

1937.
—
QUEENSLAND.

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), Prisons, Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind, Westwood Sanatorium, and Licensing Commission.

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Department of Health and Home Affairs

Department of Health and Home Affairs,
Brisbane, 24th September, 1937.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS.

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,
Under Secretary.

ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Acting Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. T. H. R. Mathewson; Superintendent, F. M. STAUBWASSER).
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, J. F. Whitney).
QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Manager, A. T. Fullagar).
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Superintendent, Dr. J. H. Blackburn).
LICENSING COMMISSION (T. A. Ferry (Chairman), J. D. O'Hagan and R. H. Robinson, Commissioners; Secretary, F. P. Byrne).

Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1936.

POPULATION.

The aboriginal and half-caste population at the 30th June, 1936, as shown by the following table, was 18,122, of which 9,909 were male and 8,213 females. These figures, obtained from a census taken by the Government Statistician at the 30th June, 1936, in collaboration with this Department, show a slight increase in the numbers of both full-bloods and half-castes. As this increase corresponds with what could be taken as the natural increase, allowing for the difficulty of accurately enumerating the nomadic population of the Cape York Peninsula, where estimates only are given, it would appear that the figures given are reasonably accurate.

Following "*The Aboriginal Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Act of 1934*," quadroons and cross-breeds were included in the aboriginal and half-caste populations, swelling the total considerably. It would seem that the native population is now as correctly defined and enumerated as it is possible to do so.

FULL-BLOODS.

Males 6,992, Females 5,345, Total 12,337.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic	1,715	386
In regular employment ..	3,617	..
Supervised camps	3,319	2,512
Others (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	452	336
Totals	9,103	3,234

HALF-CASTES.

Males 2,917, Females 2,868, Total 5,785.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic	25	29
In regular employment ..	1,876	7
Supervised camps	532	1,393
Others (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	752	1,171
Totals	3,185	2,600

LABOUR CONDITIONS GENERALLY.

From reports received from superintendents of aboriginal settlements and country protectors, the following excerpt from the report of one of the latter "No need for any fit boy to be unemployed" is indicative of the conditions prevailing in most districts throughout the year. As usual, the pastoral industry offered the best avenue for employment.

Although this keen demand for labour existed, it was mostly in the far north-western areas, and the settlements could have placed more men in employment with advantage to themselves and their dependents.

The total number of aboriginals and half-castes employed under agreement was: Males, 1,601; females, 527. Owing to the drought in the Southern and Coastal districts there was not much employment offering in these areas, but a keen demand was experienced in other parts of the State.

As in 1935, the demand for female labour exceeded the available supply. The three settlements met the demand as far as possible, but owing to the larger number of marriages than usual at Palm Island, thus decreasing the number of girls available, a number of employers were disappointed on making application there.

In the majority of cases employers observed the conditions relating to wages, accommodation, &c., and little trouble was experienced. With such a number employed, however, it could be expected that in a few cases pressure was necessary to ensure the regular payment of wages. It is due to the manner in which the country protectors carry out their duties that the employment of aboriginals and the supervision of their welfare is carried out with the minimum of trouble.

The conduct of natives in employment has been very good, but a few females proved unsatisfactory and were removed from their employment. A few employers likewise proved unsatisfactory and the agreements were cancelled.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

As all aboriginal workers are insured under the Workers' Compensation Act, claims are promptly filed following an accident. Twenty-one claims were admitted, and compensation to the amount of £1,228 5s. 9d. was awarded. In all cases the amounts were credited to the Savings Bank accounts of the natives concerned in order to protect the claimant's interests. The courtesy and assistance of the State Government Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department officers is hereby acknowledged.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

The following table, giving details of accounts, deposits, and withdrawals, on account of wages earned by aboriginals in employment, shows that

there was a decrease of 365 in the number of accounts but the deposits increased by an amount of £7,951 6s. 3d. The decrease in the number of accounts is largely accounted for by the fact that at Thursday Island the system of making all payments to natives per medium of a Savings Bank account, was dispensed with and the old system of cash payments reverted to. An increase in the wages payable to aboriginals accounts for the increase in deposits.

The fact that withdrawals exceeded deposits by £10,659 shows the native worker appreciates that the saving is effected for his use in time of need.

Experience shows that many natives are able to live comfortably in their old age, and through times of unemployment, by means of the money banked for them whilst employed. The excess withdrawals were increased considerably owing to the fact that for four and a-half months the natives of Torres Strait did not man their boats, thus earning nothing and living on their savings.

The sum of £1,800 3s. 8d., being the assets of deceased natives who died leaving no dependents, was credited to Aboriginal Protection Property Account, while £1,040 18s. 9d., representing the total of unclaimed Savings Bank balances, was also credited to this account. Exhaustive inquiries have been made in all cases and efforts are still being made to locate the owners of the latter amounts.

Hereunder are shown the statements of receipts and disbursements of the Aboriginal Protection Property Account and the Aboriginal Provident Fund, as at the 31st December, 1936. The credit balances of both funds are shown in the accompanying table of assets held by the Department.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.	Interest Earned.	Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.	Balances as at 31/12/36.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg	617	3,851 4 0	141 4 9	4,310 18 10	623 4 11
Palm Island	643	5,838 18 0	421 9 7	7,238 19 10	6,530 4 4
Woorabinda	330	3,880 10 0	70 13 8	4,280 5 9	2,424 1 3
Various Protectorates (including Brisbane)	2,629	43,456 14 4	8,066 8 7	43,561 8 4	19,597 15 1
Thursday Island	1,566	16,457 17 6	120 9 7	19,173 18 4	6,905 6 11
Totals	5,785	£73,485 3 10	£8,820 6 2	£78,565 11 1	£36,080 12 6

The actual funds held or invested for aboriginal purposes is as follows:—

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1. Current Balance in Savings Bank Accounts	36,080 12 6	7. Aboriginal Protection Property Account, Sundry Loans to Missions and Settlements	300 0 0
2. Settlement Natives' Savings Bank Funds, invested in Inscribed Stock ..	12,000 0 0	8. Aboriginal Provident Fund Investment at 4 per cent.	2,000 0 0
3. Country Natives' Savings Bank Accounts, invested in Commonwealth Stock at 3½ per cent.	200,000 0 0	9. Aboriginal Provident Fund held in Bonds at 4 per cent.	20 0 0
4. Thursday Island District Natives' Savings Bank Funds, on loan to Aboriginal Industries	4,000 0 0	10. Island Funds and Boats Reserve Account, Current Balance	2,436 17 4
5. Aboriginal Protection Property Account, balance in Current Account	4,676 11 8	11. Island Fund and Boats Reserve Account, Loans to Boats	2,530 0 0
6. Aboriginal Provident Fund, balance in Current Account	807 1 8	Total	£264,851 3 2

The vigilance of protectors and officers of the Police Department accounts for this absence of serious crime, and their care of wards of the Department is appreciatively recorded.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1933.		1934.		1935.		1936.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium .. ..	..	£	5	£ 130	1	£ 40	1	£ 30
Supplying of opium	5	80	1	40	2	..	..	..
Supplying liquor .. ..	..	..	3	60	5	82½	2	50
Harbouring (frequenting camps) .. ..	..	..	1	10	..	..	1	gaol

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Drunkenness	25	28	24	46
Stealing	12	8	2	3
Creating a disturbance	2	1	2	..
Wilful destruction	1	..	..	..
Obscene language	3	1	..	..
Assault	2	4	2	2
Resisting arrest	1	..	1	..
Entering .. ..	..	..	..	..
Absconding	3	..	..	..
Manslaughter .. ..	..	..	..	..
Rape	1	1	2	..
Murder	2	1	1	1
Unlawful possession of opium	1	..	..	..
Intent to kill unlawfully	1	..	..	..
Breach of Pearlshell and Bêche-de-mer Act .. ..	..	..	..	..
Bigamy .. ..	..	..	..	1

REMOVALS.

A decrease in the number of removals from country districts to settlements and missions as compared with the previous year is shown by the following table:—

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Palm Island ..	40	15	..	55
Fantome Island ..	14	8	..	22
Cherbourg ..	22	5	..	27
Woorabinda ..	12	8	..	20
<i>Missions—</i>				
Lockhart River ..	43	39	3	85
Monamona ..	7	3	..	10
Mornington Island ..	1	2	..	3
Yarrabah ..	7	3	..	10
Weipa ..	1	..	..	1
Hammond Island ..	2	..	..	2
Totals ..	149	83	3	235

It was found necessary to remove 80 aged aboriginals from the Coen and Batavia districts to the Lockhart River Mission, as they were incapable of looking after themselves, even with the assistance of rations supplied by the Department. A decrease of 36 in the number sent to Fantome Island for treatment for venereal disease is recorded.

HEALTH.

Reports from superintendents of Government settlements, church missions, and country protectors show a gratifying absence of serious sickness.

No epidemic diseases were reported with the exception of outbreaks of whooping cough at Cherbourg Settlement and Purga Mission, causing the deaths of two infants at the former place.

The Government Medical Officer at Boulia is to be complimented on the interest he has taken in the aboriginals of the district. Several inspections have been made and six cases of venereal disease detected. These are receiving treatment at the hospital.

Consumption has increased to an alarming extent at Aurukun Mission, and on the advice of the Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, Dr. J. R. Nimmo, efforts are being made to strengthen the resistance of the inmates.

The malaria epidemic at Mornington Island in 1935 was fortunately not repeated.

The Aerial Medical Officer paid four visits to the island.

