

1935  
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QUEENSLAND,

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# REPORT

UPON THE

## OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

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

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PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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

Home Secretary's Department,  
Brisbane, 25th October, 1935.

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.

C. E. CHUTER,  
Acting Under Secretary,

- ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).  
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Joffe; Turner; Superintendent, F. M. STAUBWASSER).  
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Acting Manager and Acting Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).  
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).  
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).  
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, J. F. Whitney).  
QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Acting Manager, R. J. O'Gorman).  
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. J. H. Blackburn; Superintendent, Miss M. Scully)

## Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1934.

### POPULATION.

In the census of aboriginal and half-caste population taken in co-operation with the Registrar-General on the 30th June, 1934, a decrease in the number of full-bloods of 226, and an increase of 491 half-castes is revealed over the figures recorded at a similar date in 1933.

These figures cannot be taken as an indication of an actual decrease and increase, in that on the return for the Laura Protectorate a decrease of 202 full-bloods is shown of a population which, in 1933, was recorded as 648.

It is noteworthy that during 1933 a serious influenza epidemic occurred in the Laura district, the natural result being that a large proportion of the migratory aboriginals left the district and have not returned.

Turn-off Lagoons district shows a decrease of 74 full-bloods. This is due principally to a number of natives continually crossing the border into the Northern Territory.

In the Ravenshoe district the census figures show 61 full-blood aboriginals less than resided there last year. The reason for such is that a large number of the nomadic tribes did not return to the Ravenshoe camps on account of the prolonged wet season.

It is safe to assume, therefore, that the number of full-blood adults in Queensland was not appreciably altered during the period of review.

The number of half-castes increased from 4,425 in 1933 to 4,916 at the 30th June, 1934. The greatest increase was revealed in the Thursday Island figures, wherein was shown an excess of 201 over the number in the previous year.

Rockhampton district similarly recorded an increase of 83. Here again the figures cannot be regarded as an indication of the seemingly abnormal increases in these particular centres. The explanation is that a cross-breed element, previously regarded as quadron, is now correctly included in the half-caste population.

The total aboriginal and half-caste population is 17,222—Males, 9,505; females, 7,717.

### FULL-BLOODS.

Males, 6,997, Females 5,309, Total 12,306.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic .. .. .	2,007	494
In regular employment ..	2,690	..
Supervised camps .. .. .	3,552	1,970
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	818	775
Totals .. .. .	9,067	3,239

### HALF-CASTES.

Males 2,508, Females 2,408, Total 4,916.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic .. .. .	101	90
Regular employment ..	1,000	..
Supervised camps .. .. .	799	938
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	718	1,270
Totals .. .. .	2,618	2,298

## ADMINISTRATION.

The most outstanding feature relative to the administration of the existing Aboriginal Protection Acts was the passing by Parliament of "*The Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Act of 1934.*"

For many years the effective protection of aboriginals and half-castes had been handicapped by an absence of the power which was necessary to meet the altered circumstances of the native wards of the State.

The amended legislation provides for greater control and supervision over the health and social conditions of the half-castes, the provision of a greater measure of protection for females, and extended supervision over the health conditions of coloured people.

The definition of "half-caste" in the 1897 Act has been repealed to provide for the care of all cross-breed elements of aboriginal or Pacific Island extraction who live or associate with aboriginals, or as aboriginals, or who, in the opinion of the Chief Protector, are in need of control or protection. A large proportion of that coloured population resident principally in North Queensland, who previously have not been regarded as wards of the Aboriginal Department, are now, unless specifically exempt from the provisions of the Act, covered by it.

Section 9 of the Amending Act, which prescribes penalties for sexual offences against aboriginal and half-caste females by all persons other than aboriginals, fills a long-felt want. It is considered that the rigid enforcement of this section will result in appreciably reducing the number of births of illegitimate half-caste and quadroon children.

It is the intention of the Department to take action against every offender against this provision.

Power is also given to Protectors of Aboriginals to order any aboriginals suspected of suffering from venereal or other contagious disease to submit themselves for medical examination. The prevalence of infectious diseases amongst the cross-breed elements of the coloured population, particularly, has always been cause for considerable concern. The provisions of the amending Act now adequately meet the situation and provide that measure of protection to aboriginals and half-castes which their circumstances and social status entitles them.

Added power is also given for supervision of the employment of male half-castes by providing that they shall be covered in their employment by an agreement entered into with the approval of the Protector of Aboriginals. In future, half-castes who previously could not legally be regarded as aboriginals will be protected to the extent that they shall receive payment for their labour in accordance with the regulations covering such, and will also be given that opportunity provided by departmental machinery to save some of their earnings against the time when they are unemployed or physically incapable of performing remunerative work.

Regulations to provide for the greater protection of the aboriginals and half-castes in accordance with the spirit of the Act will be submitted

for the approval of the Governor in Council. No time will be lost in enforcing those new provisions, which must react to the general benefit of the coloured wards of the State.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

An appreciable improvement in the labour conditions for aboriginals and half-castes can be recorded; the total number of such who were employed through Protectors of Aboriginals was—males, 1,409; females, 329. In the Western and Gulf districts the demand for labour was satisfactory, and in some localities an increased demand existed in comparison with last year. Similar conditions prevailed in the Northern divisions of the State, but in the Southern and Central districts the demand was only fair. In a few instances in the latter districts the conditions could be regarded as definitely bad, due, no doubt, to unsatisfactory weather conditions and the fluctuations in market valuations of produce. In some of the far-Northern districts employers still contend that they are unable to pay for aboriginal labour in accordance with the regulation minimum rates. Likewise in many instances requests for drastic reduction of the ruling rate for coloured domestics have been submitted.

Whilst every consideration is given to the conditions in an industry, it is not possible to sacrifice the interests of the native by permitting him to accept employment at rates below what is regarded as fair and reasonable and in keeping with the ability of the industry to pay.

Occasionally difficulty has been experienced in collecting the wages owing to aboriginals, and in a few instances it has been necessary to institute proceedings. Generally, however, employers have been only too willing to meet demands for payment as they fall due.

It is fitting to record here the valued assistance rendered the Department by country police officers holding the position of Protectors of Aboriginals. The strict supervision which generally they exercise over the conditions of employment of aboriginals makes it possible for the Department to be assured that very little illegal employment of natives exists, and with few exceptions the aboriginals who obtain employment receive full return for the labour given.

Generally the conduct of natives in employment can be regarded as satisfactory, and the demand which exists in those districts where the native population is greatest is indicative of the value which is placed on their service in the cattle and sheep raising industries.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Practically every experienced coastal aboriginal was engaged for employment in the pearl-shell, bêche-de-mer, and trochus shell industry.

The labour requirements of the Thursday Island Pearlshellers' Association and private employers were met by the Protector of Aboriginals, Thursday Island, making available such labour as they indicated could be employed on their vessels. The balance, comprising Torres Strait Islanders and coastal natives in the Somerset district, were employed on the

Torres Strait Islanders' community vessels. At Thursday Island 289 seamen (198 islanders, 91 mainlanders) were engaged in the marine industry, and earned £7,650 in wages.

At Cooktown 9 mainland natives were similarly employed, earning £50.

In addition, the Torres Strait Island community vessels employed 370 men, and won produce to the value of £22,824.

The Palm Island natives, utilising their own dinghies and flatties, won trochus shell from the Island Home reefs to the value of £208. This shell was sold through the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island.

An effort is being made by the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, to train natives from the west coast of the peninsula for work in the marine industry, and approximately 12 men eligible and willing to learn were placed under Torres Strait Island captains on the community vessels and performed excellently.

The intention is by training these men and selecting from them the most reliable captains, to ultimately allow them to captain and man their own vessels, using the missions as a base from which to work.

It is considered that there is still ample scope for the extension of the communal system of natives working their own vessels, but progress must of necessity be slow and dependent on the ability displayed by the learners to undertake the responsibility involved in running their own boats.

The market price of pearlshell was again unsatisfactory, although trochus shell, in the gathering of which the majority of the company boats is employed, was always in good demand at a payable price.

Up to approximately ten years ago the Torres Strait Islander could scarcely be induced to forego the gathering of pearlshell for trochus shell. However, continued bad seasons ultimately drove him to the more remunerative produce, and now very few Island vessels are engaged in the pearlshell section of the industry.

Over recent years the Torres Strait Islander has felt the unequal competition by unlicensed Japanese vessels from alien countries fishing on the reefs, which previously were regarded as the property of the licensed boats of Queensland.

As a resident of the State, the Islander must respect the Fisheries regulations which provides that trochus shell of smaller size than  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the base must not be gathered or dis-

played for sale. The continued complaints from captains and crews of these Island boats that unlicensed foreign vessels are gathering this protected shell naturally creates in the native mind a feeling of uncertainty and dissatisfaction that is difficult to explain away. A more serious aspect of the position is the danger of the depletion of the beds by the gathering of small and immature shell. This danger was recognised by the authorities in 1932, following which the regulation referred to was framed. Because similar conditions, but in a more acute state, obtain to-day, the necessity for safeguarding the future of the industry must be apparent.

#### INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Claims for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Acts were filed in nine cases, and the total amount of £122 was awarded.

The courtesy and assistance of the State Government Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department officers is again appreciated.

#### ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

As indicated in the following table, wages deposits from country Protectors on account of the wages earned by natives in employment are £810 less than last year. This reduction is offset by an increase of £820 in the deposits for settlement natives.

The total amount of natives' earnings collected and banked to the credit of the owners is £55,026, being approximately £2,600 less than during 1933.

It should be particularly noted that the withdrawals for natives' benefits were £10,000 greater than the deposits, again indicating the policy of the Department that all reasonable and legitimate requests for withdrawals from the Savings Bank Accounts should be allowed.

The actual amount at credit at the 31st December shows a decrease of £7,786.

The sum of £1,636 was placed to the credit of Aboriginal Protection Property Account, representing the unclaimed bank balances of natives whose whereabouts are unknown. This amount will be retained, while every effort is made to trace the owners. A sum of £1,692 was also paid to Aboriginal Protection Property Account, being the estates of deceased natives who died leaving no next-of-kin.

In all cases where natives die leaving an estate, action is taken to obtain claims from the relatives against the estate.

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.			Interest Earned.			Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.			Balances as at 31/12/34.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cherbourg .. .. .	611	2,955	8	7	173	11	8	3,726	10	7	1,806	17	2
Palm Island .. .. .	764	4,237	14	8	465	0	0	6,388	0	2	3,564	18	7
Woorabinda .. .. .	251	2,753	9	0	84	5	7	3,509	3	6	2,026	19	3
Brisbane .. .. .	102	961	0	0	210	0	0	1,508	0	0	7,357	0	0
Various Protectorates .. .. .	2,785	35,689	0	0	9,066	12	6	34,800	0	0	26,776	0	0
Thursday Island .. .. .	1,363	8,429	19	10	246	5	2	13,624	17	8	7,696	12	4
Totals .. .. .	5,876	£55,026	12	1	£10,245	14	11	£63,556	11	11	£49,228	7	4



## RELIEF.

To meet the needs of old and indigent aborigines whose circumstances do not warrant their removal to an aboriginal settlement or mission, relief to the value of £1,400 was issued from 38 centres. In many cases the recipients are very old aborigines who are established in small camps and receive their rations and prepare such under the supervision and direction of the Protector.

In addition to this issue, casual relief granted to travelling indigent natives totalled £282.

## BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued was 3,681, being an increase of 228 over the issue of 1933. In addition, clothing and suitable dress material, &c., was substituted for blankets where circumstances indicated that greater use could be made of it. The cost of the blankets, clothing, &c., issued was £1,869 11s. 5d.

