

1934.

QUEENSLAND.

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**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).

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**PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.**

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A. 28—1934.

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

Home Secretary's Department,  
Brisbane, 12th October, 1934.

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 (Acting Manager and Acting Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).  
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Acting Manager and Acting Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).  
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. Jeffe is Turner; Superintendent, F. M. STAUBWASSER).  
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).

## Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1933.

### POPULATION.

The Aboriginal Census taken to 30th June, 1933, reveals a decrease of 823 in the number of full-bloods, and an increase of 371 in the half-castes as compared with records for the previous year.

This is mainly accounted for by a surprising fall in the number of full-bloods recorded at Coen from 1,110 in 1932 to 579 in 1933, and at Normanton from 511 to 466 in the same year, due to faulty estimation of the numbers of the nomadic tribes in regions where accurate enumeration is impossible.

These corrections have resulted from the closer system of check, instituted with this Department's help, by the officers of the Registrar-General. Allowing for these discrepancies, the decrease in full-bloods should be approximately 200.

The official returns show that the actual number of births was 386 and deaths 324, which, it will be seen, does not agree with the registered decrease of 483 in population.

Total aboriginal and half-caste population—16,957—Males, 9,365; females, 7,592.

### FULL-BLOODS.

Males, 7,073, Females 5,459, Total 12,532.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic .. .. .	1,775	454
In regular employment ..	2,780	2
Supervised camps .. ..	3,967	1,928
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	914	712
Totals .. .. .	9,436	3,096

### HALF-CASTES.

Males 2,292, Females 2,133, Total 4,425.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic .. .. .	111	76
Regular employment ..	940	3
Supervised camps .. ..	805	902
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	557	1,031
Totals .. .. .	2,413	2,012

### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

There has been a slight improvement in the demand for aboriginal labour from the Settlements. In fully half of the protectorates, principally those in the North and Gulf country, conditions also were fairly good, there being little or no difficulty in finding employment. In the remaining districts, which embrace mainly the Southern and Central areas of the State, labour conditions varied considerably. In a portion of these there was no demand for native labour and, consequently employment conditions were bad. In the remainder, conditions were only fair, being fairly good in the spring and summer seasons, but bad otherwise.

From all districts dependent upon the markets for cattle-breeding and dairy products, it is reported that conditions due to the depression in those industries has seriously reduced the demand for aboriginal labour, owing to the prevailing unemployment in other trades making numbers of unskilled white labourers available for the less expert branches of cattle work.

Although, in some districts, employers have claimed that they are unable to pay the existing rates, for the above reason it has not been deemed advisable to make any further reduction in the regulation wages rates for aboriginals.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, very little trouble has been experienced in the collection of wages and, for the main part, the employers have fairly observed the provisions of the Acts. A few cases have arisen of difficulty experienced in collecting arrears, but it has apparently been due more to inability to pay than from any intention to evade their proper responsibility.

Credit is due to the local Protectors for their strict supervision, aided by the complete control of Natives' Accounts now exercised from the Chief Protector's Office.

Several Protectors forecast brighter prospects in the coming year. Resumed activity is reported in droving operations, and in the Herberton district, the revival in the tin-mining industry is expected to reflect itself in improved conditions generally in that area.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Creditable improvement was again shown in the employment of natives in the pearl-shell, beche-de-mer and trochus shell fisheries.

At Thursday Island, all the available labour was absorbed in the industry. The existing system of recruitment of Torres Strait Island men, by permits to masters, was discontinued, it being found more satisfactory to have these engagements carried out through the Protector's office. The regulations were generally well observed; but in a few vessels working down the east coast trouble occurred through natives deserting, giving as their reasons insufficient food and ill-treatment. Action was taken to inquire into these cases and correct the troubles.

At Thursday Island, 272 seamen (181 islanders, 91 mainlanders), were signed on to fishing vessels and earned £5,601 in wages.

At Cooktown, 42 mainland natives were similarly employed, earning £673.

In the islands of Torres Strait and in other coastal settlements and missions, the native inmates worked their own community vessels in pearl-shell, beche-de-mer, or trochus shell fishing.

The fleet of 26 vessels owned and manned by Torres Strait islanders employed 386 men and caught £20,053 worth of fish, shell, and pearls.

The men of Palm Island Settlement, working their own dinghies around the reefs, won £354, and those of Mornington Island Mission £52. Yarrabah Mission natives also worked their own vessel, but bad weather and the low prices obtained made the venture unprofitable. For a similar reason Mapoon Mission abandoned their fishing operations.

#### INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Claims for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act were filed, in 16 cases, for accidents in employment, and a total amount of £637 was awarded.

The usual practice was observed of administering the benefits granted for the injured persons through the local Protectors.

The courtesy of the State Government Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department officers, in consulting with the Department, when necessary, in dealing with such claims, has been greatly appreciated.

This enabled proper supervision and protection of the interests of the native claimants to be exercised.

#### ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

This year shows a further decrease of £6,840 in the amount of wages deposited by country Protectors, but the collections showed an improvement in the bankings of Settlement inmates of £761. The actual earnings in employment would approximate £96,000, as about 40 per cent. is drawn direct as pocket-money. The balance collected and banked by the Department was £57,698 as against £64,271 in 1932.

The withdrawals for the year aggregated £72,381, compared with £68,253 for 1932, an increase of £4,128, the result of the reduced earning power in the districts where employment is scarce.

The actual amount at credit at 31st December, 1933, shows a decrease of £1,582.

Inoperative accounts and estates of deceased aboriginals, aggregating £5,252, were transferred to the Aboriginal Protection Property Account to be held in trust until the missing owners or next-of-kin are traced.

	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.	Interest Earned.	Actual Withdrawals for Natives Benefit.	Balance as at 31/12/33.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Palm Island .. .. .	831	3,827 7 7	480 4 0	8,486 16 4	6,335 13 6
Cherbourg .. .. .	591	2,842 18 8	150 8 0	3,704 4 10	998 10 4
Woorabinda .. .. .	285	2,451 10 11	100 15 9	3,563 4 7	1,679 5 1
Brisbane .. .. .	94	1,469 8 0	204 15 9	2,444 10 0	8,616 18 1
Various Protectorates .. ..	2,776	36,509 0 0	6,438 0 0	44,855 0 0	33,799 0 0
Thursday Island .. .. .	1,179	10,597 17 3	264 2 0	9,327 18 5	5,585 5 7
Totals .. .. .	5,756	£57,698 2 5	£7,638 5 6	£72,381 14 2	£57,014 12 7

The balance of £57,014 does not represent the total moneys to credit of the Aboriginal Trust Funds as, in addition, an amount of £12,000 from Settlement funds (Palm Island £8,000, Cherbourg £3,000, Woorabinda £1,000) is invested in Commonwealth Conversion Loan at 4 per cent., which earns a yearly interest of £480, and a further £200,000 portion

of the total credit of natives of country Protectorates, is similarly invested in Commonwealth Stock at 3½ per cent., earning interest £7,500 per annum.

From the funds of natives at Thursday Island a sum of £5,000 was loaned at 5 per cent. to finance aboriginal industries, their native trading station,



a sailing vessel for this work, but, previous to this, 142 tons had been carried. The Master also gave valuable assistance in the supervision of the native fishing vessels to ensure their proper care and necessary repair.

#### REMOVALS AND RECOGNIZANCES.

Bonds were entered into in thirteen cases for the removal of natives by employers to other districts or beyond the State.

There were no complaints of failure to carry out these undertakings, and no occasion arose for estreating any of these guarantees.

#### RELIEF.

Regular issues of food relief were made, from thirty-one centres, to aged and infirm natives to supplement the help received from casual work or from their able-bodied friends. It was found more humane to grant the assistance, where their friends were able to care for them, than to remove them to settlements. The cost of such relief was £1,670.

A further sum of £349 was spent in casual relief to stranded and travelling natives.

Native game is still fairly plentiful in the Northern Coastal districts, part of the Gulf country and the Peninsula, and, consequently, relief is seldom necessary there.

The old art of hunting, however, is gradually declining, the younger generation preferring to depend upon the white man's foods.

#### BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued was 3,453, compared with 3,078 in 1932. The usual supplies of clothing, dress material, &c., was substituted, where found more suitable, on account of climatic conditions, while, in a number of cases, help in the way of hunting and fishing gear was given to primitive natives in indigent circumstances.

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 blankets issued was £1,527, of clothing material and hunting gear £247, and the total expenditure for freight and handling was £176.

#### CRIME AMONG ABORIGINALS.

It is gratifying to record that few cases of crime of a serious nature have been committed by natives, and, as will be seen from the following Table, the majority of offences are only minor in character.

#### OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1931.		1932.		1933.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	8	£ 195	2	£ 40	..	£ ..
Supplying opium ..	10	270	9	250	5	80
Supplying liquor ..	3	60	2	45	..	..
Harbouring ..	1	10	..	..	..	..
Assault ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

#### OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Drunkenness .. .. .	26	31	25
Stealing .. .. .	9	6	12
Creating disturbance .. .. .	3	..	2
Obscene language .. .. .	..	..	3
Assault .. .. .	3	4	2
Resisting arrest .. .. .	1	..	1
Entering .. .. .	..	1	..
Absconding .. .. .	2	9	3
Manslaughter .. .. .	..	1	..
Murder .. .. .	..	..	2
Rape .. .. .	..	..	1
Unlawful possession of opium .. .. .	..	..	1
Intent to kill unlawfully by poisoning .. .. .	..	..	1
Breach of Pearlshell and Beche-de-mer Act .. .. .	..	..	1
Wilful destruction .. .. .	..	..	1

#### REMOVALS.

The following Table shows the number of natives who, for their own benefit or in the interests of good order and discipline, were removed to reserves by order of the Minister. Of the total number 70 were removed because of destitution and unemployment, 58 for disciplinary reasons, 29 for treatment at the Palm Island and Fantome Island Hospitals, and 27 were absconders being returned to various settlements.

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Palm Island ..	47	27	30	104
Fantome Island ..	..	1	..	1
Cherbourg ..	23	6	4	33
Woorabinda ..	12	5	18	35
<i>Missions—</i>				
Aurukun ..	1	2	..	3
Monamona ..	2	2	3	7
Mornington Island	1	..	..	1
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>184</b>

#### HEALTH.

Reports as to health conditions were generally satisfactory, especially in southern and eastern districts, the latter experiencing only the usual minor general complaints, except for outbreaks of measles and influenza at the Cherbourg and Myora Settlements, and of mild influenza at Boulia, Winton, and Maryborough. At Boulia, 2 cases, and Beau-desert, 4 cases of pneumonia were treated.

Some more severe epidemics of influenza passed through the Peninsula and Gulf districts and resulted in a number of deaths amongst the bush blacks. This was attributed to the abnormal rain-falls experienced in the spring months. The centres most severely affected were Palm Island, Yarrabah, Lockhart River, Cooktown, Laura, Croydon, and Tully.

The wave spread to Torres Strait islands, but in a milder form, although a few cases of pneumonic type were noticed. A mild form of chicken pox also occurred there.

The usual seasonal attacks of malaria of a mild type appeared throughout the Peninsula and the Islands. The Mission Stations of Mapoon, Weipa, and Aurukun treated a number of such cases, as many as 48 at Weipa, and some severe cases occurred at the islands of Boigu, Dauan, and Saibai, near the New Guinea coast, and at Poid village, on Moa Island. At Darnley the good work done in

draining the swamps and checking mosquito breeding has been effective in stamping out the infection at this village.

Cases of venereal disease were treated at Atherton, Burketown, Georgetown, Mungana, Townsville, and Normanton. At the last place, 16 cases received hospital treatment. The Protector is of opinion that the disease is fairly prevalent in the bush, but as the natives are frightened and hide their condition until in a bad way, it is difficult to discover.

A thorough blood test of the inmates of Palm Island Settlement was made by the Resident Medical Officer and about 300 cases of infection, including a number of children, given treatment, those requiring hospital attention being transferred to the Fantome Island Lock Hospital.

A medical survey of the islands of Torres Strait and the Aboriginal Missions on the Gulf Coast of the Peninsula was carried out by the Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, and, as a result, 56 cases of granuloma venereum and 19 other cases of venereal were given treatment. Eight cases of leprosy were discovered and placed in the Peel Island Lazaret.

A further medical survey of aboriginal health conditions in the North was undertaken by Dr. R. W. Cilento, Chief Quarantine Officer-General and Chairman of the Hookworm Control Campaign Committee, comprising the districts of Daintree and Bloomfield Rivers, Cooktown, Laura, Point Stewart, Coen, and the Missions at Cape Bedford, Lockhart River, and Yarrabah.

In a comprehensive and informative report, the Doctor showed that throughout the Peninsula, malaria was more or less endemic, although in milder forms often mistaken for Gulf fever or fever and ague.

Many of the natives suffer from food deficiencies or lack of dietetic balance, although conditions were better where Settlements existed, especially where it was possible to raise foods containing necessary vitamins. These food deficiencies were the main causes of decline in population, as a result of sterility of the females, infant mortality, and the native susceptibility to epidemics affecting chest troubles.

These natives also appeared to suffer from bad teeth, a most unusual condition.

Dr. Vickers, the Flying Doctor of the Australian Inland Mission, paid two visits by aeroplane to Mornington Island Mission, and frequently advised by wireless on emergent cases.

The number of natives receiving hospital attention on Settlements and Missions was as follows:—

Palm Island .. .. .	364 inpatients, 24,662 outpatients
Woorabinda .. .. .	165 inpatients, 2,294 outpatients
Cherbourg .. .. .	468 inpatients, 38,897 outpatients
Weipa .. .. .	About 157 cases
Mapoon .. .. .	Daily average—15 patients
Mitchell River .. .. .	5,544 treatments
Mornington Island .. .. .	Daily average—10 patients
Moa Island (St. Paul's)	3 cases serious illness, number minor complaints
Lockhart River .. .. .	1,014 cases treated
Yarrabah .. .. .	209 inpatients, 10 outpatients
Monamona .. .. .	About 400 cases
Purga .. .. .	About 46 cases
Myora .. .. .	Treated at Dunwich Hospital
In Torres St. Seamen's Hospital .. .. .	120 inpatients, 212 outpatients
Darnley Island Cottage Hospital .. .. .	Also received 31 inpatients, who were treated by the teacher

A similar hospital has also been erected at Saibai but has not yet been opened.

#### DEATHS.

Settlements .. .. .	86
Missions .. .. .	43
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	73
Country Districts .. .. .	122
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>324</b>

#### BIRTHS.

Settlements .. .. .	70
Missions .. .. .	65
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	149
Country Districts .. .. .	102
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>386</b>

The Hookworm Control Campaign Committee, of which the Chief Protector is a member, has directed the treatment of aboriginals on Settlements, Missions, and Camps in the Coastal districts for Hookworm and the Medical Officers and Officials of the various institutions have co-operated with the Committee in reporting evidences of infection and distributing the necessary medicine.

#### FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.

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

#### ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

The figures for the past four years show that the institution has grown rapidly in number of patients and equipment, and has become a highly important part of the administration.

Number of patients, December, 1930 ..	28
Number of patients, December, 1931 ..	73
Number of patients, December, 1932 ..	156
Number of patients, December, 1933 ..	227

This rapid expansion has caused considerable concern and difficulty in adequately coping with the need for increased accommodation and facilities.

Consideration was given to a proposal for transfer of chronic cases to a neighbouring island, but this was discarded in favour of the establishment of a village at the northern end of Fantome, where 20 of these cases are now comfortably settled in suitable native huts of grass walls and iron roofs.

It is intended to increase the size of this village to accommodate 40 people and develop three or four villages as necessary. The soil in the neighbourhood is fair and, as circumstances allow, cultivation will be carried on, for which a horse plough and harness have been provided. Further horses are needed.

A good water supply is assured, the development of which is being investigated by the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply.

If the present rapid expansion continues, consideration will probably need to be given to the acquirement of additional islands or areas in the vicinity, for the development of the industrial village system.

The native seems happier if living in village conditions, but should be given means for achieving some measure of self-support.

The necessity for regularising treatment was apparent at the beginning of the year. Such work has been systematized and, despite many difficulties, the courses have been made a primary consideration and have been maintained. Phases of the treatment are hard on the patient, but the usual betterment in their health condition, which is apparent to the majority, plus general care, has

bred the confidence in the administration which is so necessary.

Treatment work is carried out in big groups (varying) in themselves. Totals of all treatment cannot be given, but the following will illustrate the volume of work carried out.

	For year.
Intravenous injections .. ..	1,067
Intramuscular injections .. ..	3,350
Paintings .. ..	5,086
Blood specimens for test .. ..	166
Smears for test .. ..	58

Medicines (stock and specials), approximate, 400 daily.

Infirm, surgical, and general bedridden cases vary between about 20 up to 60 daily during times of epidemic.

Out-patients vary considerably and in seriousness. The class of native dealt with is susceptible to disorders secondary to his primary conditions, and only a careful watch over out-patients minimises the more serious conditions.

Many dental extractions were carried out. Interesting and surgical work has been carried out by the Medical Officer, and much minor work performed. A good deal of time has to be spent in cleaning up the dirty offensive conditions, and some particularly successful work has been achieved in this direction.

The death rate for 1933 was 8 per cent. (80 per 1,000) of patients treated as compared with 13.65 per cent. (136 per 1,000) for 1932. The reduced figure, although a comparative high rate, is felt to be good under the circumstances.

The three children born during the year were good specimens. The mothers in each case received pre-natal treatment and recovered from their confinements satisfactorily.