Eight cases of venereal disease at Coen, three at Burketown, one at Ravenshoe, five at Yarrabah Mission, one at South Johnstone, and one at St. George were among those sent to Fantome Island.

A case of peritonitis was reported from Cape Bedford Mission and two cases of appendicitis were reported from Charleville.

The protector at Burketown reported that the health of the aboriginals was greatly improved.

Dr. J. G. Drew, State Health Officer, was appointed Acting Medical Superintendent at Palm Island in March and held the position until his resignation in September. Dr. J. K. Park was then appointed Acting Medical Superintendent. Applications are to be called during the coming year for this position.

Weipa Mission reports 75 cases of malaria.

The campaign against hookworm was continued, and, with the exception of areas in the Cairns district where eradication is difficult owing to the presence of nomadic natives, the incidence of infection is decreasing.

A first aid outfit was supplied to Turn Off Lagoons Protectorate, and it is proposed to issue similar outfits to other outlying protectorates.

Dugong oil was supplied for medicinal purposes to the Government settlements and some church missions from Cape Bedford Mission.

Dr. Weston Price, an American dental research worker, visited the settlements, Torres Strait islands, and several church missions, examining the teeth of the inmates with a view to ascertaining the nutritive effect of European foodstuffs as compared with native food supplies. He submitted a report outlining his findings, and showed that natives utilising native foods to the greatest extent had much better preserved teeth than those accustomed to European foods.

The following table indicates the number of patients treated at the various settlements, missions, and centres from which records were obtained:—

<i>Settlements.</i>	
Palm Island	774 in-patients. Daily supervision of school children, and daily out-patient treatment given
Cherbourg	500 in-patients, 3,272 out-patients, 51,162 treatments given
Woorabinda	634 in-patients, 4,560 out-patients, 38,764 treatments given, 20 serious cases sent to Rockhampton Hospital
<i>Missions.</i>	
Aurukun	Consumption, granuloma, feverish colds, dental attention
Yarrabah	7 cases of gonorrhoea, pulmonary disease, gastro-enteritis, hookworm treatment
Doomadgee	Pulmonary, 5 cases of venereal disease, 3 accidents treated at Cloncurry and Burketown Hospitals
Hammond Island ..	Minor complaints treated at Thursday Island
Mapoon	Yaws, scabies, malaria, dental attention

Missions—continued.

Monamona	Whooping cough, bronchitis, diphtheria immunisation carried out. Hookworm treatment carried out
Mornington Island ..	Treatments numbered 4,087 for pleurisy, malaria, yaws, colds, and eye afflictions
Purga	35 cases of whooping cough
Weipa	5,936 patients treated for malaria, colds, accidents, sore eyes, general complaints, and dental attention
St. Paul's, Moa Island	Health generally good. Cases sent to Thursday Island for treatment
Mitchell River	7,051 treatments for scabies, yaws, and malaria. Hookworm treatment given. Many minor complaints

Country Hospitals.

Beaudesert	45 in-patients treated
Cairns	143 in-patients treated
Cloncurry	46 in-patients treated
Brisbane General ..	5 in-patients treated
Brisbane Childrens' ..	7 in-patients treated
Maryborough	11 in-patients treated
Eidsvold	11 in-patients treated
Mitchell	13 in-patients treated
Normanton	44 in-patients treated
Rockhampton	19 in-patients treated
Townsville	21 in-patients treated

FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.

Statistics for the Year—

	In Hospital 31st December, 1935.	Admitted.	Born.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1935.
Men	102	106	..	208	76	7	125
Women	77	77	..	154	64	9	81
Children	51	30	4	85	55	3	27
Totals	230	213	4	447	195	19	233

During the course of the year the character of the institution changed somewhat. In addition to the normal work of dealing with venereal and kindred diseases, it became the health clearing station through which all natives were admitted to Palm Island.

As the years have gone on, and following much intensive work at Fantome Island, venereal conditions have improved at Palm Island and, as a result, only eight such cases were admitted to Fantome from Palm.

Although there has been a steady flow of venereal cases from outside throughout the year, such cases have diminished in number by comparison with previous years. Waves of admissions from outside were the rule previously and this may always recur and the institution is prepared for same.

The inspection and testing of new admissions at Fantome has been contributory to the cleansing of Palm Island. It makes for much additional work, but, as indicated, is all for the good.

The island has been used for tubercular and similar cases, also for convalescents from the mainland, who have improved under the more bracing conditions.

The natives have been well behaved and the staff have carried out their duties capably. Administration has been conducted through Palm Island.

All fit natives are kept regularly employed, and progress has continued.

The agricultural soil is poor, and, it has been found, will require considerable nursing.

A pleasing feature was the return of a number of children to their homes at Palm Island, following a long spell of intensive treatment.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND MISSIONS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Government Medical Officer, Dr. J. R. Nimmo, Thursday Island.

Generally the health of the Torres Strait islanders can be regarded as satisfactory, and in the case of Badu Island the health of the village was much better than was the case during the previous year. Epidemics of influenza in June and again in November were fairly prevalent, although there were no serious cases and all responded to treatment by aspirin and quinine. A few cases of mumps and chicken pox were also recorded at Badu Island.

At Mabuig Island an excellent sanitary service exists, with the consequent result of exceptionally good health there.

At Darnley Island towards the close of the year an outbreak of blight was experienced; one native suffered a severe attack but subsequently recovered under medical treatment.

The cottage hospital at Darnley Island was again used when necessary, and maternity cases received attention.

Hereunder is a report by Dr. J. R. Nimmo, Government Medical Officer, on the Torres Strait islands and missions of Cape York Peninsula.

During the year 1936 the health of the people in this district has been good and there has been no serious epidemic.

A new system of monthly medical reports from all stations is under trial, and should prove beneficial in maintaining closer touch between the medical officer at Thursday Island and the individual teachers and superintendent. The installation of radio communication should be a boon to isolated stations in case of emergency.

A revision of the list of drugs to be used should assist in the standardisation of treatment, and consequently greater economy.

Endemic Diseases.—Of endemic diseases, malaria, yaws, and tuberculosis are our chief concern. The incidence of malaria has been that of an average year, with no indication of widespread infection as occurred in 1934.

Yaws is still universally prevalent and calls for constant care to prevent its spreading.

Tuberculosis in its various forms presents a real problem. As I pointed out in my report for 1933, some provision for the segregation of infected persons is called for. Under present conditions there is no means of carrying out this important measure.

Venereal Disease.—Three cases of gonorrhœa and three cases of ulcerative granuloma were treated in hospital during the year. The superintendent has treated a small number of cases of granuloma at Aurukun by injections of anti-mony.

ABORIGINAL PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITAL AT THURSDAY ISLAND.

Of patients admitted to the Torres Strait Hospital during the year, 152 were aboriginals.

The following is an analysis of the disease for which these patients were treated:—

Malaria	7	Abscess, &c. .. .	13
Yaws	21	Gonorrhœa	3
Granuloma	3	Toxic Goitre	1
Influenza	5	Gastro-Intestinal .. .	3
Pneumonia	4	Genito-Urinary	6
Tuberculosis	16	Diseases of Women .. .	7
Filariasis	2	Simple Tumour	3
Heart Disease	11	Cancer	1
Rheumatism, &c. .. .	13	Epilepsy	2
Injuries	19	Miscellaneous	10
Shark Bite	2		

Comment.—There was an increase in the number of patients treated for late manifestations of yaws, such as osteitis and arthritis. All, except a few long-standing cases with extensive bone destruction, responded rapidly to treatment.

Three unusual cases were admitted during the year:—

1. A Badu man, aged forty-nine, developed a cancer of the tongue. He was not seen until there was widespread involvement of the cervical glands, and he died within three months. Malignant growths are apparently rare in these people.

2. A Poid child, aged three, with a prolapse of the rectum of some weeks' duration, was successfully treated by peri-anal injections of alcohol, and there has been no recurrence of the condition.

3. A man from Cowal Creek was admitted after eating freshly-killed meat of a Hawksbill turtle. He was one of three who had eaten the turtle. The other two died. This recalls similar occurrences of death from turtle poisoning. About thirty years ago a number of people died at Dauan Island, and previously the majority of a tribe were wiped out near Margaret Bay.

DEATHS REGISTERED AT THURSDAY ISLAND DURING 1936.

Registered deaths totalled sixty-five. The causes of death were as follows:—

Senility	10	Ac. Endocard	2
Gastro-Intest	5	Septic Arthritis	1
Heart Disease	8	Puerperal	2
Malaria	1	Turtle Poison	2
Tuberculosis	16	Convulsions	1
Pneumonia	8	Cancer	1
Shark Bite	1	Uncertain	6
Prematurity	1		

Of the total number, four deaths occurred in hospital, and the remainder on the various islands and missions.

AGES AT DEATH OF SIXTY-FIVE PERSONS.

Under 1 year	9	From 41 to 50 years .. .	6
From 1 to 10 years .. .	4	„ 51 to 60 years .. .	15
„ 11 to 20 years .. .	4	„ 61 to 70 years .. .	7
„ 21 to 30 years .. .	8	Over 70 years	7
„ 31 to 40 years	5		

The causes of death of infants under one year were:—Gastritis, 5; pneumonia, 1; prematurity, 1; convulsions, 1. The cause of death in one case was uncertain.