## CRIME AMONG ABORIGINES.

It is again pleasing to note that very few offences of a serious nature have been committed by aborigines, and the following table will indicate that generally they can be regarded as a law-abiding people:—

## OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINES.

Offences.	1932.		1933.		1934.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	2	£ 40	..	..	5	£ 130
Supplying of opium ..	9	250	5	80	1	40
Supplying liquor ..	2	45	..	..	3	60
Harbouring ..	..	..	..	..	1	10
Assault ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

## OFFENCES BY ABORIGINES.

Offences.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Drunkenness ..	31	25	28
Stealing ..	6	12	8
Creating a disturbance ..	..	2	1
Wilful destruction ..	..	1	..
Obscene language ..	..	3	1
Assault ..	4	2	4
Resisting arrest ..	..	1	..
Entering ..	1	..	..
Absconding ..	9	3	..
Manslaughter ..	1	..	..
Murder ..	..	2	1
Rape ..	..	1	1
Unlawful possession of opium ..	..	1	..
Intent to kill unlawfully ..	..	1	..
Breach of Pearlshell and Beche-de-mer Act ..	..	1	..

## REMOVALS.

As indicated in the following table the number of aborigines, who, for their own protection or for disciplinary reasons, were removed to aboriginal settlements and missions, was 136, being 48 less than were removed last year. Of this number 45 were removed for their own protection, 62 were destitute and unemployed,

and 19 absconders from settlements were returned thereto; 10 natives were sent to institutions at which hospitals are established for medical treatment.

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Palm Island ..	27	11	19	57
Fantome Island ..	2	1	..	3
Cherbourg ..	19	5	1	25
Woorabinda ..	5	5	2	12
<i>Missions—</i>				
Lockhart River ..	..	4	..	4
Monamona ..	5	5	..	10
Mornington Island ..	..	1	5	6
Yarrabah Mission ..	4	5	10	19
Totals ..	62	37	37	136

## HEALTH.

Reports from superintendents of Government settlements, church missions, and country protectors indicated that generally health conditions were satisfactory. The usual seasonal epidemics were experienced, but principally of a mild nature.

A particularly severe outbreak of influenza occurred at Palm Island and Fantome Island. In both instances the Settlement officials always had the outbreak well in hand, and although the work and responsibility in combating it was particularly heavy the number of deaths was very small.

Epidemics of lesser virulence occurred at Monamona and Yarrabah Missions, Gordonvale, and Babinda, extending up the Peninsula to the Torres Strait islands, while coastal fever was experienced at Aurukun, Mornington Island, and Weipa missions. At Aurukun an epidemic similar to coastal fever was rather severe, resulting in six cases of pneumonia.

At Saibai Island, in Torres Strait, a severe epidemic of malaria fever caused several deaths. The Government teacher was affected, and it became necessary to appoint a relieving teacher, and arrange for special patrols of the Q.G.K. "Melbidir" with medical assistance and medicine to meet the situation.

Six cases of venereal disease were treated at Monamona Mission, four at Mornington Island, two at Bouliia, and one at Thargomindah.

It is pleasing to note that at Palm Island a slight decrease in the death rate is recorded over the three preceding years. Various factors have contributed to this satisfactory result principally:—

- (1) Because of venereal disease being under treatment.
- (2) Systematic mass treatment for hook-worm.
- (3) Improved supplies of vegetables and a better diet generally.
- (4) Increased readiness to enter hospital when ill.

The following figures illustrate this latter point:—

In 1931—of 62 deaths 27 were in the camp areas.

In 1932—of 55 deaths 19 were in the camp areas.

In 1933—of 36 deaths 12 were in the camp areas.

In 1934—of 23 deaths 2 were in the camp areas.

**Hookworm.**—The Hookworm Campaign Committee has directed the treatment of aboriginals on all Government settlements, church missions, and in the camps on the coastal belt. Reports received from the Department of Public Health indicate successful activity in the treatment of infected aboriginals.

The figures for hookworm infestation at Palm Island have been reduced from 48 per cent. positive results in 1932 to 16.1 per cent. in 1933. Mass treatment with oil of chenopodium and carbon tetrachloride has been given at six-monthly intervals. Similar treatment is also given by the Government medical officer, Thursday Island, to the Torres Strait islanders, and regular treatment is received by natives in the northern areas through the staff of the Department of Public Health.

**Leprosy.**—Four cases of leprosy were detected at Mapoon Mission and removed to the Lazaret. Various cases of suspects at Palm Island and Woorabinda were under close observation.

A rather severe outbreak of scabies was experienced at Cherbourg Settlement, necessitating an alteration in the school hours to enable the children to receive attention as hospital out-patients. This epidemic was experienced in a lesser degree at Woorabinda, but it is pleasing to report that it has now been cleaned up.

Visits of inspection were made to Palm and Fantome Islands by Sir Raphael Cilento, Director-General of Health and Medical Services, and Dr. Grahame Drew, State Health Officer.

Dr. Russell, of the Aerial Medical Services, visited Mornington Island on two occasions during the year.

An extensive medical patrol was conducted by Dr. Nimmo, Medical Officer, Thursday Island, from Cowal Creek, on Cape York Peninsula,

through the Missions at Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, Edward River, and Mitchell River, and much useful data and information regarding the health of the various tribes was obtained.

The number of natives receiving hospital attention on settlements and missions was as follows:—

Palm Island .. ..	425 inpatients, 33,508 out-patients
Palm Island .. ..	942 hookworm patients
Woorabinda .. ..	100 inpatients, 2,381 out-patients
Cherbourg .. ..	675 inpatients, 43,390 out-patients
Lockhart River .. ..	1,519 cases treated
Monamona Mission .. ..	400 cases treated
Yarrabah Mission .. ..	158 cases treated
Mapoon Mission .. ..	Daily average—15 patients
Myora .. ..	Treated at Dunwich Hospital
Mornington Island .. ..	147 cases treated
Weipa Mission .. ..	Daily average—14 patients
Moa Island (St. Paul's)	8 serious cases and a number of minor complaints
Purga Mission .. ..	About 50 cases
In Torres Strait Seamen's Hospital .. ..	177 inpatients, 96 out-patients
Darnley Island Cottage Hospital	Daily average 16

BIRTHS.	
Settlements .. ..	96
Missions .. ..	71
Torres Strait Islands .. ..	134
Country Districts .. ..	125
	426

DEATHS.	
Settlements .. ..	104
Missions .. ..	40
Torres Strait Islands .. ..	53
Country Districts .. ..	115
	312

Arrangements were made for periodical visits to the three Government settlements by dentists, and necessary dental treatment was given.

#### FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent, Dr. R. Elliott Murray, resigned on 22nd October, 1934; Deputy Superintendent, F. H. Julian.

#### ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

The following table indicates the extent of treatment for venereal disease of aboriginal patients at Fantome Island:—

	In Hospital 31st December, 1933.	Admitted.	Born.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1934.
Men .. ..	101	24	..	125	10	9	111
Women .. ..	78	12	..	90	9	7	76
Children .. ..	48	..	4	52	2	..	43
Totals .. ..	227	36	4	267	21	16	230

The number admitted during the year is low in comparison with the figures for previous years. This position can hardly be accepted as an indication that venereal disease amongst natives on the mainland is decreasing, although infected natives are to some extent also treated on the Government settlements and missions, and also in hospitals.

However, it is confidently anticipated that the proposed exhaustive medical survey of aboriginals throughout Queensland, and on the Government settlements and missions, will result in a big increase in the number of patients for Fantome Island.

The powers given to a Protector of Aboriginals by the amending Act of 1934 to order any aboriginal or half-caste suspected of suffering from contagious disease to submit themselves for medical examination should also be instrumental in locating further cases, and enabling such to be treated either locally or at Fantome Island.

Those patients discharged from Fantome Island hospital during the year were so dealt with only after the most complete tests had been given, and considering the average condition of admitted patients the number discharged cured can be regarded as satisfactory.

The experiment of placing chronic cases in community camps has proved very successful, and the number so accommodated is now in the vicinity of 40. The patients appreciate the system of village life as against their accommodation in hospital wards; the latter tends to a restriction of the inherent desire for freedom of discipline which must of necessity occur in a hospital ward.

They are encouraged and directed in the cultivation of small plots and generally to develop a pride in their village, homes, and cultivation areas. The conduct of the natives so placed has been excellent, and the experiment has been sufficiently successful to indicate the desirability of increasing this system of village life without in any way impairing the medical treatment of the patients.

Included in the treatments during the year were:—

- 907 Intravenous injections,
- 4,047 Intramuscular injections,
- 126 Deep subcutaneous injections,
- 6,563 Paintings,
- 60 Intradermal injections.

Many tests were taken, but the service from the Commonwealth Laboratory, Townsville, has not been as efficient as desired.

The additional work placed on the laboratory in the investigation into Weil's disease has made the position, so far as Fantome Island is concerned, more difficult.

Arrangements were made with a visiting dentist to give dental treatment to any of the patients desiring such.

Rainfall for the year was 52.72 inches, which is 20 inches less than the previous year. During the months of November and December the weather was particularly hot and dry.

An epidemic of influenza or fever affected practically the whole population at this time. No deaths occurred as a direct result, but many of the older and more feeble natives were left in a very weak state.

Despite the poor rainfall and somewhat unsatisfactory weather for cultivation purposes, results were obtained from the various small farm areas, and particularly in the villages for chronic natives the produce from the cultivated plots was very reassuring. Villages and agricultural land have been securely fenced, and a supply of vegetables maintained throughout the year.

A heavily timbered pocket has been partly cleared, and about 3 acres of upland rice planted. The experiment in the cultivation of this crop is being watched with interest, as if rice can be successfully grown it will indicate the possibility of extensive cultivation in North Queensland, apart from the reduction in expenditure, to which the Department is liable annually for the purchase of this commodity as a part ration for inmates.

To assist with agricultural work one draft gelding was purchased, and also a hack for use by the Deputy Superintendent. One good quality boar and two sows were transferred from Palm Island Settlement to Fantome Island.

The only building work of permanent nature carried out was the erection by native labour of the male assistant's cottage, and outbuildings.

The water supply scheme to be carried out under the supervision of the Irrigation and Water Supply Department has been approved and preliminary action taken. The scheme provides for the pumping of water over a ridge from a source that gives promise of adequately meeting the requirements. The provision of this scheme will fill a long-felt want.

The natives have generally been well behaved, and they occupy their own time usefully on the whole. The year has been a comparatively good one for fishing, and some nice catches have been made.

During the year the launch "Dolphin" was put out of commission; her condition in hull and engine did not justify any further repairs, and arrangements were made for the purchase of a practically new and better type launch.

A suitable building for church services was erected by the R.C. Mission, and a site for a similar building has been granted to the Anglican Mission, on which a church will also be erected. Regular visits are paid by missionaries of both denominations, and also the Australian Inland Mission.

#### YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The demand for aboriginal and half-caste domestic servants during the year was particularly good. In many instances it was impossible to meet requests for domestic labour at the settlements and also from head office.

Generally the regulations governing the employment of females were well observed, and little difficulty was experienced in collecting wages owing from the employers.

The number of aboriginal and half-caste women employed in domestic service under agreement throughout the State was 483. Of this number 139 were sent from Government settlements, 60 from Brisbane head office, and 284 from the various country protectors.

The following women and children were for various reasons removed to institutions:—

Institution.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>			
Palm .. .. .	11	19	30
Fantome .. .. .	1	..	1
Cherbourg .. .. .	5	1	6
Woorabinda .. .. .	5	2	7
<i>Missions—</i>			
Lockhart River .. .. .	4	..	4
Monamona .. .. .	5	..	5
Mornington .. .. .	1	5	6
Yarrabah .. .. .	5	10	15
<b>Totals .. .. .</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>74</b>

The cause of removal was to enable them to be properly housed and cared for, and the children to receive schooling.

Maternity allowances totalling £276 were collected and paid to mothers. Sixty-nine claims were represented in this payment.

Permits were granted for the legal marriage of 47 women, 15 of whom were half-castes. In all cases the men were of aboriginal extraction. The usual tribal marriages occurred, but an exact record of the number cannot be obtained.



*Brisbane District.*—Of the 60 women and girls for whom domestic employment was found by head office, 24 were placed in the city and suburbs, and 36 were sent to country situations. The number placed in the city and suburbs represents girls who have resided in the Brisbane district for many years.

