disturbance	4	3	..
Obscene language	5	..	..
Assault	5	3	4
Resisting arrest .. .. .	..	1	..
Entering .. .. .	..	..	1
Absconding	3	2	9
Manslaughter .. .. .	..	..	1
Murder	3	..	..

REMOVALS.

The following return shows the number of natives who, for their own benefit or in the interests of good order and discipline, were removed to reserves by the order of the Minister. Of these, twenty-six (26) were sent to Palm Island or Fantome Island hospitals for treatment, 62 were removed for disciplinary reasons, and 17 because of their destitute condition.

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Palm Island ..	37	20	9	66
Fantome Island ..	3	4	1	8
Cherbourg ..	5	4	..	9
Woorabinda ..	1	3	5	9
<i>Missions—</i>				
Monamona ..	..	1	7	8
Yarrabah ..	1	..	..	1
Mapoon ..	1	..	..	1
<i>Islands—Torres Strait—</i>				
Mabuag Island ..	..	2	..	2
Badu Island ..	1	..	..	1
Totals ..	49	34	22	105

HEALTH.

The reports from the far Western, the Central and Southern districts below Townsville are all very satisfactory, indicating that, except for the usual minor ailments, such as sores, colds, boils, and accidents, there has been little serious sickness in those localities.

Very few serious epidemics occurred. Some cases of influenza appeared at Croydon, Georgetown, Chillagoe, Malanda, Charters Towers, Maryborough, and at the Settlements at Yarrabah and Palm Island. There were three deaths from this cause at Charters Towers and cases of pneumonia at Croydon, Mount Molloy, and Surat that could probably be regarded as attributable to this complaint.

An outbreak of influenza during the winter months seriously affected the crews of the Island fishing vessels, several having to return home owing to the need for treatment. Fully 80 per cent of the men suffered, but mostly were able to resume work after a few days.

Malaria broke out in an acute form at Weipa Mission, 94 patients being treated. A large number of cases of a benign type were treated at Lockhart River Mission. In the Torres Strait Island the villagers, usually subject to this complaint, were singularly free except for a few scattered cases.

Venereal disease has been in evidence at Aurukun Mission from where eight stubborn cases of granuloma were sent periodically to Thursday Island Hospital for injections. At the latter institution four cases of granuloma and four cases of yaws received treatment. Four cases of yaws also were given attention at Mornington Island.

Ten cases of venereal from various places in the Peninsula were segregated and treated in the Compound at Cooktown, and several, proving chronic, were transferred to the Lock Hospital at Fantome Island.

The number of such cases receiving treatment at other country centres was Normanton 20, Burketown 5, Hughenden 4, Rockhampton 1, and Nocundra 1.

Slight epidemics of coastal fever and colds occurred at Mornington Island, Aurukun, Coen, and Yarrabah, and cases of whooping cough and diphtheria at Herberton. Five patients at Herberton, two at Weipa, and one at Proserpine were laid up with pneumonia.

Cases of phthisis were treated at Cape Bedford 3, Yarrabah 5, Hughenden 4, Normanton 2, and Gordonvale 2, the last being removed to Woorabinda Settlement in the dry climate of the Central district.

Three cases of leprosy were found in the Central district and removed to the Lazaret.

A further extensive survey of health conditions amongst aboriginals was conducted, under the arrangement entered into two years ago with the Hookworm Control Campaign Committee.

Palm Island	Resident Medical Officer	452 inpatients, 14,185 outpatients
Woorabinda	Visiting Medical Officer	66 inpatients, 1,113 outpatients
Cherbourg	Visiting Medical Officer	236 inpatients, 120 outpatients per day
Aurukun	No Medical Officer	16 daily average
Weipa	No Medical Officer	151
Mapoon	No Medical Officer	12 daily average
Mornington Island	Occasional visits Aerial Doctor ..	No record
Mitchell River	No Medical Officer	No record
Moa Island (St. Paul's) ..	No Medical Officer	2 cases to hospital
Lockhart River	No Medical Officer	901 (also 51 teeth extractions)
Yarrabah	No Medical Officer	110 inpatients, 5,000 outpatients (approx.)
Cape Bedford	No Medical Officer	6 inpatients
Monamona	No Medical Officer	122 inpatients
Purga .. ..	.. ..	2 hospital, 13 minor cases
Myora .. ..	.. ..	Treated at Dunwich Hospital

In Torres Strait Seamen's Hospital, Thursday Island, aboriginals as follows were treated:—Inpatients, 150; outpatients, 286.

The following country district hospitals also treated sick natives:—

Beaudesert .. 23	Hughenden .. 28
Burketown .. 30	Malanda .. 14
Cairns .. 80	Mitchell .. 15
Cloncurry .. 12	Normanton .. 49
Coen .. 33	Silkwood .. 71
Cooktown .. 12	Thursday Island .. 436
Cunnamulla .. 12	Other Stations .. 130
Georgetown .. 23	
Herberton .. 17	Total .. 985

The total number of deaths reported was 393, of which 106 occurred on the Settlements, 20 in Torres Strait Islands, 36 on the Missions, and 231 in country districts.

Births totalling 384, of which the Settlements claimed 93, Torres Strait Islands 17, the Missions 61, and in country districts 213.

The chairman, Dr. R. W. Cilento, who is Director of the Division of Tropical Hygiene for Queensland, personally undertook the inspection of the Coastal camps between Townsville and Cairns and those on the Atherton Tableland.

A number of cases of venereal and leprosy contacts for observation were immediately sent to Fantome Island Lock Hospital and others, requiring constant medical treatment, to the Palm Island Settlement. Instructions were also furnished for local treatment of a number of minor complaints and correction of sanitation conditions.

The Palm Island Settlement and Fatome Island Lock Hospital were also visited, and the question of using those institutions as clearing stations for cases of disease found in the mainland camps discussed with the Resident Medical Officer.

In a very helpful and informative report, furnished after the close of the year, Dr. Cilento stressed the necessity for correction of the dietary scale, in mainland camps, which was frequently lacking in nutritive properties, and also of legislative control of the crossbreed and alien coloured elements, not subject to the Aboriginal Protection Acts, but living in close association with aboriginals and acting as agents in the spreading of disease and vice.

The doctor praised the work being done in the protective institutions for the improvement of health and living conditions amongst the inmates.

The number of natives receiving hospital treatment at the Settlements and Missions was as follows:—

FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent, Dr. Elliott Murray.
Charge Attendant, F. H. Julian.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

	In Hospital, 31-12-31.	Admitted.	Born.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Absconded.	Remaining in Hospital 31-12-32.
Men ..	35	72	..	107	9	14	2	82
Women ..	27	39	..	66	4	9	2	51
Children ..	11	17	4	32	4	5	..	23
Totals ..	73	128	4	205	17	28	4	156

The year has been an extremely difficult one, as the figures shown above partly indicate. But,

although the work of the institution is much heavier, and is likely to be heavier still, we are now much better equipped than at the beginning of the year.

The usual natives under removal order from outside have been admitted, but the abnormal increase in numbers has been due to natives admitted from Palm Island. It should be noted, however, that many of those admitted from Palm Island were natives recently admitted from outside. In practically every instance the adults were either suffering from gonorrhœa or the double infection—mostly the latter. Many cases have serious secondary complications. A regrettable feature was the admission of very young female children.