Nutrition.—With few exceptions, the people are well nourished. There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the people at Cowal Creek since they have planted better and more extensive gardens. The native teacher, Jomen Tamwoy, deserves credit for his ability to persuade these people that their ultimate welfare depends largely on their own ability to grow food for themselves.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following comparative statistics are of interest as being indicative of the value of the care and attention bestowed on the aboriginals in Government settlements and missions, as compared with those living a nomadic life:—

Settlements.	Population.	Number of Births.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Population.
Settlements—					
Cherbourg	928	45	48·4	33	35·5
Palm Island	1,116	31	27·7	31	27·7
Woorabinda	581	29	49·9	19	32·7
Total	2,625	105	40	83	31·6
Missions—					
Aurukun	336	5	14·9	5	14·9
Cape Bedford	287	11	38·3	..	..
Hammond Island*	129	5	38·7	..	..
Doomadgee	87	2	22·9	1	11·4
Mapoon	335	5	14·9	5	14·9
Mornington Island	280	5	17·8	7	25·0
St. Paul's*	230	5	21·7	4	17·4
Weipa	176	5	28·4	7	39·8
Yarrabah	475	17	35·8	15	31·5
Mitchell River	253	9	35·5	8	31·6
Monamona	255	10	39·2	1	3·9
Totals	2,843	79	27·7	53	18·6
Country Districts	8,559	77	8·9	72	8·4
Torres Strait Islands	3,717	135	36·3	41	11·3
Fantome Island	234	4	17·1	19	81·2

*Not included in Torres Strait Islands' figures.

MARRIAGES.

Legal marriages were contracted in 113 cases, in 67 of which the women were full-bloods, and 46 were cross-breeds. In 20 of these cases, 10 half-caste women married full-blood men, and 10 half-caste men married full-blood women. In two other cases—one a quadroon and the other a half-caste—marriages were contracted with white men.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

There has been an insistent demand through Head Office for the services of capable domestics. In many cases it has been found that even unskilled labour, if acceptable to the employer, was unprocurable.

The behaviour of the girls sent to employment from the settlements and employed through country protectors has, on the whole, been very satisfactory. It is only to be expected that a proportion of the girls employed, numbering 527, should prove refractory.

Of the 527 in employment, 186 were engaged from the Government settlements, 46 through Head Office, Brisbane, and the balance through country protectors.

Brisbane District.—Thirty-two of the women employed through Head Office, Brisbane, found situations in the city and suburbs, while 28 were working in the country. Total wages earned amounted to £2,010, of which 60 per cent. was banked to the credit of the girls; 40 per cent. of their earnings was allowed them as pocket money.

An amount of £1,791 was withdrawn from these savings, now totalling £6,893, and was utilised by the girls to purchase clothing, and cover costs of dentistry, amusement, &c.

Orphans in Homes.—The number of orphan children maintained in homes subsidised or supported by the Queensland Government is as follows:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	27
Purga Industrial School	18
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Indooroopilly ..	5
Salvation Army Girls' Home, Yeronga ..	10

The total cost of maintenance was £1,313.

An officer of the State Children Department makes a regular inspection of the condition of these children, and reports have, in all cases, been satisfactory.

COUNTRY CAMPS.

Efforts to improve the living conditions of aboriginals in the country camps have been continued. Further areas have been reserved in order that the local protectors can have the necessary control over the camps.

In many instances the natives, at their own request, have been supplied with building and fencing materials to improve the reserves.

Camps already established on reserves continue to progress, and better huts are erected by the aboriginals, as they see the benefit to be derived from improved living conditions. In all cases adequate sanitary arrangements are made.

HALF-CASTES.

The census returns show that the number of half-castes has increased by 360, making the total now 5,785.

As previously pointed out this increase cannot to any great degree be attributed to miscegenation. The marriage of these cross-breeds amongst themselves, or to civilised aboriginals or other coloured races, is almost entirely responsible for the growth in numbers.

Considerable interest in the case of the half-caste has been awakened by suggestions from different quarters, resulting in wide controversy, that the solution of the problem of their future lay in their absorption into the white race by marriage of the young women to white men.

Unfortunately, such a proposal, although suitable in some special cases of quadroon and lighter types with definite European characteristics, overlooks the many complexities of this difficult problem. Not every half-caste is the product of European breeding—quite a large proportion are of alien blood more akin to the aboriginal race itself, such as Pacific Island, African, Malay, and others of Asiatic origin. Many of these breeds have no desire to separate from the aboriginal or any ambition above the camp life. It was with the object of dealing with the grave problem created by the communities of such types which had been steadily growing in many Northern centres that the extension of the moral protective powers was provided by the 1934 amendments of the Aboriginal Protection Acts. The results have well justified the legislation provided.

The early establishment of a civilised half-caste colony with the object of providing opportunity for superior types to raise themselves from the aboriginal environment is now under consideration. The object is to assist this type and develop a self-respecting community life from which the coming generation can be given the necessary education and technical training on rural school lines to prepare those with the right ambition for apprenticeship to suitable industries in the European community.

This proposal, while designed to assist the superior type in need of assistance to uplift themselves, will not aim at interfering with the section of these people now satisfactorily maintaining themselves in civilised conditions. Some anxiety naturally was caused in certain quarters amongst quadroons and others previously exempt from the Protection Acts, by the extended powers of the control provided, but this, it is hoped, has now been allayed. While membership of the proposed colony will be available to previously exempt persons desiring this concession, such will not be compulsory. The object of the institution would be defeated if used in any way as a penitentiary.

Owing to necessary drafting of regulations under the 1934 amendments of the Act, the issue of certificates of exemption to approved cases was temporarily suspended, and in only two cases was this privilege issued. Meanwhile existing certificates were not interfered with.

The mission at Hammond Island for half-castes and quadroons of Thursday Island and Torres Strait is progressing satisfactorily. The people are industrious and contented, and willing to co-operate with the Administrator for the welfare of the community.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Reports from the various institutions indicate that satisfactory progress has been made in what can be described as the rural school sections. The boys between the ages of fourteen and sixteen have received regular lessons each week under the trained native artisans in woodwork, tinsmithing, saddlery, and ironwork, and the young girls of corresponding age receive instruction in the domestic arts of dressmaking, needlework, housekeeping, cooking, &c., under the settlement matron, a trained nursing sister.

The Rural School head teacher appointed to Palm Island Settlement has done good work in organising the manual instruction classes in well-equipped workshops on the ground floor of the school, and in addition has made a successful start in project work, bee-keeping, poultry-breeding, vegetable cultivation, and flower gardening being undertaken.

The head teacher at Cherbourg has also organised classes in manual subjects in a similarly equipped workshop on the ground floor of his school. The instruction here is given also by trained native artisans. The school girls receive instruction in sewing and fancywork under the female teachers and in domestic arts under the settlement matron in the Girls' Home. The samples of the work done indicate that the training has been efficient, and the pupils have taken a gratifying interest in the classes.

The elementary training given in these school classes enables the lad to show in which direction his abilities lie, and choose a trade to which to be apprenticed. Several of these apprentices have been successfully placed in the development branches of the settlement work under the skilled workmen.

Following the system inaugurated two years ago, four more lads were sent to the Murgon Rural School for similar elementary training and are progressing satisfactorily. While at present there is no field for absorption of any of these manually trained youths in the industries beyond the settlements, this presents no immediate difficulty, as the activities of the institutions can profitably absorb the products of the training classes. The proposed colony for the preparation of the superior types of half-castes for absorption into the civilised industries will serve as a clearing station for the type which should be eligible for promotion from the native institutions.

The boys of the islands of Torres Strait look naturally to the sea as the principal field for their vocational activities, and the majority take up employment as seamen and fishermen, either in their own communal vessels or in the fleets of the private European companies. The mechanical equipment of the fishing industry has opened wider avenues for skilled work, and a steady draft of suitable young men are receiving apprenticeship training in the management of

combustion engines. Others showing aptitude are employed in the boatwright branch of the Aboriginal Industries Trading Station, making dinghies for the native fishing fleets, and contemplated extensions of this department will allow the increased absorption of these young tradesmen. At Yorke Island several promising lads are being instructed in carpentry.

At most of the mission stations the manual and domestic subjects are taught in the schools, and in addition practical instruction is given in agriculture, stock work, fruitgrowing, pig and poultry raising, mainly with the object of developing the coming generation towards self-dependence.

It is found that even where the young people proceed to service beyond the institutions in industries such as the pastoral, agricultural, or dairying, the skill acquired in manual branches makes them efficient in the work of these rural occupations.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were made to the various Government settlements and church missions by myself and the Deputy Chief Protector. During these visits opportunity was taken to convey directions regarding the policy to be adopted and measures to be taken to ensure that progress be maintained.

Mr. G. A. Cameron, Police Magistrate, acting as Public Service Inspector, paid a visit to Thursday Island and the islands in Torres Strait.

TORRES STRAIT—ADMINISTRATION.

Early in the year a feeling of unrest was manifested amongst the Torres Strait islanders resulting in a partial stoppage of work on the boats controlled by the Department for the benefit of the natives. The many stated causes of discontent were immediately investigated, and necessary action taken to safeguard the property of the Department. Fortunately, the prompt measures adopted by the investigating officers resulted in an early resumption of work by the discontented natives. Towards the latter end of the year the administration of aboriginal affairs in Torres Strait was subjected to a scheme of reorganisation, which shows every indication of success and has resulted in a feeling of contentment and satisfaction amongst the natives.

POPULATION.

As revealed in the following table, the population of the Torres Strait islanders is gradually increasing, a feature which is due principally to the Departmental policy of segregation and encouragement in the use of native foods.

The percentages of births per 1,000 population reveals a striking increase when compared with the deaths, which must be regarded as an indication of the benefits of the protection of these people.