The unusually cold and wet winter occasioned considerable sickness. An outbreak of pneumonic-influenza, during November and December, was serious. All cases, except one, recovered.

Many of the syphilitic conditions showed great improvement, but the gonorrhoeas and those with double infections are mostly obstinate, due to their chronic state. Leper cases (no positive reactions) have maintained condition and appear to have improved under treatment.

Rainfall for the year was 72.04 inches, an increase of 50 per cent. over 1932. Nice rains fell throughout the year, and no difficulty was experienced with water supplies. An engineer of the Water and Irrigation Department inspected the island in June and, following his recommendations, wells are being sunk with a view to obtaining a permanent supply.

As a result of the favourable rains fruit and vegetables were in good crop. Good supplies have also been received from Palm Island when available. Some yams for seed were obtained from Yarrabah, and it is hoped to develop these.

Building works completed during the year include:—

- Women's hospital pavilion,
- Two male barrack buildings (temporary ones taken down and material used),
- Gaol,
- Handy man's shop,
- Animal house,
- Conversion of administrative block verandah to special ward.

Owing to urgent necessities on Palm Island and shortage of timber supplies, this year's programme

of building works has not commenced. The appointment of a native handyman has increased our efficiency.

A track has been made along the foothills leading to the new village, and bridges over tidal creeks are under construction.

The conduct of natives has remained good, on the whole, with an absence of serious crime. Natives nowadays are very sophisticated and island life has its limitations. Nevertheless, the majority settle down comfortably, and in most cases occupy their leisure satisfactorily. With guidance and encouragement, several natives (including former bad characters) have become good staff aides. At the same time one has to accept the fact that, owing to their nature and often their condition, these people are over-sexed and, while they are continually being lectured and cautioned and sometimes punished, it is necessary to be very forbearing. In the case of children admitted from both the Settlement and outside, they have such abnormal knowledge of indecent habits and language that only the most extraordinary and perfect administrative requirements could hope to cope with their peculiarities.

#### YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The total number of females placed in domestic service was 473, of which 144 were sent out from the Settlements, 62 from the Head Office, Brisbane, and the balance, 267, through country Protectors.

There was fairly good demand for their services, but the wages offering were only moderate, owing to the depression and the number of white servants now available.

The regulations were generally well observed and no serious trouble was experienced.

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 .. ..	27	30	57
Fantome Island .. ..	1	..	1
Cherbourg .. ..	6	4	10
Woorabinda .. ..	5	18	23
<i>Missions—</i>			
Aurukun .. ..	2	..	2
Monamona .. ..	2	3	5
Totals .. ..	43	55	98

Sixty-eight claims by half-caste mothers for maternity allowance were granted and £272 received, mostly being paid through the departmental officers.

Permits were granted for the legal marriages of 47 women, of whom 38 were full-bloods and 9 half-castes.

Forty-three of these women were married to men of their own race, three half-castes to Europeans, and one to a half-caste Pacific Islander.

The usual tribal marriages occurred, but no reliable record could be obtained.

*Brisbane District.*—The number of women and girls for whom domestic employment was found by Head Office was 62, of whom 27 were sent to country situations and 35 placed in the city and suburbs.

The wages earned by them amounted to £1,938, of which £1,469 was paid, in terms of the agreements, through the Department, and controlled for

their use and benefit, the balance being drawn direct as pocket-money.

The withdrawals allowed from their savings bank account for expenditure on clothing, dentistry, and recreations amounted to £2,027, nearly £600 in excess of the earnings booked. This apparent over-drawing was accounted for by the fact that six married women and five other unemployed girls operated upon their savings bank accounts for personal needs.

Two half-caste girls were granted exemption, and ten others, for lack of employment, were sent to live on the Settlements.

The amount to credit of these girls' accounts at end of December was £8,040, an average of £72 per individual. This included £204 interest accruing.

At the end of May, Mrs. Sullivan, who for many years had filled the duties of Protector of Aborigines (females), resigned to enter into business. During the seventeen years of her service in that capacity she had won the respect and confidence of her numerous charges by her sympathy and evident desire to do all in her power for their welfare.

Owing to staff changes, the result of re-organisation, the control of the girls, employment and business affairs has been in the hands of the female officers of the Accounts Branch, and the inspection of girls in employment has been carried out by the Inspector of the State Children's Department. The reports as to treatment by employers and conduct of the girls were generally satisfactory.

The number of orphan children maintained in homes and receiving care, education, and training was as under:—

Blind, Deaf and Dumb School .. ..	3
Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	26
Purga Industrial School .. ..	25
Salvation Army Home, Indooroopilly ..	4
Salvation Army Home, Yeronga .. ..	10
Total .. ..	68

The total cost of such maintenance was £1,403.

#### HALF-CASTES.

The Census returns of 30th June, 1933, give the number of half-castes in this State as 4,425, an increase of 357 on the figures for 1932, which were 4,068. It might be noted, however, that in 1928 the figures were 4,421, indicating an increase of four, only, in five years. It is evident, then, that little reliance can be placed upon these figures, the explanation being that the enumerators incorrectly describe the nationality of many of the persons.

During the past year, considerable public interest was evoked by the important question of the future of the half-caste by a proposal, put forward in another State, that the marriage of half-caste women to European men should be encouraged in order to breed out the aboriginal strain.

Some interesting views in opposition to the foregoing were voiced by certain prominent scientists. It was pointed out that it was highly unlikely that many whites would be willing to marry crossbreeds, no matter what the inducement, and those few would probably be of a low type. Further, that the evils of hereditary transmission would always be a menace to the happiness of such unions.

The apparent support in such views to the past policy of the department in firmly opposing miscegenation is at least encouraging.

As the figures show, the numbers of full-bloods is gradually declining, and the half-caste population is correspondingly increasing. Comparatively little of this increase can be attributed to miscegenation, but is the result of the legitimate mating of half-castes with one another. To some extent, also, the decline in the number of full-blood births is due to the mating of the latter type with cross-breeds, the progeny of which also claim to be half-castes.

The question of the future of the half-caste as part of a practical constructive native policy is receiving careful consideration.

If the half-caste cannot, without injustice to himself and injury to the white race, be bred out, then the question arises as to whether his happiness will be best achieved by segregation from both races or reabsorption. The half-caste's great disability is the environment into which he is born, but it is doubtful if there are sufficient with the capacity and ambition to rise above such environment to warrant the establishment of separate institutions for them. Such a type would be content with nothing less than complete freedom.

To meet the cases of those desirous of bettering their condition, exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Acts is granted where it is shown that the applicant is sufficiently intelligent, of good character, and otherwise capable of managing his own affairs. Forty-two such applications were received, but in only eight cases were the persons found eligible.

#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

At most institutions, as circumstances made practicable, instruction of manual and domestic character was given.

At Cherbourg the School Inspector reported most favourably on the quality of the needlework done by the girls and the carpentry efforts of the boys, but, on his recommendation, the manual lessons are being organised on rural school lines. Consideration is being given to the training of selected lads at the State Rural Schools in the wood, leather, sheet metal, and iron trades.

At Woorabinda instruction is being given in horticulture and simple farming by the organisation of competitive school garden plots.

At Palm Island a number of young men receive training in the workshop in plumbing, carpentering, and joinery. Others have shown creditable adaptability in the building of dinghies. It is hoped in the near future to be able to organise vocational training classes on the lines of the rural schools.

At Yarrabah Mission all the work of boatbuilding, carpentering, housebuilding, plumbing, iron fitting, and electric lighting is done by native trainees.

In Torres Strait Islands a number of young lads are trained in boatbuilding at Aboriginal Industries, their own native trading station, where all the dinghies required for the large native fishing fleet are made. Most of the lads elect to follow the occupation of their fathers and engage as learners in the fishing fleets. A number enter as pupils for the teaching service and the native clergy.

A woodwork class under the teacher at Yorke Island has made creditable progress in the use of tools.

At practically all institutions all building development and mechanical work is done entirely by native tradesmen. The girls are also utilised



in all domestic branches, often occupying responsible positions as dormitory attendants, cooks, hospital wardsmen, and seamstresses.

#### OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were paid to the Aboriginal Settlements at Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, and the Lock Hospital at Fantome Island, and direction given in matters of administration and development and reports furnished.

An inspection was also made of these settlements by the Hon. the Home Secretary and Under Secretary, and also of the Yarrabah and Monamona Mission Stations.

These official visits were greatly appreciated by the inmates, and the Minister expressed his pleasure at the apparent health and happiness of the people.

In October His Excellency the Governor made a tour of Torres Strait, visiting Thursday Island, Badu, Poid, Moa, Mabuiag, Saibai, Yorke, Darnley, Murray, and Coconut Islands. The natives of the various islands vied with each other in giving a hearty welcome to the vice-regal visitors and entertaining them with something fresh in the way of native displays, including fish spearing, dugong hunting, dancing, and canoe sailing.