By comparison, discharges appear small in number, but it is too soon to arrive at definite results, in most cases, but it would seem that many patients will be classified as chronic and will be a permanent charge. These chronic cases present an economic problem, as it is at least necessary to give them sufficient treatment to keep them well, in addition to ordinary maintenance.

The deaths represent 13.65 per cent. of the total under treatment—a very high rate, but not surprising considering the condition of many of the cases on admission.

Treatment on progressive lines has been proceeded with. Included in treatment work, 705 intravenous and 1,750 intramuscular injections were given and numerous specimens for test taken. Some results have been gratifying, but, naturally, there was much wearisome non-progressive work and many disappointments. The care of infirm cases caused much work.

Two epidemics of influenza, one of a particularly severe type, was experienced. The extremes in both winter and summer weather find the weak spots in the natives.

Following the building programme laid down in the previous year, the following works have been completed during the year:—

- Staff residence,
- Two sanitary blocks,
- Two small and one large barrack buildings for native accommodation,
- Conversion of old staff residence to Administrative Block, comprising dispensary, operating room, waiting room, office, and store room,
- Kitchen,
- Additional women's pavilion—nearing completion,
- Practically the whole institution has been painted externally and interior painted where necessary,
- Other works are partly in hand, including conversion of verandah of administrative building into a special ward.

The institution has progressed sufficiently to warrant the employment of a native handy-man. With such a man, equipped with a reasonable kit of tools, many minor maintenance details could be done at a minimum of expense.

The Administrative Block, as a Clinic, is well equipped and provides the opportunity of doing work under very good conditions. The new kitchen is a great advance on the domestic side. An oven for baking bread is under consideration.

Rainfall for the year measured 47.73 inches, most of which fell during the early part of the year in several bad storms, one of which, in January, reached cyclonic proportions and caused some anxiety. From May to December practically no rain fell and water supplies ran very low. The matter is under consideration and improved conditions, as far as additional sources of supply, are confidently expected.

Despite weather conditions and by using labour available to the best advantage, fair quantities of fruit and vegetables were grown. A large area at the back of the Island is cleared and well on the way to being fenced, which, it is hoped, will yield even better results.

The inmates follow spearing fish and line fishing as a recreation and method of providing additions to the larder. In suitable weather a net is used off the beach. There is little wild animal life on the island and stocking in this respect should be considered. The small herd of cattle has increased; a few head were transferred to Palm Island. The stock had a bad time during the dry spell, but are recovering.

The little motor boat has been useful when the weather permitted, but a larger and more reliable boat is a real necessity.

The natives generally have been well behaved and happy. Everything possible was done to provide recreation and amusement. There is a proportion of malcontents and evil doers, and attendant trouble, but such folk are not permitted to upset the reasonable discipline of the institution too much.

White assistance has been met by the appointment of a nurse. It is fitting that appreciation and thanks should be recorded for the manner in which Mrs. Julian, the charge attendants' wife, gave assistance during the heavy time before the appointment of an assistant was possible.

Appreciation is expressed of assistance received in mitigating the lot of the unfortunate people in the institution in providing comforts and amusements, and also of the kindness of the Superintendent and officials of the main Settlement at Palm Island.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The total number of engagements of females in domestic services was 609, of which 369 were hired through country Protectors, 151 from the Settlements, and 88 from the Head Office, Brisbane.

There was, as usual, little difficulty in finding employment for capable single girls or women, although, owing to depression in the rural industries, the wages offering were not so high as in the more prosperous years. However, the regulation rates were well maintained and generally there was a gratifying absence of serious trouble in enforcing the employment conditions.

Women with children were naturally not so much in demand, but many were able to secure positions at a compensatingly lower rate and some were transferred to the Settlements.

The following women and children were removed to institutions, to ensure their being properly cared for and the children receive schooling:—

—	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>			
Palm Island ..	20	9	29
Fantome Island	4	1	5
Cherbourg	4	..	4
Woorabinda	3	5	8
Mabuag Island, Torres Strait	2	..	2
<i>Missions—</i>			
Monamona	1	7	8
Totals	34	22	56

Fifty-nine claims for the maternity allowance were granted to half-caste women, of which 27 were paid through country Protectors, 30 through the Superintendents of Settlements, and 2 through the Brisbane Office. In practically all cases the allowance was administered by the departmental officials to ensure its proper disbursement, as intended.

Permits were granted for the legal marriage of 49 women, of whom 21 were full-blood and 28 half-castes. Forty-four of these women were married to men of their own race, four superior type of half-castes to Europeans, and one to a half-caste native of India.

Brisbane District.—The number of women and girls placed in employment from the Head Office was 88, of whom 29 were engaged in carefully selected domestic situations in the city or suburbs and 59 in the country.

The wages earned by them was approximately £3,650, of which £2,423 was paid in terms of the agreement to the Department and banked to their credit. The remainder was drawn direct by the employees, as pocket money, and expended mainly on amusement. Several of the more intelligent have small gramophones and quite a number possess cheap cameras. Others again do very fine fancy needlework. These hobbies are given every reasonable encouragement, as the girls are kept more contented and have less desire to roam the streets.

From their bank accounts £2,521 was withdrawn, chiefly in payment for outfits of clothing, dentistry, holiday spending, &c. The amount still to their credit is £7,473, averaging £85 per person.

Inspections were made of the situations of the women and girls in the city and suburbs as often as was practicable and conditions were, in most cases, found to be satisfactory. It has not been possible to extend these inspections to country employees, owing to the widely scattered area to be covered, but the services of the district Protectors and Police were gratefully availed of, as required, to report as to conditions and character of employers and to investigate any troubles arising.

In addition to the above inspection work, the Female Protector arranged the selection of suitable situations, the terms and conditions of employment, the investigation of complaints, the

settlement of disputes between mistress and servant, and the supervision of the shopping and domestic affairs of the native women. The selection of clothing and drapery material for the Settlement Retail Stores, as an assistance to the State Stores, in supplying the articles most suitable to the peculiar needs of the inmates, involved the officers in a considerable amount of work.

The various homes, in which orphan wards of the Department are maintained, were also regularly inspected and sick natives sent to Brisbane for hospital treatment and women placed in maternity homes for confinement were visited and assisted. Others passing through on the way from or returning to the settlements or found stranded in the city were attended to, ensuring care, shelter, and sustenance.

The number of children in the homes is 64, as given hereunder:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	24
Yeronga and Chelmer (Girls)	11
Purga (Girls and Boys)	23
Blind and Deaf School	3
Indooroopilly (Boys)	3

The total cost of maintenance of the above children was £920.

HALF-CASTES.

As seen by the census returns on 30th June, 1932, the increase of 16 only in the half-caste population is gratifyingly small. Allowing for the number of deaths of half-castes recorded, approximately 200, this would only indicate an actual birth record of 216, or 1.6 per cent. of the total aboriginal population, even if such births were proved to be the result of miscegenation; but, as a good proportion of such children are the progeny of crossbred women honestly married to men of their own colour, the percentage of illegitimates is much lower. Nevertheless, the problem of the increase of the half-caste population is a matter that in all States has caused grave concern. It is difficult to see how this social blot can be erased as long as the white and black races are allowed in contact, no matter how stringent the laws may be made. Only complete segregation of the black races, which is financially impracticable at present, or, as even suggested by some, sterilisation of the females, an absolutely unacceptable solution, will prevent the results of intercourse.