	Total.		Births.		Marriages.		Deaths.		Births per 1000 population.	Deaths per 1000 population.
	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.	1936.	1935.		
Badu	518	505	17	20	5	4	4	6	32·8	7·7
Boigu	132	130	6	5	1	..	3	2	45·4	22·7
Dauan	110	110	1	3	1	1	1	2	9·0	9·0
Mabuiag	339	334	6	8	2	1	1	6	17·6	2·9
Murray	557	533	19	21	3	3	7	6	34·1	12·5
Naghir	30	31	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nepear	7	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	285·7	..
Poid	259	257	5	5	3	3	3	3	19·3	11·6
Saibai	441	421	15	17	2	1	4	3	34·0	9·0
Stephen	59	59	5	5	..	..	1	..	84·7	16·0
Thursday	428	426	22	7	8	2	7	6	51·4	13·3
Three Sisters	20	23	1	..	..	..	..	..	50·0	..
Yam	193	189	7	14	..	..	2	3	36·3	10·3
Yorke	154	152	4	5	..	..	3	..	25·9	19·4
Coconut	128	120	4	4	..	..	3	4	31·2	23·4
Darnley	334	389	16	16	3	2	2	2	47·9	5·9
Hammond	129	112	5	2	..	2	..	1	38·7	..
St. Paul's	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	3,846	3,803	135	133	28	19	41	45	35·1	10·6

In addition, there is estimated to be over 2,000 nomads on the mainland, including the following under the control of the church missions:—

Mapoon	330
Weipa	174
Aurukun	666
Lockhart River	292
Mitchell River	600

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN THE MARINE INDUSTRY.

The trouble which occurred amongst crews of "company" boats naturally resulted in a reduction in the total value of produce won, when compared with the results of the previous years. For a period of about four months the majority of the men refrained from accepting employment on the "company" boats, but when their grievances were rectified they enthusiastically commenced work. The results of about seven months'

work showed a decrease in the total gross catch of £8,131. Despite this the difference between the wages paid in 1935 and 1936 was only £1,643.

The contention that the community workers on these "company" boats receive less remuneration through the system of piece-work payment,

than the men on privately owned or "master" boats has long been an argument by the critics of the "company" boat system. The following table will reveal the actual position of "company" boat employees and "master" boat men:—

"COMPANY" BOATS' CREWS EARNINGS.

Island.	No. of Boats.	No. of Crew.	Crews net earnings.	Earnings if employed at "Master" boat rates.	Excess in favour of "Company" boats.	Decrease in favour of "Master" boat.
			£	£	£	£
Badu	6	85	2,937	1,705	1,232	..
Boigu	2	35	372	511	..	139
Coconut	2	34	1,072	726	346	..
Dauan	2	26	292	611	..	319
Mabuiag	3	43	1,052	909	143	..
Saibai	4	58	823	868	..	45
Yorke	2	35	979	815	164	..
Totals	21	316	£7,527	£6,145	£1,885	£503

This table reveals that the majority of these 316 employees shared in a distribution of wages in excess of what would have been earned had they been employed on "master" boats, to the extent of £1,382.

As indicated in the foregoing table the Department controls twenty-one vessels which are owned by individual natives or island communities. The reorganised system of working these vessels provides that each island community, through their elected councillors, shall select the crews and captain of each vessel, and the captain, as directed by the councillors, shall dictate the working conditions. The Protector of Aborigines, through his agent the Aboriginal Industries Board, is responsible for the sale of produce won and the disbursement of the profits after such basis is accepted by the native crews. This system of working creates in the individuals a spirit of independence and self-reliance that is lost in the case of the "master" boat employees. The result is that on the average "company" boat employees enjoy better working conditions, are eligible to visit their home islands more frequently to attend to their gardens and domestic affairs, and for the most part receive higher wages than men employed elsewhere. Experience has shown that the Torres Strait islander, under firm but kindly supervision, will work for the benefit of himself and his community to his advantage where favourable opportunity is allowed him.

Two luggers and two cutters were purchased by native families, and the purchasers are, with the help of fellow natives as crew, entering with enthusiasm into the business of procuring marine produce.

Twenty-one boats are engaged compared with 26 in 1936. The number of men engaged was 316.

Including produce sold for shore workers, the total sales on natives' behalf amounted to £14,954.

One hundred and forty-seven Torres Strait islanders and 180 mainland natives were also employed by Thursday Island firms engaged in the marine industry. Their wages totalled £8,180.

The capital value of the fleet of seventeen cutters and four luggers is estimated at £13,005, and £346 15s. 2d. was spent on repairs during the period under review.

Forty-nine tender sales of produce won were held at the shell store at Thursday Island and 334 tenders from buyers were received.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRODUCE SOLD.

—	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons cwt. qr. lb.	£ s. d.
Pearlshell	70 11 2 9	9,268 16 0
Trochus shell	63 10 1 24	7,049 13 5
Bêche-de-mer	0 15 0 22	43 6 6
Other produce	0 5 1 9	40 0 8
Total	135 2 2 8	16,401 16 7

It was unfortunate that the price of mother of pearl shell was not particularly remunerative when compared with last year. During December, 1935, £160 per ton was paid for pearlshell won by the "company" fleet, whereas the highest price obtainable during 1936 was £128. Trochus shell maintained a steady price at approximately £115, and although the price of pearlshell could, with advantage, have been higher, nevertheless, on the average, it was possible to work a boat at a fair margin of profit, and at the same time pay reasonable wages. There was little demand for bêche-de-mer, with the result that very few of the boats entered this section of the industry.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

As might be expected there is practically no call for labour in this district apart from the marine industry, with the exception of the Gulf Missions where a few competent selected natives receive employment on the cattle stations adjacent to the missions. However, there is a considerable industry amongst the Torres Strait people in the cultivation of food crops by the women and old men during the absence of the marine industry employees from their home islands. An outstanding phase in the Department's policy is to encourage such production, and the wisdom of this action is indicated by recent scientific research into the health conditions of aborigines. A visit to the islands

in 1936 by Dr. Weston Price revealed that the natives of Murray Island, where better facilities prevail for the production of food crops, enjoy better health and possess better preserved teeth than other islanders.

Considerable encouragement has been given to the production of food crops and a policy is now being formulated which aims at procuring, through Aboriginal Industries, new plants and seeds to encourage the islanders in this direction.

Particular mention should be made of the efforts of the Cowal Creek natives to emulate the Torres Strait islanders in producing food from the soil. This settlement, voluntarily established on the northern portion of Cape York Peninsula, is constituted of mainlanders who hitherto had only a very rudimentary idea of land cultivation. Over the last year particular attention was paid to this community for the purpose of instilling into them the necessity for producing food crops. The result of encouragement and advice has been that excellent gardens are now bearing good fruit, and it is confidently anticipated that the Departmental assistance previously necessary to maintain a decent standard of living for these people will not be required in another twelve months.

In the efforts which have been made to make Cowal Creek a self-supporting community, praise must be given to the Torres Strait islanders, who, following the appeal by the protector, sent yams, taro and coconuts for food and planting. Likewise the Rev. Joseph Lui, native Anglican Mission Priest of Murray Island, is deserving of praise for his efforts in inducing the Mothers Union, constituted of native women of Murray Island, to cultivate a garden for the relief of the Cowal Creek people. No greater example of christian charity can be found than in his efforts. Aboriginal Industries have assisted this settlement in common with the Torres Strait islanders by providing plants and seeds. The result of these combined efforts is to be found in a happier and more contented community.

ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS.

At Murray Island the lock-up was dismantled and the building re-erected on a new site. Bridges were repaired and the stone borders of the streets were reconditioned. A well, 5 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 6 in., was sunk to a depth of approximately 30 ft. and a good supply of water was obtained. It is intended to utilise this source of supply for a water scheme to be installed.

At Saibai Island two new houses were erected, seven repaired, and eight new ones are under construction. A new gaol is now almost completed and the two school buildings were thoroughly overhauled.

At Boigu Island new sanitary conveniences were built and five new houses erected. The schools at Boigu and Dauan Islands were repaired and the native teacher's residence at the latter place was also repaired and extended.

At Darnley Island eight grass houses and one galvanised iron house were erected in village formation. Two new wooden bridges were built for same and Mogor villages and roads were kept in good condition.

At Badu Island the water supply which was completed last year is proving a great benefit, and it is probable that the call which is being made on the water supply will demand the erection of a further storage tank. The last and biggest of the three bridges was finished in November. This bridge is a very substantially erected structure and should last for many years.

At Stephen Island two new houses were erected and repairs were effected to many of the cottages at Yam Island.

At Mabuiag Island six hardwood bridges with concrete foundation have been erected and the secondary school was completed and painted.

The usual work necessary to keep villages in good order and condition was regularly performed.

EDUCATION.

Steady progress has been maintained in the island schools established throughout Torres Strait and in the church mission schools on the Peninsula. Hereunder is shown the centres at which schools are established, whether in charge of a white or native teacher, and the number of pupils on the roll:—

Island and Missions.	White or Native Teacher.	Number on School Roll.
Badu	White	155
Boigu	Native	32
Coconut	ditto	43
Darnley	White	104
Dauan	Native	39
Murray	White	124
Mabuiag	ditto	87
Poid	ditto	61
Stephen	Native	21
Saibai	White	131
Thursday	ditto	61
Yorke	ditto	48
Yam	Native	69
St. Paul's	White	58
Lockhart	Native	60
Cowal Creek	ditto	44
Weipa	White	19
Aurukun	Native	81
Mapoon	White	72
Hammond	ditto	40
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	1,349

The Training College for native student teachers established at Mabuiag Island under the direction of Mr. P. R. Frith, Government Teacher, continues to maintain satisfactory progress. Naturally it cannot be expected that a native student teacher after twelve months training in this school shall possess the same educational standard as a white youth of similar age. The home life of the island boy or girl is not conducive to education and study and, consequently, this difficulty must not be overlooked when a student is taken into the Training College. However, the results achieved should be immeasurably superior to those which hitherto attended the spasmodic system of white teachers training pupils on unsystematic lines. As might be expected success has not always attended the efforts of the training school, but recent inspections of all of the schools indicate a gradual improvement in the students who have passed through the Training College and taken up work in the island schools.