The general policy is not to bring girls from the country or Government settlements or missions for employment in the city, as experience has shown that such is inadvisable.

The total wages earned by such females amounted to £1,494, of which £960 was paid through the Department and credited to their Savings Bank accounts; the balance was paid as pocket-money direct to the employees.

Six boys were also employed under agreement, and earned £191 8s. 6d. Of this total £106 was deposited to the individual Savings Bank accounts.

Necessary general supervision was exercised over the purchases of clothing of the females, and generally they and the employers have appreciated the assistance and care which characterises the work in this direction for the girls.

Withdrawals totalling £1,508 were made from Savings Bank accounts for clothing purchases, dentistry, and recreation.

Exemption was granted to three half-caste girls whose circumstances warranted such. In all cases certificates were issued only after the Department was fully satisfied that they were capable of controlling their own affairs.

The amount to credit of the accounts for girls employed through head office is £7,357, being an average of £86 per individual.

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

Blind, Deaf and Dumb School .. ..	2
Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	26
Purga Industrial School .. ..	23
Salvation Army Home, Indooroopilly ..	6
Salvation Army Home, Yeronga .. ..	9
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>66</b>

The total cost of such maintenance was £1,342.

#### HALE-CASTES.

The census figures for half-castes show that the population of such in the State is 4,916, representing an increase over last year's figures of 491. Again, it is stressed that little reliance can be placed on the apparent abnormal increase in the number of half-castes, in that those officers responsible for the compilation of the census figures in the country are evidently now recording as half-castes persons who previously were included in the population of full-bloods.

“*The Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Act of 1934*” has special bearing on the half-caste question. As already shown under the heading “Administration,” the amending Act allows greater supervision over half-castes and that cross-breed element, which is now regarded as half-caste, than was possible under the repealed sections.

The provisions of the amending Act will allow regulations to be framed to adequately examine

the circumstances and conditions of every half-caste, quadroon, and cross-breed of aboriginal extraction in the State.

It is appreciated that many of these cross-breeds hitherto not covered by the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Acts are not of a type whose circumstances warrant the protection of the Department.

It will now be necessary for them to obtain exemption from the provisions of the Act, and the regulations will be so framed as to compel every half-caste seeking exemption to demonstrate his ability to control his own affairs, and by procuring from a Government medical officer a medical certificate to show that he is not suffering from contagious disease.

The prevalence of contagious disease amongst aboriginals and half-castes is one for considerable concern, and while it is recognised that only by a thorough medical overhaul of aboriginals and cross-breeds both on Government settlements and in country districts can the true position be ascertained, the Department desires that in future any ward exempted from the provisions of the Act shall be free from such disease.

The machinery provided by the regulations in this respect will, it is considered, be of considerable value in any complete medical overhaul, in that those half-castes who may not be available for medical inspection but who desire exemption from the Acts shall of necessity present themselves for medical inspection.

Hitherto, a male half-caste who did not actually associate with aboriginals was not controlled in his employment by the Department.

Recognising that a large proportion of half-castes are no more capable of protecting themselves in business dealings than the average full-blood aboriginal, provision was made in the amending legislation to give to this type the protection to which his circumstances entitled him, and it is confidently anticipated that many half-castes now in employment will by virtue of the amending Act and regulations obtain employment on better conditions, and with greater safeguards of their earnings than was previously the case.

It is not the intention of the amending Act to interfere in any way with that type of half-caste whose mode of living plainly indicates that he does not need protection, neither is it intended that the better type half-caste shall be indiscriminately treated as a full-blood aboriginal.

The unfortunate position of this section of the community, while admittedly a difficult one, has always received the active sympathy of the Department. The gradual growth of the half-caste population, and the evidence that the increase must steadily continue, compels the giving of early consideration to a scheme which will enable those half-castes ostracised from white communities, and not desirous of associating with full-blood aboriginals, to be given an opportunity to develop into useful members of society in self-contained communities under benevolent supervision.

Already investigations in this direction are proceeding, and although any such scheme must of necessity be at first launched on a small scale

it is considered that at least a partial solution of a difficult problem might be found in this manner.

To meet the cases of those half-castes desirous of bettering their condition, exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Acts is granted when, after full enquiry, it can be shown that the applicant is capable of managing his own affairs. Fifty such applications were received, but in only 21 cases were the persons found eligible.

#### VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Notwithstanding the limited means in the past on the various Government settlements for instruction in manual and domestic training, useful progress in this direction was made.

At Cherbourg Settlement needlework forms an important section of the school curriculum, and every child passing through the school learns at least the rudiments of needlework, and many have proved themselves, prior to attaining the leaving school age, competent to make their own garments and perform useful fancy work, &c.

A recent rearrangement of staff, however, has resulted in improved organisation, and a well-equipped sewing-room for girls past school age and married women has been established. In this school it is proposed to have practically all of the sewing required for the settlement attended to, and those married women who previously were not capable of making simple garments will receive the necessary tuition.

The staff provided at the Cherbourg school and settlement makes it possible to achieve reasonable success in this direction, more so than at Woorabinda or Palm Island, where the school staffs are not of sufficient strength to guarantee anything better than tuition in simple sewing.

Recently arrangements were made for the transfer of two intelligent aboriginal boys from Woorabinda to Cherbourg Settlement to receive tuition in manual subjects in the Murgon rural school. Two aboriginal boys from Cherbourg Settlement also attend this school, and the success which has attended this experiment is indicative of the ability of the average aboriginal to adapt himself to useful trades.

Samples of work by these boys is of sufficient standard to anticipate that in the very near future they will be useful acquisitions to the settlement native staff. Furthermore, it is expected that with the knowledge acquired in the rural school, they will be capable of teaching other inmates to perform various useful jobs.

Training in woodwork is also given to the school boys at Cherbourg Settlement by a native tradesman.

Arrangements have been made for young boys to be apprenticed to the native carpenters and plumber at Woorabinda, and there is no reason to fear that they will not develop into useful tradesmen. Good progress has been made in teaching younger boys in the settlement workshop at Palm Island Settlement.

The scheme of training there has progressed to such extent that all school furniture for the

Torres Strait islands is now being made by native labour on Palm Island from timber cut and milled on the settlement.

In Torres Strait a number of young boys are trained in boat-building, and receive constant employment at Aboriginal Industries, their native trading station. Dinghies are built for the aboriginal fleet, and compare favourably with those produced by the ship-building firms in Thursday Island. Minor repairs are also effected to luggers.

Sanitary pans, garbage tins, &c., are made at Badu Island for all of the Torres Strait island villages, and the same type of work is carried out by native plumbers on all of the Government settlements.

In June last arrangements were made with Port Kennedy Engineering Shipyards Ltd., Thursday Island, for six Torres Strait Islanders to serve three months' indenture to the company, to receive training in general engineering work. Each native proved his adaptability in the occupation, and has now been issued with a certificate by the manager, showing that he has completed a course of three months' training in dismantling, reassembling, and locating faults in engines and compressors in general use on pearlshell boats. The certificate also shows that the boy is likely to become an efficient diving-engine attendant.

One of these boys is at present employed as assistant engineer on the Q.G.K. "Melbidir," and the others have received appointments as assistant engineers on various boats connected with the marine industry.

At Yarrabah Mission useful work in boat-building, carpentering, engine-driving, &c., is performed by native trainees.

At practically all of the institutions building development and mechanical work is performed entirely by native employees, and generally the success which attends their labour is deserving of commendation.

The suitability of aboriginal labour for employment as tradesmen in their own institutions is continually being demonstrated. The idea of effectively training aboriginal and half-caste wards to make them as much as possible independent of outside paid labour has always been a prominent feature of Departmental administration.

The necessity for increased industrial development in the institution is also annually becoming more apparent, and to meet the demands it has become necessary to seriously consider a reorganisation of the activities of the settlements with a view to greater utilisation of aboriginal labour and increased productivity, principally through native energy.

Already a scheme is under consideration which, if accepted and put into operation, will provide for the useful employment of all available aboriginal labour. The training in the settlement schools will form the nucleus of the scheme for in these schools already an amended syllabus covering academic subjects is in operation. This syllabus will be further amended to provide for the greater training in manual, rural, and domestic subjects.

The scheme will continue after the children have reached the age of leaving school to enable them to be absorbed in advanced classes, which will provide for training in farming, wood, iron, sheet metal, and leatherwork for men, and domestic science, sewing, cooking, laundry and general housewifery for the women. Naturally, such a scheme will demand the appointment of additional teachers, and also a complete reorganisation of school classes as now existing and of native labour generally. Ultimately, however, there is every reason to believe that it will be put into operation to the distinct advantage of the settlements and the betterment of the conditions of the inmates.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were paid to the aboriginal settlements at Cherbourg, Woorabinda, Palm Island, and Fantome Island Lock Hospital, and direction given in matters of administration.

An official visit was made by the Honourable the Home Secretary, the Under Secretary, Home Department, and the Chief Protector of Aborigines to the Torres Strait district. The fol-

lowing islands were included in the itinerary of the visit:—Thursday Island, Badu, Poid, St. Paul's Mission, Mabuiag, Saibai, Yorke, Darnley, Murray, and Coconut. The native settlement at Cowal Creek, on Cape York Peninsula, was also inspected, together with the Missions at Mapoon, Weipa, Arukun, and Mitchell River. On the return journey a visit was paid to Monomona Mission. The visit was particularly appreciated by local officials and the inmates of the various settlements visited.

His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, and later submitted through the Honourable the Premier a report on his observations and impressions gained during his inspection.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines, J. D. McLean.

The year has been one of good progress and has shown a substantial improvement in the earnings of natives under the control of the Department and in their financial position, as a perusal of the following results achieved will disclose:—

Wages Earners.	Number.		Wages Paid.	
	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Natives employed on "Company" boats—Torres Strait Islanders .. .. .	370	386	8,729 17 1	6,702 18 0
Natives employed on "Master" Boats—				
Torres Strait Islanders .. .. .	198	181	5,892 14 4	5,417 12 5
Mainlanders .. .. .	91	91	1,757 1 9	2,407 13 0
	659	658	16,379 13 2	14,528 3 5

Natives' Accounts, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Cairns.	Number.		Amount.	
	1934.	1933.	1934.	1933.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Savings Bank Accounts in operation .. .. .	1,363	1,177	7,696 12 4	5,585 5 7
Deposits .. .. .	2,833	2,085	15,875 18 7	10,597 17 3
Withdrawals .. .. .	6,644	4,377	13,624 17 8	9,327 18 5

"Company" boats are boats operated by native crews and captains from the various islands on a community basis, under the personal supervision of the Protector, whilst "master" boats are operated by native crews under Japanese or Malay captains and controlled by pearlshelling companies or individuals resident in Torres Strait.

It will be seen that, although only one more native was employed in 1934 than in 1933, the increase in wages paid was £1,851 9s. 9d., or, alternatively, the average wage paid increased from £22 1s. 7d. in 1933 to £24 17s. 10d. in 1934. The wages referred to were the actual cash distributions to natives and do not include sustenance provided to them during their period of employment. The provisions supplied to crews of "company" boats cost £9,103 5s. 6d., so that the gross amount expended on their behalf on account of wages and maintenance totalled £17,833 2s. 7d., or an average wage of £48 3s. 11d. per year, as against the monthly wage of £3 5s. to Torres Strait islanders and

£2 10s. to mainlanders fixed by regulation. The provisions supplied to crews of "master" boats must be according to schedule, but those allowed on "company" boats cover a wider range and include tobacco. The maximum time worked by any crew would not exceed 10½ months, after deducting the time for lay-up and spells on home islands, whilst many receive only casual employment or work much shorter periods, as, for example, boats engaged in diving for pearl-shell, which can only be worked during clear water. From the above evidence it may be deduced that the lot of a crew of a "company" boat is preferable to that of a "master" boat.

The figures regarding native accounts show that 186 more accounts were in operation in 1934, with an enhanced credit of £2,111 6s. 9d., although natives withdrew and spent £4,296 19s. 3d. more than they did in 1933. The amount deposited in 1934 increased by £5,278 1s. 4d., approximately 50 per cent. of the total deposits for 1933.