The efforts of this Department have in the past been directed to the checking of this evil, by sternly preventing miscegenation, as far as the limited machinery made possible. The marriage of whites and aboriginals, unfortunately not discouraged in earlier years, has been absolutely prohibited, and every encouragement given to these women to marry amongst their own race.

Regulations have been framed to ensure strict control of females in employment, keen prosecution of maintenance cases, and removal to settlements of women found to be promiscuous. Additional legislative power to deal with normal abuses and check procuring, trading and prostitution by the aboriginals themselves, has been provided in proposed amendments of the Acts and should, when approved, assist still further.

The above policy has naturally resulted in the mating of the half-castes, removed to the reserves, with other half-castes or aboriginals and the birth of half-caste children, but it is claimed that this is a less evil than the promiscuous intercourse of these crossbreeds with the lower elements of the white population.

In past reports the important question of the future of the crossbreed element has frequently been considered, on which considerable variance of opinion exists. One view—that they should be separated from the aboriginal class and educated for absorption into the white races—appears to overlook certain serious difficulties.

In this State probably not more than 30 per cent. are of European extraction, the others being of Asiatic or Polynesian breed. This latter element, or the progeny by their further crossbreeding, already present a serious social evil, especially around certain Northern coastal towns, because of their freedom from protective control.

Of the European crossbreed element, experience has shown that the majority find the blood call too strong to allow them contentedly to separate themselves from their mother's people and aspire to a higher civilisation. Even the superior type and those with a preponderance of white blood, who are encouraged to uplift themselves, unfortunately, because of their social disabilities, are often forced to seek the companionship of the aboriginal or other coloured races.

Applications were made by 42 half-castes or other crossbreeds for exemption from the Aboriginal Protection Acts; but, after careful investigation of the claims as regards the character, education, intelligence and breed, certificates were only granted in 15 cases. Of these 8 were for complete freedom, the remaining 7 having conditions attached protecting the property of the candidate while on trial.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

As far as limited funds, facilities, and instructional staff have allowed, vocational training of a simple and practical nature has been given on some of the more advanced institutions—more with the object of fitting the pupils to be more useful members of their own communities than to compete against their white cousins in the busy civilised world outside, where they seem to be hopelessly handicapped by social and industrial disabilities.

At Cherbourg, a well-equipped manual training class-room is established on the ground floor of the school, where the Settlement carpenter and handyman gives weekly lessons in simple carpentry. The girls receive domestic training in the kitchen and workrooms of the Stopford Industrial Home for Girls. Some excellent samples of toys, joinery work, children's clothing, mending, needlework, and baking were seen.

Intelligent girls also receive training and serve as wardmaids in the hospitals, pupil teachers and monitors in the school, and as submatrons and cooks of the various dormitories.

A number of the young men have become skilled as carpenters and sawmill hands and, for over two years, have carried out all the building and sewerage work of this institution without the assistance of a white tradesman.

At Palm Island Settlement, the young men have received training in a well equipped workshop in carpentry, joinery, and plumbing, and the native staff, under the direction of the sawmill engineer, carry out all building work. The girls, similarly, are trained and employed in hospital nursing, both at Palm Island and Fantome, and as teaching assistants in the school, although lack of staff and equipment has not made it possible for the manual training classes to be established at present.

At Yarrabah Mission, a well equipped sawmill, workshop, and engineering and electric light plant has enabled useful training to be given in mechanical, building, and electrical trades. The Mission has its own certificated engine-drivers, sawyers, motor mechanics, and launch drivers, boatbuilders, plumbers, carpenters, electric light fitters, &c., all natives.

The Torres Strait Island Branch has for years followed a system of training young natives for the teaching service as monitors, teacher trainees, and assistant teachers under the white officers; and later, where shown capable, as native teachers in charge of small islands.

In the Torres Strait Anglican Mission, young men are similarly trained, through their Native Theological College, as deacons and priests for the Mission Churches.

The need of an intermediate college for secondary education, as a step to the teaching and theological courses, is apparent, but a scheme put forward some years ago for the establishment of such an institution on the Mission, which is centrally situated, could not be proceeded with owing to lack of funds.

A scheme for the training of young Island natives, on a gradually increasing scale, as motor engineers for pearl-fishing vessels, is now under consideration with a large engineering and boat building firm in the Straits.

At the Aboriginal Industries Trading Station, at Badu Island, young native lads are receiving training in boat building and now make practically all the dingheys required for the large native fishing fleet. While many of these apprentices to mechanical building, clerical and domestic occupations are chosen from the half-caste element, the full-bloods are given equal opportunities; but, generally, their leanings are towards the more active out-of-door work amongst stock or on fishing vessels.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection, and for discussion of administrative matters and planning of development work, were paid to each of the settlements at Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, and the Lock Hospital at Fantome Island, early in the year, by the Chief Protector, and reports furnished thereon.

During April and May a joint inspection of the above institutions and also the Missions at Yarrabah and Monamona was made by Messrs. G. D. Bradbury, Accountant, Home Department, and C. O'Leary, Deputy Chief Protector and Inspector, who were appointed Public Service Inspectors for the purpose, and a comprehensive report on the staffing, management, maintenance, and development activities, furnished to the Public Service Commissioner.

In September a Public Service Inspection by Messrs. Bradbury and Noyes was made of the Chief Protector's Office in Brisbane, and a report furnished to the Public Service Commissioner, as a result of which a long desired reorganisation of the staff arrangements, the financial management of the settlements, a greater measure of self dependence on the part of the aboriginal population in the matter of relief and development and closer control of the large funds, now in trust for natives, will be brought into operation.

In October and November the Deputy Chief Protector took charge, for the time, of the Somerset protectorate, which includes Torres Strait Islands and the Mission Stations on the Cape York Peninsula, during the absence of the local protector on leave.

While on this duty, a full inspection was made of the Torres Strait Island schools and villages, the aboriginal fishing fleet conditions, and the management of aboriginal industries, and the native trading station.

A number of local administrative matters were also inquired into and a comprehensive report furnished.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines, H. T. Green.

Health.—The health of the inmates of all reserves on the islands and also on the mainland was very satisfactory. There were no epidemics of a serious nature, and Poid and other islands, which have been subject to periodical severe malaria outbreaks, escaped with only scattered cases. An epidemic, in the form of severe colds and influenza during June, July, and August, was confined to the crews of boats working the marine industries, and was probably caused by the excessive coldness of the sea during these months.

The number of patients treated at Thursday Island Hospital is comparatively small, when compared with the population, although, whenever necessary, patients were brought there for treatment.

The Cottage Hospital at Darnley Island was used to some extent, but the erection of the Cottage Hospital at Saibai Island had to be temporarily abandoned until the appointment of a Government teacher. Numerous cases were successfully treated by the Government teachers; others, more serious, by the Medical Officer visiting the Islands.

Doctor Bevington, Quarantine Officer, and, until his departure from Thursday Island, Doctor Vernon, Government Medical Officer,

made frequent visits to the settlements, particularly those where malaria is prevalent. Their willingness to make these distant patrols and their kindly attention and helpful advice in connection with health matters was much appreciated by the Department and Government teachers. Thanks are also due to Doctor Nimmo and Matron Fisher, who have given valuable help.