Three boys who received tuition in wood-work and carpentry in the Yorke Island manual class will obtain employment in the Port Kennedy Engineering Shipyards Limited during 1937. In this calling there is difficulty in placing partially trained boys, and there is no indication that these three youths can obtain more than three months' work, which means that they ultimately drift to the only avenue of employment offering, viz., "company" boats, resulting in their permanent loss of the calling for which they have been trained. This position creates the necessity for the Department finding avenues for their permanent employment in a manner which will be beneficial to themselves and their people, who are boat owners. It is the intention to endeavour to extend the boat repairing yards and dinghy building operations to enable these boys to be permanently absorbed in an industry for which they have been coached.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS.

The amount to credit of 1,566 individual private Savings Bank accounts was £6,905 6s. 11d. The total deposits amounted to £16,457; and withdrawals to £19,173. The number of new accounts was 76 while 216 were closed. Interest earned by these accounts was £120.

Hitherto the policy has been to pay into the Savings Bank account of individual workers all proceeds from wages, collections, &c., compelling the owner to receive payment through his Savings Bank account. This system has been the cause of considerable dissatisfaction. As a protective measure it was undoubtedly effective many years ago, but with the progress in education of the people the necessity for such drastic protection is not warranted. The amended system will provide for the banking of moneys regarded as beyond the immediate necessity of the native. Small cash payments will be made direct to the owner and allotments from workers to dependents, pensions, &c., will be paid in cash and not through Savings Bank funds. Similarly, wages payments to "company" boats men up to, or in the vicinity of, the proportion given "master" boat employees, will be paid in cash, but amounts in excess of such will, at the discretion of the protector and as circumstances warrant, be banked for the benefit of the owner. This system has already proved acceptable and satisfactory and will clear away the discontent hitherto prevailing against the Savings Bank system.

NATIVE COUNCILLORS AND POLICE.

For many years the native councillors and native police have rendered immeasurable service for the Administration by assisting in domestic control and industrial development. Councillors are selected by ballot of all residents of an island over eighteen years and in future the councillors will hold office for three years unless dismissed for an offence by the Native Court established on each island or by a Police Court elsewhere.

A greater measure of responsibility has been given the councillors and they will now control a considerable portion of the domestic life of their communities which previously was the responsibility of the Government teachers. The innovation which came into effect in November

is already proving successful and the councillors are displaying commendable intelligence in carrying out their added duties.

ISLAND FUNDS.

The credit balance of the aboriginal community funds is £7,272 7s. 10d., showing an increase of £932 4s. 10d. The collections were £4,300 15s. 3d., and the disbursements amounted to £3,368 10s. 5d.

Loans amounting to £394 9s. were advanced to finance other undertakings, together with an amount of £1,035 15s., which was repaid prior to the 31st December, 1936.

The chief items of expenditure were £1,282 1s., as compared with £1,569 0s. 8d. during the previous year, for pensions and relief to indigent natives; £1,118 4s. 2d., as against £861 1s. 3d., during 1935 for village improvements and services. Compensation to injured seamen amounted to £156 as against £122 5s.

The credit balance of the Boats' Insurance Fund is £1,540 16s. 4d., and Crews' Insurance Fund £695 8s. 7d.

The amount of £1,660 9s. was advanced to finance industrial undertakings and on loan to boats engaged in the marine industry.

RECREATION.

Native dancing continues to be the outstanding form of recreation for the island people. The policy of the Department is to encourage such dancing and other native sport, and despite that there is an inclination among some of the younger men to indulge in European dancing, the influence of the older people is still sufficiently strong to discourage such form of recreation.

Fishing and dugong hunting, as usual, form a prominent part of the life of the people, and while such cannot be solely regarded as recreation they nevertheless constitute a break in the monotony of island life.

Every effort is being made to revitalize the boy scout and girl guide movement, and it is anticipated that a state of efficiency will soon be reached which has not previously been attained. Active troops formed by the relieving school teacher, Mr. P. Jensen, are now enthusiastically carrying on at Saibai, Boigu, Dauan, and Coconut Islands.

It is the intention next year to hold a scouts jamboree on Two Brothers Island when opportunity will be given every boy scout to undergo systematic training in scout work and discipline.

The benefits of the boy scout and girl guide movements among island people cannot be too highly estimated and particularly amongst a native community like the Torres Strait islanders. A firm but kindly discipline is essential in the educational progress, which is one of the characteristics of the Department's protection policies.

ABORIGINAL INDUSTRIES.

Towards the end of the year under review it became necessary to arrive at a definite determination of the future policy of Aboriginal Industries Board to aim at—

- (1) The retention of trade now enjoyed, and expansion where possible.

- (2) Such measures as would assure to the Torres Strait islander benefits by way of reduced retail prices and/or assistance as would indicate the wisdom of co-operative trading.

Following a complete examination of the trading figures approval was granted for the utilization of the profits of the Board in such manner as will give to the business the maximum of recognition of its services, and to its native customers the best returns from the profits. In this direction the island funds particularly will benefit and the native customers will also share in the improved system of trading by participating in a price reducing scheme. Already the selling price of several "bread and butter" lines has been appreciably reduced to the satisfaction of the natives.

The Board will also publish quarterly a newspaper, "The Islander," for circulation amongst the people of Torres Strait. In addition to supplying information concerning the activities of the Board and the assistance which it is giving for the administration of Torres Strait Islands, this publication will contain items of news and interest suitable to the mentality of the native readers. The first copy of the paper published in December was enthusiastically received, and it is anticipated that future copies will be similarly welcomed.

During the year seven Board meetings were held. At these meetings a considerable volume of business, involving large sums of money, was satisfactorily dealt with.

Periodical audits by the manager, attended by a member of the Board, were made of the branch stores stocks.

A small bulk store was opened at Cowal Creek Settlement to overcome the difficulties experienced there through the absence of regular transport to Cowal Creek. This store is being capably managed by the native teacher and is proving a boon to the Cowal Creek natives.

The Board's ketch "Mulgrave" made regular visits to the branch stores, and conveyed approximately 350 tons of cargo from Thursday Island to Badu Island. The Queensland Government ketch "Melbidir" gave material assistance in carrying goods to the branch stores.

The total purchases by the business during the year was £10,090 and the sales realised £22,177 as shown hereunder:—Badu head store, £12,646; branch stores, £9,531. Sales showed an increase of £2,218 over the figures of 1935.

The amount of purchases was considerably less than during the previous year, as a particular effort was made to reduce the stocks carried at Badu, and consequently the value of purchases and sales cannot be taken as any indication of the profits made.

The workshop at Aboriginal Industries was kept busy, particularly during the latter portion of the year, when a demand set in for dinghies which at times it was difficult to meet. Minor repairs were effected to several cutters, and it is the intention of the Board next year to endeavour to increase the scope of the workshop by putting down a small slipway where

cutters can be examined and minor repairs, particularly recoppering, effected.

A new workshop was opened during the year to provide for the building of furniture for native requirements. There is always a steady demand for simple furniture and the activities of the Board in this direction has met a long-felt want.

A making-up department has been added, staffed by native girls. The garments manufactured find a ready sale and the opportunity to purchase well-made dresses is appreciated by the women.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Cherbourg, Murgon. Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple.

Woorabinda, Duaranga. Superintendent, H. C. Colledge.

Palm Island, Townsville. Dr. J. Grahame Drew (resigned); Acting Superintendent, F. H. Julian.

Staff.—Mr. V. B. Jordan was appointed as temporary overseer at Cherbourg Settlement.

Miss M. H. Clements was appointed as hospital matron at Woorabinda.

Dr. Grahame Drew was appointed Acting Medical Superintendent at Palm Island in March. Mr. F. H. Julian, Deputy Superintendent at Fantome Island was seconded to Palm Island as second in charge. Dr. Drew resigned in September and Mr. Julian was then appointed as Acting Superintendent, Dr. J. K. Park being afterwards appointed Acting Medical Superintendent.

Mr. C. Roberts was appointed temporary supervising tradesman and Mr. C. Sturges as temporary farm overseer.

Miss A. M. V. Harrod was appointed hospital matron with staff of two nurses.

Mr. F. A. Krause, a trained rural school teacher, received the appointment of head teacher of the Aboriginal School.

Sister L. E. Norman of the hospital staff was appointed settlement matron in place of Nurse L. E. S. Pearn, who resigned.

Sister C. E. Tinney was appointed senior nurse at Fantome Island.

POPULATION.

Settlement.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Total.
Cherbourg	330	598	928
Palm Island	728	388	1,116
Woorabinda	320	261	581
Fantome Island	194	40	234
Total	1,572	1,287	2,859

The figures show an increase of 97 over those for 1935. This is largely accounted for by removals of aged and indigent natives from various protectorates for their care and protection, coupled with the natural increase.