His Excellency afterwards furnished, through the Hon. the Premier, a most helpful memorandum of his observations during the trip, and expressed his appreciation of the warmth of the welcome given and his approval of the work of the administration.

The Chief Protector attended the Governor on the above tour and afterwards made an inspection of the half-caste Mission at Hammond Island, the native village at Cowal Creek, the Mission Stations at Mapoon, Weipa, and Lockhart River, and the aboriginal camps at Batavia River, Coen, and Stewart River.

Where possible, during all the above patrols, matters of administration were discussed with local protectors.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORKE PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines, J. D. McLean; Deputy Protector of Aborigines, L. S. Dobbyn.

*Health.*—The health of the natives on all Reserves and the Mainland was, on the whole, satisfactory throughout the year.

Particulars are given in the report of the Government Medical Officer which follows.

It is again necessary to acknowledge the good work accomplished and kindly advice tendered by the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Nimmo, and the Quarantine Officer, Dr. Bevington, not only at Thursday Island but during their patrols and inspections of the islands and mainland. Preliminary action for the Hookworm Campaign was undertaken, and it is expected that the campaign will be finalised during the forthcoming year.

The Cottage Hospital at Darnley was occupied for a period of 290 days, 31 in-patients being treated. A hospital was erected at Saibai, but has not yet been opened.

Much good work has been effected by the Government teachers in local treatment of sick natives. Owing to the isolation of the islands, it is essential that speedy action be taken to relieve the natives in cases of illness, and the teachers cannot be too highly commended for the manner in which they have undertaken their responsibilities in this respect.

Supplies of medicines have been stationed at suitable centres, and these have been kept up to requirements.

A cause of jaundice, caused by the excessive drinking of tuba (or coconut beer), resulted fatally. Tuba drinking was found to have a prejudicial effect on the habits and health of the native, and its manufacture and use has now been totally prohibited.

*Population.*—The census taken at 30th June, 1933, shows that there are 547 half-castes and 3,003 full-bloods, a total of 3,550, and discloses a decrease of 33, when compared with the figures for 1932. This is due to a more exact census being taken at Thursday Island, which reveals a decrease of 137 on the former total, which number undoubtedly represents coloured people, not of aboriginal descent, previously included.

The total population of the islands, excluding Thursday Island and Cowal Creek Settlement, is 3,312, an increase of 94 on 1932 figures. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 mainland natives living the nomadic life or located at the various mainland Mission Stations in the Peninsula. The number of births registered during the year exceeded the deaths by 76.

*Island Schools.*—All island schools were inspected by Mr. Finter, Head Teacher of the State School, Thursday Island, who is also Inspector for the Torres Strait Aboriginal Schools. His reports assert that the classes of pupils in schools supervised by white teachers showed fair proficiency, whilst those under the tutelage of native teachers were in some cases unsatisfactory. The lapse in the latter case is explained by the inevitable tendency of the native to relax his efforts as soon as he is removed from supervision, and by the constant need of keeping him up to the standard of teaching required by the syllabus. To meet this contingency, it has now been decided to train two teachers at Murray Island, who, when certified as competent, will be sent to relieve at schools where native teachers are in charge, so that these teachers may return periodically for further tuition by a white teacher.

New schools and quarters for teachers were erected during the year at Dauan and Boigu Islands, and the addition to the school at Darnley was completed. Repairs were undertaken at Saibai school and new walls made of nipa palm brought from New Guinea. The School at Yorke Island was painted and the walls repaired.

In addition to the ordinary curriculum, the girls receive instruction in sewing and the boys in gardening. The school gardens are increasing in area, and have an economic value in providing for the needs of improvident islanders. Classes of mat-weaving and basket-making are also held, which are attended by the older girls of the village, thus ensuring the preservation of these native arts.

At Yorke Island there is a wood-working class weekly, where models are made and boys are showing greater proficiency in the use of tools.

There are 13 aboriginal schools on the islands and one at Cowal Creek on the mainland, at which are enrolled 1,069 pupils. The schools were fully staffed and adequately equipped during the period.

*Island Improvements.*—At Darnley Island the Magore drainage scheme was completed. This consisted of draining a swamp fed by a large spring and diverting the waters, by means of two sluices, into a cement container. From the cement container water was conveyed by pipes to a storage tank; two bathrooms were erected and showers installed which are extensively used by the natives.

Roads were made to the cemetery around Badog Bay, connecting the villages of Medigee and Same, and from Dadunud-Magore to Magore-Ema. Further channelling was undertaken in Medigee Creek, and the bridge over it completed. This bridge was formally declared open for traffic by His Excellency Sir Leslie Orme Wilson during his visit in September.

At Murray Island road extension work was carried out, and this island is now encircled with good roads.

At Yorke Island the coping of lime cement has been extended on the main avenue, and side streets have been laid out and lined with stone. Two new houses were erected on the new site for the village along the main avenue.

Stephen and Coconut Islands have compact villages and little work is required to keep them in order. Three new houses were built at Stephen Island.

At Badu Island three new houses were built and a new church is being erected, which will greatly improve the appearance of the village.

At Poid village, Moa Island, a reconstruction involving the alignment of streets and the subdivision of the area into suitable allotments as residential sites was undertaken. Old houses will be pulled down and new ones erected to conform with the newly designed areas.

At Mabuiag Island the roads were kept in good order and repair. Two new houses were erected—also seven kitchens. The concrete tank has proved a failure and will not hold water. Steps are being taken to make it watertight.

At Saibai a very fine church has been built of concrete by the people, to plans prepared by a Thursday Island architect. The work has been going on for nine years.

The houses are the best in the islands, consisting of wooden frames, nipa palm walls, and iron roofs. Most of the houses are equipped with 1,000 gallon tanks, which solves the problem of water supply for domestic use.

At Boigu and Dauan Islands new schools and teachers' quarters were erected.

*Company Boats.*—At the commencement of the year, 1933, the "Manu" was transferred from Poid to Mabuiag, the "Mabuiag" from Mabuiag to Boigu, the "Roma" from Murray to Badu, the "Naianga" from Badu to Darnley, and the "Erub" from Darnley to Yam. The value of these boats was written down to meet depreciation, which is reflected in the balance-sheet by a reduction in the value of boats and capital.

Reserves were also drawn on when affecting the transfers. The "Budia" and "Kalimu" broke up during the year and have been written off, which contributed to the reductions in value of boats and capital.

The loan from Island Fund for advances to boats was reduced during the year by £394 11s. 7d., and loans to boats repaid amounted to £840 17s. 2d., plus repayments of £462 13s. 10d. loaned to effect repairs, showing a nett gain of £816 12s. 9d.

Minor repairs were done to most of the boats and major repairs to the "Binibin," which necessitated increasing the loan to that boat by £165 17s. 9d.

Sixty tender sales of produce won by the natives were held at the Thursday Island Shell Store during the year, and 292 tenders were received.

The amount of produce sold was 211 tons of trochus, 36 tons pearl shell, 24 cwt. of blacklip shell and beche-de-mer, also curio shells, turtle shell, pearls, and old copper.

The total value was £20,042, an increase of £811 on that of previous year.

The produce won was received as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
From company boats .. ..	18,128	11	6
From shore working boats ..	1,635	18	10
From Palm Island returns ..	288	9	8
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>£20,053</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

This amount was apportioned as follows:—Expenditure on repairs, £594 6s. 9d.; provisions, gear, &c., £5,786 8s. 10d.; amount distributed to crews, £6,702 18s., and the balance appropriated for deductions to island funds, commission, insurance, repayments of loans, additions to reserves, &c.

The market opened strong for trochus (£80 11s. 11d. per ton was received early in February for good shell), and then weakened. The price fell away till the middle of March, when £52 7s. 10d. per ton was taken for a fair quality parcel. Early in May the market improved and £75 18s. 6d. was received, and gradually strengthened until the end of September, when the highest price for the year was received, viz., £94 10s. 1d. The year closed with trochus selling at £77 per ton.

Heavy weather and strong winds prevailed on the working grounds for the greater part of the year, which was not favourable for picking up shell, and the crews stated that shell did not come out as usual, attributing this to the continued heavy weather that prevailed.

The pearl shell market opened at £115 7s. 6d., and gradually improved till July, when £130 2s. 6d. was taken for a small parcel of Wappa shell. From August on the market showed little or no strength, and the price fell away gradually till the end of the year, when £94 2s. 6d. was all that could be obtained.

Black lip shell remained steady during the whole year from £10 to £11 per ton.

Most unsatisfactory prices were received for beche-de-mer; from £18 to £66 5s. 6d. per ton was all that could be obtained, and the production of this commodity has been discouraged, as it is impossible to produce at a profit at these prices.

Nineteen cutters and six luggers worked continuously throughout the year, employing approximately 386 men, and all made a creditable showing, with the exception of the Murray Island cutter, which showed a loss on working of £73 10s. 2d.

The share divided amongst crews, after all expenses and deductions, amounted to £6,702 18s., and repairs cost £594 6s. 9d.