Population.—The census taken on the 30th June, as given hereunder, discloses an increase of 38 over the 1931 census for Torres Strait Settlements, while Cowal Creek Settlement showed a decrease of 19, which is wholly accounted for by a number of the McDonnell tribe leaving the village, to return to their nomadic life in the McDonnell district.

The total population of the islands and Cowal Creek Settlement is 3,208, and it is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 mainland natives living the nomadic life or at the various mainland Mission Stations in the Peninsula. The number of births registered during the year exceeded the deaths by 67.

Census as at 30th June, 1932.

Boigu Island ..	138	Cocoanut Island ..	112
Dauan Island ..	100	Three Sisters Island ..	22
Thursday Island ..	375	Naghir Island ..	25
Murray Island ..	469	Mabuag Island ..	299
Darnley Island ..	354	Badu Island ..	447
Rennell Island ..	12	Poid, Moa Island ..	227
Nepean Island ..	15	Saibai Island ..	401
Stephens Island ..	58	Cowal Creek ..	218
Yorke Island ..	130	Yam Island ..	165
Dairymple Island ..	4	St. Paul's Mission ..	12

Island Schools.—Mr. H. Finter succeeded Mr. Western as the inspector for the Torres Strait Aboriginal Schools. All schools were inspected by him with the exception of Boigu Island, the Native Teacher in charge of this school being in hospital when the Western schools were examined.

All Island schools were fully staffed, with the exception of Saibai Island, where the Native Assistant Teacher carried out the school duties from the departure of Mr. Daniels, the European teacher, until the arrival of his successor, Mr. Bryant, on the 6th December.

Owing to increased enrolments, the Darnley Island school required enlargement, and the building of an additional room was commenced by native labour. New schools are also in process of erection at Boigu and Dauan Islands. All other school buildings are in a good state of repair. At the closing down for the Christmas vacation the number of pupils on the rolls, including the Thursday Island school, was 993.

Island Improvements.—Village improvements were carried out on all settlements, and, at some islands, noticeably Cocoanut Island, very little remains to be done to improve the village.

At Murray Island the Court House was completed and extensive repairs were carried out at Bruce's Bridge. The road was further extended and graded across the island. A number of good type houses built from native material were erected. It is expected that during the coming year the hall and hospital will be completed.

Darnley Island completed its gaol and commenced an extension to the school. A new bridge was built over Medigee Creek and an area of about 1,000 square yards reclaimed by filling in at the mouth of this creek. The teacher is to be congratulated on having converted what was previously a malarial swamp into a serviceable village building site.

With the advice of the medical officer, further work in installing a drainage system in Magore village is being undertaken, to destroy the malaria mosquito breeding grounds existent there. This work will also provide a water main with a continuous supply of spring water to the heart of this village.

A carpenter's workshop and class room was erected at Yorke Island, and a new road pegged out. The lime-cement border of the main road was extended a further 200 yards.

The school was completed at Yam Island and the teacher's house repaired.

Housebuilding has been energetically carried on at Badu and many large new cottages of European material have been erected.

It is to be regretted that European building material, including galvanised iron for walls, is gaining in popularity amongst the natives, probably owing to its more durable qualities. The officials have, so far as possible, tried to discourage the practice, fearing that they may not be so healthy as the cooler palm leaves and grass houses.

The improved class of native houses now built at Badu, Boigu, Murray, and Darnley Islands, combined with the improved sanitary services on nearly all islands, should have beneficial results in health conditions.

Further scrub was cut at Poid in the vicinity of the village and bush building timber was prepared for house building. The concrete tank at Mabuig Island was refaced by a Thursday Island tradesman, and is now holding water. Several wells were sunk, but did not improve the water supply.

Quarters for the native teachers were built at Boigu Island and the new school commenced. At the other settlements only maintenance work was carried out. The water supply at Boidu and Saibai Islands caused some concern. For the first time in thirty years the wells became dry and it was necessary to convey water. This also occurred at Mabuig Island when the concrete tank leaked dry.

Company Boats.—Marine produce, won by natives on their own account and sold in the Department's salesroom, brought £18,926, an increase of £642 over 1931 sales. In addition to the above, pearls, won since 1929, were sold and realised £176 13s. Nearly 5 tons of trochus shell was also sold on account of the Palm Island natives, bringing £305.

The company boats' fleet was reduced by the withdrawal of the "Damu," "Sissy," and "Yessie" from work, these boats having become unseaworthy. The failure of the Murray Island crews to work their vessels, and the inefficiency of the captains and crews of the "Saibai," "Dauan," and "Poid" boats, contributed towards the reduced returns of trochus shell. Moshy Brothers' boats and the "Yama" and

"Poruma," which usually work trochus shell, concentrated on pearl-shell throughout the year. The cold weather experienced from May to August also seriously affected the working of the company boats, for, at times, whole boats' crews were laid up with colds and influenza. During one clear water three Badu cutters, working pearl-shell, were compelled to return home because of 80 per cent. of their crews suffering with colds. The "Arline" ran into Thursday Island from work for medical attention, as all her crew were suffering from colds and influenza. Fortunately, the illness was not serious and those affected were only ill for a few days. The "Wakaid," "Binibin," "Saibai," "Roma," "Caroline," "Saruai," "Mabuig," "Yama," "Tagai," "Dauan," "Miriam," "Wakemab," and "Karabai," were slipped, mostly for minor repairs, but conforming to the policy of keeping these vessels under regular overhaul to ensure seaworthiness. The amount thus expended was £474 8s. 3d. All company boats were beached, either at Thursday Island or their home island, and inspected by Captain Mortensen of the "Melbidir" or the Protector. Several boats were fitted with new sails. The condition of the fleet is now good, and, excepting for accidents and a few of the older cutters, there should not be any heavy repair expenses for the next two or three years.

In marketing the produce, all commodities were sold at the Aboriginal Industries' saleroom to the highest tenderer. All produce offered for sale was disposed of and satisfactory prices were realised, with the exception of beche-de-mer.

At the beginning of the year trochus was selling at £48 to £56 per ton, and it remained so until March. A sharp rise then brought the price to £67 10s. and, for good parcels of shell, this was the lowest price obtained for the remainder of the year. In April, November, and December £80 per ton and over was received, and in December the maximum price of £85. The lowest return was £45 per ton for a very low grade of shell won from Cook Shoal, to the nor'-west of Thursday Island. The average price received for trochus throughout the year was £73 per ton.

The pearl-shell market, at the end of 1931, was firm at £148 per ton for f.a.q. parcels. The first sales, held in March, realised £158 per ton. April sales improved to £165, but an inferior parcel of grubby shell, from Boigu Island, only brought £133 18s. 1d. per ton on the same date. From May to August the price ranged from £172 to £180 per ton. During September there was a sharp decline to £145 18s. 11d. and then the price gradually fell until, in late December, £104 10s. was received for a parcel of below average quality. Similar shell, free of double E grade, realised £115 17s. 6d. per ton when the balance of 1932 production was sold early in January, 1933.