Labour.—The demand for labour from the three settlements throughout the year was satisfactory. A noticeable feature was the keen demand for domestics. This has been met as far as possible, but at Palm Island a large number of marriages during the year limited the supply of suitable young women.

There was an increase of 20 in the number of natives sent to employment under agreement from the three settlements, and an increase of 53 in the number of aboriginals engaged under casual permits.

The particulars regarding employment are shown in the following table:—

Settlement.	Under Agreement.			Under Permit Casual.
	M.	F.	Total.	
Cherbourg	26	85	111	184
Palm Island	36	33	69	1
Woorabinda	38	47	85	11

Conduct and Discipline.—The conduct of the inmates of the settlements has been satisfactory throughout the year and with the exception of a male inmate of Fantome Island charged with a capital offence, and an inmate of Cherbourg Settlement charged with assault, there has been an entire lack of serious crime. Domestic quarrels amongst the inmates have occurred and have been dealt with by the settlement administration.

A number of settlement inmates absconded throughout the year and in the majority of cases either returned voluntarily after a period or were apprehended and returned. It is noticeable that in the majority of these cases the same aboriginals are involved and the cause of the abscondings can be generally ascribed to a survival of the native instinct of wanderlust.

The native police on the settlements have generally given satisfaction and have rendered valuable assistance in maintaining order and discipline.

AGRICULTURE.

At Palm Island, despite unusually heavy rains in the early part of the year, good progress has been made in the cultivated areas. Local conditions, including heavy rain and in the latter part of the year severe heat and drought and comparatively poor soil, made successful farming operations difficult.

Existing fences were repaired and 3 miles of new fencing erected to protect the farming area from straying stock.

Good supplies of farm products were obtained, including 18 tons of sweet potatoes, 4 tons of pumpkins, 650 bunches of bananas, 27 cwt. Swede turnips, and supplies of water melons, English potatoes, lettuce, green peas, and carrots. An abundance of tropical fruits, such as papaws and mangoes, was obtained. Forty-seven and a-half acres are under cultivation. Included in this area are experimental plots of rice and Mauritius beans, which it is hoped will prove successful.

Woorabinda.—Owing to the serious drought conditions prevailing in the district operations were not as successful as formerly. The successive heat waves militated against the effectual cropping of vegetables; 4,502 lb. of sweet potatoes, 2,304 lb. of pumpkins, 1,086 lb. of carrots, 598 lb. of cabbages, and 516 lb. of beetroot.

together with small quantities of squashes, tomatoes, cow peas, cauliflower, cucumber, and lettuce were grown and distributed.

Cherbourg.—The farm work was disappointing owing to the drought. Thirty acres of oats and 10 acres of lucerne were planted, but with no success. Twenty acres of corn were planted but only 5 acres gave any result. No plantings of cotton were made as it was anticipated the seed would not germinate. Twenty acres of cotton planted in November, 1935, gave a return of £41.

Difficulty was experienced in keeping up the supply of vegetables. There was no rain from June to November, and the lack of a satisfactory irrigation system was severely felt. The installation of such a system is now under consideration.

Twenty-seven thousand four hundred pounds of vegetables were grown and distributed amongst the inmates. Included in this quantity were tomatoes, artichokes, pumpkins, marrows, water melons, beetroot, turnips, kohlrabi, cabbages, lettuce, cucumbers, and onions.

At Fantome Island it has been found that owing to the poor quality of the soil fertilizers will have to be used to a considerable extent. Supplies of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and green vegetables were grown and issued to the inmates. Bananas and papaws are growing well and giving good returns.

STOCK.

Although the rainfall at Palm Island was 90.46 inches, 65 inches of this fell during the first three months of the year, consequently conditions at the end of the year were bad, being relieved by rains early in December.

The dairy herd and working bullock teams have been kept up to strength and a good supply of milk has been obtained from the former. In addition to the milk issue, 44 head of cattle and 20 pigs were killed during the year to augment meat supplies for rations.

No further area was ringbarked as it is considered there is no necessity at present for further work in this direction. The dairy, pig, and bullock yards have all been improved.

Woorabinda.—The settlement experienced one of the worst years on record so far as rainfall was concerned. Good grass rain fell at the beginning of the year, but no heavy rains followed. Some rain in the winter filled the dams, thus relieving the water situation to a slight extent. The total rainfall for the year was 22 inches. The two northern dams were enlarged and a new dam of large proportions is in course of construction. The value of the dams was well demonstrated during the year.

The boundary between the settlement and Gomally Station was almost completed when the shortage of water stopped operations. Substantial yards were erected at Black Boy Creek and at the second dam. This enabled drafting to be carried out at this place, obviating driving the cattle long distances to the settlement.

Bush fires during the latter part of the year were responsible for the loss of about 12,000 acres of grass, necessitating the removal of cattle to other parts of the reserve. During the year 1,300 acres were ringbarked, including the brushing of undergrowth.

Cherbourg has experienced seasonal conditions which were detrimental to progress amongst the stock. The rainfall was the lowest on record, 12.8 inches being recorded. Consequently, grass was very scarce and watercourses and waterholes dried up. Suitable watering places had to be constructed at waterholes on the main creeks, and these had to be constantly supervised to prevent the bogging of cattle. Dangerous waterholes were completely fenced off. Bush fires also caused serious loss of grass land.

A new petrol engine and pump was installed in Woltman's paddock and this proved of great value. Seven hundred acres were ringbarked

in the Cherbourg reserve and 100 acres were suckered. Five miles of fencing along the Cherbourg boundary was rebuilt and a new subdividing fence in Woltman's paddock, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles in length, was constructed. Fences were renewed in other places where necessary.

As a consequence of the drought deaths were numerous amongst the stock, approximately 100 breeders dying. Two hundred and ninety calves were branded. Two hundred and eighty-seven head of cattle were killed for rations. No new dams were made during the year, but a new well, 48 feet deep, was sunk in Woltman's paddock.

STATEMENT OF STOCK ON SETTLEMENTS.

Settlement.	Breeders.							Dairy Cattle.						Horses.				
	Herd Bulls.	Herd Cows.	Bullocks.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Speyed Cows.	Steers.	Totals.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaner Heifers.	Weaner Bulls.	Totals.	Draught Horses.	Saddle Horses.	Totals.
Cherbourg ..	18	486	80	159	281	21	56	210	1,311	1	19	1	28	..	49	11	6	17
Palm Island ..	..	..	68	..	..	50	..	..	118	4	131	42	28	..	205	17	11	28
Woorabinda	25	692	142	240	462	41	124	287	2,013	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	33	49

Industrial.—A new wing, including a room for the head teacher, was added to the school at Cherbourg. A new side veranda was built and a bathroom added to the head teacher's house. These additions filled a long-felt want. A new native cottage was erected and all other settlement buildings kept in good repair. The blacksmith's shop carried out all necessary work, as did the tinsmithing and saddler's shop. The native tradesmen in charge of these various activities also assisted at the school in giving lessons to the manual training classes.

At Woorabinda the girls' dormitory was completed and an extension to the school carried out. Three native cottages were erected. The nurses' quarters were enlarged and a mortuary built at the hospital. The new residence for the teacher is nearing completion. A new store was also erected. With these activities the sawmill was busy and the bullock teams were fully occupied carting the requisite logs. It will be found necessary to enlarge the girls' dormitory within a short period owing to the increasing number of inmates.

At Palm Island repairs to existing houses have been carried out and fourteen new native houses erected during the year. The type erected includes wooden floor and iron roof buildings and similar buildings with raised earth floors and roofed with grass.

At the Cooktown camp a block of old dwellings was demolished and was replaced with new buildings.

The dairy workers have been accommodated in separate buildings which were erected during the year, and preparation is being made to erect buildings at the Casement area.

Timber requirements for all building jobs have been maintained, although with increasing difficulty. The addition of another type of planing machine has improved the mill equipment.

Fifty-five thousand four hundred superficial feet of timber were milled during the year. A boys' home, extension of the girls' home, and staff quarters at Fantome were completed during the year. All roads were repaired and new drains completed. A new road is being built along the shore and will facilitate communication between the various centres on the island.

At Palm Island trochus shell to the value of £530 was gathered and sent to Thursday Island for sale. This phase of the settlement industry is capable of expansion with the provision of a suitable cutter or lugger, and consideration will be given to this in the coming year.

It is again pleasing to record that the various settlement improvements outlined above were carried out almost entirely by native labour. The system of apprenticing promising lads to the trained native tradesmen has been continued with very good results.

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

Collections.	Cherbourg.	Woorabinda.	Palm Island.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages	3,569 10 2	2,340 3 5	3,787 2 2
Sale of produce	250 19 9	145 3 11	167 10 1
Interest on trust accounts	141 4 9	70 13 8	421 9 7
Natives contribution to maintenance	405 0 7	369 11 6	1,206 8 7
Stock	20 17 10	Nil.	Nil.
Totals	£ 4,387 13 1	2,925 12 6	5,562 10 5

A total of £12,875 16s.

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

RETAIL STORE TRANSACTIONS.

The following table indicates the amount of business which passed through the retail stores in the way of native purchases or issues to the needy:—

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg ..	883 15 3	2,766 2 3	718 0 10	4,367 18 4
Palm Island	701 1 0	6,115 0 7	436 0 7	7,252 2 2
Woorabinda	1,208 11 3	2,821 13 6	390 16 10	4,421 1 7
Totals ..	2,793 7 6	11,702 16 4	1,544 18 3	16,041 2 1

The gross turnover was increased by £1,923, almost wholly made up by an increase in the amount obtained by sales to natives against their Savings Bank accounts, a further indication that the natives appreciate the savings effected for them.