The policy of the Department has been to create a spirit of emulation amongst the crews of the various boats, and for this purpose the Honourable the Home Secretary has presented a handsome cup for competition amongst the ketches and a flag for the cutters. The cup this year was won by the "Wakaid," of Badu, which has so far an unbeaten record, and already has won one cup outright. The flag was won by the "Caroline," of Coconut Island. This boat and the "Badu" have each been successful on two occasions, and there is evidence of a spirited contest between them this year to see who will become the proud possessor of it.

During June and July the Home Secretary (Honourable E. M. Hanlon, M.L.A.), together with the Under Secretary, Home Secretary's Department, Chief Protector of Aborigines, and private secretary paid a visit to this District, the itinerary including a tour of the islands in Torres Strait and the mission stations on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula. Much good has resulted therefrom, as many important questions of policy were discussed and decided upon, and decisions reached upon many subjects that would not have been determined so quickly except by personal contact. The trip is an arduous one, and there is very little comfort in a voyage on the Q.G.K. "Melbidir," but the advantages accruing to natives therefrom and the assistance rendered to executive officers entrusted with their care and the administration of their reserves are so great that every endeavour should be made to repeat them at frequent intervals. The psychology of the native is such that he cannot visualise what the word "Government" means unless he sees a representative of it. The loyal and enthusiastic receptions tendered by natives to the Honourable the Home Secretary and party wherever encountered show how such visits are appreciated by them.

Another outstanding event of the year was the visit of the World Chief Scout (Lord Baden-Powell) and World Chief Guide (Lady Baden-Powell) to Thursday Island on 14th December, 1934. Two hundred and nineteen Scouts and Cubs and 108 Girl Guides and Brownies paraded on the wharf to form a guard of honour, and after inspection proceeded to the reserve for recreation where the various units, under the supervision of the District Scoutmaster (Reverend Schomberg) gave demonstrations such as physical drill, dances, pig hunt, wallaby hunt, semaphore, ambulance, &c., in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering of parents and spectators from all the islands of Torres Strait. Lord Baden-Powell addressed the assemblage, and said that the Darnley Island Native Sea Scouts were the finest he had seen in his travels. The visit has given a great impetus to the Scout movement amongst the natives, a movement which has the whole-hearted support of the authorities, as it inculcates discipline amongst them without which success in the marine industry would not be achieved.

During August the first annual conference of Government teachers was held at the Court House at Thursday Island under the chairmanship of the Protector. Various sessions were held dealing with matters relating to the welfare of the natives, administration, procedure, &c., and resolutions passed on to the Chief Protector

for consideration. Where possible, the views of Mission authorities, medical officers, inspector of schools, and others interested were personally presented for the guidance of the delegates. The proceedings were marred by the regrettable death of Mr. McIntosh Murray, Government teacher at Darnley Island, at the termination thereof. Mr. Murray's achievements and work at Darnley Island during a period of seven years, especially the drainage of swamps and the eradication of malaria fever, will be a lasting monument to his memory.

During September the first official patrol of natives between Aurukun and Mitchell River Missions on the west coast of Cape York Peninsula was made. The party consisted of Dr. J. R. Nimmo, Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, Rev. G. K. Kirke, Convener of Missions of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, Superintendent of Aurukun Mission, and the Protector. The route travelled was from the mouth of the Archer River, proceeding thence in a south-easterly direction across the headwaters of the Love, Kendall, Holroyd, Coleman, Mitchell, and Magnificent Rivers to Mitchell River Mission Station, being a total distance of 240 miles, of which 230 miles was on horseback. The objectives of the tour were:—

- (a) A survey of the conditions under which mainland aborigines live on the Peninsula;
- (b) A medical inspection by Dr. Nimmo; and
- (c) An estimate of the potentialities of the country for cattle raising or other suitable industry.

Arrangements were made to concentrate aborigines at various points along the route and altogether 395 were encountered, consisting of 153 adult males, 254 females, and 88 children. The tribes on the reserves are nomadic and lead a primitive life, being dependent on what game they can spear, fish or wild fowl they can catch, and lily bulbs, stalks, and seeds, nut grass, yams, &c., they can win from the soil. The swamps and billabongs abound in wild fowl, and shooting for tucker only in one place we got eleven ducks and two geese in one shot.

Dr. Nimmo medically examined all aborigines seen, and treated a number of cases; other special cases, such as gangosa, a suspected case of leprosy, boomerang shin, &c., he advised Mr. McKenzie to send to Thursday Island Hospital for treatment. The general health of the aborigines was good, although a number were suffering from eye affections, ranging from complete blindness to mild inflammation, caused by grass seeds. These cases would have yielded to treatment by argyrol in their early incidence. All the medicines (including argyrol) that could be spared were left in a central position with a native missionary at Tokoi.

At the conclusion of the trip, suitable recommendations were made by the several units and forwarded to headquarters for consideration.

#### HEALTH.

A serious outbreak of malaria fever occurred at Saibai Island about the end of April. At one time 98 per cent. of the community were infected, including the Government teacher (Mr.

Bryant). At the time of his prostration, Mr. Bryant had exhausted the supply of 1,600 tablets (5 gr.) of quinine on hand, and was forced to come to Thursday Island for treatment and assistance. The "Melbidir," with Dr. Dowling, a relieving teacher, and the Protector immediately set out with a large supply of atebirin and quinine. At the time of its arrival at Saibai eleven deaths had occurred and another followed shortly after. The measures adopted by Dr. Dowling and the relieving teacher were then successful, and no further deaths occurred. During the illness of Mr. Bryant, the native patients reverted to their ancient customs of cutting themselves with pieces of glass bottle for the purpose of letting out the pain and heat, as they say, despite the fact that such action had been proclaimed an offence. This practice was undoubtedly responsible for the number of deaths and would not have been tolerated if Mr. Bryant had been well enough to attend to his duties. Dr. Dowling was of the opinion that the malaria was of the benign tertian type (*Plasmodium Vivax*). Owing to its swampy nature, Saibai is the home of the anopheles mosquito, which is present in great numbers during the wet season. As a precaution against future epidemics, large stocks of atebirin and quinine are stored at Saibai and other islands where the epidemicity of malaria occurs and, during the mosquito season, it is rigidly insisted that every inhabitant or visitor take prophylactic doses of quinine daily.

Other outbreaks of malaria fever occurred at Yam, Coconut, and Badu Islands, and Cowal Creek, but prompt steps were taken to deal with them and no deaths occurred.

A campaign against hookworm was undertaken at all places where this form of disease occurs, in many cases by the Government Medical Officer personally and at others by the Government teacher under his instructions. The result has been beneficial, especially in the case of children. An adequate supply of hookworm medicine is on hand for future use when required.

The school children and native teachers at Badu all suffered from mumps during a period

from January to October, and isolated cases were noticed in other islands.

Cases of yaws were numerous at Murray and Badu Islands, but readily responded to treatment by stovarsol.

The health of the Islanders elsewhere was very good, minor cases, including mild influenza, colds, and chicken-pox were treated.

Cases not amenable to treatment by the Government teachers were referred to the Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, and are dealt with in his report.

New hospitals were put into operation at Saibai and Murray Islands during the year, and will be of assistance to Government teachers in treating local patients owing to the persistence of many natives in applying their ancient remedies during home treatment, in addition to the medicine prescribed by the Government teachers. It is essential in many instances for the isolation of the patient in a hospital, and the policy of erection of hospitals at outside stations from which patients cannot be readily removed to Thursday Island is a good one.

In November Mr. J. J. Cahalane made a dental survey of the Islands. All school children and scouts were examined and many adults who voluntarily presented themselves.

Owing to pressure of time it was not possible for him to attend to any cavities, his work being confined to extractions, which totalled 1,113.

His report indicated that while the teeth of the older children were in good condition many caries existed in the teeth of the younger ones, particularly in the first teeth. Many caries were found in the lower molars of the old women and several cases of pyorrhea were noticed among the elder people.

Mr. Cahalane displayed satisfactory care and attention with the patients, and the work done by him indicates the value and necessity of such inspections and treatment.

#### POPULATION.

The statistics, as per statement, regarding the native population at the various centres is of interest.

#### POPULATION.

Centre.	Number of Natives.		Increase.	Decrease.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Marriages.
	1933.	1934.					
Badu .. .. .	466	489	23	..	24	8	3
Boigu .. .. .	140	129	..	11	4	5	1
Coconut .. .. .	125	147	22	..	6	1	1
Cowal Creek .. .. .	196	222	26	..	4	4	5
Darnley .. .. .	357	375	18	..	19	7	4
Dauan .. .. .	113	99	..	14	1	..	..
Hammond .. .. .	18	20	2	..	1	..	1
Mabuiag .. .. .	318	332	14	..	13	2	1
Murray .. .. .	477	500	23	..	26	13	6
Nagheer .. .. .	24	24	..	..	1	..	..
Neapean .. .. .	12	4	..	8	..	..	..
Poid (Moa) .. .. .	243	251	8	..	9	3	4
Saibai .. .. .	438	413	..	25	11	14	2
Stephen .. .. .	53	54	1	..	3	1	1
St. Paul's (Moa) .. .. .	3	6	3	..	2	1	2
Thursday Island .. .. .	238	253	15	..	18	3	6
Three Sisters .. .. .	12	19	7	..	7	..	..
Yam .. .. .	182	178	..	4	8	3	1
Yorke, Rennell, Dalrymple .. .. .	135	147	12	..	5	3	2
	3,550	3,662	174	62	162	68	40

In addition, there are estimated to be about 2,000 nomads on the mainland, excluding the following residents at Mission stations:—

Mapoon .. .. .	334
Weipa .. .. .	170
Aurukun .. .. .	575
Mitchell River .. .. .	600
Lockhart River .. .. .	308

On the islands the increase in population of 112, or 3 per cent., is gratifying, whilst the number of births, 162, or 4.4 per cent. of the total population, is very good.

#### SCHOOLS.

All schools on the islands and at Cowal Creek were inspected by Mr. Finter, Inspector of Torres Strait Aboriginal Schools. His reports show that there has been an increase in proficiency at schools presided over by the Government teachers and, in some instances, by native teachers. The latter, however, fall away quickly in proficiency when placed on their own resources. This is not to be wondered at in a people who, only fifty years ago, were untutored savages, although there are isolated cases which give hope for the future, notably Jomen Tamwoy, an assistant teacher from Badu, who carried on the native school at Mabuiaq for a period of nearly twelve months and earned great praise for his work from the inspector of schools.

A relieving teacher has since been appointed to relieve European teachers while on leave and to exercise supervision over the native teachers in charge of schools.

Foreseeing the difficulty of obtaining suitable native teachers, authority was obtained to train two student teachers, but the system so far has not proved a success, two of the trainees proving utter failures. It is too much to expect to be able to choose two units from raw material and turn them into the finished article in a few months' time. Owing to the scarcity of suitable native teachers it is imperative that there should be some depot from which they may be recruited as required. With this end in view, a training college for selected youths who have satisfactorily completed their school course has been established at Mabuiaq Island, under the direction of Mr. Frith, Government teacher.

In addition to the ordinary curriculum, as set forth in the school syllabus, additional subjects are taught on various islands, *e.g.*, sewing, woodwork, carpentry, basket-making, and mat-weaving, &c. It is also recommended that Scouting and Guiding be taught in the schools, so that the leisure hours of the teachers may not be encroached upon too much.

All centres now have suitable schools and residences for Government teachers established and the buildings are in good order. New buildings at Dauan and Boigu were completed during the year, and the walls of the school at Yorke Island repaired.

School gardens are established on all the islands, and are worked by the pupils under the supervision of the Government teacher. The fruits of the soil are distributed amongst the pupils, and any balance left over is handed to the indigents. The principal crops are bananas, pawpaws, pineapples, and cassava.