There was practically no demand for beche-de-mer and very little was produced by the company boats. At the close of the previous year the local fish market had completely collapsed, and the prices offered were below the cost of production. In the latter part of the year under review, the prices had recovered to moderate, but the market was too insecure to safely work beche-de-mer to any extent. The

continued failure of the Murray Islanders to man and work their vessels properly resulted in these Islanders losing two of their cutters. The "Tagai" was transferred to Stephens Island, at a valuation of £575, to replace the "Ugar" which went out of commission. The "Roma" was transferred to Badu to replace the old "Naianga," which is now beyond economical repair for deep sea work, but is being used by the Darnley Island shore people to work the home reefs.

The "Wakaid" retained the Home Secretary's Cup for the boat with the best catch per man, with an average of 1 ton 5 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb. trochus per man, and the second prize, the Flag, went to the Cocoanut Island cutter "Caroline" with a commendable average of 1 ton 3 cwt. trochus per man. The "Caroline" only needed to produce another half bag of trochus to qualify for a place amongst the cutters whose earnings have reached £1000 for the year, her earnings actually reaching £997 17s. 3d.

The boats showing the best results were:—

	£		£
"Wakaid" ..	2,095	"Yama" ..	886
"Binibin" ..	1,263	"Kailag" ..	876
"Arline" ..	1,243	"Badu" ..	779
"Caroline" ..	997	"Kismet" ..	690

Nine others won over £500.

The outstanding features of the boats working for the year was the record catch of 3 tons 3 cwt. 2 qr. 26 lb. M.O.P. shell by the "Yama," in a drift of 7 weeks, and which realised £508 6s. 1d.

Mosby Brothers' Firm.—The half-caste family Mosby Brothers' vessels "Harold" and "Kismet" earned £1,353 18s. 6d., or £311 18s. 6d. more than in 1931. Their operations, however, only showed a profit on the year's trading of £92 2s. 8d. after provision had been made for £121 12s. depreciation of the boats for the period. Under these circumstances the firm were not in a position to repay any of the debt on their vessels. They also had the misfortune to lose one of their employees by a fatal shark-bite accident.

Aboriginal Industries.—The trading Station, Aboriginal Industries, at Badu Island, catered for all the refitting and provisioning of the native company boats, as well as supplying a large part of the domestic requirements of the native population. The business was extended, in the latter half of the year, by the opening of branch stores at Yorke, Darnley, and Murray Islands. The balance-sheet of the business at the date of audit (30th April, 1932) disclosed a net profit of £1,965 16s. 7d. With the increased business arising from the recently opened branch stores a more successful period is expected. The prices of commodities stocked have been consistently kept within Thursday Island retail prices, and in some instances a few lines have been saleable at a reduction.

After the opening of the Eastern Island Branch Stores an increased activity in the working of the home reefs of these islands was noticed, and, although it is too soon to properly estimate the value of these branch stores to the islands concerned, there is every reason to believe that the enterprise will have far-reaching good effects.

Transport of cargo to the stores has caused the board members much concern and, to relieve the "Melbidir," consideration has been given to the purchase of a cargo-carrying vessel.

Island Funds.—The contributions to the island funds amounted to £1,899. The expenditure, however, was £539 in excess of the collections. This is partly accounted for through the Murray Island funds having to make up the loss of £422, incurred by that island's native crew in the working of the cutter "Tagai."

Other large expenditures were £286 for Police and councillors' grants, and £195 for the maintenance of the Thursday Island Rest House.

Purchase of material for the enlargement of the Darnley Island School, completion of the Yam Island School, and repairs to the native teachers' quarters cost a further £127. The main items of expenditure were pensions and relief to indigent and sick natives, maintenance of sanitary services, school buildings, court houses, gaols, native teachers' quarters, and general island improvements. The island funds have at loan to the boats £2,752, and to Mosby Brothers £916. No new loans were granted during the year to the boats. The loan of £128 to Cocoanut Island was repaid. The credit balance of the fund at close of the year was £3,890.

The Boats' Insurance Account was increased by £101 16s. 3d., and now has a credit of £1,061. There were no accidents to the boats, and consequently no claims were made upon this fund. The premiums paid into the Crews Insurance Account amounted to £138, and claims for benefits, including one permanent allowance, totalling £77, were met. The balance to credit is now £265. The success and consequent popularity of the insurance scheme is now well established, and it will be possible next year to review the rates of premiums.

Recreation.—With the appointment of Dr. Bevington as District Commissioner of Scouts, the movement has been extended to some of the smaller islands where scout troops were not previously in existence.

The value of the boy scout and girl guide training to the youth of these islands cannot be too highly appreciated. It introduces an entirely new outlook in their village life to these young people, and fits in appropriately with the departmental policy, as it aims at developing all that is best in native character and craft.

European games, such as cricket, football, and basket ball, are played on some islands, especially by the school children.

The uniformed drum and fife band of the company of sea rover scouts, at Darnley Island, is still flourishing. The usual native sports of swimming, diving, boating, dugong and turtle hunting, and fish spearing are always keenly engaged in.

Every encouragement has been given to the cultivation of their picturesque island life and native music and dances to avoid premature Europeanisation.

Unfortunately an attempt was made by one misguided person to introduce modern civilised

dancing amongst the young people; but, in deference to the strong disapproval of the elders of the tribes, who denounced it as opposed to their age-old rules and customs, the practice was suppressed.

The year of administration was generally satisfactory, but the outlook for 1933 is considerably brighter than that at the commencement of 1932.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Cherbourg (previously Barambah), Murgon, Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple.

Woorabinda, Duaringa, Superintendent, H. C. Colledge.

Palm Island, Townsville, Superintendent, E. A. Cornell to 30th June, J. E. Delaney, July to December, 1932.

Staff.—On 1st July, Mr. E. A. Cornell, who had been seconded from the Lands Department since February, 1931, to act as Superintendent of Palm Island Settlement, was returned to his own Department, and Mr. J. Delaney, the Farm Foreman, appointed Acting Superintendent in his place.

Mr. W. H. Ewart, Storekeeper at Palm Island, was transferred to the staff of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island.

Miss Gumley, Assistant Nurse at Palm Island, was transferred to a similar position in the Fantome Island Hospital, and Nurse Brumm, of Cherbourg Hospital staff, was transferred to the Palm Island institution to the vacancy created there.

Mrs. Semple, wife of the Superintendent at Cherbourg, who since her husband's appointment had performed the duties of Matron of the settlement, relinquished the position owing to the heavy strain affecting her health. This lady had done excellent work in the organisation of the industrial home for girls, the young children's dormitories, and the baby clinic, and also in the cultivation of home life in the native village. Her loss from that department has been severely felt.

The Department suffered another severe loss in the death of Mrs. Mary Murton, who for fifteen years held the position of teacher of the Native School, first on Taroom Settlement, and afterwards at Woorabinda, when the Station was transferred to the new reserve in the Duaringa district. The deceased lady was a successful teacher, a very useful officer, adaptable in many departments of the work amongst the sick and women and children, and beloved by all associated with her, both officials and natives.

Labour.—Owing to prevailing drought in the South and West, and depression in the cattle industry, the demand for settlement labour again suffered a decline, especially at Cherbourg and Woorabinda. The demand in the North was better, the number of engagements from Palm Island showing an increase of 28 in the number of agreements entered into. Female domestics were nearly always in good demand, although the wages offered were somewhat lower.