The cup presented three years ago for competition was won by the "Wakaid," and the flag by the "Badu," both trophies going to Badu Island.

Every effort was made to urge the crews to greater production and stimulate the spirit of enthusiasm.

The boats showing the best results were:—

Ketch.	£	Cutter.	£
"Wakaid" ..	1,742	"Badu" ..	841
"Binibin" ..	1,397	"Ugar" ..	752
"Erub" ..	1,356	"Yaza" ..	707

Individually the boats did not do so well as last year, although the aggregate produced by all boats was larger.

*Mosby Brothers' Firm.*—The boats "Harold" and "Kismet" earned £1,107 14s. 6d., or £246 4s. less than last year. This resulted in a loss on the working of these boats of £319 14s. 10d. The loss was due to the inefficiency of the captain of the "Kismet," who was unable to control his crew of Small River Mainland boys. The business of the firm is too involved for the members, who could achieve greater success if they worked one boat per medium of the efforts of the family. They have therefore decided to dispose of one boat, the "Harold."

Regular inspections of the equipment and gear of the company boats were made by Captain Smibert, Harbour Master, Thursday Island. He also supervised the repairs and overhaul of the vessels on the Thursday Island slipway.

It is desired to acknowledge the assistance rendered by Captain Smibert in this direction.

*Aboriginal Industries.*—The business of Aboriginal Industries at Badu was further expanded during the year by the opening of another Branch Store at Saibai. The gross sales for the year ended 30th June, 1933 amounted to £20,077 15s. 7d., or £4,323 6s. 9d. more than the total for the previous year. The increase justifies the principle of establishing branch stores, which are popular with the natives. Indeed, they have one drawback, as it is difficult to induce the native to leave home and go to work so long as he can draw money from his savings bank account to spend in the stores. The knowledge, however, of what goods can be purchased at the stores is an education to the natives and an incentive to them to work so that they may get money for purchases. Even the stay-at-homes are moved to greater endeavours in their efforts to work shell by means of dinghies on the home reefs. The effect of the stores is most noticeable in the improved manner in which the natives clothe themselves and their families, provide adequate foodstuffs in the house, and replace their primitive utensils with a modern outfit, thus conducing to cleanliness in their persons and their houses and assisting materially their bodily well-being and health.

Although business was commenced at Yorke, Darnley, and Murray during 1932, it was only during the year under review that buildings, the property of Aboriginal Industries, were erected at these places.

As the business increased in importance it was found that the "Melbidir" was too busy to cope with the necessary transportation of cargo, and a ketch called the "Darton" was purchased for this purpose. This vessel has since been renamed the "Mulgrave."

In addition to the store at Badu there is also a workshop which builds and repairs dinghies, manufactures sanitary pans, &c., and its income for sales and repair work amounted to £793 12s. 5d. as against £719 5s. 3d. for the previous period.

A building was purchased in Thursday Island for a shell store which is located in a most prominent position on the waterfront, and the buildings therein should meet the requirements of the business for some years to come.

*Island Funds.*—There is a total of £6,268 16s. 9d. at credit of the Aboriginal Community Funds, as against £5,559 18s. 3d. for the previous year. The contributions amounted to £2,801 4s. 6d., whilst the disbursements totalled £1,984 7s. 4d., showing a net increase of £816 17s. 2d. Loans aggregating £4,693 9s. 1d. were advanced to finance

other undertakings within the jurisdiction for the benefit of the natives, of which the sum of £163 19s. 3d. has been repaid.

The chief items of expenditure were £707 16s. 3d. on account of relief to the indigent and pensions, £1,190 19s. 1d. in payment of village improvements and services, and £85 12s. as compensation to injured seamen.

The island funds have at loan to the boats the sum of £2,357 11s. 11d. and to Mosby Brothers £996 6s. 7d.

The boats' insurance fund was increased by £253 17s. 1d., and now has a credit of £1,212 12s. 5d. No claims were made on this fund during the year. The premiums paid into the crews' insurance fund totalled £196 14s. 4d., and claims for benefits, including six permanent allowances amounting to £7 per month, aggregating £85 12s., were met. The balance to credit is now £376 13s. 1d.

*Savings Bank Accounts.*—The employees' account represents all earnings of aboriginals under the control of the Protector at Thursday Island, Somerset District, deposited with the Protector.

The amount at credit of 1,179 accounts is £11,017 11s. 2d., from which advances made totalled £5,432 5s. 7d., thus leaving a balance of £5,585 5s. 7d. at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Cairns.

The figures are satisfactory as compared with the previous report, but they must not be taken as the general earning as, during the year, Mitchell River Mission transferred the sum of £1,840 for the credit of their wards by way of bank transfer and expiring fixed deposits. The total deposits amounted to £10,497 17s. 3d. and the withdrawals £9,327 18s. 5d.

A further £1,000 was loaned to the Aboriginal Industries, making a total of £5,000 against this account.

The operations show an increase of 590 debit and 302 credit transactions, mainly due to the establishment of island stores and the increased operations thereat.

*Recreation.*—The Scout and Girl Guide movements flourished during the year, and much enthusiasm prevailed amongst the scouts at the opportunity given them of welcoming the Chief Scout, Sir Leslie Orme Wilson, to their islands. Suitable guards of honour were provided for the occasion, and the result of the visit is reflected in the keenness of the scouts in their work.

The school children are becoming proficient in games such as cricket, football, and basket ball, whilst the elders pursue the ancient practices of dugong and turtle hunting and fish spearing.

The Europeanisation of dancing which was threatened in some of the islands has been discouraged, and the old-time music and dancing reign supreme.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of the late Acting Protector of Aboriginals, Mr. H. T. Green, which occurred in September. Mr. Green had the interests of the natives at heart, and had effected many improvements conducing to their welfare.

MEDICAL REPORT on the islands of the Torres Strait and Gulf Mission, 1933.

*Government Medical Officer: Dr. J. R. Nimmo.*

Reports from various Superintendents show that the health of the aboriginals has been good during the past year.

*Epidemic Disease.*—The only notable epidemic was one of influenza in June-July. Although the majority of the natives were affected by the disease, and pneumonia as a complication was by no means rare, the mortality rate was fortunately low.

A mild outbreak of chicken-pox was reported from Darnley Island.

*Endemic Disease—Malaria.*—Of the islands where malaria is endemic, there has been an apparent lowering of the incidence of the disease at Darnley and Poid. It must be borne in mind, however, that a large proportion of the people in these places are still infected and are liable to relapsed attacks of malaria. A determined campaign against the anopheles mosquito is the only useful means of preventing this disease. Good work has been done by the teacher at Darnley in draining the swamps and other breeding-places.

*Sabui.*—It seems doubtful whether this island could be freed from the ravages of the anopheles mosquito. It is a hot-bed of malaria, and the problem of mosquito control presents enormous difficulties.

*Yaws.*—Distributed generally on all the islands and the Gulf Missions, this disease responds very well to a course of treatment by stovarsol. The treatment is usually carried out by the teachers, and provided they keep up a proper supervision and treatment, this disease should be easily controlled.

*Filariasis.*—This disease is fairly general in the whole area, although the incidence of apparent infection is not very great. Mosquito control is the only means of limiting this infection.

*Hookworm.*—Improvement in general health has followed the routine dosing for hookworm at the various mainland stations during the last three years. Although the incidence of infection is apparently low in the Torres Strait, it has been decided to carry out a routine anti-hookworm campaign, and a scheme of periodical mass treatment has been inaugurated.

*Skin Disease.*—Various forms of ringworm are prevalent, but respond to routine treatment.

*Tuberculosis.*—Contact with Europeans introduced tuberculosis amongst the natives of the Torres Strait. Up to the present this disease has proved itself to be very deadly to the aborigine. Pulmonary tuberculosis in these people usually runs a rapid and fatal course. Twenty per cent. of the total deaths for 1933 are attributable to this infection. The question of segregating tuberculous natives should receive consideration in any scheme of health improvement.

*Veneral Disease.*—Contact with white races is the means of introducing this type of disease. No case of gonorrhœa or of syphilis has been noticed among the natives of Torres Strait, nor any reported by the missions.

*Ulcerative Granuloma.*—This is endemic amongst the Gulf natives, and six have been treated in hospital during the year. The Superintendent at Aurukun (Mr. McKenzie) has undertaken to carry out treatment by tartar emetic injections. This treatment is rather tedious, but on the whole effective.

#### ABORIGINAL PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITAL AT THURSDAY ISLAND.

Of the patients admitted to the Torres Strait Hospital during 1933, 120 were natives under the control of the Protector of Aborigines.