At the thirteen island schools and at the mission station at Cowal Creek, Hammond Island, St. Paul's (Moa), 1,067 pupils received tuition during the year. The schools were fully staffed and adequately equipped during the year, although there was a shortage of reading books at some of the schools pending a revision of the books to be used.

#### ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS.

The old store at Saibai has been converted into a cottage hospital, and a new store for Aboriginal Industries erected.

New schools at Dauan and Boigu were completed early in the year.

To prevent erosion, a strong sea wall was erected along the foreshore of the eastern portion of the village at Saibai.

At Badu a new concrete church was built by the Anglican authorities at a cost of £1,800, the labour being voluntarily supplied by the old men, women, and girls. A loan of £600 was made from Badu Island Fund to enable the structure to be completed.

A number of houses were repaired and re-roofed.

One new house was built at Coconut and a number of shade trees planted.

At Darnley several new houses were built and others reconstructed. The water system installed by the late teacher has proved a boon, and the shower baths for natives have been much used.

At Mabuiaq the reservoir, which would not hold water, was overhauled and treated to two coatings of bitumastic paint. Although the reservoir still holds water during the wet season, there is definite evidence of a leakage, and it will be necessary to rebuild it.

At Murray Island a stone jetty was erected from local material for the convenience of landing stores, &c. Owing to the difficulty of finding stable foundations in the quicksands, and the destructive action of the heavy seas, the project was not a success.

Eleven new kitchens were laid out in correct alignment at Poid (Moa Island), and of these five were completed. A set of concrete steps was built at the head of the jetty, and a concrete walk along the top of the jetty has been constructed for a length of 25 feet. This is an improvement on the old rough path over the rocks. It is intended to eventually carry the concrete out for the full length of the jetty.

Many of the existing houses have been rewalled and re-roofed, thus making them habitable for the wet season. New steps were fitted to the school, and the building kept in repair.

New houses were erected at Yam Island of mangrove and walled and roofed with coconut palm leaves.

At Yorke Island the lime cement curbing on the main avenue has been finished. One tennis court has been finished and another is well under way. These courts are being made of lime cement concrete. A cricket pitch has also been commenced.

One new house has been completed at Cowal Creek, and three more are ready for the bark roof and walls. The aboriginals here are poor carpenters, and it has been necessary to place

the work in the hands of one aboriginal with carpentry knowledge at a cost of £5 per house, the prospective owner cutting and carting the timber and bark.

The pan system has now been installed in all islands except Stephen Island. New systems were installed at Yam, Darnley, Coconut and Murray Islands during the year.

#### ISLAND FUNDS.

There is a total of £6,211 0s. 5d. at credit of the Aboriginal Community Funds, as against £6,268 16s. 9d. for the previous year. The collections amounted to £3,318 16s. 9d., whilst the disbursements totalled £3,136 19s. 3d., showing a net increase of £181 17s. 6d. Loans aggregating £5,137 7s. 3d. were advanced to finance other undertakings, plus £801 18s. 4d. which was repaid prior to 31st December, 1934.

The chief items of expenditure are £1,289 18s. 9d. on account of pensions and relief for indigent natives, as against £707 16s. 3d. for the previous year; £1,320 1s. 7d. for village improvements and services, as against £1,190 19s. 1d. for 1933; and £126 18s. as compensation to injured seamen, as against £85 12s. for the previous year. A further amount of £70 10s. was paid from Boats' Insurance Fund for repairs to the ketch "Binibin" when she went aground at Lizard Island during the cyclone in the early part of the year; £330 was also advanced to the Saibai Islanders to finance the purchase of the cutter "Kipuru."

The Island Funds have at loan to the boats engaged in the marine industry the sum of £2,687 11s. 11d., and to Mosby Bros. £300, reduced from £996 6s. 7d. during the year. The loan of £1,000 to Aboriginal Industries for the purpose of purchasing the new shell store was repaid during the year.

The Boats' Insurance Fund has a credit of £1,235 14s. 5d., and the Crews' Insurance Fund £500 3s. 1d.

#### SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS.

The employees account represents all earnings of aboriginals under the control of the Protector for the Somerset district.

The amount at credit of 1,363 accounts as £11,696 12s. 4d., from which advances made totalled £4,000, thus leaving a balance of £7,696 12s. 4d. at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Cairns. The total deposits amounted to £15,875 18s. 7d., and the withdrawals £13,624 17s. 8d. Interest credited to aboriginal accounts amounted to £246 5s. 2d.

The number of new accounts opened was 144, whilst 26 were closed.

The operations show an increase of 748 deposits and 2,067 withdrawals, showing that the work of the staff was greatly increased during the year. The increase is a tribute to the Savings Bank passbook system, introduced during 1933, which gives greater confidence to the native in his dealings with the bank, and thereby justifies the increase of work involved.

The native is now entrusted with his own pass-book, and has progressed sufficiently to understand his exact status so far as the bank is concerned.

#### COMPANY BOATS.

During the year, the ketch "Don," of Darnley Island, was condemned by the Ships' Surveyor, Thursday Island, and was transferred to Cowal Creek for use by the aboriginals there in working the sheltered grounds near the reserve. The price paid for this ketch was £46, being an amount fixed by the Ships' Surveyor (Captain Smibert) as the value of sails and gear taken over with the boat. Mosby Bros., of Yorke Island, sold the cutter "Harold" to Olandi Pearson, Coconut Island, for £603, the value assessed by the Ships' Surveyor. The vessel was renamed the "Caroline."

The cutter previously known as the "Caroline" was sold by Olandi Pearson, of Coconut Island, to the natives of Saibai Island for £330, the value fixed by the Ships' Surveyor, and has been renamed the "Kipuru."

The general loan account at the commencement of the period was £2,357 11s. 11d., which was increased by £330, being an amount necessary to finance the purchase of the old "Caroline" (now "Kipuru") by Saibai Island.

A summary of reserve and loans to individual boats is set out hereunder:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
Loans to boats—								
1st January, 1934	..	3,209	5	2				
31st December, 1934	..	3,900	18	4				
Increase .. .. .					691	13	2	
Loans to repairs—								
1st January, 1934	..	386	6	8				
31st December, 1934	..	25	0	0				
Decrease .. .. .						361	6	8
Net increase .. .. .						330	6	6
Reserves—								
1st January, 1934	..	2,255	3	11				
31st December, 1934	..	1,955	9	11				
Decrease for year .. .. .						299	14	0
Net loss of Capital Fund for year .. .. .						630	0	6

This amount is made up by £320 for purchase of "Kipuru" and £300 0s. 6d. for financing major repairs to boats. The entire fleet of 20 cutters and 6 luggers, with the exception of the cutter "Yaza," has been slipped at various times during the year at the Port Kennedy slipway at a cost of £1,309 7s. 11d., of which £1,009 7s. 5d. was paid from moneys earned by the fleet during the year, and £300 0s. 6d. was capitalised. The slipping of some of the boats had been neglected for some time, and the repairs to be effected were correspondingly greater. Captain Smibert, Ships' Surveyor at Thursday Island, whole-heartedly co-operated with the Protector in putting the fleet on an efficient basis.

The value of the fleet of 20 cutters and 6 luggers is estimated at £14,305 7s. 6d.

Sixty-four tender sales of produce won were held at the Thursday Island shell store, and 359 tenders were received. The figures for the previous year were 60 sales and 292 tenders.

## QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRODUCE SOLD.

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt. qr. lb.	£ s. d.
Pearlshell .. .. .	651 2 13	3,636 13 1
Trochus .. .. .	3,569 2 17	15,983 5 0
Beche-de-mer .. .. .	651 3 12	3,772 12 4
Other produce .. .. .	8 2 2	7 2 11
Used copper .. .. .	26 0 12	23 11 7
Total value of produce sold 1933 .. .. .	4,907 3 0	23,423 4 11
Increase for the year .. .. .	..	3,380 7 5

The produce won was received as follows:—

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt. qr. lb.	£ s. d.
From "Company" boats .. .. .	4,347 1 21	20,392 12 9
From shore working boats .. .. .	501 2 13	2,193 11 9
From Palm Island .. .. .	58 2 22	238 0 5
	4,907 3 0	22,824 4 11

This amount was apportioned as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Gross earning boats .. .. .	20,392	12	9
Disbursements—			
Commission .. .. .	1,019	12	7
Island Fund .. .. .	1,019	12	7
Crews' Insurance Fund .. .. .	152	18	6
Boats Insurance Fund .. .. .	152	18	6
Repayments of loans and advances to reserves .. .. .	894	15	2
Wages .. .. .	8,729	17	1
Repairs .. .. .	1,309	7	11
Provisions, gear, &c. .. .. .	7,113	10	5
	20,392	12	9
Gross Earnings—Dinghies .. .. .	2,193	11	9
Disbursements—			
Commission .. .. .	104	13	7
Island Fund .. .. .	104	13	7
Wages .. .. .	1,984	4	7
	2,193	11	9

Three hundred and seventy men were employed on "company" boats during the period.

There was a decrease of 32 tons 10 cwt. 3 qr. 11 lb. in the trochus won but, owing to better prices, the decrease in value was only £176 10s. 3d.

There was also a decrease of 2 tons 11 cwt. 2 qr. 6 lb. in the pearlshell produced, and in value of £788 15s. 3d.

The reason for these decreases was that the enhanced value of the Hongkong dollar, owing to the remonetisation campaign for silver in the United States of America, was anticipated and a number of boats were deviated from trochus and pearlshelling to bêche-de-mer, the market for which had previously been very dull. As a result, 32 tons 11 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. of bêche-de-mer were produced for the handsome return of £3,772 12s. 4d., as compared with a product of 12 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lb. realising £19 18s. 8d. during the previous year.

The market for pearlshell was very weak throughout the year, the buyers not being

anxious to operate owing to the uncertainty of the overseas market.

The average price of pearlshell was only £93 per ton. At the first sale of the year £94 per ton was tendered, and it remained somewhat at that level until August, when £113 per ton was realised for a small parcel of good quality shell. The price gradually fell away until the end of the year, when £80 1s. was all that was offered in December.

The market for trochus shell opened with a fair to strong demand, the price realised at the first sale being £76 per ton, which strengthened during March to £88, and continued to advance till the end of April, when the peak price of the year was reached, viz., £104 6s. for a good parcel brought in by the ketch "Mabuiag." The following month the price dropped suddenly £21 per ton, and gradually appreciated during the next two months, when £103 per ton was taken. During the remaining months the price varied from £80 to £90, and at the last sale £95 3s. 6d. per ton was obtained.

The only variety of bêche-de-mer worked to any extent was small black, which brought £110 per ton for the first parcel offered in April. The price steadily rose until September, when £185 per ton was tendered. The last sale of the year realised £84 per ton. The price has now improved very much, a recent parcel of choice fish being sold at £192 per ton, and this branch of the marine industry offers great possibilities this year.

Black Lip remained steady at £10 per ton throughout the year.

All of the boats worked continuously during the year and the crews received good wages. A careful check was kept on expenditure of boats working south, and as a result the crews were able to take home to their islands at the lay-off for the Christmas vacation considerably more cash than last year.

The ketch "Wakaid," which again won the cup presented by the Home Secretary, had a splendid year, producing 571 cwt. 3 qr. 24 lb. of trochus shell valued at £2,560 1s. 11d., as compared with a return of £1,742 for the previous year. The "Erub" returned £1,682 17s. 4d. worth of produce, which would have been bettered only for an unfortunate mishap to her mast during a critical period of the year.

Of the cutters, the winner of the flag, the "Caroline," did best, producing 286 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb. of trochus shell for a value of £1,297 13s. 7d., as against the winner of the flag last year, the "Badu," with £841. No less than seven cutters were able to beat the winning aggregate of last year, viz:—

	£	s.	d.
"Caroline" .. .. .	1,297	13	7
"Kismet" .. .. .	1,090	11	5
"Badu" .. .. .	1,012	13	10
"Ugar" .. .. .	1,000	8	9
"Poruma" .. .. .	920	1	11
"Naianga" .. .. .	886	19	7
"Kailag" .. .. .	864	11	0

MOSBY BROS. FIRM.