The number of engagements recorded was:—

—	Under Agreement.	Under Casual Permit.
Cherbourg ..	83 (M. 20, F. 63)	33
Palm Island ..	139 (M. 80, F. 59)	..
Woorabinda ..	49 (M. 20, F. 29)	23

This included twenty-one men who were engaged from Palm Island on the fishing fleet, but only for a short term.

There was a further decline in the earnings from outside labour. Notwithstanding the increase in engagements at Palm Island, the wages deposited were less by £454, and for the three institutions by £676, than in the previous year. Consequently the withdrawals fell from £13,953 to £11,426.

Settlement Revenue.

Collections.	Cherbourg.	Palm Island.	Woorabinda.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages, fares, produce, &c.	3,179 14 9	3,579 8 2	2,419 11 6
Interest on bank accounts	130 14 9	620 8 0	98 17 1
Native contributions ..	179 17 6	275 12 4	207 0 2
	£3,490 7 0	£4,475 8 6	£2,725 8 9

Population.

Settlement.	Total.	Full-blood.	Half-castes
Cherbourg	807	332	475
Palm Island	1,148	789	359
Woorabinda	436	225	211
	2,391	1,346	1,045

Conduct.—No crime or serious misconduct has been reported. Some trouble was experienced, at Palm Island principally, owing to some of the young men, made discontented by the decrease in the opportunities for obtaining employment outside and the consequent lack of money for purchase of tobacco and other luxuries, absconding from the reserve. Nineteen escaped from Palm Island, but 11 were recaptured, punished with short terms of imprisonment, and returned to the settlement. Others were transferred to other settlements.

At Cherbourg some difficulty was also experienced with some recalcitrant inmates in the Girls' Home, owing to the introduction of disturbing elements undermining discipline.

The usual family and camp quarrels occurred, but generally the conduct of the inmates was good and free from any very serious troubles.

Retail Stores.—The native trading through their own stores showed a further decline of £992 as compared with the previous year, as a result of the reduced earnings of the inmates.

It is interesting to note, however, that while because of the fall in earning power the orders on their savings had to be reduced, there was an increase in the amount of cash business, indicating the growth of the provident idea, in that more of the pocket money was brought home to spend.

The inmates now appear to recognise the value of this branch of the settlement activities.

Retail Store.

Settlement.	Cash Sales.		Bank Orders.		Free Issues.		Total.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Cherbourg..	511	16 10	2,189	3 1	926	6 1	3,627	6 0
Palm Island	696	16 5	5,231	11 4	732	19 9	6,661	7 6
Woorabinda	888	4 2	1,765	13 4	420	7 1	3,074	4 7
							£13,362	18 1

Schools.—The reports generally show that good progress was made; attendance was regular, allowing for a few interruptions such as sickness, visits of hookworm medical officer, wet weather, &c., and the children displayed keenness at the studies. As one head teacher states, "The obedience and responsiveness of the children are very satisfactory, and discipline is maintained with little effort. Mechanical work reaches a high standard throughout, and subjects requiring a fair amount of mental effort are slowly improving."

The attendance as per school rolls was as follows:—Cherbourg, 85 boys 88 girls, average 76 boys 79 girls; Woorabinda, 45 boys 50 girls, average 43 boys 48 girls; Palm Island, 84 boys 95 girls, average 149.

At Cherbourg and Palm Island simple lessons were given in manual and domestic subjects, but at Woorabinda, until necessary facilities and instruction for the manual section can be provided, the work in this direction is confined to sewing lessons.

At Cherbourg lessons in elementary carpentry are given to the boys by a trained native carpenter and builder, and useful household articles and toys are made, often from packing case timber. Several of these school lads have filled useful positions as native building assistants.

The girls are keen on needlework, and show marked aptitude; the number of garments made, mostly by hand sewing, was 18 dresses, 9 bloomers, 2 chemises, 3 calico bodices, 28 pillow-slips, 9 tea towels, 7 guest towels, 16 d'oyleys, 14 afternoon tea cloths, 33 various pieces of fancy work, and 7 articles made from sugar bags.

At Palm Island special instruction was given in sewing, basket and fan making, health matters, and home duties to the girls, and simple carpentry, joinery, and gardening to the boys.

At all these Settlements young trained natives are employed, as far as possible, as building and sawmill assistants, plumbers, farm labourers, motor drivers, nurses, teachers, dormitory attendants, &c.

Agriculture.—At Cherbourg farming operations were somewhat disappointing, partly owing to a prolonged dry spell, but also to insufficient cultivation. Only 5 tons of lucerne were cut from 16 acres. From 33 acres planted with oats only 5 tons of hay were obtained and less than 100 bushels from 10 acres of maize. The cotton crop was a failure; similarly the Japanese millet only returned 1 ton from 12 acres. The potatoes planted in August failed to germinate.

A reorganisation of the farming staff is being made with the new year.

Vegetables grown totalled 2½ tons of tomatoes, 3½ tons of potatoes, 10,154 cabbages, 1,041 cauliflowers, 3 tons squashes, and 4½ tons mixed vegetables.

At Woorabinda, dry weather and the hot sandy nature of the soil made farming operations very discouraging. The maize and other crops, after a good start from opportune rains, were destroyed by severe heat waves and dry winds. An experiment in tobacco growing showed that the climate lacked the necessary humidity for the best leaf.

There was, however, a plentiful supply of vegetables throughout, principally cabbage, tomatoes, cowpeas, and sweet potatoes. French beans and pumpkins also were plentiful, but the main crop suffered from the hot dry winds.

At Palm Island, the following farm crops were raised:—8 tons potatoes, 5 tons pumpkins, 40 bushels maize, 700 lb. tobacco. The tobacco was an experiment but proved unsatisfactory. Mangoes and lemons were in abundant supply. Ten tons of maize were grown and fed to the stock. Fifty acres of land, mostly of a light sandy nature, has been cleared and part planted with Mauritius beans, for which there is ready sale on the mainland.

Industrial.—The sawmill at Cherbourg was closed down in August, owing to completion of the building work provided for in Vote. The timber milled was 33,375 super. feet. The small plant at Woorabinda was kept busy for some months cutting timber, principally cypress pine, for much needed building improvements. The plant at Palm Island cut 70,391 super. feet, comprising 58,253 feet of hardwood and 12,158 feet of pine, most of which was absorbed in necessary extensions of the accommodation at Fantome Island. The increasing difficulty in haulage, owing to mountainous country and the depletion of the more accessible areas, marks this as a creditable effort.

At Cherbourg, 1,000 acres were ringbarked. A large dam was sunk at the far end of the grazing lease, and new fences were erected, subdividing the large horse paddock.

At Woorabinda, a further 1,100 acres were ringbarked. Two more dams have been constructed and a 7-mile boundary fence erected, to enable some country, on lease temporarily, to be resumed. Continual repair work on the fence has been necessary owing to bush fires and wandering natives cutting the wires.

At Palm Island, 3½ miles of new fencing were erected and 2 miles reconditioned. The building staffs were almost entirely occupied in the extensive Fantome Island improvements.

Stock.—Notwithstanding severe dry spells, the stock at each Settlement kept in good condition; although it became necessary to transfer 307 head of young cattle from Cherbourg to the better country at Woorabinda in the early part of the winter. Twenty-one heifers in calf were also transferred from Cherbourg to Palm Island to increase the herd there.