The following is a list of the diseases for which these patients were treated:—

Influenza .. .. 22	Obstetric .. .. 1
Pneumonia .. .. 3	Malaria (relapse) .. 2
Bronchitis .. .. 4	Yaws .. .. 4
Phthisis .. .. 5	Ulc. Granuloma .. 6
Heart disease .. 7	Amœbic abscess .. 1
Kidney and bladder 3	Disease of eyes .. 4
Gastritis .. .. 2	Benign tumour .. 5
Appendicitis .. 1	Talipes .. .. 2
Catarrhal jaundice 1	Injuries, &c. .. 10
Diabetes .. .. 1	Shark bite .. .. 1
Graves disease .. 2	Abscess, &c. .. 16
Arthritis, &c. .. 10	Miscellaneous .. 3
Pelvic disease .. 4	

*Out-Patients.*—Two hundred and twelve natives attended as out-patients and received advice and treatment as required.

There were seven deaths in hospital from the following causes:—Acute phthisis, 4; pneumonia, 2; amœbic abscess of liver, 1.

*Comment.*—Of the patients admitted with influenza, eleven developed broncho-pneumonia, and all recovered.

*Appendicitis.*—The records of the Torres Strait Hospital show that this is the first case of this complaint occurring in the island for at least twelve years. The patient, a Baduan, was operated on by Dr. Burke-Gaffney, of Cooktown, who found that the appendix had ruptured. After a long convalescence he was sent on here, and subsequently returned to Badu, having completely recovered.

Two cases of congenital deformity of the feet (double talipes varus) in new-born infants were successfully treated by manipulation and splinting. One infant was a Mabuiag native and the other a mainlander. The latter child subsequently died very suddenly, and a post-mortem disclosed hæmorrhagic necrosis of the pancreas as the cause of death.

*Nutrition.*—The general nutrition of the island people is uniformly good. They lack nothing in the way of essential foodstuffs. The mainlanders are less fortunately situated, although it is rarely that any serious shortage occurs.

*Cowal Creek.*—About September there was reported to be a shortage of food at this village. An examination of the children showed that their nutrition was sub-normal. (Although they appeared well nourished two months previously). Steps were taken to supply relief rations. It would be extremely beneficial if arrangements were completed for keeping goats at this place. Goat's milk would solve the problem of food shortage for the children.

*Hygiene and Sanitation.*—Progress is being made in improving the sanitation of the islands. The success of attempting to stamp out hookworm infection largely depends on proper sanitation.

*An Analysis of the Causes of Death in Aborigines is of Interest.*—The exact cause of death is not always easy to arrive at, as teachers cannot be expected to be able to diagnose disease with any degree of certainty. Of seventy-five deaths notified during the year, fifteen were from tuberculosis, seventeen from influenza and/or pneumonia, eight from senility, two from childbirth, while there were three fatal accidents.

The number of persons and ages in decades are set out below:—

Under 1 year .. .. .	10
From 1 to 10 years .. .. .	13
From 10 to 20 years .. .. .	6
From 20 to 30 years .. .. .	7
From 30 to 40 years .. .. .	9
From 40 to 50 years .. .. .	9
From 50 to 60 years .. .. .	7
From 60 to 70 years .. .. .	5
From 70 to 90 years .. .. .	8

Of the deaths in infants under one year, four are attributed to prematurity, one each to pneumonia, hæmorrhagic jaundice, hæmorrhagic necrosis of the pancreas, and four are uncertain.

#### GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS

**Cherbourg, Murgon, Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple.**

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

**Palm Island, Townsville, Superintendent, J. E. Delaney.**

*Staff.*—At Cherbourg Miss Olive Shiimin was appointed in March to the vacancy of Settlement Matron created by the resignation of Mrs. Semple. Miss Aitkenhead, who had held the position of Hospital Matron for several years resigned, the vacancy being filled by Miss Thomas for the balance of the year.

The position of Farm Foreman, held by Mr. Cuylenburg, was abolished, necessitating that officer's retirement, and the duties were combined with those of Engine-driver, who was only part-time employed owing to closure of the sawmill.

At Palm Island the appointment of Mr. J. E. Delaney as Superintendent was confirmed, and also the appointments of Mr. W. C. Curtis as Clerk and Mr. N. W. Thompson as Storekeeper.

Nurse Brumm, of Cherbourg Settlement Hospital, was transferred to Palm Island Hospital in place of Miss Gumley, transferred. The post of Foreman Carpenter was abolished, the building work now being performed by competent native tradesmen.

At Woorabinda Mr. G. Thomas was engaged as Temporary Sawyer during building operations with alternate duties of motor truck driver.

*Labour.*—There was an improvement in the demand for native labour, especially at Woorabinda, although this was mostly in the engagements for temporary work. The earnings paid to the settlement showed a small increase of £253.

As this class of employment benefits most the needy labourers, it was reflected in a gratifying decrease of £536 in the issue of clothing and other relief from the free stores. The actual number of engagements in employment from these places was as given hereunder:—

—	Under Agreement.	Under Casual Permit.
Cherbourg .. .. .	70 (M. 17, F. 53)	63
Palm Island .. .. .	*132 (M. 81, F. 51)	..
Woorabinda .. .. .	63 (M. 23, F. 40)	46

\* Included 23 boys recruited for work on fishing vessels, but the employment was for short periods only.

#### Settlement Revenue.

The actual revenue received by the three settlements is as follows:—

Collections.	Cherbourg.	Palm Island.	Woorabinda.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages and fares .. .. .	2,946 11 8	3,939 0 7	2,546 15 0
Sale of produce and miscellaneous income .. .. .	140 12 2	316 12 11	468 8 2
Native contributions to maintenance .. .. .	238 3 7	297 10 11	133 15 2
Interest on trust accounts .. .. .	150 8 0	480 4 0	100 15 9
Totals .. .. .	3,475 15 5	5,033 8 5	3,249 14 1

A total of £11,758 17s. 11d.

These revenues do not include the value of beef, milk, vegetables, stock fodder, timber, &c. produced and consumed on the settlements, nor of buildings and fencing erected and general improvements carried out with settlement labour.

#### Population.

Settlement.	Total.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.
Cherbourg .. .. .	859	374	485
Palm Island .. .. .	1,168	820	348
Woorabinda .. .. .	497	210	287
Totals .. .. .	2,524	1,404	1,120

The figures show an increase of 133 over last year, the increase comprising 58 full bloods and 75 half-castes.

The largest increase occurs at Woorabinda, and is due largely to the lack of regular employment in the Central Districts necessitating the migration of a number of families to the settlement.

*Conduct and Discipline.*—No serious crime or trouble has occurred. Behaviour was generally satisfactory.

At Palm Island the native police squad was reorganised and strengthened and strict training given, which resulted in marked improvement in discipline all round.

A new and effective lock-up was built and also a barracks for the police. This enabled offenders against the regulations to be dealt with on the settlement instead of sending them to the Magistrate's Court. Moral offences were most frequent owing to preponderance of males.

Twenty-five natives absconded, but seventeen were recaptured and dealt with.

At Cherbourg and Woorabinda the usual camp quarrels or disputes between inmates of the dormitories were dealt with by the Superintendants.

#### INDUSTRY.

*Trading.*—The business done in the retail stores is shown in the following table:—

#### Retail Stores.

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. .. .	874 10 9	1,996 15 0	454 6 10	3,325 12 7
Palm Island .. .. .	628 5 8	5,497 19 0	511 12 0	6,637 16 8
Woorabinda .. .. .	936 19 2	2,202 4 0	577 8 3	3,716 11 5
Totals .. .. .	2,439 15 7	9,696 18 0	1,543 7 1	13,680 0 8

The operations were more satisfactory than last year. The gross turnover shows an increase of £317 2s. 7d., but the most satisfactory feature was the decrease in the free issues of £536 5s. 10d. The net increase in actual sales was therefore £853 8s. 5d.

*Agriculture.*—Farming operations at Cherbourg were fairly successful. Crops generally were good, particularly vegetables, which were produced in greater quantity than ever before. These totalled 22 tons 4 cwt., comprised of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  tons of cabbages,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of potatoes,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of turnips, and varying quantities of other vegetables. Lucerne and oats turned out well, 15 tons of the former being harvested and 30 tons of the latter. In addition, 30 tons of hay were obtained. The cotton planting of 12 acres proved encouraging, the crop comparing more than favourably with any in the district.

A very satisfactory year was also experienced at Palm Island, the following crops being produced:—12 tons sweet potatoes,  $30\frac{1}{2}$  tons pumpkins, 5 tons swede turnips, 354 bushels Mauritius beans, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton of tomatoes, cabbages, and lettuce. In addition, 935 dozen bananas were grown and 1,000 lb. of honey obtained from the settlement hives.

The Mauritius beans were sold to the Macknade Sugar Mill. A further 25 acres of scrub was felled with the intention of planting the land with Mauritius beans.

Woorabinda experienced a good season, it being one of the best for many years, but in spite of this the results were not encouraging. Pumpkins, squashes, and marrows suffered from the severe heat, although tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and carrots withstood the heat well.