This registered firm is operated by natives living at Yorke Island.



On 27th April, 1934, the firm sold the cutter "Harold" for the sum of £603, having worked the vessel up till that date. The value of produce won for the year amounted to:—

	£	s.	d.
"Harold" .. .. .	64	3	2
"Kismet" .. .. .	1,090	11	5
	<u>£1,154</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>

The value of produce won for the previous year, when the firm operated both cutters for the full twelve months, amounted to only £1,107 14s. 6d., being £47 0s. 1d. less than was produced last year, when only one cutter was worked for the full period. The loss on working the "Harold" amounted to £267 1s. 9d., which amount has been written off capital. The cutter "Kismet" commenced operations this year with an accumulated loss of £70 17s. 2d. carried forward from past years. At the close of the period a net profit of £173 9s. 7d. was gained after paying off the debit balance at the commencement of the period. This net gain has been transferred to capital as a set-off against the loss written off from working the "Harold."

The loan account showed £996 6s. 7d. as owing to Protector of Aborigines at the commencement of the period. On the sale of the "Harold" £596 6s. 7d. was repaid, and a further £100 when closing the accounts for the year, leaving an amount of £300 still owing, a reduction for the year of £696 6s. 7d.

In my previous year's report I had stated: "The business of the firm is too involved for two members, who could achieve greater success if they worked one boat per efforts of the family." They have, therefore, decided to dispose of one boat, the "Harold."

#### ABORIGINAL INDUSTRIES.

Aboriginal Industries Board received statutory approval in November, 1934, although the concern previously had been known as Aboriginal Industries from the date of inception, July, 1930. The personnel of the Board consists of Messrs. J. D. McLean, P.M.; W. H. Ewart; and F. P. May, manager.

The total sales at Badu, Yorke, Murray, Darnley, and Saibai for the year ended December, 1934, were £17,787, but it is noted that in the previous report the gross sales were made up to June, 1933, and was for fourteen months' trading. In that period the gross turnover was £20,077.

In the course of the year the lugger known as "Mulgrave," owned by the Board, transported stores from Thursday Island to Badu to the total of 302 tons, whilst the Q.G.K. "Melbird" carried 38 tons.

The "Mulgrave" carried goods to the branch stores during the year of the value of £8,542, but the tonnage of same is not recorded.

The turnover at each of the stores is as follows:—

	£
Badu .. .. .	11,419
Yorke .. .. .	2,189
Murray .. .. .	1,251
Darnley .. .. .	1,431
Saibai .. .. .	1,497

Independent of this, the Works Department at Badu built 13 dinghies and repaired many

others, besides making sanitary pans, boilers for trochus shell, and many other activities, employing six native men and boys the whole year. By this means these employees are taught dinghy building, which has been found most useful, and is exemplified in the fact that with the advent of branch stores the boats at the eastern islands, viz., Murray, Darnley, and Yorke get their tucker at the home islands and do not now come to Badu for this purpose. The result is that they now repair their own dinghies, thereby saving time and cost, besides being most useful to themselves.

It is noticed that since the branch stores have been opened, many more natives are working dinghies on their home reefs, the incentive being to provide a regular supply of flour, rice, &c., and the natives now are better clothed and much cleaner, besides living under more hygienic conditions.

The total amount of payments made and passed by the Board was £31,125 8s. 11d. for the year.

#### RECREATION.

The value of Scouting and Guiding to the natives has been evidenced in the increased discipline shown by Scouts who have graduated to the fishing fleets and in the smartness of the units. As soon as it became known that the World Chief Scout (Lord Baden-Powell) and the World Chief Guide (Lady Baden-Powell) would inspect them at Thursday Island, great efforts were made to do justice to the occasion and an impetus has been given to the movement by their kindly appreciation and wise counsel.

The usual games of cricket, football, and basket-ball were indulged in, and an innovation in this respect was made by the Government teacher at Yorke Island in laying out and constructing two tennis courts and a cricket pitch of lime cement.

Exhibitions of dugong hunting and fish spearing were given by the natives at Mabuiag to the Honourable the Home Secretary and party, which disclosed the high proficiency they have attained in these practices.

Native dancing and singing are encouraged at all centres, but are strictly regulated to prevent abuses.

To sum up, the natives in this district form happy and care-free communities and respond loyally to the Protector and his staff for the care and attention bestowed upon them by the Department.

#### MEDICAL REPORT on the Islands of Torres Strait and Gulf Missions for 1934.

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

Reports from various superintendents show that, on the whole, the health of the aborigines has been good during the year.

*Epidemic Diseases.*—An epidemic of mumps prevailed during the year. Most of the cases were of a mild type. This epidemic is possibly the first of its kind for at least twenty years.

Chicken-pox occurred in a number of localities but caused little inconvenience.

*Endemic Disease.*—*Malaria:* The incidence of malaria was much greater than usual. For the first time for many years, it occurred at

Yam Island, Lockhart River, and Cowal Creek in epidemic form. A disquieting fact was the infection of residents of Badu. This marks a definite extension of the disease, as Badu had been considered to be malaria-free. The details of the whole epidemic have already been given in a special report, but two points are worth noting. Firstly, the severity of the outbreak was possibly due to the very long wet season, which lasted from October to May. Secondly, the value of atabrin in the active treatment of malaria.

*Yaws*.—This disease is still prevalent, and necessitates active measures to keep it under control.

*Hookworm*.—Mass dosage has been carried out on most of the islands and missions. The only cases of severe infestation have come from the back of Badu village, where the ground is always very damp.

*Scabies*.—This troublesome complaint has spread during the year, and active steps are being taken for its eradication.

*Veneral Disease*.—One case of gonorrhœa was found (in an Island man) during the year. The source of infection could not be traced. Routine inspection of aboriginal seamen was undertaken before crews signed off at the end of the year, and no case of venereal disease was discovered.

*Ulcerative Granuloma*.—Eight cases from the mainland were successfully treated by antimony tartrate injections during the year.

The occurrence of this disease in an infant and also in a dog again raises the question whether infection venereally is often the real means of transmission. Professor Cleland raised this point some years ago.

*Tuberculosis*.—The problem of effectively dealing with tuberculous natives, is, so far, unsolved. In these people the disease usually runs an acute course, and some form of hospitalisation would seem to be the way out of the difficulty.

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

Of the patients admitted to the Torres Strait hospital during 1934 one hundred and seventy-seven were aboriginals. Included in the number are certain Islanders and Mainlanders employed by private companies.

A further 96 aboriginals were given treatment as outpatients. The bulk of treatment for minor complaints is carried out by teachers on the islands.

An analysis of diseases for which patients were treated in hospital is of interest:—

Malaria .. ..	39	Abscess, &c. ..	19
Yaws .. ..	6	Herpes Zoster ..	2
Granuloma .. ..	7	Mumps .. ..	5
Influenza .. ..	9	Simple tumour ..	2
Pneumonia .. ..	5	Kidney disease ..	6
Bronchitis .. ..	2	Appendicitis ..	1
Phthisis .. ..	4	Gastritis .. ..	6
Heart disease ..	11	Eye .. ..	7
Arthritis, &c. ..	8	Ear .. ..	3
Injuries .. ..	15	Hookworm .. ..	3
Shark bite .. ..	2	Asthma .. ..	1
Miscellaneous ..	14		

*Comment*.—The only case of appendicitis in an aboriginal was that of a Badu girl aged 14. She was admitted to hospital with a huge inflammatory mass in her abdomen, and died within 24 hours.

*Shark-Bite*.—Of two cases admitted with shark-bite one died. As this is the first death in hospital from this cause for over ten years, and as shark risks concern local industry, it will be of interest to set out some particulars in this regard.

#### SHARK ATTACKS FROM NOVEMBER, 1926, TO DECEMBER, 1934.

	Survived.	Died.
Victims admitted to Torres Strait hospital .. ..	14	1
Victims died before admission to a hospital .. ..	..	9
Local men treated in other hospitals ..	4	..
Total .. ..	18	10

The survival rate is 64 per cent., compared with a rate of about 20 per cent. in a series of attacks on surfers and white swimmers generally. All the twenty-eight were coloured men, and eighteen were Islanders or Mainlanders.

#### DEATHS REGISTERED AT THURSDAY ISLAND DURING 1934.

Registered deaths totalled 74, which does not include those from Lockhart River and Mitchell River, which are registered elsewhere.

The principal causes of death were as follows:

Malaria .. ..	14	Accidental .. ..	6
Heart disease, &c. ..	14	Shark bite .. ..	1
Tuberculosis .. ..	11	Puerperal .. ..	4
Gastritis .. ..	1	Hookworm .. ..	1
Pneumonia .. ..	3	Diabetes .. ..	2
Cerebral dis. .. ..	3	Appendicitis .. ..	1

Included in the total are five deaths that occurred in hospital at Thursday Island.

An enquiry into the puerperal deaths showed that one was due to embolism, one to pneumonia, one to complications during the third stage of labour, while one is doubtful and occurred several days after delivery.

#### AGES AT DEATH OF 74 PERSONS.

Under 1 year .. ..	13
From 1 to 10 years .. ..	11
From 11 to 20 years .. ..	3
From 21 to 30 years .. ..	10
From 31 to 40 years .. ..	5
From 41 to 50 years .. ..	5
From 51 to 60 years .. ..	6
From 61 to 70 years .. ..	10
From 71 to 80 years .. ..	11

Of twenty-four deaths under ten years, eight were due to malaria; while two other young infants died during the height of the epidemic, the exact cause of whose death was not stipulated.

*Sanitation*.—Improvement has taken place in the general standard of sanitation, though much remains to be done in this respect.

*Nutrition*.—The nutrition of the Torres Strait natives is universally good.

In a report covering the mainland patrol of September, 1934, I pointed out the importance of action being taken to improve the nutrition of some of the nomadic tribes between the Archer and Mitchell Rivers. It is quite apparent that mainland natives who enjoy the assistance that a mission organisation can give them are immeasurably better off than members of tribes who live "on the country."

The two native missionaries who work from Aurukun down to the Holroyd are doing useful work in supplying medicines, such as quinine, and their utility could be extended, provided they receive adequate financial support.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the importance of maintaining the organisation of essential medical services in the whole district of Somerset. Much good work is being done, and there is every reason to expect that it will always be the policy of the Department to assist and encourage this important feature of the protection of aboriginals.

#### GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

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

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

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

*Staff.*—The vacancy of Matron, Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, was filled by the appointment of Matron E. T. de Ridder.

At Palm Island Dr. R. Elliott Murray tendered his resignation to take up a position with the Commonwealth Service, and the vacancy created has not yet been filled.

Matron M. D. Collins, of the same Settlement, also resigned, and Miss P. McLeod was appointed temporary Matron in her stead.

Mr. W. C. Curtis, Clerk, Palm Island Office, was transferred to the office of the Protector of Aboriginals, Thursday Island, and seconded to Head Office for a period of 12 months. His position was filled by the appointment of Temporary Clerk, Mr. J. G. N. Outridge.

Mrs. E. Hazledine, Nurse and Seamstress, retired under the age limit provisions, and her position was abolished.

Miss Pearn was appointed to a newly created position of Settlement Matron.

At Woorabinda Settlement, owing to the prolonged absence on account of ill-health of Nurse A. E. Hempstead, Miss Hetherington was appointed Temporary Matron, and later relinquished the position, which was then filled by Nurse Robb.

*Labour.*—The demand for labour generally was not satisfactory, although the amount of work offering was in excess of the 1933 figures. This applied particularly at Woorabinda. The actual number of engagements in employment from these places is as given hereunder:—

—	Under Agreement.			Under Permit Casual.
	M.	F.	Total.	
Cherbourg .. ..	18	55	73	98
Palm Island .. ..	104	63	167	..
Woorabinda .. ..	39	39	78	..