EDUCATION.

The headmasters of the schools on the three settlements report satisfactory progress and the reports of the Education Department's Inspectors show that satisfactory results are being achieved.

It is hoped to complete the syllabus for manual training subjects in the coming year and have it in operation at the three schools. Additional white staff capable of teaching manual training and domestic science subjects are to be added to the staff at Cherbourg and Palm Island schools.

The following table shows the enrolment of native children at Government settlements, missions, island and provisional schools:—

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Settlement.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Palm Island	124	112	236
Cherbourg	103	115	218
Woorabinda	58	55	113
Totals	285	282	567

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

Islands	Males.	Females.	Total.
Islands	460	458	918
Cowal Creek	22	22	44
Totals	482	480	962

CHURCH MISSIONS.

Missions.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Arukun	39	36	75
Cape Bedford	34	6	40
Doomadgee	19	25	44
Hammond Island	22	18	40
Lockhart River	30	30	60
Mapoon	27	42	69
Mitchell River	34	25	59
Moa Island (St. Paul's)	29	29	58
Monamona	36	37	73
Mormington Island	36	46	82
Purga	9	13	22
Weipa	7	11	18
Yarrabah	62	73	135
Totals	384	391	775

PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

Centre.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Gayndah	13	9	22
Myora	6	5	11
Thursday Island	31	30	61
Mitchell	16	15	31
Totals	66	59	125

RECREATION.

The Department's policy of fostering healthy recreation amongst the settlement inmates has been continued with beneficial results. The love of competitive play or sport is one of the characteristics of the aboriginal, and organised games form a valuable outlet for their natural high spirits.

At Palm Island, football and cricket competitions were held under the supervision of the white staff, and games were played against inmates of Fantome Island. Two matches were played at Ayr and Charters Towers by football teams from the settlement, and the good conduct of the boys on each occasion gave rise to favourable comment. Native and European dancing, tennis, and boxing were also popular.

At Palm Island, games and literature are provided by the various missionary bodies ministering to the natives, but as an added means of recreation at night it is hoped to proceed with the erection of a recreation hall as soon as possible.

At Woorabinda, football is the most popular game, but other games such as cricket and tennis have their devotees. Three trips were made by the settlement football team and two matches were won. The trips proved most successful. Corroborees and European dancing have also been popular.

At Cherbourg, football teams have journeyed to Gympie, Maryborough, and Bundaberg, and have been most successful. The settlement cricket teams have been pre-eminent in the district for the past four years, and are again premiers. Vigoro, basket ball, tennis, and other games are also played by the women and children.

Sports meetings were held on all the settlements on festive occasions and to assist in raising funds for sporting activities.

The Christmas and New Year celebrations were very successful, and the extra issue of good things to all settlement inmates provided them with the wherewithal to enjoy the festive season to the full.

The settlement officials, together with their wives and families, have earned the thanks of the Department for the manner in which they have so willingly given their spare time to organising the sporting activities of those in their charge. The work of visiting missionaries and friends of the aboriginals is also appreciated.

MISSIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Moa Island, St. Paul's, Torres Strait (Superintendent, F. H. Darke), Anglican.

Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Adjutant T. H. Booth), Salvation Army.

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

Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, Rev. J. R. Norman), Anglican.

Doomadgee, Burketown (Superintendent, W. T. Reed), Plymouth Brethren.

AURUKUN.

Religious Instruction.—The natives in the village attend a short service daily. The attendance at these services has been very good, averaging 150 since the mission was established. The regular church services are held on Sundays.

Schools.—There are 40 girls and 46 boys in the dormitories. Five of the big girls are being trained to domestic work, whilst one has returned to school to teach the youngest class. Five big boys are helping with the outside work. It is pleasing to record that the work of the two upper classes is very good, as is the work of the class of children who came in from the Holroyd River, at a much more advanced age than is usual. Children who have been attending school since they were very small are showing considerable proficiency in English. The children gave two concerts and one biblical play during the year. The parts were all very well done.

Health.—Generally speaking, the health of the people has been very good. Some anxiety has been occasioned by the appearance of consumption amongst the people. Action has been taken, on the advice of Dr. Nimmo, G.M.O., Thursday Island, to combat this.

Dental attention has been given inmates and visitors and it is interesting to note that bad teeth are not confined to the village people, for numerous cases have been noted amongst the bush people.

Stock.—The annual muster was held in November and the brandings numbered 110; the total number of cattle being 410. Unfortunately, one of the Ayrshire cows was injured in the rough weather coming down from Thursday Island. The other two cows have settled down well with their calves. As a result of these cows being added to the dairy herd, augmented supplies of milk have been available for the children. Swamp cancer attacked the horses during the year; eight cases have been treated but four have had to be destroyed. Arrangements have been made to secure a few more heavy mares to breed from.

The Berkshire pigs continue to do very well, increasing by twenty-one through the year. The purebred Tamworths apparently do not suit this locality, therefore the Berkshires and crosses are being concentrated on. The increased number of pigs has added to the supply of food available for the children.

Sawmill.—The 16 h.p. Ruston kerosene engine supplied by the Department has now been set up, but owing to lack of water for the cooling tank it has not yet been used. It is anticipated that this engine will enable much needed timber to be supplied from the sawmill.

Buildings.—All buildings were kept in repair during the year and the special room built for housing the sawmill engine.

The tank at the Mission House has been cemented and strong cement troughs have been made for the pig yards. The launch has again proved ideal for the work, but it is regretted that the engine is showing signs of wearing out as a result of the heavy work entailed.

CAPE BEDFORD.

Religious Instruction.—Services have been regularly held and again much interest has been shown by the natives.

Industry.—The possibility of having to abandon the work of half a century at this mission, mentioned in the last report, has been averted and the General Synod of the church has decided to carry on with their labour. It has, however, been decided to remove the mission station to a more fertile spot. The Synod accepted an offer of the free use of 1,500 acres of land for five years, rent free, rates only to be paid. At the end of that period the mission will have the right to purchase or rent this land. At the site of the new settlement 6 acres have been cleared and the area, planted with Mauritius beans, makes a good showing. Six acres of heavily-timbered land were cleared and got ready for the plough.

Three cottages were erected; two for the white workers and quarters for the single men who have carried out the development of the new site. Progress has been delayed owing to the lack of carrying facilities. Considerable trouble has been experienced in re-erecting the buildings from the old mission site, as much of the timber, being old, cannot be used in the new building. The old roofing iron is practically useless. The mission authorities appreciate the Minister's special grant to cover the cost of removal.

Land already cleared at Mount Webb was planted with sweet potatoes and 35 tons of tubers were obtained. Another patch of sweet potatoes gave a return of 9 tons. The sweet potatoes, with wheat and wheatmeal, kindly supplied by friends of the mission, together with turtle, dugong, and fish, gave a good variety of food to the mission inmates.

Health.—The health of the inmates was excellent. Eleven births were recorded, with no deaths. Of the births, 9 were females with 2 males. In view of the preponderance of males on the mission this increased number of births of females is welcome.

The herd of cattle now numbers 230. It is difficult to control the cattle owing to the nature of the country, but good grazing land on the other side of the river has lately been acquired, and it is hoped that the herd will now increase.

LOCKHART RIVER.

Religious Instruction.—Services and instruction have been conducted regularly and have been well attended. The Bishop of Carpentaria visited the mission during the year and confirmed a number of the mission inmates.

Industry.—Fifty to sixty boys were signed on in the marine industry and were able to support their families from their earnings. It is anticipated that a number of men will receive employment at the Portland Roads goldfields.

Owing to the late arrival of the seasonal rains the planting of gardens was delayed until the end of February. Fair results have been obtained.

Five new houses are being erected.

About 80 natives from surrounding districts have been collected and sent into the mission.

Conduct.—As formerly, the mission inmates were amenable to discipline and no trouble was experienced throughout the year.

MAPOON.

Religious Instruction.—Services held each Sunday at the out-station and Mapoon churches are well attended. The people are encouraged to worship but no compulsion is used.

Education.—Seventy-two children attended the school throughout the year. From January to June, Mabel Booter, a Mapoon half-caste woman, very capably conducted the school. Mr. G. E. Wilson, assistant, arrived at the end of June and took over the school work. Mr. Wilson has studied modern teaching methods, and it is hoped that considerable progress will now be made.

Industry.—Owing to the continued dry season, it has been impossible to muster the cattle. There are approximately 500 head on the mission reserve with about 40 horses. The mission reserve is very suitable for cattle raising, and should have more cattle running on it than the 500 head mentioned. It is anticipated that funds will be made available through the Department for the purchase of additional cattle early in the new year.

Men working the mission lugger earned £45 for pearlshell on a community basis, and the sale of fancy work made by the women proved remunerative.

The fencing wire and netting received from the Department has been utilised to enclose 15 acres of good agricultural land. Owing to the failure of the wet season the sweet potato crop was not a success, but there was a fair return in pumpkins and marrows. Bananas and papaws were planted and are doing well.

A new assistant's cottage was erected and it is pleasing to report that, with the exception of supervision, the entire work has been carried out by native workmen.

The school has been repaired and new iron placed on the roof and walls. Newly constructed mission buildings were painted during the year.

Pastures have been improved by the sowing of "Townsville lucerne."

Boats.—The cutter G.K. "Kirk" is in good order. A new false keel was fitted at the mission during the year, the work being carried out by native labour. A new mainsail and jib and new dinghy were purchased.

The launch, "Nicholas Hey" is giving good service and the simplicity of the engine enables several of the native men to run it without trouble.