A good crop of wheat was grown which resulted in 20 tons of excellent hay. The settlement is well supplied with fodder. The cotton crop realised £80, but the attempt at tobacco growing was a failure. English potatoes did not do well, but the production of cowpeas was very satisfactory. Good supplies of cabbage, lettuce, marrows, beetroot, carrots, sweet potatoes, turnips, pumpkins, cucumbers, melons, and french beans were produced.

A commencement has again been made in the development of the area on the Blackboy Creek where vegetables were produced in good quantities. A trial is being made with pineapples and winter tomatoes above frost level.

*Stock.*—Dairying operations at Cherbourg were fairly satisfactory. An average supply of 20 gallons of milk a day was obtained. The herd had to be fed from May till October.

A good season was experienced in the grazing operations, although the branding was disappointing, only 210 calves being branded. The breeders are in good condition.

The cattle killed were as follows:—

Station-bred bullocks ... ..	101
Spayed cows ... ..	68
Total ... ..	169

A further 500 acres was ringbarked. A weaner paddock was subdivided to make a separate paddock for the Ayrshire cows. Fences have been erected on the Banker's Creek boundary, and between Cherbourg and Muddy Flat.

Creditable progress was made at Palm Island. An additional 250 acres have been ringbarked. A light road was constructed to Bamboo Creek, where a good area of grazing land is available, and a road to connect up with Butler Bay is under construction.

Two new stockyards are nearing completion. The herd now numbers 321, made up of 108 dairy cows and breeders, 42 working bullocks, 56 steers, 38 heifers, 73 weaners, and 4 bulls. The stock also includes 17 horses and 4 pigs. Two sows have since arrived, increasing the number by fourteen.

Woorabinda had an excellent season for grazing. A record was reached in the number of calves, the number branded being 461. Eight heifers have been graded for breeders to make up for last season's spaying. The introduction of Bundaberg bulls has given excellent results so far, and three bull calves have given such promise that they have been retained.

Two hundred and two were killed, comprising 130 bullocks and 72 cows.

An outbreak of blackleg occurred for which due precautions were taken. Pleuro also broke out resulting in the loss of a fine bullock.

A new dam was constructed which enabled the swamp supply to last longer. The dam at the northern end will be extended as weather permits.

Twelve hundred acres have been ringbarked in the Blackboy area. Considerable fencing work was done, one portion of the Blackboy area having been subdivided into four good paddocks, and progress made in the subdivision of the northern end.

*Industrial.*—Apart from the fencing, no building work was done at Cherbourg. The native carpenters were, however, kept occupied in effecting repairs and making lavatory equipment, tables, and other necessary articles.

Logging operations were continued at Palm Island. The majority of the old working bullocks have died and had to be replaced with young steers.

The output of sawn timber reached 76,857 superficial feet, an increase of 6,461 over last year. Of the total output, 23,849 superficial feet were pine and 53,008 superficial feet were hardwood.

Building work was continuous throughout the year. The women's ward at Fantome Island Hospital was completed, and two large camp buildings are under construction.

The erection of the lock-up and barracks were completed and four cottages erected. Various additions were made to staff quarters, and the new dormitory for girls was commenced. This building will be 100 feet by 44 feet, and will include a work-room 44 feet by 20 feet, a very creditable job for native workmen.

A large quantity of timber—chiefly Cypress pine—was milled at Woorabinda, and used in various building operations. A new implement shed, a boiler shed, and additional lavatory accommodation were erected. A church 50 feet by 24 feet for the Catholic congregation was erected by voluntary native labour, the cost of timber and roofing materials being found by the church authorities.

*Education.*—Progress in school work has been good. The staffs of the several schools have been most attentive to their duties, and have done very satisfactory work.

Discipline leaves little to be desired, although at Palm Island effective control cannot be exercised under existing staff conditions.

Enrolment has increased and attendance shows some improvement. This is good, comparing more than favourably with that at State schools. Pupils generally are very keen, and their conduct satisfactory. Absence from school is almost invariably due to sickness, such as the periodical attacks of

influenza during the winter months, and occasional visitations of measles in October, November, and December.

The enrolment and attendances are as follows:—

Settlement.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.
Cherbourg .. .. .	185	153.2
Palm Island .. .. .	184	151.5
Woorabinda .. .. .	123	114.2
Totals .. .. .	492	418.9

*Religious Instruction.*—Regular visits were made, and classes and services held at all Settlements by representatives of the various religious denominations.

Attendances are invariably good, and the people take a keen interest in these ministrations.

At Palm Island and Woorabinda the mission clergy of the Church of England and Roman Catholic churches visit regularly, and the former body also hold services at Cherbourg. The Aborigines Inland Mission also conduct classes and meetings.

At the first two Settlements the adherents of each of these religious bodies have by voluntary labour built separate church buildings for themselves.

*Recreation.*—The natives showed their usual keenness in their recreations. All forms of sport, such as cricket, football, tennis, vigoro, &c., being popular with adults and children alike. Each year organised games are filling a definite place in the natives' life. Competitions in cricket and football are regularly held, and the standard of play is steadily improving.

Occasional visits to neighbouring towns by the teams for friendly matches against whites have been allowed, and splendid reports have been received of the behaviour of the men.

The Palm Island team was successful in defeating both Townsville and the Herbert River League.

The Cherbourg cricket team again won the district competition, with Eddie Gilbert still the idol as a fast bowler.

Occasional cinematograph entertainments have been given at Cherbourg and Woorabinda.

Fishing is keenly indulged in at Palm Island, while at all Settlements hunting is popular amongst the older full-bloods.

Native corroborees are encouraged and afford much enjoyment, particularly to the older people.

The native brass bands are always in great demand, and have proved of inestimable value and joy as a counter attraction to the gambling ring.

Christmas and New Year celebrations are now a regular feature, and are looked forward to by the natives. The festivities include the holding of sports, the preparation of the Christmas trees, and the presentation of gifts.

The kindly co-operation and assistance of the officials contribute largely to the success of these functions, as also the visiting missionaries, who bring gifts and conduct religious services.

#### MISSIONS.

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

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

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

**Edward River, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, E. J. Clymo), Anglican.**

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

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

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

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

**Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. S. E. McKay), Presbyterian.**

**Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, W. O. Broad), Seventh Day Adventist.**

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

**Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, J. P. Dawson), Salvation Army.**

**Hammond Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. O. McDermott), Roman Catholic.**

*Conduct.*—The only serious offences were reported from Aurukun, where a case of child murder occurred and a criminal attempt was made by four men on a married woman. Five natives also absconded from the same place.

At Cape Bedford a spirit of restlessness has manifested itself among some of the inmates which is attributed to the many small, isolated camps dotted about and around the Mission, which encourages a spirit of "wanderlust." Otherwise conduct has been satisfactory. Other Missions report very favourably on the conduct of their inmates.

*Religious Training.*—Satisfactory reports have been received from the various visiting missionaries who have held regular services. The attendances and interest shown in these ministrations are regarded as very encouraging.

The new Theological College has been completed at St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island, and students admitted. The "Mothers' Union" boasts a life membership amongst the native women.

*Education.*—Reports were very satisfactory from all institutions. The average standard attained was very creditable. At several of the Missions, notably Cape Bedford and Aurukun, simple manual and domestic training was given with excellent results.

*Industry and Agriculture.*—A brief account is given hereunder of the operations towards self-support at these stations.

*Yarrabah.*—Good crops of vegetables, including sweet potatoes, beans, pumpkins, cassava, and cowpeas were raised. Other crops under cultivation were 20 acres of Mauritius beans, 3 acres of melons, and a large plot of pineapples. Ten acres were planted with grasses, and a further 22 acres of scrub felled for clearing.

Twenty chains of new road were laid and a bridge built. Thirty chains of new fencing were erected, and new cowyards, bails, stockyard, and poultry pens built.

A new launch, 30 ft. by 10 ft. 6 in., made entirely from Mission sawn timber has been built, and is nearing completion.

The natives' home gardens did well, and several were able to sell surplus vegetables to the Mission store. The fishing operations were a failure, the vessel being wrecked.

The cattle number 200 head, but suitable grazing land is limited.

*Monamona.*—The timber logging operations constitute the main source of Mission revenue. A new Thornycroft lorry and Cletrac tractor with winch have been added to the equipment.

Farming operations for food production were successful, about 90 acres being under cultivation, including 40 acres of corn, 30 acres cassava, and 12 acres of sweet potatoes. Thirty-five tons of cassava, 6 tons of cabbages, 38 tons of potatoes, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton of carrots were raised. Forty acres of fresh scrub land have been cleared.

The cattle number 310, including 74 working bullocks. Twenty young Illawarra heifers and 2 bulls were added. An entire and a number of heavy draught mares have been secured for breeding purposes. A poultry farm has also been started with 100 pullets.

Private gardening has been encouraged by awarding prizes.

*Cape Bedford.*—The herd of 250 head of cattle supplied adequate meat and milk to all inmates. The stock comprise also about 80 horses and over 100 goats.