The total collections for the three settlements is indicated in the following table:—

Collections.	Cherbourg.	Palm Island.	Woorabinda.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages and fares .. ..	3,065 19 7	4,843 6 0	2,829 4 11
Sale of produce .. ..	114 4 6	203 9 6	241 10 3
Native contributions to maintenance .. ..	224 11 9	1,179 14 6	324 6 8
Interest on trust accounts	173 11 8	465 0 0	84 5 7
Stock .. .. ..	Nil.	Nil.	1,385 16 2
Totals .. .. ..	£ 3,578 7 6	6,191 10 0	4,865 3 7

A total of £14,635 1s. 1d.

These figures do not include the value of home-grown produce, beef, food, crops, stock, fodder, timber, etc., produced for local consumption, nor of the buildings, fencing, and general improvements carried out by native labour.

#### Population.

Settlement.	Total.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.
Cherbourg .. ..	850	343	507
Palm Island .. ..	981	662	319
Woorabinda .. ..	543	218	325
Fantome Island .. ..	230	202	28
Totals .. .. ..	2,604	1,425	1,179

These figures indicate a slight increase over the population last year. Previously the population of Fantome Island was included with Palm Island, but is now shown separately.

The largest increase occurs at Woorabinda Settlement, and is due principally to the transfer there of unemployed natives in the central district.

*Conduct and Discipline.*—The general conduct and discipline of the natives on all of the Settlements has been good.

At Palm Island, to where many refractory characters are transferred, a strong Native Police Force has been maintained, and these men have rendered good service in enforcing discipline on the settlement.

A few minor offences were dealt with through the Police Court in the towns adjacent to the Settlements, but generally the breaches of discipline were handled by the local administration.

#### INDUSTRY.

The following indicates the transactions through the Settlement Retail Stores:—

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. ..	889 5 4	2,418 17 1	678 1 8	3,986 4 1
Palm Island .. ..	521 17 8	5,555 19 2	781 18 2	6,859 15 0
Woorabinda .. ..	1,043 17 10	2,389 19 10	410 11 10	3,844 9 6
Totals .. .. ..	£ 2,455 0 10	10,364 16 1	1,870 11 8	14,690 8 7

The operations reveal an increase in gross turnover for last year of £1,010. This is to some extent offset by an increase in the value of free issues of £430.

## AGRICULTURE.

Conditions for agriculture at Cherbourg Settlement during the year were fair, and reasonably good results were obtained. During August to October, however, no rain fell, which adversely affected the oat crop and lucerne cuttings. Fifteen tons of lucerne were harvested for winter feed for horses, dairy stock, and working bullocks. Fourteen tons of oats were harvested from 17 acres. The smallness in this crop is attributable to the lack of suitable rainfall. A small crop of cotton was harvested, and although the bolls did not open to satisfaction, a return of £38 was obtained from 4 acres.

Adequate supplies of vegetables were always available, approximately 50 tons being produced during the year.

At Palm Island Settlement considerable activity was maintained in agricultural work; 15½ tons of vegetables and 3 tons of pumpkins, in addition to other assorted vegetables, were grown; 17,000 dozen bananas were distributed, and much appreciated by the natives.

From the Settlement hives approximately 6 cwt. of honey was obtained, and 212 bushels of Mauritius Bean were grown and sold to the Macknade Sugar Mill, the return from which was £180.

Weather conditions considerably affected farming operations at Woorabinda Settlement, and the lack of draught horses in the early part of the year was also felt. This shortage has now been remedied.

Reasonably good quantities of cabbage, tomatoes, beans, and sweet potatoes were produced, and in addition to forming a welcome change in the ordinary ration, served to considerably reduce the issues of flour, rice, etc.

Towards the end of the year the excessive heat wave compelled the constant watering of vegetables, which even then were virtually burnt out of the ground. Despite this, however, vegetables were produced in fair quantities.

*Stock.*—The following table indicates the total stock under the various headings on the three settlements:—

Statement of Stock on Settlements.

Settlements.	Breeders.								Dairy Cattle.						Horses.		
	Herd Bulls.	Herd Cows.	Bullocks.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Totals.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaner Heifers.	Weaner Bulls.	Totals.	Draught Horses.	Saddle Horses.	Total.
Cherbourg ..	19	476	142	94	72	248	32	1,083	1	41	1	18	..	61	17	4	21
Palm Island ..	..	..	26	54	..	..	46	126	3	104	52	39	36	234	8	8	16
Woorabinda ..	42	1,077	265	474	350	..	18	3,081*	Included in Breeders Section.						†23	†51	74

\* Included in Woorabinda totals are also 195 speyed cows and 660 calves.

† Included in the saddle horses are 24 mares transferred from Rewan.

‡ In the draught horses is one light draught stallion.

*Cherbourg.*—An average of 20 gallons of milk daily was obtained from the Cherbourg dairy herd, and when it was found that this herd could not meet the requirements, additions to it were made from the Hereford breeders. It was necessary to feed the dairy cows from May until November, and ample fodder was available.

A good year is recorded in connection with the cattle breeding operations. 363 calves were branded, which is an increase of 153 over the previous year. 53 purebred Hereford heifers were placed with the breeding herd.

There are 482 breeders, and the policy of using good Hereford bulls is now giving the desired return, as the calves born during last season are the best which the Settlement have yet received. 150 cattle, all of Settlement breeding, were killed for local consumption.

Over 1,200 acres of ringbarking was done in Muddy Flat and Branch Creek paddocks, resulting in excellent grass now being obtained there.

Four miles of new fencing was erected, and old fencing repaired where necessary.

*Woorabinda.*—During the year 1,200 head of mixed cattle were transferred from Rewan

Police Remount Station to Woorabinda Settlement, making the total of cattle on the run 3,081.

During the year 300 locally bred steers and 99 bullocks were sold for a return of £1,409 8s. Two bulls that were useless for Settlement purposes were disposed of, and six transferred to Cherbourg Settlement. 20 new bulls were purchased from Balfe's Creek, and three obtained in exchange from Cherbourg.

It is intended early next year to transfer approximately 100 speyed cows to Cherbourg Settlement for killing purposes, in addition to which a further 300 steers and bullocks will be placed in the sale yards.

Prior to the transfer of the Rewan cattle, 30 fine young breeders were purchased from Wilangi.

Approximately 14 miles of fencing was completed, which has practically resulted in the completion of the sub-division of the Woorabinda run.

Approximately 850 acres of good country was ringbarked, and 450 acres brushed and cleaned.

The success which is attending the cattle raising operations at Woorabinda Settlement is indicated in the increased branding over last year. During the period of review 660 calves were branded, being 200 in excess of last year's

figures. 220 beasts were killed for local consumption, comprising 42 bullocks and 178 cows.

Good progress was made with the water conservation, which is rather a serious problem, and two good dams were completed.

*Palm Island.*—Naturally the number of stock which can be run on Palm Island Settlement is limited, but an effort is being made to increase the carrying capacity, which at present is little above the number of cattle now on the settlement.

During the year approximately 1,000 acres of country was ringbarked, two miles of fencing was repaired, and one mile of new fencing erected. Two new stock yards have been built, and arrangements are now in hand for the transfer of the dairy to a more suitable site.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

No new building work was performed at Cherbourg Settlement. Necessary repairs were, however, effected to administrative buildings and natives' cottages where necessary. A new bridge over 100 feet long was built over Sawpit Gully, between Murgon and the Settlement. This bridge was badly needed, as previously the road at Sawpit Gully was a menace in bad weather.

Two new 10,000-gallon storage tanks were erected, and replaced the old ones, which were badly leaking. Minor repairs, including the installation of slop sinks, were effected at the hospital.

At Palm Island Settlement a dormitory 100 feet by 44 feet overall for the accommodation of the older girls was erected by native carpenters. The building has served to reduce congestion in dormitory accommodation, and is a credit to the native tradesmen who erected it.

A telephone line connecting the office, hospital, sawmill, Superintendent's and Medical Officer's quarters was completed.

A fair quantity of furniture, together with sanitary pans, garbage tins, &c., were produced in the Settlement workshop.

It is intended to concentrate on the building of school furniture from locally-grown timber to meet the requirements of the Department's schools in Torres Strait.

Logging operations at Palm Island were continued, and the amount of timber cut at the mill during the year was 76,976 super. feet.

Steady progress in the cultivation of food crops was maintained at Fantome Island, and despite the handicap of inefficient labour, adequate supplies of vegetables were always available for the requirements of the villagers and the institution.

Twelve new huts were erected at Palm Island for the accommodation of the village people, and 30 were repaired where necessary.

At Woorabinda Settlement six new cottages were built from cypress pine cut at the small portable sawmill. In addition, good progress was made with a large settlement dormitory to accommodate the girls, but unfortunately this phase of industrial operations had to be discontinued through the condemnation of the

sawmill boiler by the Machinery Inspector. The purchase of a new engine is under consideration, and it is anticipated, however, that the plant will be running again early in the new year.

A small cottage for the native couple in charge of the dormitory was erected, and also increased lavatory accommodation at the school and in the camp.

#### EDUCATION.

Progress in the various schools has been well maintained. A considerable amount of illness, and repeated outbreaks of scabies, made the year a difficult one for the staff at Cherbourg school. Nevertheless, the progress of the children can be considered quite satisfactory.

During the year Mr. R. T. Crawford, Head Teacher, Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, at the request of the Chief Protector, drew up a suggested scheme of instruction for schools on aboriginal settlements. This scheme was submitted to the Department of Public Instruction, and the Director of Education has commented favourably on it.

It is intended to extend the original syllabus by a scheme of manual training for boys and domestic science for girls.

The reports by School Inspectors, following visits to the various settlements, have generally been satisfactory.

#### RECREATION.

The usual interest in healthy outdoor sport was evinced throughout the year. Native and European dancing, together with football and tennis, were, as usual, the most attractive recreations. The usual football fixtures were keenly contested, and many stirring games were witnessed.

The Palm Island representative Rugby League team played a draw against a combined Herbert River team, and later was defeated at Home Hill by the local side. Subsequently both these teams visited the Settlement and suffered defeat.

Football and cricket form the principal sporting attractions at Cherbourg and Woorabinda, and the representative teams from both Settlements can always be relied upon to give a good account of themselves when opposed to neighbouring white teams.

In keeping with the policy of the Department, the native corroboree always takes a prominent place in any programme of entertainment; particularly does this apply to Woorabinda, Palm Island, the northern Mission Stations, and on the Torres Strait Islands.

Teams of native spear-throwers visited Brisbane to give a display before His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, who visited Brisbane during November, 1934. The aboriginal display was an outstanding feature of the celebrations, and called forth favourable comment on all sides. The natives who were selected to make the visit to Brisbane greatly appreciated the honour conferred on them.

The Christmas and New Year celebrations, as usual, were much appreciated, and enthusiastically entered into.

The kindly co-operation and assistance of the officials and their wives and families contribute largely to the success of these functions, and also the visiting missionaries who supply 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, Rev. W. F. McKenzie), Presbyterian.**

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

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

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

**Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, L. A. Borgas), Seventh Day Adventist.**

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

**Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Robt. Shipway), Salvation Army.**

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

*Conduct.*—No serious offences warranting special comment have been reported from the various Church Missions.

At Aurukun Mission the system of appointing three native councillors, each representing a different tribe, to enforce discipline, particularly amongst the younger people, seems to be working well. Four cases of men running away with other women were dealt with by the native councillors.

*Religious Instruction.*—Satisfactory reports from the various visiting missionaries have been received. The attendance and interest shown in these ministrations were reflected in the growing attendances at church services.

*Education.*—Good progress is generally reported from all of the schools. Apart from the usual academic subjects taught, an effort is made by several of the missionaries to develop the rural instincts in the native by teaching the children agricultural and domestic duties.

At Mornington Island 19 of the senior boys and girls are receiving such instruction and making satisfactory progress.

At St. Paul's Mission another broken year, as far as the school was concerned, is recorded. Actually teaching did not commence until the beginning of March, due to the removal of the school building. Subsequently Miss Turner resigned from the staff, and it was necessary to carry on with a native assistant.

At Yarrabah Mission needlework and cooking were taught with some success, and general technical instruction was given to the boys just leaving school.