At Cherbourg, 176 head of cattle were killed for beef, including 80 Settlement bred bullocks, 65 speyed cows, and 16 cows obtained from Woorabinda.

An exchange of bulls was also made between these places, where the same class of cattle, Herefords, are bred.

The Cherbourg herd numbers 1,007, of which 544 are breeders, 13 herd bulls, 197 bullocks, 72 steers, 30 workers, and 106 young stock, but not including calves not yet branded. There are, in addition, 36 Ayrshire cattle and one bull in the dairy herd.

At Woorabinda, the herd numbers 1,683, including 580 breeders, 234 heifers, 15 bulls, 355 steers, 183 bullocks, 22 workers, 49 speyed cows, and 245 young Cherbourg stock. About 120 head of stores are ready for market, but prices are too low at present.

The cattle killed for beef comprised 19 bullocks and 168 speyed cows. Of these 32 were sold through the butcher's shop. It is proposed to spey a further 100 cows of inferior colours. The calves branded number 289.

The number of stock at Palm Island was 252, comprising 97 cows, 4 bulls, 37 workers, 33 heifers, 35 steers, and 46 young stock. A good shorthorn bull from Calliope was introduced. Notwithstanding the unimproved state of the grazing country, the cattle maintained splendid condition.

Building and Village Improvement.—At Cherbourg, the dressing rooms in the girls' dormitory were enlarged and extra bathrooms added, with plunge and showers. Two more weatherboard cottages were built in the village and the engine-driver's quarters enlarged by extending the verandahs.

At Woorabinda, a large shed, 56 feet by 40 feet, has been erected at the farm, as fodder storage and implement shed, and a timbered pit silo, 16 feet deep by 15 feet square, was also made. A large shed is also under construction for drays, harness, toolroom, and blacksmith's shop.

A good butcher's shop, of regulation design, has been built, an office for the Superintendent, an isolation ward at the hospital and bathrooms, with plunge and shower baths, for the girls' dormitory. Two roomy Church buildings—one by the Church of England adherents and the other by A.I.M. Missionaries, who bought their timber at cost from the Settlement Mill—have been erected in the village.

At Palm Island, owing to the absorption of the building staff in Fantome Island extensions, no important building development was possible. However, a number of native huts were erected at the farm and mill camps and others started in the Settlement village. These and sundry minor repairs were carried out by the native carpenters.

Religious Instruction.—The representatives of various religious denominations minister to the spiritual needs of their particular adherents and conduct classes of religious instruction and services. At Palm Island and Woorabinda, the clergy of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Churches still visit regularly, and the former body occasionally hold services at Cherbourg.

At each of the above Settlements the visiting Missionaries of the Aborigine Inland Mission conduct regular classes and meetings.

The various bodies all claim that the natives display keen interest in, and appreciation of, the

ministrations and many show in their attempt to live decent lives the beneficial results of their teachings.

Recreations.—The usual sport, such as cricket, football, tennis, vigoro, &c., are keenly indulged in and greatly enjoyed by the younger element, but the old people love their native corroborees and nightly may be heard, in some part of the village, enjoying these amusements. Fishing, hunting, and "walk about" are always popular, as satisfying their liking for the bush "tucker."

Several of the cricket and football teams have visited neighbouring towns and given a good account of themselves.

All places watched with keen interest the performances of their countryman, Eddie Gilbert, in the representative cricket matches as a fast bowler. In December, 4BC Broadcasting Station relayed a native concert of corroborees by the old people, and songs and band selections by the young people, to all parts of the world, and many expressions of appreciation were received.

The Christmas and New Year season was celebrated on all stations with sports, Christmas trees with gifts, and the usual feasts and enjoyments. At some places, on Christmas morning, the native brass bands headed the procession of school children, singing carols, around the official quarters and village. The kindly assistance of the officials in promoting the pleasure of the inmates at this season, often at considerable trouble to themselves, is certainly appreciated.

MISSIONS.

- Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, W. McCullough), Anglican.**
Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, W. O. Broad), 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. S. E. McKay), Presbyterian.
Aurukan, 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, Adjutant J. C. Tunstall), Salvation Army.

Conduct.—No serious crime occurred amongst the inmates. Some young men had to be disciplined at Yarrabah for insolence to an official. Similarly at Monamona a few were dealt with for immorality and gambling.

Some trouble occurred at Aurukan, over village fighting between rival tribes, and five men and three women had to be removed for trading in prostitution around mining camps. One man

was also removed from Mornington Island for cattle killing. Otherwise, conduct was generally good. In fact, the Cape Bedford Mission speaks of the good reports received of the behaviour of any of their inmates when in the neighbouring town.

Religious Training.—At all Missions regular services and instruction classes have been held. Yarrabah Mission says "The religious life of the community is healthy. The services are all conducted by native lay readers and great interest is shown." The Badu members of the Moa Island Mission are working energetically to raise funds to build a new church.

A new Mission Theological College, two storied, has been built at Moa Island by the Principal and Students.

At Mapoon, the young people are being received into Church Fellowship and taking active interest in the Primary Sunday School and Women's Guild activities.

All institutions speak in gratified terms of the spiritual progress made.

Education.—All school reports show satisfactory progress. Attendance has been regular, there have been no serious interruptions and the pupils have displayed keen interest in their work. At Moa Island Mission a number of senior girls receive domestic science training on lines suitable to their native village life.

Industrial and Agricultural.—A brief account is given hereunder of the operations towards self dependence on the Mission Stations:—

Yarrabah.—At Buddabadoo out station, 455 sacks of sweet potatoes, 35 sacks of cassava, 32 sacks of cowpeas, 40 sacks of maize, as well as bananas and cotton, were grown.

At Mourigan and Oombunghi, other out stations, 44 bushels Mauritius beans were harvested.

A number of the inmates at Willi grew bananas, vegetables, &c., in their private gardens.

The sawmill cut timber for the new store, but afterwards had to be closed down.

The beche-de-mer fishing operations realised £480.

Monamona.—Most of the men are employed in log hauling and working in the sawmill, but part of their time is devoted to farm work. The Mission boundary has been fenced for 4 miles. Forty acres of scrub has also been felled and fenced ready for planting corn.

The crops raised were 60 tons of sweet potatoes, 60 tons of cassava, 3,000 bunches of bananas, and about £100 worth of green vegetables.

Some of the sweet potatoes weighed 20 lb., and were interesting exhibits at various shows. About 90 acres of land is now under cultivation.

Cape Bedford.—About 12 tons of sweet potatoes and a good quantity of cassava were grown at McIvor River out station. The coconut plantations have been extended, but, owing to the poor market for copra, the nuts grown were all used as food.

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The fishing vessels won and sold £300 worth of marine produce, and made a few drums of oil and a few hundredweights of meat from dugong hunting. The boat work is very popular and there is no difficulty in getting crews.

Good hauls of fish were secured with the net.

Lockhart River.—A good wooden house has been erected for the Superintendent, and a new 40-ft. launch provided for running mails and supplies from and to the steamer.

Two wells were sunk, one providing a good supply of water for the village, and a ring fence is half completed to enclose the gardens.

Fifty-five acres of land have been cleared and planted and 7 acres of swamp land reclaimed for private native gardens.