MONAMONA.

Religious Instruction.—The people showed a gratifying interest in the religious life of the community and were zealous in attendance.

Industry.—Stock is comprised of 34 horses, 60 dairy cows, 300 head of mixed cattle, and 60 working bullocks. Vegetables grown were 120 bushels corn, 2 tons pumpkins, 70 bushels peas, 90 bushels beans, 30 tons green fodder, 100 dozen watermelons, 6,000 cabbages, 180 bags sweet potatoes, and 50 dozen pineapples. Experimental plots of cassava and soya bean cover 8 acres.

School.—There were 79 children in attendance. Provision made for the appointment of a teacher of manual subjects in 1937.

PURGA.

Religious Instruction.—The attendance at religious services was good and much interest was shown by the inmates.

Health.—There were 35 children affected by the epidemic of whooping cough. They all received treatment and were taken to the seaside to recuperate, the Department providing fares.

Labour.—A fair demand was received from employers and 30 inmates were sent out to employment.

Industry.—Despite the very dry season experienced, 300 bushels maize, 1 ton chaff, 1 ton pumpkins, 20 cwt. potatoes, and 30 tons ensilage were grown.

WEIPA.

Religious Instruction.—Keen interest continues to be shown in the religious services by the inmates. The Christian Endeavour Society and Women's Guild continued to hold regular meetings which were well attended.

Health.—There were 5,936 patients treated throughout the year for various ailments. A fair amount of malaria was prevalent. A number of inmates received treatment for hook-worm.

Industry.—An amount of £33 was obtained for crochet work done by the women. The village now contains fifty completed dwellings and two more are in the course of erection. Partly prepared timbers from the sawmill are freely used by the natives. Many houses now have gardens surrounding them and these, coupled with the planting of fruit and ornamental trees, have added to the appearance of the village. Another spear point has been put down and provided with a hand pump. This provides an adequate and hygienic water supply.

There are 74 cattle, 26 horses, and 2 mules at the mission.

Agricultural efforts at the new site at Jessica Point were encouraging. One and a-half acres of land were cultivated and 3,107 lb. of sweet potatoes, 2,354 lb. of pumpkins, and 423 lb. of cowpeas were obtained. Crops of peas, beans, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, radish, kohlrabi and turnips, pawpaws, bananas, and pineapples added to the available food supply.

In order to convey water to the assistant's cottage 500 feet of piping was laid. A tap was placed on this line, and from this the girls' dormitory and bathroom were supplied as well as the vegetable garden.

The sawbench was erected and is a great boon. The engine is giving splendid service and the running cost is low.

A workshop 35 feet by 24 feet has been erected. This also houses the engine; thus power is available for machinery when needed. There were 20 concrete blocks set in position for the new kitchen block and the framework erected.

School.—There are 19 children on the roll. Opportunity is taken to train the children in manual subjects and domestic science in conjunction with the ordinary village work.

YARRABA.

Religious Instruction.—Religious services have been conducted as usual in both church and school. The inmates have shown great interest.

Health.—The health of the people was, on the whole, very good. There were no epidemics or serious illnesses.

School.—Average attendance was 63 boys and 68 girls. Good progress has been made. The girls are taught sewing and cooking, while the boys were taught technical and manual training under competent native tradesmen.

Housing.—Great improvement is shown. The majority of the houses have been put in good order. One new house has been erected and six small temporary cottages built.

Industry.—Live stock consists of 160 head of cattle and 60 horses. The amount of vegetables and fruit grown were 30 tons sweet potatoes, 550 bunches bananas, 250 dozen pineapples, 10 cwt. pumpkins, 10 cwt. watermelons, 1 cwt. of yams. The quantity of milk obtained from the dairy herd was 2,500 gallons. With the exception of a small quantity of pineapples, the produce grown was issued to the inmates in addition to rations.

Three miles of fencing was erected and one dam built. Pastures have been improved by the sowing of suitable grasses, and as a result the milk supply has increased. Two stock yards, crush, horse stable, calf pen, harness and feed store, oil store, engine room and machine shop, band room, and two staff cottages have been built during the year.

MORNINGTON ISLAND.

Religious Instruction.—A service is held every morning before the day's work begins, with two services on Sunday, and the inmates attend exceptionally well. The hearty, tuneful singing is a feature of all the services.

Education.—Progress in the school has been commendable, both in the ordinary school studies and in manual training. A total of forty-eight boys are receiving instruction in agriculture, stock work, and building, as well as a number who are being trained as seamen on the mission boats.

Industry.—The destructive cyclone early in the year was responsible for the death of many of the cattle, and at the time of reporting, the full muster was incomplete. Thus the full extent of the losses is unknown. Nineteen horses and 28 pigs are on the mission. Approximately 80 acres of land are cultivated, but results commensurate with the work involved cannot be obtained until some system of irrigation is installed. Nine and a-half tons of sweet potatoes, 2½ tons pumpkin, and 3 tons tomatoes were grown and distributed. Banana plants, pine apples, pawpaw and custard apple trees were all destroyed by the cyclone. All fencing had to be repaired after the cyclone and the following tidal wave.

Health.—Fortunately the severe attack of malignant malaria of the previous year did not recur. Treatment was given for pleurisy, malaria, and yaws, and the usual complement of minor complaints. Three small boys died as a result of eating the fat from a hawkbill turtle. Dr. Alberry, of the Aerial Medical Service, visited the mission on four occasions, and the ready assistance of the flying doctor is hereby acknowledged.

General.—The year has been particularly trying in view of the almost total destruction of many of the settlement's buildings by the cyclone. All efforts have been made to rebuild in order that the steady progress manifested may be continued.

HAMMOND ISLAND.

Health.—Health was very satisfactory throughout the year. The Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island treated a number of patients for minor complaints. No deaths occurred.

Labour.—The demand for labour was satisfactory, 18 being signed on under agreement, and 11 under casual permit.

Social Improvements.—Four new houses were erected in the village to replace existing dwellings. A new school was built of two classrooms. An irrigation system was inaugurated.

Conduct.—The conduct has been very satisfactory.

Industrial Operations.—Approximately 50 acres are cultivated for private gardens, the inmates producing potatoes, yams, bananas, pineapples, pawpaws, beans, and tomatoes. Fifty pounds was obtained from a sale of produce from the gardens.

Religious Instruction.—Services are regularly held and are always well attended.

Education.—Two teaching sisters are in charge of the school with an attendance of forty children and progress is very satisfactory.

General.—Good progress has been made and it is pleasing to report the willing co-operation of the half-caste inmates.

ST. PAUL'S, MOA ISLAND.

The death of the Rev. J. W. Schomberg, superintendent, was severely felt. He has left his mark in the splendid mission building erected under his supervision.

School.—Good progress has been made. There are fifty-eight children on the roll.

Labour.—All available men were employed in the marine industry. The ketch "Abaípal" was worked with good results. Extensive repairs are necessary to this vessel and it will not be available during 1937. Much land was cultivated and the produce sold in Thursday Island.

Several new houses were erected and many re-thatched. Work was carried out on the new church as funds permitted.

Hostel.—The girls' hostel has been reopened and it is hoped that a good response from the people of Torres Strait and the mainland will follow this effort. The training the girls receive is invaluable to them in later years.

Religious Instruction.—Services are held regularly, with a splendid attendance. The people display much interest in religious matters. The Theological Training College trained two men for the Diaconate, and one man is now being trained for the priesthood.

MITCHELL RIVER.

Religious Instruction.—No chaplain was available until the end of the year. The superintendent held regular, well-attended services.

Industrial.—Seven hundred and twenty calves were branded, and the total number of cattle on the reserve is 3,900. There are 50 horses. Ten miles of fencing were completed of the Mission-Rutland boundary fence. Four square miles of land were enclosed for a horse and cattle holding paddock. A dip was commenced near the mission, but awaits completion. The acquisition of a truck has relieved the situation regarding carrying of cargo from the boat landing.

School.—After the resignation of the teacher in August the school was in charge of aboriginal teachers. Good progress has been made. The newly appointed chaplain will also undertake the duties of school teacher.

Agriculture.—Two tons of Mauritius beans were obtained and sold at remunerative prices. Endeavours were made to encourage privately-owned gardens. Coconuts were planted.

General.—Seven new houses were erected. Portion of the village has been demolished and new houses are being erected on another site.

DOOMADGEE.

Religious Instruction.—Attended regularly by all on the reserve. Interest is very good.

Industry.—Pumpkins, beans, tomatoes, and cabbage were raised and issued to the inmates. A flock of 240 goats is kept, and good supplies of milk and meat were obtained. A start was made with the buildings on the new reserve on the Nicholson River, and it is hoped to remove the mission to the new site during the coming year.

School.—There was an attendance of forty-four, and fair progress has been made. The girls are taught domestic science, and the boys gardening and general farm and stock work.

APPRECIATION.

The loyalty and assistance of all officers throughout a particularly trying year is gratefully acknowledged, while the work of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, the Manager, Aboriginal Industries, and the officers under their direct control is appreciated.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, and the staffs of these Departments have rendered invaluable assistance throughout the year. The Portmaster has given great assistance in matters relating to the floating plant of the Department and his harbour masters have kept close supervision of such plant.

The Manager, State Stores, and his officers have rendered much assistance to the Department in the purchasing of material for the aboriginal stores and individual natives.

Superintendents and staffs of church missions, with their controlling organisations, have experienced a difficult year, and the assistance rendered by them to the administration is appreciated. It is pleasing to record that each mission continues to progress, both spiritually and materially.

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 1936

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

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