The Mission farm produced 4 tons cassava, 150 bunches bananas, 10,000 cocoanuts, and £76 worth of Mauritius beans. The beche-de-mer fishing vessels earned £80.

The total amount of revenue from local productions was £332.

Native home gardens produced about 10 tons sweet potatoes, 3 tons cassava, and about 50 bunches bananas. Agricultural operations have been hampered by lack of suitable farming land.

*Lockhart River.*—The majority of the Mission's able-bodied male labour is employed in the pearl shell and beche-de-mer industry, but about 40 acres of good land is cultivated by the residents in private gardens the produce of which supported the villages in vegetables and fruit for nine months in the year, assisted by fish, dugong, and turtle caught by the Mission store vessel.

Two new wells were sunk, increasing the water supply. The stock comprise 27 horses.

*St. Paul's, Moa Island.*—All able-bodied young men were employed in the marine industries, the older men and women left on shore working their private gardens.

The villagers raised nearly £100 amongst themselves by a native bazaar and other social functions towards the Mission building funds.

*Mapoon.*—The farms yielded good results from the growing of pumpkins and melons. Regular supplies of beef and milk were maintained throughout the year. The Mission stock numbers 550 head of cattle and 80 horses. Pig-raising also gave good results.

Jam-making and fancy work provided sources of income for the native women, there being a good demand for their work.

Beche-de-mer and copra were again too low in price to warrant the working of those industries.

New stockyards were erected at the Mission and at Holland's Landing, and two new wells sunk.

*Weipa.*—This Mission is now established at Jessica Point, and developmental work is proceeding very satisfactorily. Very little gardening was possible owing to the absence of fencing, although a few hundredweight of pumpkins and other vegetables were produced and 225 cocoanuts and a number of fruit and other ornamental trees planted.

A commencement has been made in the building up of a cattle herd with 41 head. There are also 21 horses.

Two temporary dormitories for the children have been erected with necessary lavatory accommodation.

The second cottage for the Assistant was erected from timber and material removed from the old site. Thirty habitable native cottages of bush timber and bark were erected in the village by the natives themselves, and twelve more are in course of erection.

A few of the natives engaged for work on the fishing fleet, but the majority were available for developmental work on the Mission, for which they received pay while working. Some income was derived from firewood cutting and fancy work.

*Aurukun.*—The results from farming operations were very gratifying. The crops produced included 7 tons of sweet potatoes, 2 tons of pumpkins, and good crops of cowpeas.

A start was made with cotton growing and the cultivation of Mauritius beans and satisfactory results obtained. Two cotton spinning wheels have been installed, and it is proposed to install a loom with the object of supplementing the clothing supply.

Cocoanut and mango plantations are being developed, and further areas of scrub land have been cleared for cultivation.

A further 3 acres of land have been cleared and planted, the total area under cultivation making 35 acres. Three new paddocks have been fenced off enclosing an area of 12 acres.

A new dispensary has been built, a new tank erected, and repairs made to the Mission buildings and the church.

The natives are replacing their old bark huts with slab buildings, which offer greater endurance.

*Mitchell River.*—Four new native houses of improved design were erected in the village, the young natives cutting flooring by splitting slabs with wedges.

An increased area was planted with food crops and Mauritius beans. Good crops were harvested, the beans being sent to Thursday Island for sale. The church building was reroofed with palm leaf, and new seating and mats provided.

The Mission herd shows a satisfactory increase. Yards have been built, and a new store shed erected.

*Edward River.*—This Mission is now in course of establishment. No buildings have yet been erected, but preparations are well advanced, and arrangements have been made for the commencement of grazing operations by the transfer of stock from Mitchell River Mission.

*Mornington Island.*—The gardening operations were fairly satisfactory, about 25 tons of vegetables being grown. Farming is severely handicapped by lack of adequate water supply, but investigations are being made, with the assistance and advice of the Irrigation Department, with a view to overcoming this difficulty.

The Mission stock comprises 350 head of cattle and 15 pigs.

Fishing operations were unsatisfactory, the low price of beche-de-mer being responsible for a loss on the year's catch. The whole catch only realised £52 8s. 10d. As this is the chief earning industry, the prospects for the future are not bright. It has not yet been possible to find a market for dugong oil, of which the Mission has a large quantity stored.



The sawmill plant is working satisfactorily, and supplies all timber requirements. The new dormitory for girls has been completed. Work was continued on the stone jetty, which is nearing completion.

*Bentinck Island.*—Regular touch was maintained as far as possible with the natives of this island, but the slump in the beche-de-mer industry has temporarily removed one of the principal mediums of contact.

*Purga.*—The stock comprises 95 head of cattle. Cream and butter sold realised £133.

The farming produced about 100 bushels of maize, and the sale of part of this realised £14. An area of 50 acres under cultivation produced about 50 tons of hay, mostly lucerne. About 50 chains of fencing were built. A well was sunk in the village, and the natives encouraged to cultivate private gardens.

Both verandas of the girls' dormitory were latticed, making greater privacy possible.

#### NATIVE PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

**Gayndah (Teacher C. Turner), average attendance 14.5 boys, 12.7 girls.**

**Myora (Superintendent R. Morrison), average attendance 14.5 boys, 12.5 girls.**

**Thursday Island (Teacher H. G. Simpson), average attendance 54 boys, 47.2 girls.**

Reports show that attendance has been very regular and progress satisfactory.

The Thursday Island school was inspected by His Excellency the Governor in October during his visit to the Torres Strait islands, the children giving a creditable performance of school items.

Visiting missionaries have taken an interest in the spiritual welfare of the schools at Gayndah and Myora, and with others assisted in the sports and picnics organised for the enjoyment of the children, especially at breaking-up day.

#### RECREATIONS.

All forms of outdoor sport were popular with the inmates of the various institutions. Football and cricket were as keenly enjoyed by the girls as well as boys, especially at the bush missions.

Tennis, vigoro, basket-ball, rounders, and such like were played where the material was available.

At several places, including the three Settlements and Yarrabah Mission, quite creditable brass bands exist, conducted by aboriginal players under their own leaders, and constitute a valuable counter attraction to the gambling ring and such evils, besides their use as a healthy hobby for the young men.

Table games, musical entertainments such as gramophone, concerts, simple musical plays are organised for indoor amusement at night.

At most places annual camping excursions were arranged under trusty official chaperonage, and the time-old sports of swimming, fishing, hunting for sugar bag or native game are then fully enjoyed. Camp fire concerts are another pleasurable feature.

The usual Christmas festival was observed with special luxuries, Christmas trees, and gifts provided by sympathising friends.

The native corroborees are always popular, and for the happiness of the old people these are encouraged.

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT.

Many encouraging evidences of a steady progress towards improved conditions and the settled useful

life are noted. Even in the more primitive stations on the Peninsula the desire to change the rude bark gunyah or hut for a more durable and substantial cottage of hardwood slabs was seen.

No pressure was exerted, as it was felt that the progress should be steady and voluntary. Any attempt to force them into an unnatural hot-house condition of civilisation would defeat its own ends. Group living is steadily giving place to the separate family home idea, and the people are evincing pride in the improvement of their little dwellings and simple decoration of the interior.

As one result the parents are often keen to have the care and maintenance of their own children, but when the gardens fail they are glad to place them again in the homes.

The feeling of pride in their homes and gardens has in some places been encouraged by awarding prizes for competition.

#### GENERAL.

The total expenditure on relief administration amounted to £60,484.

Under the new scheme of administrative finance the sum of £18,153 was contributed towards this from Trust Funds and Standing Account. To the latter account revenue from proceeds of sale of surplus produce of the Settlements, such as cattle, agricultural produce, Mauritius beans, and also native provident contributions, &c., are placed.

The total native earnings throughout the State towards their own support was £131,227. This does not include the value of produce sold by Missions, or of beef, milk, fish, vegetables, and fodder raised and consumed either by Settlements, Missions, Island Communities, or from private gardening or hunting for home consumption. A conservative estimate of value of this would be £25,000.

A comparison of these figures with the actual cost of the State for aboriginal relief, including administrative machinery, would indicate that the natives are easily 75 per cent. self-supporting.

It is desired in conclusion to acknowledge the valuable service rendered by the officers of the Police Department, who carry out the onerous duties of Protectors of Aborigines, and the sympathetic help always rendered by the Commissioner.

The Superintendents, Medical Officers, and Staffs of the Settlements and Missions by their loyal help during a difficult period have done much to lighten the work of administration.

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

The valuable information and advice given by Dr. R. W. Cilento, Chief Quarantine Officer-General for Queensland, who conducted expert medical surveys of the east coast of the Peninsula and the Atherton Tableland, and of Dr. Nimmo, Government Medical Officer, and Dr. Bevington, Federal Quarantine Officer, Thursday Island, in surveying the Missions on the Gulf coast, have been of immense assistance in paving the way to deal effectively with the important problem of health.

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 1933**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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