St. Paul's, Moa Island.—All able-bodied labour was engaged in the fishing industry. The vessel "Banzai" was fitted with a new mast and boom and made seaworthy. The "Abaipil," worked by the old men catching beche-de-mer, cleared expenses and something over.

A fine two storey building as a college was erected. There was much activity in cultivation of private gardens.

Mapoon.—The people grew good crops of pumpkins and water melons and tried a planting of Mauritius beans, with fair results. The women did well with fancy work, earning £150. A good exhibit was sent to the Brisbane Show.

Weipa.—Eleven men took employment on the fishing fleets; but the remainder, by common consent, divided into gangs, who took weekly turns of voluntary labour at development work, on the new Mission site at Jessica Point.

Some gardening was still carried on at the old site, where 15 cwt. of sweet potatoes, 11 cwt. of pumpkins, and a good crop of cowpeas were raised.

Mangrove firewood was cut and sold at Thursday Island, returning £32 10s. 7d. Crochet work, done by the women, also earned £17 10s.

At Jessica Point, 5 acres of land was cleared and 500 coconuts planted. A flat-bottomed punt, 16 feet long, was secured for lighterage and a fishing net also obtained.

The stock now comprises 25 cattle and 2 horses.

The site for the new village has been cleared and the first Mission house erected. Good permanent water was found close to the village site and a spear pump installed.

Aurukun.—Owing to drought and shortage of horses, planting was late, but the sweet potatoes, cowpea, and pumpkins, especially in the village private gardens, recently started, yielded splendid crops. The plantings of millet, maize, and sorghum failed, owing to some disease. Fair crops of cabbages and tomatoes were gathered and the mango and coconut trees bore well.

Considerable work has been done in repairs of buildings, fences and boats, and two gangs of men earned £24 15s. cutting titree boat knees for Thursday Island boatslips.

Since the appointment of the half-caste assistant for stock work, two new yards have been built and six wells dug and kept in repair.

Further avenues of cocoanut and mango trees were planted in the village and Mission areas and a plantation started at the mouth of the river.

The nomadic natives were encouraged to gather bush foods, fish, shellfish, crabs, roots, and yams and trade for such luxuries as flour and tobacco. These bush foods were used to supplement the diet of the dormitory children.

Mornington Island.—A new girls' dormitory is partly constructed; three new houses for young married couples and a girls' bathroom have been erected.

The Hornsby engine and saw bench cut all timber needed for Mission development.

A new 26 feet auxiliary launch, with Wilson engine, has been purchased from Mission earnings.

There are now 14 horses and 320 head of mixed cattle. Owing to low prices the beche-de-mer catch only brought £96. Sandalwood cutting was poor and turtleshell disappointing.

A fine all-weather aerodrome for the Aerial Medical officer, who readily answers any urgent calls, was completed. The stone jetty was also reconditioned. The school children gave good help in the vegetable gardens, but the returns were poor, owing to bad weather conditions.

Bentinck Island.—The small and very primitive and timid tribe on this island is under the supervision of the Mornington Island Mission, whose officers, for years, have found it very difficult to make benevolent contact with them.

This year a selected party of Mornington natives were placed on the island, to work beche-de-mer and establish friendly relations with the natives, with gratifying success.

The people seem to be improving in condition now that the timidity is being overcome.

Purga.—Fifteen of the able-bodied were able to obtain employment in neighbouring farms and stations for various periods. Dry weather seriously handicapped farming operations. Of the native earnings of approximately £500, the sum of £346 was banked.

NATIVE PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

Gayndah (Teacher C. Turner) Roll 14 (7 boys, 7 girls),

Myora (Superintendent R. Morrison) Roll 13 (boys 9, girls 4).

Thursday Island (Teacher H. G. Simpson) Roll 49 (boys 23, girls 26).

Reports have indicated that progress has been very satisfactory, attendance has been good, and gratifying interest shown in the work.

RECREATIONS.

At all institutions, healthy outdoor sports and amusing indoor games have been promoted, to provide recreation and bring some pleasure into their lives; thus cultivating a friendly community spirit.

The usual civilised sports of football, cricket, tennis, hockey, basketball, and rounders were popular with the young, who also entered keenly into fireside games and musical entertainments.

At Yarrabah the children rendered a cantata, "Snowwhite," to the great pride and delight of their parents in the village.

The school children of Monamona were given a camping holiday at the seaside, to the wonder of many who had never seen the sea before.

An occasion was made of the Anniversary of Arukun Mission to hold a large gathering of Mission and bush people, when gifts of food, tobacco, articles of clothing, &c., were distributed, concluding by a big corroboree.

At all places the Christmas season was fitly celebrated with the ever favourite Christmas tree and gifts, musical services, sports and a special dinner; the means for which usually was provided by kindly disposed friends of the Mission.

At Mornington Island, the gramophone, wireless set, and magic lantern provide instruction as well as pleasure and community singing around the piano is always enjoyed.

The natives dances, however, are dear to the hearts of the old people and are always encouraged. Fishing and hunting not only provide congenial recreation but assist with the food problem and foster the native arts. To this end periodical camping out excursions and "walkabouts" are arranged for the dormitory inmates.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.

There are gratifying evidences on all Stations of a steady social progress and a gradual acceptance of the main principles of the settled community life. Encouragement has been given to those willing to help themselves, and their example has resulted in noticeable improvement in the type of dwellings, village sanitation, and the development of home industries.

In Torres Strait and some of the Peninsula Missions, the system of self government by Native Councils, elected from amongst the elders of the village, has been found successful. Aided by the friendly advice only of the Superintendent, they deal with the minor offences of the community in ways likely to be most effective and in accordance with their tribal code.

In some of the more primitive stations the increase in house building and the private garden system is regarded as evidence of the growing understanding in the nomadic element of the ideas of "home," if only at first as a settled place from which they pursue their hunting excursions.

GENERAL.

The total expenditure on relief administration amounted to £56,255, which was supplemented by £14,724 from Native Trust funds. In addition expenditure amounting to approximately £1,000 was made from Standing Account, to which all Settlement earnings from sale of products, retail store profits, &c., are paid, on development of productive activities.

Under a new scheme of administrative finance, by which, as far as practicable, the non-indigent natives will do their reasonable share towards assisting in the difficult task of making ends meet, the budget for 1932-33 has only provided for about two-thirds of maintenance and relief expenditure, the balance to be met, as in the past two years, from native revenues.

The total native earnings throughout the State in wages, sales of produce of Settlements and fishing fleets, and retail store business, amounted to £160,145. This does not include the value of produce sold by Missions, or of fodder and food crops raised and used, either by Settlements, Missions, Island communities, or private gardening for home consumption.

It is desired, in conclusion, to acknowledge the willing and loyal service of the District Police Officers, who carry out the onerous duties of Protectors of Aborigines, and of the Commissioner and Officers of the Police Department, also of the Superintendents, Medical Officers,

and staffs of the Settlements and Missions, who by loyal co-operation have done much to lighten the difficulties of administration.

The kindly help always received from the Government Medical Officers and District Hospitals, and especially the Brisbane General Hospital, in treatment of the sick, is warmly appreciated.

The courtesy and assistance of the officers of the Home Department and other Government Departments, and the loyal co-operation of the Deputy Chief Protector and Staff of the Head Office, is also gratefully acknowledged.

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 1932

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

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