*Industry and Agriculture.*—A brief summary of the industrial progress on the missions is shown hereunder:—

*Yarrabah.*—Useful crops of vegetables were produced, as shown:—32 tons of sweet potatoes, 160 bunches of bananas, 4 cwt. tomatoes, 600 melons, 11 bags of maize, and 6 cwt. of yams.

In addition, Mission natives cultivating their own private plots, produced 50 bags of sweet potatoes.

Approximately 100 acres of new land were cleared for cultivation, and 12 acres ringbarked. Two and a-quarter miles of new fencing were erected, and about 1 mile of old fencing repaired. Two acres of forest land were cleared, and 8 acres of scrub land felled, and the same area stumped.

A good bridge was built over Kappa Creek to give access to suitable grazing land.

A 30ft. launch, built by native labour, of timber grown and sawn on the settlement, was launched.

*Monamona.*—15 tons of corn for fresh eating, 800 bunches of bananas, 40 dozen pineapples, half a ton of sweet potatoes, 1 ton of pumpkins, 25 dozen heads of cabbage, 15 bushels of tomatoes, and 100 bunches of carrots, together with other assorted vegetables, were produced for local consumption.

Approximately 6 miles of new fencing were erected and 1½ miles repaired.

The timber-getting operations were continued, and good progress on road work, and farming generally, is recorded.

The Mission has 315 head of mixed cattle, together with 28 dairy cows and 60 working bullocks.

Altogether approximately 60 acres of reasonably good land are under cultivation.

*Cape Bedford.*—From small plantings of Mauritius bean a return of £98 was received. Approximately 25 acres are under cultivation by private natives. The value of food produced on these little plots is in the vicinity of £60 or £70.

The only produce raised on the Mission farm during the year was 1,000 bunches of bananas.

About 1½ miles of new fencing were erected and 3 miles of old fencing repaired.

As usual, boats and boat crews engaged in the fishing industry, and the return for their work in cash amounted to £195. There is still, in addition, a portion of the produce unsold.

In addition to the marine produce won, the boats bring home ample supplies of turtle and dugong, which are welcome additions to the station food supplies.

*Lockhart River.*—The village accommodation has considerably increased, and another small village has been commenced on the coast south of the Mission to accommodate the natives from Flinders Island and adjacent districts. Many new and well-built huts have been erected by the natives.

A sanitary system has been introduced, which has tended to improve the health conditions and general cleanliness in the villages.

An adequate supply of vegetables, principally sweet potatoes, has been produced, and a catch crop of Mauritius bean, totalling  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tons, was harvested.

*St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island.*—All of the able-bodied men have been employed in the marine industry, and the old men who usually work their gardens made several trips in the ketch "Abaipil," running cargo to the Gulf stations.

The year has been a successful one for garden production. Unfortunately the bean fly and kindred flies have used the camala vines extensively as a breeding ground. This resulted in a greatly reduced yield, and since camala is a staple product, the presence of fly is a serious menace to the native gardener.

The three students in the training college have worked well with their studies, and although the number has been reduced by one, the other two continue in their training.

During the year the school building was removed from its position to the middle of the street, and placed in line with other Mission villages. The result is a vast improvement in the layout of the Mission compound.

*Magoon.*—The cattle herd now totals approximately 500. In addition there are 40 horses.

It is intended to commence garden plots on the Batavia River, and within the Mission boundary. Previously large quantities of vegetables had been grown in this area, and it is intended to recommence extensive production.

It is unfortunate that during the greater portion of the year the vacancy caused by the resignation of the previous Superintendent had not been filled, and consequently the amount of industrial progress which might have been expected was not achieved. However, prospects appear to be bright for better results next year.

*Weipa.*—Although manual training is not included in the school curriculum, every boy on leaving school is granted an opportunity of gaining a practical knowledge of general industry, especially agriculture and stock.

Three lads who showed an aptitude have been moderately successful at plumbing.

A general training in domestic science is given the girls.

The mode of living, or the social life of the people, is expressive of a transitional stage further progressed than is generally conceded. The tone of this social life indicates that the people are contented and happy.

In the village there are now 43 small complete dwellings, and 7 in process of erection. They are of the single-room type, with small bark kitchens attached. The majority have floors raised a little from the ground, the materials used being principally bark, with sawn and adzed timber.

The number of cattle on the Mission now totals 46, and horses 21. In addition, there are two mules.

About 3 acres were cleared, of which 1 acre has been burnt off.

There are several individual gardens in the village, in which sweet potatoes, cowpea, melons, and pumpkins are produced with considerable success;  $7\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of pumpkins were produced in the Mission garden, together with an encouraging return of bananas, papaws, and pineapples.

As the Mission headquarters has only quite recently been transferred to Jessica Point, industrial activities must of necessity be mainly developmental.

The following buildings were completed:—Cook-house, fitted with furniture, fireplace, stove, etc., and temporary stockyard with calf pen and bails.

Three hundred and three coconuts were planted through the village, and also mango seedlings, custard apples, limes, and Seville oranges. Fifty-seven young assorted citrus trees, supplied by the Home Secretary, are making good progress.

The most valuable achievement of the year was the locating of good water in abundant supply, and in a position convenient to meet all purposes. A strongly slatted well was put down, and a windmill supplied by the Aboriginal Department was installed.

*Aurukun.*—Lime was burned for the paddocks, and rotted vegetation and manure gathered and ploughed in. A special effort was concentrated on the production of sweet potatoes and pumpkins. The lines of sweet potatoes planted totalled  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and the yield was well over 15 tons.

Pumpkins were grown in the cleared scrub land by the men and the boys at the farm training centre. A very good yield was obtained, over 400 pumpkins being brought up for the children. Cowpeas, melons and haricot beans were also grown. In the dry season tomatoes were produced with good results. In the village the people have over 7 acres planted in sweet potatoes. They have also traded over 2 tons of tomatoes to the Mission for flour, tobacco, and clothing. Mauritius bean seed was supplied to the village people, but unfortunately bush fires destroyed most of the crop.

The main building work was the completion of the boys' dormitory. This building has taken a fairly long time to complete, as all of the timber had to be adzed. Large shelter sheds and breeding pens were built for the two breeds of pigs supplied by the Home Secretary. The pigs are thriving, and give promise of a useful industry. The usual fence repair work at the Mission and at the cattle camp was performed.

Repairs to the Mission well and overhaul of the engine and pump were also effected.

Two areas were cleared at the farm training camp, one area about 2 acres, in which bananas, pineapples, and cassava were planted, and on the other area pumpkin seed was sown.

A new well was sunk and reinforced. The water from this well will be utilised for irrigation purposes.

The Home Secretary has supplied 150 fruit trees, which have been planted out and are doing well.

The Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, also supplied breadfruit trees, which are making satisfactory progress. One hundred head of heifers were purchased through the special Aboriginal Trust Fund from Mitchell River to build up the breeding herd at the Mission. In addition, a brood mare was obtained from Mareeba.

The cattle now number 240. There are also 30 working and saddle horses, 2 stallions, light and heavy, 14 brood mares, and 22 foals and yearlings.

Following discussion with Dr. Nimmo and the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, a dozen of the best milkers from the breeding herd have been selected as the nucleus of a dairy herd. It is hoped to secure a good milking strain bull calf, and thus ultimately increase the standard of the dairy herd and the consequent milk production.

*Mornington Island.*—Quite a number of couples are settled in their own little homes, and are trying against really adverse circumstances to cultivate their garden plots.

The number of horses on the Mission is 14, including one stallion, two geldings, eight mares, and three foals. The cattle total approximately 260 head. In addition there are 20 pigs.

Twenty-eight tons of produce, principally vegetables, were produced from the limited area under cultivation. Approximately 2 acres are under cultivation on Denham Island, but the crops there failed in the main owing to the unfavourable season and a scarcity of moisture.

The following are particulars of produce grown on the Mission farm:—

34½	cwt. tomatoes
57½	cwt. pumpkins
8½	cwt. pineapples
146½	cwt. sweet potatoes
49	doz. coconuts
4½	cwt. papaws
136	cwt. watermelons
114	doz. eggs.

The total area of land cleared on the Mission is 60 acres, but the major portion of it will not produce owing to the scarcity of water. During the period of review 15 acres of new country was cleared.

The extent of fencing on the Mission is 106 chains. Considerable work was involved in the enlarging and improving of the all-weather landing ground at Denham Island.

Extensive repairs were effected to the boats, pumps, and water conservation sites. In addition, timber was obtained for milling purposes.

*Purga.*—The farm has been subdivided for convenient working, and a considerable amount of ringbarking and suckering has been carried out at the Deebing Creek and Hampstead areas. A fair amount of fencing repair has been performed.

An improvement has resulted through an overhaul of the dairy herd, and 38 cows are now being milked, giving a reasonably good return from cream.

Continued efforts are being made to give useful training to boys in agricultural work, and girls in general domestic science.

#### NATIVE PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

**Gayndah (Teacher, C. Turner), average attendance 13.5 boys, 8.5 girls.**

**Myora (Superintendent, R. Morrison), average attendance 6.5 boys, 5.6 girls.**

**Thursday Island (Teacher, H. G. Simpson), average attendance 24.7 boys, 24.6 girls.**

Reports by the School Inspectors indicate a steady and satisfactory progress.

The Thursday Island School was inspected by the Home Secretary, Under Secretary, Home Department, and the Chief Protector of Aborigines during the visit to Thursday Island.

Financial assistance from the Department was given to enable the breaking-up celebrations to be of an enjoyable nature, and school prizes, presents, etc., were given out to all of the children.

#### RECREATION.

All forms of outdoor sport were, as usual, popular with the Settlement and Mission natives. Native corroborees inevitably form a prominent portion of all native entertainments, and even on the southern Settlements and Missions where European sport and entertainment are an opposite attraction, every effort is made to keep alive the old traditional native dances, mimicry, &c.

On the Torres Strait Islands the usual dancing festivities on public holidays and during the Xmas season were indulged in.

On Cherbourg Settlement a particularly strong aboriginal cricket team took part in the association fixtures.

At Palm Island Settlement, football, cricket, and tennis were the principal sources of recreation apart from the native corroboree. The Settlement football team met with considerable success when pitted against teams of white players from the neighbouring mainland towns.

At most settlements annual camping excursions were arranged, principally for the children, and the outings were much enjoyed.

#### GENERAL.

The total expenditure on relief administration amounted to £41,815.

The Aboriginal Standing Account, to which is paid receipts from the sale of produce, cattle, &c., deductions from Provident Fund, savings bank interest, and other general sources, records a total income of £36,827.

Expenditure, principally on industrial development, relief to indigent natives, supply of blankets to those camp aborigines requiring such, assistance to missions, &c., totalled £26,957.

The total native earnings throughout the State towards their own support was £183,868. This figure does not include produce grown and beef killed for local consumption, timber milled for building purposes, fodder grown for the feeding of stock, and the value of cattle bred on the stations and sold for revenue.



The percentage to which the native population is self-supporting is still very satisfactory, and an examination of the cost of maintenance, victualling, &c., in comparison with the value of industrial undertakings and earnings, will indicate that the native population in the State is between 70 per cent. and 80 per cent. self-supporting.

#### APPRECIATION.

It is desired to acknowledge the loyal co-operation and help of all officers of the Department, including the staffs in Head Office and on the various Government Settlements.

The work of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, and the Manager, Aboriginal Industries, Badu Island, and the officers under their direct supervision is also appreciated.

The staffs of the Church Missions, and the organisations controlling such, have had a particularly strenuous year, but the results achieved are, to a very considerable extent, compensation for the arduous duties performed.

The valued assistance rendered by Sir Raphael Cilento, Director-General of Health and Medical Services, and all Government Medical Officers is also duly appreciated, as is also the loyal co-operation and assistance of the Under Secretary, Home Department, and the staff of the Home Office, the Commissioner of Police and his staff, the Portmaster and the Harbour Masters at various northern ports, together with any other officers and departments whose work has in any way brought them into touch with the activities of the Aboriginal Department.

**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 1934**

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

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